

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

September/October 2009



Member Profile: Doug Allen Contributes 100th article to the New York Forest Owner

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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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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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www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Barb and Doug Allen sit on their porch in their Marcellus, NY home. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Doug and Barb Allen.

From The President

Hello fellow forest owners.

In August, Senator Chuck Schumer hosted a press conference in Lowville to announce his continued support for funding to eradicate two invasive species that threaten NYS's forests – the emerald ash borer (EAB) and Asian long-horned beetle (ALB). Thanks to NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter Chair Bill LaPoint for attending on



behalf of NYFOA. And thanks to our Executive Director Mary Jeanne Packer for working closely with the State Forester's office to develop talk-

ing points and for coordinating NYFOA's involvement with the Senator's staff.

As proposed in the President's budget for FY 2010, NY and New Jersey would share in \$30 million in federal funding to address ALB. According to NYS-DEC, about \$19 million of this would go to the federal ALB eradication program in or near New York City. The US House of Representatives proposed increasing this amount to \$35 million. NYFOA has urged Senator Schumer to take the lead on getting the Senate to agree to the higher House number during the upcoming House/Senate conference committee budget discussions. It's expected that this additional \$5 million would all go toward the New York City efforts – bringing the total funding to combat ALB in NYS next year to \$24 million. It is hoped that this funding will help to shorten the eradication date from the projected 2032 to something much sooner.


Also in August, Governor Paterson signed into law a bill establishing a public/private Forest Products Development Council and authorized the NYS Department of Ag and Markets to provide market develop-

ment and promotion for forest products. The legislation came about as a direct result of the efforts of the Council of Forest Resource Organizations which NYFOA helped to found and that Mary Jeanne co-chairs. A seat for non-industrial private forest owners on the new development council is specified in the legislation. The first meeting is planned for fall when work will begin on preparing a program of action and budget request.

I'm looking forward to seeing folks at the 2009 Forest Owners Workshops, Woodswalk, and Banquet in Lake Placid and Paul Smiths, October 2-4.

This edition of *The Forest Owner* contains Doug Allen's 100th column! His first article appeared in 1991; and he has been making outstanding and thoughtful contributions to our publication ever since. I want to recognize Doug for his dedication to NYFOA and for providing timely information for the forest owners of our state.

I am getting excited about the upcoming 2009 forest owners workshops, woodswalk, and banquet in Lake Placid and Paul Smiths, October 2-4. In addition to an informative program all day Saturday and on Sunday morning, there are also some fun events planned. It will be a great chance to get to know forest owners from other regions of the state in a relaxed setting. NYFOA's Board of Directors will hold their fall meeting on October 4 in Lake Placid. Members are welcome to attend.

I hope to see you in Lake Placid! 

–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.

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NYFOA board member Frank Winkler (r) visits with a future new NYFOA member at the NYS Woodsmen's Field Days, in Boonville in August. A number of other NYFOA leaders also volunteered to work with NYFOA's Executive Director Mary Jeanne Packer to set up and staff NYFOA's table during the three day event. NYFOA's new tabletop exhibit made its debut at this event. It was designed to coordinate visually with NYFOA's membership brochure and *The Forest Owner* - which is always a well-received publication at any event. This three panel exhibit is available for chapters to borrow throughout the year for use at similar local events. If desired, additional or replacement panels can be custom designed to showcase unique chapter activities and accomplishments.

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Executive Director's Voice

The NY forest owners fall workshop, woodswalk, and banquet will take place October 2 – 4 in Lake Placid and Paul Smiths. The theme is Keeping New York's Forests Working. The event planning committee is made up of members



of NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter. This group has put together an outstanding program including time for enjoying the Adirondack's fall

colors and meeting other forest owners. A special "thank-you" to our sponsors: Curran Renewable Energy, Finch Forest Management, Stihl, US Forest Service, and Woodmizer.

The program includes a Friday evening welcome reception with musical entertainment, Saturday educational workshops and woodswalks at Paul Smith's College and the Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretative Center and trails, a banquet and Adirondack story-teller, and Sunday pancake breakfast and sugarbush/sugarhouse tour. Saturday morning presentations include topics such as Creating Opportunities and Preserving Choices—A Landowner Perspective on Forest Stew-

ardship. Agenda and registration materials are now available. Download them from NYFOA's website www.nyfoa.org, or call the office to request a package by mail.

NYFOA had a good presence at the NYS Woodsmen's Field Days, in Boonville in August. I enjoyed attending the event for the first time in many years. It was great to see so many NYFOA members—thanks for stopping by the table to visit. And thanks to the NYFOA members who volunteered to help staff the table and talk with people about the benefits of NYFOA membership and to NYFOA board member Rich Taber from the Central NY Chapter for his volunteer coordination efforts.

The folks from NYFOA's Western Finger Lakes Chapter were busy in August, too, with staffing the NYFOA table at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls. A number of people picked up membership applications or inquired about Master Forest Owner visits. I will always have a special place in my heart for this show since that's where my family and I were first introduced to NYFOA many years ago when we were still absentee forest owners. 🌲

—Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

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Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE AND SHORNA BROUSSARD ALLRED



Peter Smallidge



Shorna Broussard
Allred

Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.forestconnect.info

Question:

Peter Smallidge notes – Several woodland owners have asked about the recent development of "webinars, webcasts and web conferences," what these involve for participants, and how these might benefit NYFOA members.

Response:

If you use the Internet or have email, you have probably read about a relatively new technology called web conferencing, webcasts, or webinars. As with any new technology, there are often many questions. Here we address the most common questions. The answers to these questions emphasize Cornell University Cooperative Extension's webinar series within the ForestConnect program, but include information about other forestry webinars.

1. What is a webinar?

Educational institutions and organizations have begun delivering presentations online—the same types of presentations you would see at in-person seminars and conferences. Recent advances in software allow for presentations and direct interaction among woodland owners, practitioners and technical specialists using the Internet. When presentations are

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt, check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in

offered using web conferencing software, the delivery is called a webcast or more commonly a webinar, indicating a seminar offered using the World Wide Web.

2. How does a webinar "work?"

The institutional or organizational hosts use their software to create a temporary website that allows a speaker to share a

Powerpoint presentation and allows for interactions among the speaker and the participants. At the appointed time, the host, the speaker, and the participants go to the temporary website and the speaker gives the presentation. Participants need to know the URL for the temporary website to participate. The URL typically changes each month. Presentations that are recorded can be viewed at any time, but without interaction with the speaker.

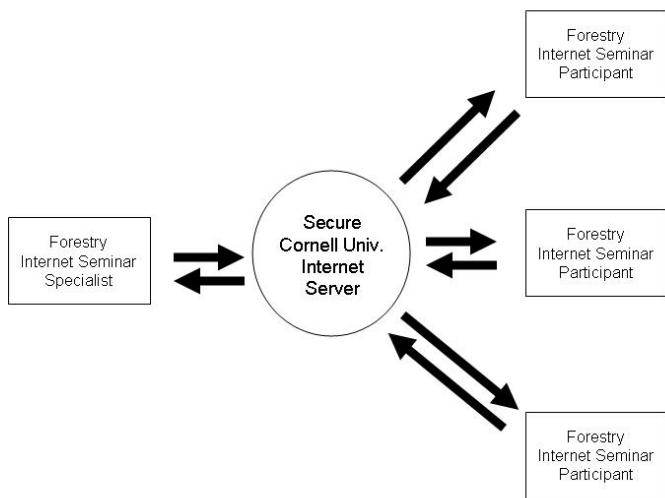
3. Who provides webinars?

Anyone or any group with access to web conference software can host webinars. The host organization needs to buy the software, although participants do not need to purchase any new software.

Three institutions currently provide the majority of webinars that focus on issues relevant to woodland owners. Other institutions provide forestry based webinars for a variety of audiences and topics. Cornell University Cooperative Extension through one of the ForestConnect program initiatives provides a webinar on the third Wednesday of each month. This was the first webinar program of its type in the nation. More information and a list of webinar hosts are available at www.ForestConnect.info. Penn State



Peter Smallidge prepares to deliver a webinar through the ForestConnect monthly series. Webinars provide a cost and travel efficient tool to connect speakers and woodland owners on a variety of topics.



A diagram of the interaction between speakers and participants during a webcast. The Forestry Internet Seminar speaker interacts with participants through a secure Cornell University computer server. The participants can ask questions during the presentation by typing into a chat box that is shared with the speaker and other participants.

University offers a webinar program on the second Tuesday of each month. Their topics are consistent with the interests of private woodland owners. Their website for information is <http://nnnext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb/>. Finally, the Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) program and partner Cooperative Extension land grant institutions host webinars, and many have relevance to northeastern woodland owners. Their website for webinars is <http://forestrywebinar.net>.

The systems and procedures vary to some extent among these three institutions. Although each host is familiar with the webinar programs of the other institutions, questions should be directed to the host.

4. Do I need to buy any new software?

Participants do not need to purchase any new software. The host institutions purchase software that allows owners and practitioners to participate in a webinar. The software system used in the ForestConnect series and at Penn State allows for immediate access by participants after they have registered (see #5). The software used by SREF requires participants to download a module so they can interface with the presenter.

5. Can anyone participate in a webinar?

The webinar series by ForestConnect and

Penn State each require prospective users to complete a free, one-time registry so they can monitor usage and determine the educational impacts of their programs. The registration at these two institutions is separate and interested participants should register with both hosts. Only registered users receive the URL for the monthly webinar. Woodland owners interested in webinars should register well in advance to ensure their registration is processed. The webinar series by SREF does not require any pre-registration, but does require participants to download a free module. The software may allow for a limited number of participants (for example, the site license at Cornell allows for a maximum of 100 participants), so plan to arrive early to ensure you can join the webinar.

The three institutions mentioned above do not require any additional fees from woodland owners to participate. Some other webinar series, especially those focused more specifically on professional development for foresters or loggers, charge a modest participation fee (for example, University of Minnesota. See <http://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/featured.html> for more details).

6. What kind of computer and Internet connection do I need to participate?

Because webinars require the transmission of voice and frequent screen changes

among slides, participants need to have a high-speed Internet connection. DSL, Cable, and LAN connections are all adequate for webinar participation. Dial-up phone modems will not allow effective connections.

Participants also need to have either speakers or a headset connected to their computer so they can hear the presentation. Participants do not need a microphone, although it is optional for the webinar series from SREF. Cornell's ForestConnect and Penn State use the same software and suggest participants try this link well before the webinar to confirm they are comfortable with the webinar delivery process https://admin.adobe.acrobat.com/_a227210/participatemeeting/

Some woodland owners do not have high-speed Internet connections. They may be able to use a computer at their local public library. In other cases, some county offices of Cooperative Extension will host a group meeting, display the webinar, and coordinate some group interaction. Check local options several days before the webinar.

7. Can I talk to the presenter and other participants?

Most interactions with the presenter, the host and other participants are done by typing questions into a feature on the webinar called a "chat pod." The chat pod feature allows participants to ask a question at any time and allows the speaker to scroll among questions providing answers at an appropriate point in the presentation.

The chat pod also allows participants to communicate among themselves, either with direct chat between two participants or with the entire group. Occasionally, for example, a participant has access to a website that is relevant to the group, and can share an educational website without disrupting the presentation.

8. What if I miss the live webinar, are they recorded?

Webinars can be recorded and made available for subsequent viewing. Check

continued on page 17

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Its fall again...just look at those...flames?

With the economy the way it is and the markets for both sawlogs and pulpwood suffering, Mother Nature is complicating the wood products industry with a wet summer. On top of that, there is concern about transportation of invasive insects in firewood restricting the movement to 50 miles. The silver lining is that it makes it a perfect year to cut your winter's firewood right from your own woodlot.


More good news, this is one of the ways a small woodlot can meet the criteria for Tree Farm certification. Your small woodlot probably already meets the sustainability and environmental criteria. Harvesting can sometimes be the Tree Farm requirement that you get hung up on. Many small woodlots can

maintain sustainable management by simply cutting your firewood from your own woodlot, in addition to managing for aesthetic and recreational value.

Working with a knowledgeable forester can help you make decisions about how to manage for firewood in a way that will also improve aesthetics, create edges and brush piles for wildlife and to prevent erosion and damage to remaining trees. For small woodlots, a forester can help you find harvest operators that are open minded and innovative.

The harvest requirements for the Tree Farm Program are minimal. You are simply required to have a harvest program that involves cutting trees and working from a management plan. The premise of this is simple. A stand of trees cannot be sustainable without harvesting trees. The ideal of sustainable management is that the forest provides for the landowner and increases in value as it provides for future generations. Good management will simply

accelerate the natural progression of the forest.

If you think you'd like to learn more about the NY Tree Farm certification program remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away. If you have more questions about the invasive insects found in firewood or the transportation restrictions, you can find them at the NYSDEC website www.dec.ny.gov. 

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



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



Donna and Lew Warner of Berkshire, NY submitted this photo. "This is a picture of our granddaughter, Madison, sitting in a carved out chair made from a hemlock stump that was left over from logging on our property. Several stumps will be getting different carvings in the future." The Warner's own 80 acres in the Berkshire, NY area. "Our granddaughter loves to hang out at camp and explore the woods with us," said Donna.

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!

Colors from the Woods and Fields

Our lives are filled with color, the colors of nature and the colors of things we own. Nowadays we use chemical dyes to make our things colorful, but originally, many of our dyes came from plants. Fortunately for us here in New York, there are multiple plants and colors we can get from our woodlots and backyards.

All parts of plants are used for dyes—roots, leaves, nuts, fruit, and even flowers—and they are easy to prepare for use. When gathering make sure fruits and nuts are ripe and if you are taking the whole plant, be sure there are plenty of others to take its place.

This project requires the use of a stove, so please bring along an adult of your choice!



Black Walnut Fruit

To help the dyes stick you'll want to use a fixative first. For most plant parts use a mix of 4 parts water to one part vinegar or for berries ½ cup salt to 8 cups water. Place your cloth into the fixative and simmer for an hour. Let cool and wring out, then you're ready for the color.

Chop the dye plant well and simmer in a pot (see below for time of simmering). Then put your fabric into the dyebath. The color will be lighter when dry, and the longer it soaks the darker the color will be. Wring out fabric when done, and remember to launder separately from other clothes as the dyes may bleed. Cotton or other natural fabrics work best.

Plants to Try:

Goldenrod – golden yellow: 1 gallon of flowers. Cover with water and boil for 15 minutes, strain out flowers, then add cold water to reach 2 gallons of dyebath. Place wet fabric in the pot, boil for 20 minutes, then remove, rinse and dry.


Apple Bark – dark yellow to tan: or **Hemlock Bark** – rose-tan: 1 gallon finely chopped bark. Soak bark overnight in 1 gallon of hot water then strain out chips. Add water to make 2 gallons of dyebath. Add wet cloth and heat to a boil for 30 minutes, then remove, rinse and dry.

Sumac Berries – light tan: ½ gallon ripe berries. Cover berries with water and soak

for one hour then boil for 30 minutes. Strain out berries and add cold water to make 2 gallons of dyebath. Add wet cloth and boil for 30 minutes, then remove, rinse and dry.

Black Walnut Hulls – drab green: ¾ gallon black walnut hulls, still green. Cover with water and soak for 30 minutes. Boil for 15 minutes and strain out hulls. Add cold water to make 2 gallons of dyebath. Add wet cloth and boil for 20 minutes, then remove, rinse and dry.

There are many other natural materials you can use to dye fabrics that should be easy to find and to use. You can also use more advanced techniques if you like how these turn out. There is a lot of information on natural dying on the Internet and at your local library.

Enjoy putting some color into your clothes! 

Citations:

Adrosko, Rita. *Natural Dyes in the United States*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1968

Photo: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

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

The Longterm Cost Of High Grading

MICHAEL C. GREASON

NYFOA recently adopted a statement which recognizes high grading as a non-sustainable forestry practice. That positive action deserves recognition and discussion. High grading is a term used for diameter limit cutting and other exploitive practices where the best quality trees and the most valuable species are removed leaving a forest made up of poor quality trees of low value species. High grading not only diminishes future timber production potential, it also tends to reduce the composition of the more valuable species in our forests. By disproportionately removing oaks and black cherry, mast production and diversity is reduced for

many wildlife species. Disproportionately removing hard maple impacts fall foliage color enjoyment. I believe high grading also reduces our forest's ability to maintain vigor and health.

As an illustration, I was recently hired by a woodlot owner who wanted to sell timber. About twenty years ago, he obtained a forest management plan from the DEC service forester serving the county he lives in. A few years later, he accepted an offer for his timber from a local sawmill. He felt he was well paid for the timber and decided to have another sale fifteen years after the first. The management plan and the mill representative had mentioned ten year cutting cycles

for selection/selective cutting where the forest was not clearcut. He'd waited fifteen years; the woodlot must again be worth a lot of money.

Bear in mind, during that first sale, no forester was involved. The mill totally controlled tree selection, scale, and payment. There was no competitive bidding. The contract was concise and gave the mill complete authority. I will not state that he was not paid for all the timber that was cut or judge whether he received a fair price. I will comment on the condition of the forest I found during my visit.

The woodlot is dominated by dis-

eased beech, with areas of striped maple and eastern hophornbeam understory. Beech suckering is prolific. It is a challenge walking off the trails. There are a few scattered, coarse and declining red oak and hard maple culls. The larger beech could be utilized for firewood; but advanced rot and poor access might make it difficult to find a buyer. There is absolutely no possibility to conduct a timber sale because there are no trees that would yield a saw log in the entire lot. In our walk, we could see that many of the stumps were 12" in diameter; so the higher value species were cut to about a 10" diameter at breast height.

I asked the owner, "What are your goals for the property?" He responded that he wants to pass a legacy on to his son. He loves the property and his son wants to stay in Greene County and enjoy the property with his father. They do hunt and he said deer do pass through but are difficult to see through the beech thicket. He was hoping a harvest would open up some shooting lanes and provide some needed income in this difficult economy. He was dismayed when I told him he could never expect to harvest timber in his lifetime and to develop a stand of timber for his grandchildren would take some serious effort.

I discussed Pete Smallidge's research with goat grazing, flaming, and herbicide treatment of beech stumps to control the suckers. Peter is our very talented State Extension Forester for Cornell Cooperative Extension. Maybe, the oak and maple culls could provide a seed source for a future timber crop many decades down the road. I pointed out that a competitive bidding of marked timber

continued on next page



Here is a fresh oak harvest similar to the one described in the article

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Biting and Stinging Insects

For most people, bug bites cause temporary redness and pain. But for others, bites and stings may trigger a life-threatening emergency. Understanding the risks and basis treatment can help all people who work in their woods with these pests.

Avoid the insect worlds most wanted

Mosquitoes, fleas, black flies, mites, chiggers and ticks use their mouth to suck blood from humans. Bees, hornets, yellow jackets, wasps and scorpions use a stinger to inject their venom. Spiders and ants both sting and bite.

Bug bites give people minor skin reactions like swelling, redness, pain and itching. Bites can also cause headaches and vomiting.

Tick bites do not usually cause an immediate reaction, but are dangerous because they can transmit Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other diseases. Ticks normally attach to humans on the scalp or under the arms. Always check for ticks, especially after working in wooded, swampy or grassy areas. A tick bite might look like a small rash sometimes taking the form of a bull's eye.

How to avoid bites

The best way to avoid bites is to make yourself unappetizing to bugs. Sweet smells attract insects. Don't leave out food or open drinks. Never drink from a can or bottle that might have an insect inside.


Do not use colognes, perfumes, scented soaps or hairsprays. Do apply insect repellant (follow directions on label). Cover up with long pants, long-sleeve shirts, socks, footwear and a hat. Dress in pale colors, such as light green, tan and khaki.

Plan an attack against pests

Some basic first-aid steps can relieve bite pain and help prevent infection. Clean the area around the bite with soap and water and apply ice or a cold pack. If the stinger is still in the wound, remove it before washing and icing the area by scraping the surface with something stiff like a credit card or knife blade. Do not squeeze the area, or the stinger will release more venom.

When removing ticks, use a pair of tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin. Avoid pulling too hard or jerking, which may leave part of the tick in the skin. Then wash the area with soap and water. Seek medical attention if a rash appears around the site or the victim later experiences chills, joint pain or other flu-like symptoms.

Act on allergies

Individuals who have an allergic reaction to bites and stings experience severe symptoms that require emergency medical attention. If this occurs, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately. Anyone who has experienced a severe reaction to insect bites should carry a kit to administer treatment. Don't take a chance, it might be your life. 


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

may have yielded similar income and retained a productive forest.

To that point, I told of another woodlot that I had recently sold where a logger who supplies the same mill had marked all of the good timber on an eight acre parcel. The logger offered \$3,000 to his "friend." They attended the same church every week; so he was inclined to sell. Another friend convinced him to get a second opinion. He was reluctant to hire me; but consented when I asked why he would want an intensive cut that removes all of the best looking trees from a woodlot that surrounds his home. The irony of this story is that I marked an improvement cut by taking out the defective and poor potential

crop trees and left most of the best trees for the future. Then I solicited for bids. The sawmill mentioned before bid \$3,000. His "friend from church" raised his bid to \$3,500. And, the winning bid from a much better logging/sawmill family came in at \$8,500. This owner was very pleased he could have his income and some trees, too. He was absolutely satisfied when he was able to compare the job done on the next door neighbor by his "friend from church" to his own successful sale done by Rudy Stempel Family Sawmill. Rudy's son Greg did virtually no logging damage where his "friend from church" made the neighbor's woods look like a war zone. My hourly fee came to a total that was

less than 8% of the income, including inspections. Of course, this owner does not own this woodlot for timber investment; it is his home site. Yet, this timber sale paid for his daughter's wedding, established some recreational trails, improved his hunting opportunity, and is visually more attractive than before the harvest occurred.

The point I hope I've made is that high grading has long term costs that seldom benefit the forest owner. Landowners need to hire a forester to represent their interest and insist that the woodlot be marked according to a proven silvicultural prescription. 

Michael Greason is a certified forester and a member of NYFOA

"Get Involved with Maple" Workshops Set for Northern NY Landowners

MICHAEL FARRELL

A series of October workshops in Lake Placid, Chazy, Westport, Watertown, Lowville, Malone and Canton will invite Northern NY landowners to learn about the options of becoming a new maple producer making syrup and/or value-added maple products, leasing trees to an existing maple producer, or tapping trees and selling sap.

"New York's six northernmost counties have enough maple trees to grow the region's maple syrup production into a \$10 million industry annually, and it's up to

landowners to make this happen," says Northern New York Maple Specialist and Cornell Uihlein Forest Director Michael Farrell.

The workshops, co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cornell University Maple Program, and New York State Maple Producers Association, are part of a research and extension project funded by the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program.

The workshops will help landowners identify whether or not their property is presently suited to maple production or leasing. Previous research has revealed that most landowners are primarily interested in how getting involved with the maple industry might reduce their property taxes. By leasing forestland to a qualifying maple producer, a landowner may be able to get an ag assessment.

The workshops will discuss the details of ag assessment and provide landowners with a list of maple producers interested in buying sap or leasing trees.

"There are many ways landowners can utilize their forestland and it is not always easy to decide the best fit for their property," Farrell says. "We are

offering these workshops to discuss the costs and benefits of various options. There is a vast resource of untapped maple trees and growing markets for maple syrup, so getting involved with maple production might be a good option at this time."

Additional resources provided at the workshops will include a sample landowner-producer lease agreement.

All workshops run from 7 pm to 8:30 pm:

October 7, Uihlein Forest, 157 Bear Cub Lane, Lake Placid. Contact: Michael Farrell, mlf36@cornell.edu, 518-523-9337

October 8, Miner Institute, 1034 Miner Farm Road, Chazy. Contact: Laura Nicholson, lan25@cornell.edu, 518-561-7450


October 13, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 3 Sisco St, Westport. Contact: Emily Selleck, els52@cornell.edu, 518-962-4810

October 14, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 203 N. Hamilton Street, Watertown. Contact: Mike Hunter, meh27@cornell.edu, 315-788-8450



October 15, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, Lowville. Contact: Michele Ledoux, mel14@cornell.edu, 315-376-5270

October 19, Franklin County 911 Emergency Response Building, Bare Hill Road, Malone. Contact: Richard Gast, rlg24@cornell.edu, 518-483-7403

October 20, Cornell Cooperative Extension Learning Farm Classroom, 1894 State Highway 68, Canton. Contact: Anita Morrill, amr28@cornell.edu, 315-379-9192. 

Northern NY to Host NYS Maple Tour September 27-29, 2009

Where better to learn about the latest progressive and unique maple sugaring techniques than in the heart of New York's Adirondack Mountains? The Adirondack Maple Producers Association is hosting the September 27-29 New York State Maple Tour with speakers and sugarhouse tours starting from the Lake Placid Horse-show Grounds.

"We are encouraging experienced producers and those considering getting into the maple business to attend any or all of this three-day event," says Northern New York Maple Specialist and Cornell University Uihlein Maple Forest Director Michael Farrell.

The program includes a reception with speaker on Sunday evening. Monday, September 28th the tour will visit three sugar houses in the Lake Placid area and then participants have the opportunity to attend an awards banquet with speakers that evening. Tuesday, the tour will travel one hour northeast to the Chazy, NY, area to visit two more sugarhouses.

For New York State Maple Tour information and registration, contact the Lake Placid/Essex County Visitors Bureau, 49 Parkside Drive, Lake Placid, NY 12946, 518-523-2445 x109. Registration form and details are on the New York State Maple Producers Association website at www.nysmaple.com.



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Timber Theft and How to Prevent It

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

In the last *Forest Owner* we asked: "What should you do when a logger knocks?" We advised: call a forester to develop an up-to-date forest management plan if you don't have one. When you and your woods would benefit from harvesting some trees, here are some points to consider in choosing a logger:

- Harvesting is part of your overall management plan. The logger must understand your goals and be willing to work to enhance them. For example, trees marked for harvest must be felled so as to not damage the future crop trees. Logging roads and skid trails must prevent erosion while respecting other Best Management Practices and future access.

- Written contracts protect you and the harvester and avoid misunderstandings. Follow the advice of your forester and your attorney. Don't forget permits for harvesting or stream crossings where required or when the up-front lump sum payment is received relative to your income tax liability. (see p 14, May/June 2009 *Forest Owner*).

- Ask for and check references for loggers responding to the invitations to bid. Contact owners and if possible visit woodlots recently harvested. Did the logger fulfill all obligations including such things as fence repair and clean-up, take pride in his/her workers and equipment, carefully avoid damaging other trees, listen to your questions and concerns? Would you use the logger again or recommend her/him to others? Why or why not?

- Verify the harvester's general liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage for employees. Sole proprietorships need not have workers' compensation, nor do firms whose workers are independent contractors. It is essential that you and your advisors are completely satisfied with the adequacy of the insurance provisions in the contract.

- Recognize the advantages of using log-

gers certified under New York's Logger Training Program. (www.nyloggertraining.org/search/loggers) The DEC now requires logger certification for workers on applicable contracts on state land.

- Assure that all prospective buyers are bidding on the same trees and associated work. This is one of several reasons to have the trees for harvest marked in advance by your forester. If a bid offers services different from those advertised, and you find the suggestions preferable, a modified invitation-to-bid should be distributed to all. Bids reflect tree species and quality, topography and distance to roadside, contract provisions, and market conditions.

- Look at all factors in choosing a harvester, not just the amount bid. You may reject one or all bids received. Don't be swayed by a high bid if you and your advisors feel more comfortable with another logger and sense that your objectives will be met more adequately.

- Make arrangements for monitoring the harvest. Many owners have their forester assure that only designated trees are being cut, skid roads and trails are acceptable and other requirements are being met. If the sale is not based on previously marked trees, which is not a recommended way to sell timber, monitoring may be particularly important.

The importance of choosing a harvester is second only to the choice of the forester and preparation of the plan leading to the harvest. The rewards for your efforts to maintain well marked sale boundaries, your expense in marking the trees to be cut, and your staying in touch with neighbors, are also highly dependent upon the conscientiousness of those working in your woods. 🌲

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.

ForestConnect webinars

Below is the fall line-up for the ForestConnect webinars. For more information about webinars or to register, please visit www.ForestConnect.info. All webinars are live at noon and again at 7:00 PM. Webinars are recorded and archived for viewing. The following titles are approximate.

September 23rd: The sweet side of maple - is syrup production an option for your woodland? Presented by Mike Farrell, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Department of Natural Resources. (Note this date is a break from pattern to the 4th Wednesday)

October 21st: Deer and forests - impacts, assessment, control and recovery. Presented by Susan Stout and Alex Royo, US Forest Service Northern Research Station.

November 18th: Timber Harvesting Aesthetics Part I. Timber harvesting options to improve aesthetics. Presented by Andy Egan, Paul Smiths College.

December 16th: Timber Harvesting Aesthetics Part II. Perceptions of woodland owners and the general public about harvest aesthetics. Presented by Shorna Broussard Allred, Cornell University, and Shannon Rogers, Purdue University.



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Game of Logging Instructor, Bill Lindloff explains the principles of safe timber felling

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As administrators of the New York Lumbermen's Insurance Trust Fund, a self insured workers' compensation provider for businesses in the forest products industry, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc. provides training for the wood producers of New York State to promote safety performance, professionalism, and continual improvement of production techniques. These principles are consistent with the goal of sustainable harvesting for the benefit of the forest and the people who make their living in the woods.

Founded in 1979, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc. is a full service insurance agency specializing in property and casualty coverages for primary and secondary wood producers. Loss prevention personnel are experienced in safety review and risk management assessments. Timber felling members of the New York Lumbermen's Insurance Trust Fund are trained in all four levels of Game of Logging, a hands-on timber felling series which demonstrates safe felling techniques.

W. J. Cox Associates, Inc. offers student scholarships and grants for employees of forest product businesses through the William J. Cox Memorial Fund, a non-for-profit organization funded entirely through proceeds of member insurance programs.



Forest Protection

Some Final Thoughts

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Editors Note: This is Doug Allen's 100th article in the New York Forest Owner. NYFOA would like to thank Doug for all of his contributions and insightfulness over the last 18 years. We greatly appreciate his dedication and willingness to assist landowners in New York State.

When I initiated this column in the November/December 1991 issue of the *Forest Owner*, I never imagined it would last this long or that it would ever be a struggle to come up with subject material. Now after 18 years and one hundred articles I am running low on ideas! More importantly, it seems appropriate that space in this magazine should be given to others for their opinions and recommendations relative to different forest management issues.

In the initial article, I addressed my belief that forest protection in its broadest sense is a key ingredient to the concept and practice of good stewardship. I still believe this. With few exceptions, current major threats to forest management objectives and desirable forest conditions in the eastern United States come not from indigenous forest insects but alien invasive species and, in the western United States, the efforts of many politicians and environmentalists who lack an understanding about basic

forest ecology. Even for the most conscientious forest owner, these problems can make sustainable forestry a very costly and frustrating endeavor.

An **alien invasive** such as the infamous emerald ash borer (EAB) is a good case in point. Many articles about this insect have appeared on various web sites and in outreach publications like the *Forest Owner*. They describe the problem, provide details on the currently known distribution and update the total number of ash trees that have been destroyed in sanitation efforts (the current tally is in the neighborhood of 70 million!). This summer a considerable amount of time and money has been spent in New York State deploying traps baited with an attractant, apparently in an attempt to more accurately delineate its distribution and movement. This is as much a political response as it is a management effort, and results will likely provide minimal practical information for the average forest owner. What forest owners need more than anything is information on what to do about the insect once it has been detected. Cryptic wood and inner bark borers like the Asian long-horned beetle (ALHB) and EAB can be difficult to detect early and even more problematic to control. Admittedly, a trapping program

has some value, but it generally assists in locating old infestations rather than newly infested trees. For example, experts have determined that the recent finding of EAB in Randolph, NY (Cattaraugus County) repre-



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

sents an infestation that is at least 5-6 years old. Removing this infestation now is too little too late. Similarly, the well publicized efforts to deal with the ALHB in Worcester, MA represent an attempt to "manage" this problem approximately 20 years after experts believe it was introduced into that area.

In my view, a tool like the current EAB trap survey should be augmented with educational efforts to help forest owners, foresters and other land managers recognize *early* signs of an infestation. That is, symptoms such as incipient stages of crown dieback, fading foliage in the upper crown and unusual epicormic branching. When these unexpected characteristics first appear in a stand, it would seem prudent to cut down a tree or two and examine the upper bole for evidence of the characteristic larvae beneath the bark or D-shaped emergence holes on the bark surface. If EAB is indicated, every symptomatic ash in a stand should be dropped and infested portions destroyed. Make no mistake, EAB is here to stay; it cannot be eradicated. Early and continuous intervention, however, may slow its movement and minimize its spread. Finally, it seems to me that early detection when the infestation may be limited to the upper most bole of the tree can be accomplished soon enough to preclude the need to remove stumps and to chip or otherwise process whole trees. This

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limits sanitation activities to a relatively small portion of the upper bole.

Global warming and its potential consequences is yet another issue fraught with conflicting views and political overtones. The fact that the tenure of ownership for most private non-industrial forest owners is very short places this concern on the back burner for most people. For industrial, state and federal, and those private non-industrial owners who plan on longer time scales, however, it is difficult to know what to expect. Scientists speculate there may be increased vulnerability to forest pests, trees may be out-competed by non-native plants that will dominate the forest floor, and tree ranges may shift. It is too early to know what to expect and to predict the speed at which changes may occur. Answers to these questions await the results of long-term research. Regardless of how strongly one feels about the seriousness of this issue, it just makes good sense that society continues to clean up its act; that is, to work collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to save forested open space and to encourage the deliberate management of forests for a range of renewable commodity and non-commodity resources.

Forest owners must adapt as more information becomes available but should not over react when forest "health" or expected conditions appear to be changing. Twenty years ago whenever a tree appeared with thin foliage, crown dieback, reduced growth, etc., acid rain got the blame! Today people tend to relegate similar maladies, in part at least, to global warming. As good citizens, it is important to think globally about potential causes of forest change, but when it comes down to changes in the condition of a wood lot a forest owner should check carefully for a local cause(s) first – often a control or management strategy is available for the latter but not so the former. 🌲

This is the 100th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology 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>.

Ask the Professional (continued)

the website from the host organization to view their archived webinars.

9. I tried to join a webinar once before, but couldn't. What happened?

The software and systems for webinars are well tested and have been operational for several years. Most connection difficulties typically originate at the participant's computer. Thus, trouble-shooting is a challenge for the host. First time users should try the URL for the webinar as soon as it is distributed to assess any connection issues. Here are the common connection problems and solutions.

(a) Participant cannot find their login ID and password. Don't worry, you don't have a login ID. Simply click the "guest" button and type your first and last name. If you didn't register, you likely didn't receive the special URL for the website where the webinar will be presented.

(b) Pop-up blockers may sometimes complicate access. If you can't connect, temporarily over-ride your pop-up blocker.

(c) Meeting is full. Cornell's site license purchased 100 'seats' and thus the 101st person is excluded. Seating is first-come first served. Additional seats are very expensive. Interested participants should plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before the presentation time, join the evening session which is often less full, or watch the recorded webinar.

(d) Governmental computers have special security systems that can conflict with a webinar. Cornell's information technology specialist has resolved all known issues with these high-security systems. New connection problems should be reported to the webinar host organization.

10. Will you stop providing workshops and field tours?

In-person workshops and field tours are essential parts of the learning process and will continue to be offered. However, webinars provide another educational option that is cost-effective, connects

woodland owners with premier speakers, and is a beneficial learning tool. Webinars also save travel time and expense for participants. For example, in Cornell's 2009 6-part Sustainable Woodlands webinar series (www.sustainablewoodlands.info), participants saved more than 30,000 miles of traveling. Webinars allow for participation from other states and countries and the flexibility of watching archived presentations. Webinars often involved participants from 15 to 20 states.

11. Do people really learn anything from a webinar?

A 2009 study by Drs. Shorna Broussard Allred and Peter Smallidge surveyed more than 1,000 users registered for the ForestConnect webinar series. Approximately half of respondents have seen one to three webinars and a quarter of respondents have seen four to six. All participants who read the supplemental materials provided with each webinar benefited. Between one-third and one-half of respondents asked a question or shared a comment, a level of interaction that is greater than most in-person presentations. The average score of respondents to the survey ranked all questions about the educational value and delivery system as highly acceptable. More than 70% of respondents sought more information as a result of the webinar. Finally, as an indication of the ability to reach new audiences, slightly more than 10% of participants have never attended an in-person workshop or presentation. All indications are that webinars are an important, and likely expanding, educational tool to help woodland owners learn about their management options. Webinars will supplement but not replace in-person educational activities. 🌲

Response by: Peter Smallidge and Shorna Broussard Allred. Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14850. pjs23@cornell.edu and srb237@cornell.edu www.ForestConnect.info

NYFOA News & Notes

Fact Sheets Available

Four new fact sheets for woodland owners, foresters, and practitioners have been released through the ForestConnect program of Cornell University Cooperative Extension. The four new fact sheets include: Biology and silvicultural management of the Sirex Woodwasp by Kevin Dodds, Early detection of the hemlock woolly adelgid in small northeastern hemlock woodlots by Mark Whitmore, Silviculture and invasive insects by Ralph Nyland, and Woodland guidelines for the control and management of American beech by Peter Smallidge and Ralph Nyland.

Fact sheets were supported through the US Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, and Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. These new fact sheets, and six earlier fact sheets can be downloaded from www.ForestConnect.info. Limited copies will be available at workshops, fairs and conferences throughout the state.



Statewide Sign-Up for Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) on August 10 in New York. The first cutoff for ranking purposes is scheduled for Sept. 30, State Conservationist Astor F. Boozer announced.

"The Conservation Stewardship Program changed dramatically in the 2008 Farm Bill," said Boozer. "NRCS took the time to develop a program that would appeal to our diverse customers and offer them an equal chance to participate. We hope that agricultural and forestry producers in New York take full advantage of the benefits this newly revised program offers."

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorized the Conservation Stewardship Program. Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. The maximum annual enrollment is capped at nearly 12.8 million acres nationwide.

NRCS administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conserva-

tion practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

To apply for the CSP, individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes will be encouraged to first use a self-screening checklist to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. The checklist is available on NRCS Web sites and at NRCS field offices.

After the self-screening, the producer's current and proposed conservation activities are entered in the conservation measurement tool (CMT). This tool estimates the level of environmental performance achieved by a producer implementing and maintaining conservation activities. The conservation performance estimated by the CMT will be used to rank applications. A producer must treat at least one resource concern and one priority resource concern during the length of the CSP's five-year contract. The New York NRCS, with input from the State Technical Committee, identified four priority resource concerns that will be used to rank applications. The priority resource concerns identified for forest lands are animals, plants, soil erosion, and water quality. In addition to establishing priority resource concerns, New York NRCS established three geographic areas. Applicants will compete within the geographic area where they are located. These areas are Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast.

NRCS field staff will conduct on-site field verifications of pre-approved applicants' information provided for the CMT.

Another major change in the program is the method of payments. CSP will offer two possible types of payments—annual and supplemental. The annual payment will be established using the conservation performance estimated by the CMT and calculated by land use type for enrolled eligible land. A supplemental payment is also available to participants who choose to adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation. The annual payment limitation for a person or legal entity is \$40,000. A person

continued on next page



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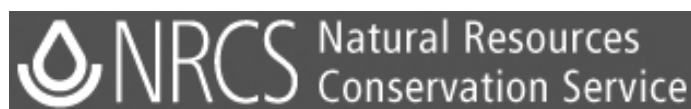


or legal entity cannot exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any five-year period.

Individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes must meet several requirements to obtain a Conservation Stewardship Program contract. They must be listed as the operator in the USDA farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment. They must document that they control the land for the term of the contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract. They must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and comply with Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program are ineligible for the new Conservation Stewardship Program.

For more information about the new CSP, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/. For more information about conservation programs in New York, please visit www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov. 



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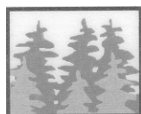


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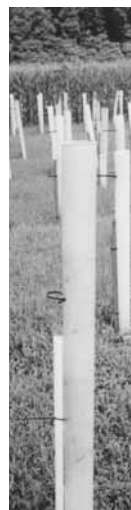
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Member Profile:

Doug Allen

ALEXANDRA SILVA

NYFOA member, Doug Allen does not own a forested property in any region of New York. However, virtually every member of NYFOA knows of and has benefited from Doug's involvement. Doug uses his expert knowledge of forest entomology to write informational articles promoting woodland health. An active member of NYFOA for over eighteen years, Doug is publishing his 100th article in this issue of the NY Forest Owner magazine. Most articles concern forest insects and their impacts on forest properties.

Of his family members Doug is the only one with a significant interest in forest entomology. Barbara, his wife, is a retired first grade teacher and seamstress, while Mark, their oldest son, is an environmental engineer in Colorado and Matt is the Vice President, Alternative Investment Partners LP at Morgan Stanley in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

Like many young children, Doug collected various insects as a young boy however, he wasn't especially enthralled with the subject area until he took an entomology course at the University of Maine, where he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Forestry. It was this course which peaked his interest in forest entomology, largely due to the instructor's ability to seamlessly relate forests and insects. Deciding to pursue the subject, Doug continued his studies at the University of Maine and received a Master's degree in Entomology. Doug left the northeast to attend the University of Michigan, where he graduated with a PhD in Forest Entomology in 1968.

Originally, Doug was interested in moving to Northern New England or out West after graduation; and he was offered a research position with the U.S. Forest Service in New Mexico. However, Doug had already accepted

a teaching-research position at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) at SUNY Syracuse. Once in New York he discovered the state's beauty and has been there ever since.

During his 37 years as an ESF professor, Doug divided his time between teaching and research. He not only taught Forest Entomology, but was also the professor of a course regarding biological controls and another on the population dynamics of forest insects. As part of the biological control course, Doug instilled the importance of studying the predators of exotic and native species in order to determine and encourage their effect as natural controls. According to Doug, understanding and interrupting the biology of a forest pest as a control approach is preferable to relying solely on synthetic organic chemicals, although there are times when the use of a chemical or bacterial insecticide is necessary. In such instances insecticides must be used appropriately: having the maximum effect on the target insect and minimum effect on all others.

Two years after becoming a professor at ESF, Doug became acquainted with the Saddle Prominent, one of the many insects defoliating New York State's northern hardwood forests at that time. He dealt with this insect for several years during which time it heavily defoliated over a million and a half acres of forest land in northern New England, New York and Pennsylvania. A couple of years later, he initiated studies on the Cherry Scallop-Shell Moth, an important defoliator of black cherry which appeared in New York and northwestern Pennsylvania.

Doug retired in 2006 and is an ESF Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus. He continues to research forest insects like the sugar maple borer and peach bark beetle (a pest of black cherry), among others. As Professor Emeritus, Doug retains an office at ESF and still competes for research funds. He is currently working with two graduate students and, pending the receipt of a U.S. Forest Service grant,



Doug Allen (right) is shown sampling for the eggs of the saddled prominent, a sugar maple defoliator, with graduate student Dan Robison.

continued on page 22



Doug Allen inspecting a pheromone-baited funnel trap during the last spruce budworm outbreak.

he and Dr. Ralph Nyland expect to co-advise another graduate student this fall.

At present, Doug's two students are investigating the maple borer and an invasive wood wasp. One of Doug's favorite insects, the borer does not kill or slow the growth of sugar maple, but degrades the most valuable portion of the tree's bole. Because of its commercial ramifications, this beetle is the focus of an extensive project at the College's Wanakena campus. In the fall



Doug Allen has contributed 100 articles to the *Forest Owner* over a period of 18 years.

his new graduate student will evaluate the current health of tree stands in the North Country, which were devastated by ice storms 10 years ago.


Several of Doug's past graduate students have published scientific papers based on their research. Over the years, Doug began to notice that forest owners often found these papers to be inaccessible and so he began interpreting the findings and publishing them as how-to and informational articles for various journals and newsletters. From the start, Doug wrote to raise awareness of insect-borne problems afflicting woodlots and to instruct land owners on how to recognize these problems on their own properties.

Doug began writing similar articles for the *New York Forest Owner* in 1991 after prompting from Wes Suhr, a former member currently residing in Phoenix, AZ. While living in New York, Wes owned a large woodlot which he and Doug would regularly use to hunt while discussing forest subjects. Eventually, Doug was convinced, with additional encouragement from Dick Fox, former editor of the *New York Forest Owner*, to begin writing the articles, most of which focus on helping forest owners deal with both invasive and indigenous insect problems.

Over the years, Doug has spent a considerable amount of time in the field and on the phone with woodland owners. He has also given numerous talks during NYFOA woodwalks and has assisted with sugarbush operator workshops. These interactions with owners have not only guided his writings topics, but the hands-on experience and concerns of the owners have also been helpful in directing his research. Having benefited so much from interacting with the good-natured and welcoming owners, Doug only hopes his writings have been helpful in return.

At present, Doug finds that most owners are primarily concerned with the effects of invasive species on their properties. Unfortunately, this can be a frustrating concern because of the cost required to control them. Despite forest owner interest in properly manag-

ing land, Doug also notes that fewer university professors are interested in working directly with forest owners. With high cost compounded by fewer resources, owners are left at a disadvantage.

Thus, Doug does his best to impart information to forest owners through his articles in order to promote forest health and protection. As he publishes his 100th article in this issue of the *New York Forest Owner*, he plans to back away from contributing articles on a regular basis. Doug hopes that his writings have been helpful to interested owners. He plans to offer additional articles whenever new forest insect problems and other forest health issues arise. 

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

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