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

November/December 2009

Member Profile: Bill LaPoint

Volume 47 Number 6

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
FOUNDED 1963
www.nyfoa.org

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In This Issue . . .

The New York
Forest Owner

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Volume 47, Number 6

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the January/February issue is December 1, 2009.***

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: Doris and Bill LaPoint outside of the The Great Escape, their primary facility on the Knapp's Station Tree Farm. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Bill LaPoint

From The President

The first weekend in October we held NYFOA's statewide convention in Lake Placid. From Friday evening through Sunday morning we had a series of speakers, woodswalks, meals and entertainment revolving around the theme of "Keeping New York's Forests Working". About 60 people attended, and I think most people had a very good time. Lake Placid and Paul Smith's college at the height of fall foliage provided a spectacular backdrop for a lot of interesting activities. This is the first statewide meeting NYFOA has held in a number of years, and we hope to return to having such a meeting on a regular basis.

The weekend was not without its excitement. Months of planning and hard work were nearly undone when the hotel that was serving as our headquarters caught fire the night before we arrived. Fortunately for all it was not terribly serious, but when I got there Friday evening the staff was still cleaning and airing sections of the building. Some of our members were transplanted to a hotel down the road, but we were able to hold our major events as planned. Both the hotel staff and our members rolled with the punches and I appreciate everybody's flexibility in working through the crisis.

More generally, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to Bill LaPoint and the planning committee in the Northern Adirondack chapter for volunteering to coordinate this event and leading the charge in lining up speakers and activities for us. As always, Mary Jeanne Packer and Liana Gooding also provided essential support to make the event a success.

In the coming weeks, the board of directors will be considering a similar event in 2010. I encourage any chapter leaders who would like to coordinate a statewide meeting to let me know, by either contacting me directly or talking to any member of the board. It can be a great opportunity to showcase what your chapter and region have to offer to people from all across the state.

Thank you to all who attended the Forest Owners Workshops, Woodswalk, and Banquet in Lake Placid. See page 4 and 5 for photos of this great event.

In closing, I am sad to report that the board has opted not to renew Mary Jeanne's contract as NYFOA's executive director. Mary Jeanne has held that position for the past four years and in that time she has been instrumental in a much of the progress we have made. Under her guidance, NYFOA has expanded the strength and reach of partnerships with other forestry-related organizations, upgraded the quality of both the *Forest Owner* magazine and our www.nyfoa.org web site, tapped new funding sources and made many other strides in our ongoing efforts to improve forest management in New York. I have enjoyed working with Mary Jeanne over the years; I will miss our regular contact and I wish her all the best in the future.

–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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2009 NYFOA Fall Workshop, Woodswalk, and Banquet

Photos by Mary Jeanne Packer

Forestry students from Paul Smith's College guided the participants through one of their forestry plots. Shown here: two stands thinned on different frequency schedules – each with their own costs and benefits.

Rosin & Rhyme, Adirondack Story-tellers, entertained the group with humorous (and some more serious) tales of growing up in the wild north country following the Saturday evening banquet at the Northwoods Inn, Lake Placid.

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I want to thank all that attended our fall event in Lake Placid and hope everyone had as good a time as I did. It is always great to welcome such a great group as our Chapter to the Adirondacks. If any chapter wants to do this next year I am here for you and will help any of you in any way that I can, even tho it is quite a bit of work, and time consuming it is a great reward when everyone comes and visits. Untill we meet again —Bill LaPoint

Sherri Wormstead, US Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Durham, NH spoke with the workshop attendees on the context for keeping NY's forests working – "Forest Sustainability and Conditions in the Northeast".

Just a loose stack of short logs? Yes and no. Yes - a stack of short logs. No – not just logs; these logs that have been inoculated by Paul Smith's College forestry students with edible mushroom spores to demonstrate a way to grow this profitable non-timber forest product.

Right: NYFOA Board member Marilyn Wyman at the entrance to the Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretative Center's (VIC) interactive exhibit: The Adirondacks: A Gift of Wilderness. The VIC was our last stop on Saturday's woodswalk.

Cornell University's Uihlein Sugar Maple Research Forest Director Mike Farrell shows a taphole maple board milled on-site from an old sugar maple during a portable sawmill demonstration put on by Woodmizer, one of the woodswalk's sponsors.

Sunday morning pancake breakfast at Heaven Hill Farm, Lake Placid. The pure maple syrup served at the breakfast was produced at the Uihlein Sugar Maple Research Forest sugarhouse; and following breakfast, the group toured the facility and sugarbush.

Ask A Professional

Brett Chedzoy

Brett Chedzoy

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 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:
I've heard about using goats and other livestock to control unwanted brush in our woods. We've always wanted to raise some type of animal, but we don't have much open pasture and are afraid that the animals might harm our woods if allowed to graze there. Can we use some of our woods for raising livestock, and if so, what do we need to consider?

Answer:
Grazing domestic livestock in wooded areas is a common practice in many parts of the world including other regions of the United States. However, this practice became taboo in the northeast in the later half of the 20th century when foresters and conservationists began to educate farmers on the potential harmful impacts of allowing livestock in their woodlots. Damages, typically associated with uncontrolled grazing, included excessive soil compaction, debarking of trees, and trampling and browsing of regeneration.

With current issues of invasive plants, high property taxes and other challenges to healthy and sustainable woodlands, woodland owners might again look at livestock grazing as an acceptable and valuable tool for the management of some woodlots. The purposeful and managed grazing of livestock in the woods, known as *silvopasturing*, differs from woodlot grazing of the past in that the frequency and intensity of the grazing is controlled to achieve the desired objectives. New fencing systems, a better understanding of animal behavior and the evolution of "management intensive grazing" have enabled us to gain the necessary level of control to achieve positive impacts from woodland grazing.

Silvopasturing isn't for every woodland owner nor every woodlot as it requires a commitment to caring for animals and enclosing portions of the woods with a secure fence to keep your animals in and predators out. Wooded areas on poor growing sites, rough terrain, or with difficult access have fewer advantages for successful silvopasturing than the converse. The most important key for success is skilled management of the system. This requires the owner/manager to have considerable knowledge of both silviculture and grazing. If grazing and silviculture are the "artful application of science", then combining the two systems is certainly a fine art! But this shouldn't discourage the novice from exploring the potential of silvopasturing on their property, even though results are likely to improve with increased skill and experience.

With that said, there are a number of ways that a woodland owner can jump ahead on the silvopasturing learning curve:

- Look for on-line resources. There are a number of temperate agroforestry sites with good articles and information on silvopasturing, though much of the information will need to be extrapolated to your own situation. The "Guide to Silvopasturing in New

An angus cow reaches up for a bite from a buckthorn shrub that escaped mowing done with a timber ax two years earlier. Prior to mowing, this stand had a dense understory of buckthorn and other noxious plants. The initial mowing, followed by periodic, brief grazing has eliminated the brush understory and created a carpet of grasses and forbs that are enjoyed by the livestock as well as wildlife.

There are many examples of silvopasturing, ranging from enriching a pasture with a few trees for shade, mast and aesthetics, to grazing in relatively dense wooded area. But from a livestock perspective, the silvopasture is only as good as the quality and quantity of food available. Here, goats and sheep enjoy lush cool season grasses and black locust sprouts in a walnut/locust plantation that was recently thinned for thousands of dollars worth of fence posts.

York" will be available by the end of 2009 through CCE's Agroforestry Center in Acra, NY (*www.agroforestrycenter.org*) which will provide detailed technical information for a variety of situations.

- Develop woodlot management and animal husbandry skills independently, then gradually look for ways to advantageously combine the two systems in a context appropriate for your own property
- Seek out local examples of innovative silvopasture systems to see what has worked well for them (and what to avoid).
- Work with a forester who is willing to help you learn and experiment. Expect some resistance at first when you mention the word "silvopasturing", but good foresters are trained to achieve *landowner* goals. They may be lacking on the livestock side of the equation, but their knowledge of vegetation management and forest stand dynamics will be invaluable.

Livestock can be used in the woods to organically manage undesirable vegetation that interferes with goals ranging from aesthetics to wildlife and everything in between. But simply turning animals into an area infested with problematic plants like buckthorn and beech brush and then expecting the problem to magically disappear is unrealistic. Carefully controlled grazing with the right kinds of livestock at the right time of the year is just part of a larger strategy to deal with nuisance plants. On our own farm, we have first mowed the silvopasture areas with a "timber ax" (skid steer with rotary cutter head for cutting and mulching brush) to reduce the height of the target vegetation. The animals then do the rest by browsing the coppice sprouts and other re-growth until weakened and eliminated. There are numerous other creative strategies for reducing overgrown areas to a more manageable height if you can't find a local timber ax contractor. Likewise, there are a number of viable ways to grow-back the plants we want when the time is right, so creating a silvopasture doesn't mean that we'll never be able to rely on natural regeneration again.

One economic benefits of silvopasturing is the generation of frequent, short-term revenues from the wooded portions of our properties through the production of valuable goods ranging from breeding stock to artisanal, value-added foods and fibers. These same items can be used for personal benefit and self-sufficiency, which increase the overall enjoyment and utility of our land. The sale of silvopasture products and the conversion of wooded areas into silvopastures can also contribute to Ag Assessment (NYS RP 305 Program) eligibility requirements, thereby allowing landowners to take advantage of an important tax abatement program on woodlands that may not qualify for the 480-A program.

Some other important points to consider before taking the plunge into silvopasturing are the time, investment and dedication required to succeed. Develop a written start-up plan for your project that outlines where, when, what, why, how and how much you can spend in terms of both time and money. If you have never raised livestock before, take time to speak with livestock specialists from Cornell Cooperative Extension and ask them to refer you to other producers who may share helpful advice. Start small because it will be better to make the inevitable mistakes on a smaller scale, but don't let the fear of initial failure prevent you from exploring the exciting opportunities of silvopasturing!

Response by: Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County, South Central NY Agriculture Team forester, and private producer of woodland goats, sheep and Black Angus. Montour Falls, NY. (607) 535 – 7161; bjc226@cornell.edu

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New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL

"Wood is a crop, Forestry is Tree Farming."
– Gifford Pinchot

In the 1940s the term "tree farming" was first used to introduce the general public to the idea of sustainable forestry. It related trees and forests to farming which was a well known representation of sustainable harvesting and land use. Tree farming implies the same commitment to the land.

Although tree farming is much more than Christmas tree farms, it is easy to see how well a Christmas tree farm would fit the mold of the American Tree Farm System. Christmas tree cultivation is agricultural forestry. The first Christmas tree farm was established around 1900 but it wasn't until the 1930s and 40s when they became a popular place for people to cut their holiday tree easily. Christmas tree farms are a perfect example of sustainability and the criteria of the Tree Farm System. Wood, water, wildlife and recreation make up the four sides of the Tree Farm sign and symbol. Consider supporting your local Tree Farm certified Christmas tree farm this season and just think of the possibilities as you consider being a woodlot owner and a Tree Farmer.

And remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away.

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

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Kid's Corner

Rebecca Hargrave

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!

Easy Gifts from Our Forests

If you are looking for some fun and inexpensive gifts you can make for birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other special occasions, look no further than your woods! Below are a few easy and useful gifts that you can make (with the help of an adult!) for your family, teachers and friends.

Pine Cone Fire Starters or Air Fresheners

Caution: requires the use of a stove – adults are needed!

Materials: Cones, paraffin wax, crayon bits, essential oils (optional), an old pot and a large aluminum can to melt wax in, tongs, wax paper.

Gather cones—identify which trees they came from! Leave the cones out to dry for a couple of days. You'll want cones that don't have too much pitch on them and are open.

Make a double boiler by filling your old pot 1/3 full of water, and set your aluminum can in the pot with some wax and crayon bits of your choice (you can use a couple of cans with different colors in each). Melt the wax and the crayons in the can, and dip the cones in the wax. Pull them out with tongs and set them on the wax paper to dry. That's it. You can add essential oils to the melted wax to make air fresheners, or to add aroma when the fire starter burns. Put a few in a paper or mesh bag, with the type of cone labeled, or give individually.

Firewood Coasters

Caution: woodworking project – adults are needed!

Materials: 4 to 6 types of firewood (small round 4 inch pieces work best), saw, sandpaper, water-based polyurethane, brush.

Choose solid firewood pieces that are 4 inches in diameter, of a few different species. Be sure to identify the type of wood! With an adult's help, saw firewood into 3/8" rounds, also known as cookies. Sand the surface of the cookies so the rings can be easily seen. Neatly write or type labels of the wood species and adhere to the bottom (or top) of the cookie, if you like, you can also include the age of the wood. Follow the directions on the polyurethane, and apply two or three coats to each cookie, lay out on newspaper or wax paper to dry. Tie one of each species together with string or a ribbon.

Vine and Twig Wreaths

Materials: Grapevine or long, fine twigs from trees or shrubs, cones or other gathered forest materials to decorate the wreath with (dried leaves, dried seed pods or flowers, dried shelf mushrooms, berries, evergreen boughs), floral wire or fine gauge wire.

Gather grapevine or long, fine twigs from the woods (identify your trees!). You'll want fresh materials that are long enough to coil around itself four to five times. For a seven inch wreath, you will need at least 10 feet of vine or branches. Wrap the vine around itself, weaving it in and out, until you have a sturdy circle or oval. Attach cones and gathered materials with wire; if you want some more color you and paint or glitter the decorations before attaching.

You can make these wreaths for every season or occasion.

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

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

Beaver *(Castor canadensis)*

Beavers are the largest rodents in North America. Adults range from 35 to 46 inches including the tail, and weigh from 45 to 60 pounds. They have a heavily muscled, strong-boned body, with a dorsally flattened tail that serves as a paddle for swimming.
Their thick, insulating fur is chestnut to dark brown in color. Beavers are monogamous and typically have one litter of two to four young each year. Kits remain with their parents and younger siblings for two years before setting off on their own. In the wild, beavers typically live from 10 to 12 years, a long life span for a rodent.

The beaver, appropriately designated New York's state mammal, has played an important role in shaping the state's natural environment as well as its history. In the 1600s, Europeans exploring this region found the beaver plentiful. Most bodies of water, large or small, had dense populations of beavers. Beaver trapping proved to be a good way of making a living, with exports of beaver pelts from New York to Europe reaching nearly 80,000 annually in the late 1600s. By the late 1800s, however, the beaver was nearly extirpated from the state due to overexploitation and deforestation. A decline in demand for beaver pelts, combined with protective legislation, reintroduction efforts, and recovery of suitable habitat, led to a rebound of beaver populations in the 1900s. Today, beavers are abundant throughout the state, recently returning even to the waters of New York City and Long Island after 200 years of absence.

Beavers require a constant, plentiful source of water, where they typically build a dam to flood the area and construct a lodge as a home site. They are most often found along stretches of streams and rivers narrow enough to be dammed, with moderate to little gradient and ample food adjacent to the waterway. However, some live along large rivers, forest-lined lakes, or wooded marshlands. Beavers are unique among mammals in their ability to change their own environment to suit them. Ponds constructed by beavers create habitat for other animals as well, including other furbearers, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, and other animals who visit these habitats to feed. By damming streams, beavers create ponds that offer protection from predators, and aid in establishing suitable food resources like sedges, grasses, and wetland shrubs. Beavers are herbivores and locate food using their sharp sense of smell. They feed mostly on herbaceous vegetation during the summer and on the bark, twigs, and buds of aspen, maple, willow, birch, alder, and black cherry during the fall and winter. In preparation for winter, they harvest twigs and branches and pile them in the water, weighting them down with mud. This food pile provides a source of food that they can access below the ice if the pond freezes over. Beavers are active all year and may emerge from the den during the winter to feed on fresh material as well.

Beavers have many interesting physical features that make them well suited to their semi-aquatic, tree-felling lifestyle. For example, they have long, chisel-like incisors that grow continuously. Gnawing on wood is a necessary activity for offsetting this growth. There have been reports of up to 300 trees being cut by one adult per year. Beavers do not cooperate in cutting trees. Furthermore, a beaver cannot control the direction in which a tree falls. In addition to their large teeth, beavers have a large, paddle-shaped tail with a leathery covering. The tail is used as a rudder and propeller

continued on next page

NYFOA Safety Tip

Rabies Warning Signs

Three years ago in Central New York a women saw an animal on her farm house porch and when she went to investigate the animal, a fox, it viciously attacked her. The animal bit her repeatedly and would not stop. Her daughter came to her aid and the two beat the fox until they thought it was dead. As this was happening the upstairs tenant, a state trooper, heard the commotion and came down to investigate. When he reached the porch the fox jumped up and attacked him in the same vicious manner. He fought it off while the others summoned 911. The situation was brought under control and the fox tested positive for rabies. The woman had to undergo painful rabies treatments for some time but is now fine. Her experience will never be forgotten.

Rabid animals do exist in our region and can be dangerous to you, your family and your pets. While in the woods or around your home you need to pay attention to stray animals.

Signs of rabies in animals include:

- changes in an animal's behavior
- general sickness
- problems swallowing
- an increase in drool or saliva
- wild animals that appear abnormally tame or sick
- animals that may bite at everything if excited
- difficulty moving or paralysis
- death

For more information go to the Center for Disease Control at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies/Warning/warning.htm

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

while swimming, and acts as a support when a beaver sits upright. An alarmed beaver also uses its tail to warn others of danger by slapping it against the water's surface. The beaver has several adaptations for underwater activities. Its lips can be closed behind the incisors, and by pressing the tongue tightly against the roof of its mouth, the beaver can gnaw underwater without choking. Special valves also close off the nostrils. Transparent eyelids called nictitating membranes allow the animal clear vision underwater while protecting its eyes from debris. It is able to remain submerged for 15 minutes because its heart rate slows.

Beavers are interesting animals that create habitat for other wildlife, and are fascinating to observe. They are active in the evening and at night. A good way to observe beavers is to visit an active beaver dam about an hour before sunset. Initially, the male beaver emerges from the lodge to patrol the area for danger. Later, the female and young will join him. Beavers have very poor eyesight and a quiet observer can sit back and watch the animals go about their daily tasks.

Although the dam-building behavior of beavers is captivating, at times their activities can cause unwanted flooding or damage to valued trees. For more information on dealing with damage done by beavers, visit the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management at *http://icwdm.org/wildlife/beavers.asp*

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.arnotconservation.info

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Helping Rare Plants Become Common

Jim Engel

Have you ever seen the plant Golden seal (*Hyrastis canadensis),* Ginseng *(Panax quinquefolius)* or Twin leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla)* growing anywhere in the wild or your woodlot? If your answer is no, you are not alone. These plants are members of a select list of plants in NYS, plants that are classified as threatened or extremely rare in the wild.

Some species of plants have limited populations in the wild because they only grow in unique habitats that restricts where these species can grow and those habitats may be very rare themselves. Some species have very specific requirements for reproduction or produce very little seed that limits their ability to reproduce. Other species are rare because they are at the very extreme limits of their range in New York state.

These plants, listed above, do not fall into any of those categories. It appears there is a combination of two factors that explains why these plants are so uncommon.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's New York State was only 20 to 25% forested according to a DEC web-page. In comparison today New York State is about 65% forested. The majority of the land in NYS had been cleared for agriculture use sometime during the 1800's. The land was either used to grow crops or used as pasture to graze animals. After the land was abandoned for agricultural purposes it gradually reverted to forest but many of the plant species that are normally present in an undisturbed forest were unable to recolonize those abandoned lands. This was due to a lack of a local seed source or because of slow seed dispersal and colonization.

A century or more of human activity on a state wide scale has significantly altered and affected the plant communities that we see today in our woodlands. Land used to grow crops over many years would have their seed bank cleared of all forest species. Forest which was commonly used to graze cattle, sheep and hogs would have most of the forest understory shrubs and forbs eliminated from the seed bank. For plants to be able to recolonize those abandoned agricultural lands, plants had to find a place to survive and produce seed during the intervening years. Plants might find a safe haven in out of the way places like hedgerows, ditches or remnant forest parcels. These remnant patches would contribute seed to recolonize neighboring land but it all depended on the mechanism for seed dispersal, the type of habitat each species required and the distances the seed had to travel whether those plants could recolonize adjacent land. Those plants that did not survive in these isolated patches would be permanently absent from the surrounding habitat.

The other factor that explains the rarity of some plant species is over collection and harvest by people. Some plants like Ginseng and Goldenseal have been used for medicinal purposes for centuries. These plants have always been collected from the wild and utilized by people. Over many years of collecting, these medicinal plants would have been over harvested to the point of eliminating local populations. Commercial harvest for the herbal market has had a more significant and widespread impact that has led to large areas of the country being stripped of theses special plants. As populations of plants were completely removed from one woods or region the pressure on remaining populations would only increase. Once a population is eliminated there is no way for it to become reestablished other than by the good graces of man—and no one was practicing any type of stewardship in those days.

Most of these plants can be grown quite easily from seed. Native plant nurseries grow Goldenseal and Twin leaf from seed. Ginseng is also grown commercially from seed for the herbal market. Seed can be used to reintroduce these plants back into their natural habitat. Seed can be collected from mother

Twin leaf pods

Goldenseal fruit

plants and planted in suitable woodland habitat to reestablish the plant in the wild. This will make them more secure in the wild, help to preserve the genetic diversity of the species and add to the biodiversity of our woodlands.

Now that your interest is piqued and you want to establish these plants into your own woods, where do you find the seed? The easiest way to get started is to buy a few starter plants from a local native plant nursery. Plant them in your yard for ease of monitoring, in suitable habitat for each species, and then wait for them to flower and set fruit. Plants tend to produce an abundance of seed to compensate for seed predators and inefficient seed dispersal so one plant can supply a large amount of seed. While you are waiting you can observe how the seed and fruit is produced, how the fruit develops over time as it matures and what it looks like at maturity. When the fruit matures collect it, remove the seeds and use it for planting. Sow the seed very soon after collecting where you want the plants to grow. One good reference book on native plant propagation is William Cullina's book *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers* or the web page *http://whiteoaknursery.biz/restore/index.html*. Ginseng and Goldenseal seed and roots may be purchased from members of the Empire State Ginseng Growers Association, PO Box 117, Freehold, NY 12431.

The seed of Ginseng, Goldenseal and Twin leaf are fairly easy to work with. It helps that the seed tends to be fairly large. Seed should be removed from the fruit and planted immediately or mixed with moistened potting mix for short term storage. Plant the seed where you want the plants to grow and then be patient. If you are lucky some seed may germinate the first spring but many of the seed may take two seasons or more to germinate. Be patient and keep adding to the seed bank with new seed. Even after germination occurs the seedlings may be quite small the first year or two. These woodland plants tend to prefer fertile, moist well drained soils but any woodland soil with a deep layer of humus should be suitable.

Ginseng seed is produced in a cluster of bright red fruits on the end of a seed stalk. Crush the fruit to remove the seed prior to planting. Goldenseal seeds are enclosed in a round pink colored fruit the size of a large marble. Each fruit contains a number of seeds. Remove the seeds from the fruit by crushing and plant. Twin leaf seeds are held in a thimble sized capsule with a hinged top at the end of the flower stalk. When the seed matures the top of the capsule opens revealing rice sized brown seeds. Collect seed as it begins to turn dark brown.

Seed can be collected and used to introduce many types of woodland wildflowers both common and uncommon. A common species such as White trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum)* may be extremely abundant in some forests but completely absent in others. You can harvest seed from a healthy trillium population and begin to establish a new population. Look for plants that should be present in your woods but are not there and consider whether to reintroduce them. Just as important, if a plant is present but is limited in its distribution, harvest the seed and plant it in other areas a distance away from the existing population. You will not only help to increase biodiversity in your woodland but help to conserve populations of native plant in the wild where they rightfully belong.

There are only a few good rules to follow. First make absolutely sure that the seed you are introducing is native and not a cultivar of a native plant or an exotic look alike. Try to match the plants habitat requirement with your woodlot. If the habitat is not suitable for the plant the seedlings will likely not survive. There is no legal restrictions on collecting seed of native plants on your own property, get permission to collect seed or establish plants on private property and it is against the law to remove or collect anything from state lands.

Other species worthy of reintroduction are some of the native lilies (*Lilium superbum)*, Turks cap lily (*Lilium canandense)*, and Canada lily. But all of the native plants common and rare are deserving of your consideration for reintroduction. This is nature gardening on a scale that can create new populations of native plants that are fulfilling their intended biological role and be self sustaining. What better way to give back to nature.

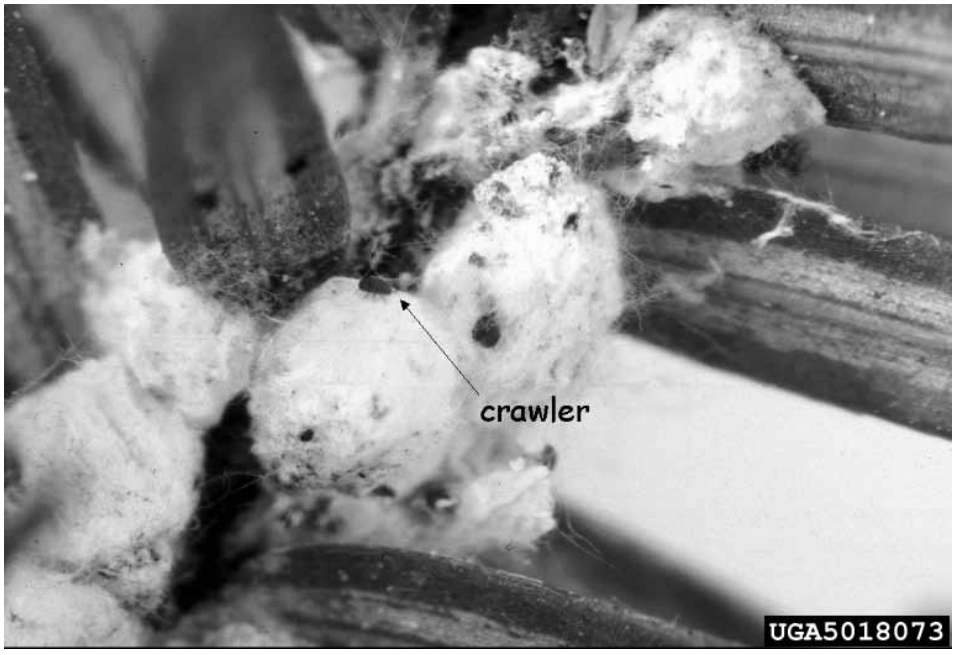
Jim Engel operates White Oak Nursery, a native tree and shrub nursery, and is actively involved in all aspects of habitat restoration.

Detecting the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Mark Whitmore

Editors Note: As noted in the most recent issue, NYFOA members are grateful to Dr. Doug Allen for his years of sustained guidance on insects and tree health issues. This topic is of high priority to many members. Based on member feedback and discussion among the NY Forest Owner editorial committee, we are excited to introduce a column on "Woodland Health." This column will cover a broad range of topics that might limit the health, vigor and productivity of our private or public woodlands. Topics for the column might include insects, pathogens, invasive plants, and environmental threats. This column will be coordinated by Mark Whitmore, a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council. This council is comprised of technical specialists in forest health issues, and includes members of academia, state and federal government, private industry, and non-governmental organizations. Council members will write most of the columns. If you have questions or suggestions for Mark, please contact him at (607) 280- 4064 or by email at mcw42@cornell.edu.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae*, is no stranger to land managers and small woodlot owners downstate in the Hudson Valley, and Long Island but it was detected for the first time in the Finger Lakes region in 2008. The HWA is an invasive forest pest imported from Japan and China that has been killing Hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis* and *T. caroliniana*) on the east coast from the southern Appalachian Mountains to New York and New England. The HWA's impact is dramatic in the southern forests where hemlocks exhibit little resistance and die a few years after becoming infested. In the north, the situation is quite different where some infested trees survive for ten years or more. Mortality in the Northeast occurs primarily in the more southerly regions of New York's Hudson River Valley, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. It's still too early to tell how severe mortality will be in the upstate regions of New York and in northern New England.

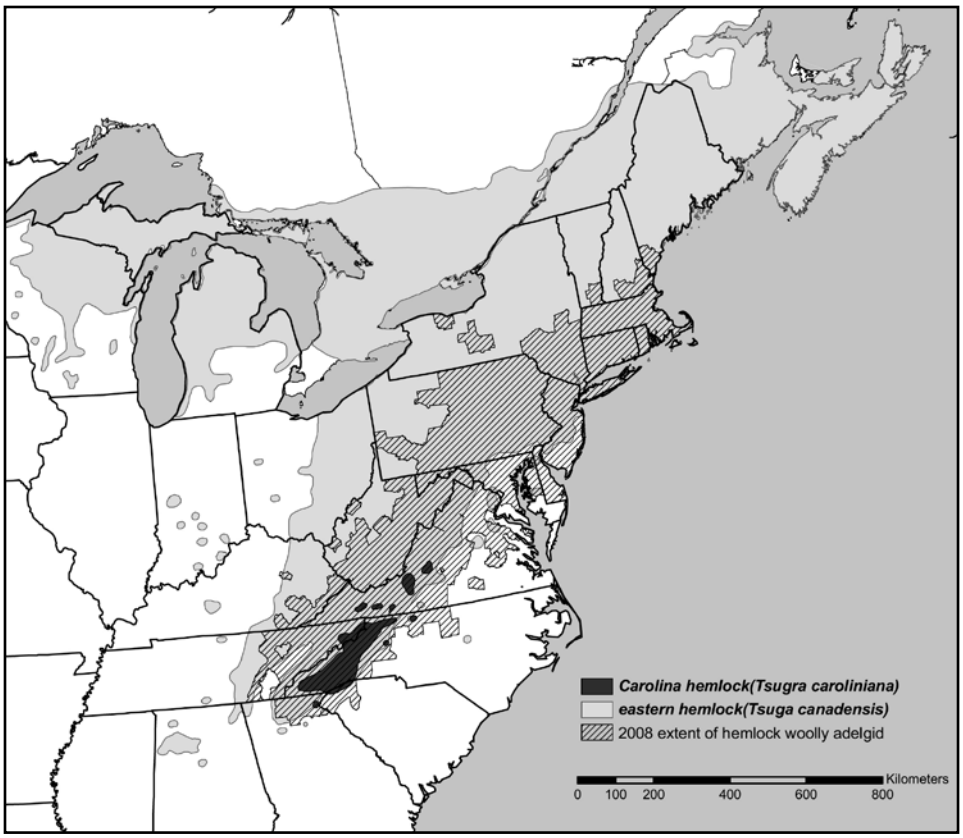


Woolly covering of adult HWA with the tiny first instar "crawler", the only phase that disperses. Photo Courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

The HWA is a small aphid-like insect with a complex life cycle. The adults are tiny, only about 1/32 of an inch, and covered with dry, white, waxy wool that makes them look like the tip of a small cotton swab. In North America, only females that reproduce asexually exist and each one lays 50 to 300 eggs. With two generations per year this makes for a remarkable reproductive potential and is the key to its invasive success.

The adults of the overwintering generation produce eggs in April and May. These eggs hatch into the first instar nymph, or crawler. This is the only life stage that disperses to other hemlocks and does so carried by wind or on the feet of birds. The crawlers settle on twigs near the base of a needle and insert long, sucking mouthparts. Once the crawler settles, it turns a dark color and will not move for the rest of its life. The spring generation develops into adults that begin producing eggs in June. The crawlers that hatch in early summer from these eggs settle and enter a non-feeding resting stage that lasts through the summer. The HWA are difficult to detect during this resting stage because they are small and have not produced much of the characteristic waxy wool. Feeding resumes in October and this generation continues to develop through the winter months with the adults producing eggs the following spring.

There are no area-wide treatments for the HWA in hemlock forests at this time. However, cultural practices are available, depending on woodland characteristics, management objec-



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid distribution in eastern North America as of 2008. Map courtesy of the USFS Northern Research Station.

Heavy infestation of HWA on Hemlock near Cayuga Lake. Photo by Mark Whitmore.

tives, and the extent of infestation (Orwig and Kittredge, 2005). Effective and practical options are available for the treatment of individual trees with systemic pesticides. Tactics for area wide control are currently under investigation, such as biological control with insect predators and fungi, but they will take time to fully develop and implement.

So what can we do now? We need to detect new infestations of the HWA at the leading edge to fully understand its biology and give land managers and small woodlot owners time to slow the spread and buy the time to conduct research on this potentially devastating pest.

Keep your eyes peeled! The HWA is most visible from January through June when the white, waxy wool is new and abundant. Light infestations of the HWA will be patchy within the tree's crown so examine as many branches and trees as time allows. The first step is to examine the underside of the lowest branches, paying close attention to the most recent year's growth. The best place to look in a stand is along streams or other waterways. Birds are important vectors of HWA and their behavior within a stand brings them to water. Often the HWA can be found on branches closest to water and absent on the other side of a tree. With limited time in a stand, walk along the streams and examine the trees closest to the water.

Information about where you don't see the HWA is just as important as where you do see it. Please go to the website: *www.nyshwa.info* to report your findings and for information.

To find information or report discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer or Asian Longhorned Beetle go to *www.nybadbug.info*.

References:

Orwig, D. A. and D. Kittredge. 2005. Silvicultural options for managing hemlock forests threatened by hemlock woolly adelgid. Harvard Forest Fact Sheet. Available at: *http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfs/Orwig_HWA_fact_sheet_2005.pdf*

Whitmore, M.C. 2009. Early Detection of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) in Small Northeastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) Woodlots. Cornell University Cooperative Extension ForestConnect Fact Sheet. P. Smallidge, ed. 4 pgs.

Mark Whitmore is a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council.

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.

The Future of New York State's Timber Falls to Family Forest Owners

Carl Wiedemann

Timber is not high on the list of reasons that people own woodlands. In a recent Cornell University survey of New York State landowners, the most common reasons were enjoying beauty and nature, privacy, and protecting nature and biological diversity. Only one in four indicated that timber production was one of the reasons for ownership. Perhaps that number would grow if more landowners were aware of the significant benefits that timber management can provide to them, the economy, and the environment.

Timber Management — Why Bother?

Timber, even on the best growing sites, will only produce a few hundred board feet per acre per year—worth tops about $50. The value of annual growth in most woodlots is far less than that. Couple those low numbers with high land costs and property taxes, and it becomes clear that it's not realistic to buy, or even own forest land, if you expect timber growth alone will make it a good investment. So while most people use and enjoy their woodlots, they often don't bother to manage the trees, aside from selling timber if given the opportunity.

Problem? It could be, if you support sustainable forestry. Why? Because 85% of the commercial timberland in New York State is owned by individuals. That means, family forest owners control the future of the timber resource. However, according to the Cornell survey, about one in five doesn't believe their woodland should be managed. Many others are apparently apathetic. There are 220,000 individual owners who own ten acres or more in New York State. Yet the membership in the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA), which advocates for sustainable management, is only 2,000, or about 1% of the total.

Cutting the Best Leaves the Rest

In spite of the fact that over 60% of New York State is forested, we are a net importer of timber. This timber may or may not originate from sustainably managed forests. Some forests are fragile and can be damaged by logging activity. Illegal logging, driven by the high price for timber, is also a problem in some countries. Although most woodland in this state is well suited to sustainable commercial production, some environmentally sensitive landowners see no irony in refusing to consider harvesting in their own woodlands. Many in the general public seem to share the notion that timber management may be an undesirable use of forest land.

According to a recent estimate, privately owned forest land in New York State only produces 60% of its potential in timber production. Part of this deficit is no doubt due to apathy — management by benign neglect. There are immature stands that are overstocked with trees that would benefit from thinning, but the owner is not interested. There are also many woodlots that are filled with low value trees. Why? Because the owner didn't know better. Selective logging in the past took the high quality trees of the most valuable species and left everything else. These remaining trees frequently include species with no commercial value, deformed trees, trees with extensive decay, and small, low vigor trees. The term for this type of cutting is high-grading, otherwise described as "cut the best and leave the rest." It is unsustainable forest management, and by reducing the value of future harvests, it makes forest ownership even less profitable than it already is.

Timber Pays the Way

Of course, some forest owners are very interested in woodland management. NYFOA members fall into this category. Many years ago I had the great pleasure of working with landowners as a DEC service forester. Most of the people I visited were enthusiastic about their property, and curious about forest management. They typically wanted to know about insect and disease threats, or how to improve wildlife habitat, or what kinds of trees were present. Ideally, my visit would

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start with a woods-walk with the landowner. My goal was to identify the owner's objectives, while evaluating the potential of the forest. The visit would conclude with the development of a short management plan listing various management actions the owner could undertake to improve the woodlot based on his or her objectives.

When I had the opportunity, I followed up with my "clients" to see what they had accomplished. This was a humbling experience for a young forester. Very few of these well intentioned landowners ever fully implemented my management recommendations. Why? One explanation is that I wasn't very convincing. But the lack of follow through likely also had something to do with the fact that most forest management projects, such as thinning a stand of trees, building access trails, or girdling trees to create snags for wildlife require time and equipment along with skills that many did not have. Since becoming a woodland owner myself, I have a much better appreciation for the amount of effort that is required to manage even a few acres of trees.

It didn't take me long to recognize the correlation between the presence of timber and the potential for landowners to take action. If a landowner had some timber to sell, all things were possible. Many management objectives, timber related or not, require cutting some trees. This includes developing more vigorous trees, clearing vistas, increasing diversity of species and age classes, creating wildlife openings, and improving access with roads and trails. A landowner can do this work with enough time and the proper equipment. But a timber sale can get the same things done, and even if it's a relatively small amount, the landowner gets a check! That's why it's been said that timber "pays the way" for other forest values.

The Future of Our Forests

There is another more profound reason for concern about how the timber resource is managed – conservation. The world has many people. Our lives depend on the availability of natural resources which include timber. They cannot be exploited or wasted if we want to maintain the earth and provide for future generations. Natural resources must be sustainably managed and used responsibly.

We happen to live where forests are capable of growing timber if carefully managed. Hardwood logs from New York State are exported around the world, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in income to both landowners and the people working in the forest products industry. Profitable, working forests help maintain open space instead of being subdivided for development to generate income for the owner. Furthermore, timber can easily be integrated with other objectives such as

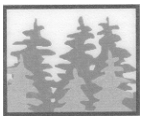
continued on page 18

Got Trees? Got Questions?

Visit the new Woodland Owner's Forum at:

http://ForestConnect.info/forum

to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across New York.



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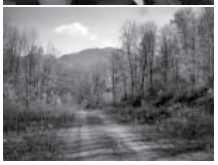

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Future of New York State's Timber (continued)

recreational use, watershed protection, wildlife habitat improvement, and esthetics. It can be grown sustainably, and harvested without threatening forest diversity, wildlife habitat, or other forest values. The presence of timber is positive for the landowner, the economy, and the environment.

Every private woodland owner should consider making timber one of their management objectives, even if it is at the bottom of the list. Timber sales can generate a welcome source of revenue, as a well as a way to achieve other objectives. The key is in controlling which trees are cut, and which trees are left (i.e. silviculture). Before selling timber, landowners should understand the difference between selective cutting — which impoverishes the woodlot by removing all the most valuable trees, and the selection system of silviculture, which ensures perpetual harvests of high quality timber. A good consulting forester knows the difference and can provide invaluable service if you have timber to sell. A list of cooperating consultant foresters is available from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Thomas Carlyle, the 18th century essayist, once wrote "Let each become all that he was created capable of being." This was later adopted by SUNY as the motto for the university system. As woodland owners, our motto should be similar; "Let each woodlot be sustainably managed for all the benefits it can provide." Timber is one of those benefits, and it should not be ignored.

Carl Weidemann is a member of NYFOA's Capital District Chapter. He owns a woodlot in Rensselaer County.

Are you interested in a particular topic and would like to see an article about it.

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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.

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.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the January/February Issue 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 Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

Deadline for material is December 1, 2009

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RMK Timberland Investment Group represents Upper Hudson Woodlands ATP, LP. ATP is the Danish state pension fund and they are the owners of the approximately 92,000 acres of former Finch-Pruyn land sold by The Nature Conservancy earlier in 2009. The RMK Timberland Group brought this particular real estate investment to the attention of ATP because of the nature of the investment and the stated goals of ATP. In particular they are interested in a long term investment. These lands come with a Fiber Supply Agreement with Finch Paper LLC, a Conservation Easement, and must be kept certified with both Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

F&W Forestry Services, Inc. is the actual local forestry managers on the property. F&W currently has 17 offices in a number of different states, with the Queensbury office and New York State being the furthest north. F&W also serves as consulting foresters for a number of private and municipal forest owners and is planning more growth in this part of the business. The current staff is three professional foresters (2 Certified Foresters) with a total of 57 years of experience in forestry.

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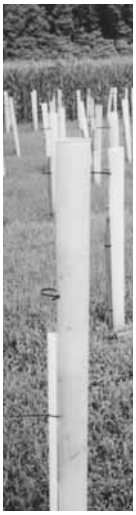

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Member Profile: *Bill LaPoint*

Alexandra Silva

As an airborne radio-intercept operator for the Air Force, the closest Bill LaPoint came to a degree in forestry was playing touch football with students from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse in 1959. After graduating from high school, Bill immediately enlisted in the service, married the love of his life, Doris, and was stationed in Syracuse where he studied Russian. Despite a lack of formal forestry education, however, Bill has successfully managed two wooded properties, one which he no longer owns, using his self-education and help from DEC and his friends.

After 44 months touring Europe with the Air Force, Bill returned home to New York in 1963 and began working production at Reynold's Metals and later Corning Glass. It was soon after his return home that Bill and his wife Doris, purchased a home in Stockholm, NY in 1965. Bill then went on to work as an electrician for General Motors and SUNY Canton prior to retiring, while Doris remained at home, supervising the household and raising their three children. Now that Michael, Chantelle and Melinda have grown and moved on, Doris spends time volunteering in patient care at the local hospital.

The LaPoint's continue to live in the same house where their children grew up, though they have purchased additional land and now own 2.5 acres of the surrounding area. Bill and Doris raised all of their own pork, chicken and beef while the children were growing up. Using his own harvested logs, Bill constructed a wooden floor for their barn, which housed between 18 and 20 cows. They also cultivated their own fruit and vegetable garden that now includes 14 varieties of tomatoes. While the LaPoint's originally raised the food products to make ends meet, they now donate the majority of it to senior citizen housing.

Two decades after moving into their home, the LaPoint's purchased an additional 397-acre property, three miles away, through a sealed tax-bid deal. After donating some of the land for a new church expansion and parking lot, giving away five acres to his nephew, and selling additional land to help pay taxes, Bill was left with the 350 acres that he still manages today.

Bill LaPoint with kids from the Youth Conservation Corp, who spent the day cleaning their trail on his property.

The property had been heavily logged 25 years prior and thus was covered in brush when it came into Bill's possession. Bill quickly contacted Charlie Porter, a DEC forester, who helped him create a management plan for the area and instructed him on where to harvest firewood. Today, Bill and his friends cut as much as 30 cords of wood each year. Moreover, the Knapp's Station Tree Farm, named for the founding family in the area, has become a certified tree farm with the help of Mike Farrell and Don Brown, both formerly with DEC.

At present, Bill has 43 different species of trees between his home and Knapp's Station, including black walnut, hickories and native apple trees, which are maintained as food for wildlife. There are approximately 60 apple trees on his home property that Bill plans to transfer to Knapp's. Many of the trees he started from seeds and are still fairly small, so they require a perimeter fence for protection. Bill has also planted a variety of exotic species on both his home and Knapp's, including Ohio buckeye, a Crimson Oak from Georgia and various trees from Tennessee. Bill also successfully raised a Blue Spruce that he acquired during Nebraska's Arbor Day, while visiting for an Air Force reunion.

Prior to introducing the exotic trees onto his property, however, Bill thoroughly researches the species. Very cautious about invasive species, Bill also plants the seeds and/or saplings at his house prior to transplanting them to Knapp's to make certain they will not cause any problems. Despite his numerous successes, however, many of the exotic trees Bill attempts to grow will not germinate in upstate New York due to the climate.

While Bill spends much of his time planting new tree species on his two

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Bill LaPoint transporting a load of poppler, which was cut down by a resident beaver, through an area last thinned in 1998.

properties, he also spends a considerable amount of time battling with buckthorn, ferns and honeysuckle at Knapp's. Bill uses a power pole-saw to cut off all the tops of the unwanted plants, after which Peter Smallidge of Cornell Cooperative Extension performs flame-based research. Last June, with help from CCE and Cornell University. Bill hosted a NYFOA woodswalk concerning invasive species and how they have affected his property.

Though Doris is not as involved with the forestry activities of the property, she does keep busy creating balsam pillows. While riding around on their 4-wheeler, Bill and Doris harvest three or four bushels of balsam, which they later feed through the chipper. Doris then stuffs the balsam chips in small pillows made of special outdoor fabric. Though it is usually a 10-hour ordeal, Doris enjoys the entertainment while on the tree farm and especially enjoys giving away the pillows as Christmas presents.

The LaPoint's seated on the steps of their cabin, which was constructed by Bill and his late friends, Bud Allison and Tim Matthys.

While at the Knapp's Station Tree Farm, Bill, Doris and some company stay at "The Great Escape." A 2-story, 24-square foot cabin, the Escape was built after Bill's friend, the late Bud Allison, declared the need for a suitable cabin to stay in while fraternizing on the property. With the help of Bud and Tex Matthys, also deceased, Bill began construction in 2002, using logs harvested from Knapp's. Though the cabin has been completed for some time, the 2nd floor has yet to be used and is jokingly referred to as the honeymoon suit. Nearby, Bill has also built an outhouse and the "Toy Shed," which houses his 4-wheeler, woods trailer and tractor for overnight storage when he is working there.

Back on the home property, Bill has also constructed an active solar panel. Having read and been intrigued by a number of articles regarding solar energy, Bill ordered the necessary parts from New Hampshire and then assembled the panel near his house. The renewable energy is now used to heat the house's water. Initially, Bill became interested in alternative energy as a result of Dutch elm disease. As diseased elms were being cut down and dumped into old pits and ravines, Bill decided to make use of the logs by installing a woodstove in his home.

As a strong advocate of renewable energy and critic of dependency on foreign oil, Bill is also a member of the St. Lawrence County Energy Task Force. As part of the task force, Bill participates in workshops regarding house weatherization, renewable energy and energy conservation. In addition, Bill is Vice Chairman for the BRSL Resource Conservation Development Council, which focuses on conservation, recreation, forestry and farming. As chairman of NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter and covering 6 counties, Bill focuses on the forestry—working with invasive species and renewable energy. Furthermore, Bill is an Officer of the Elks and a member of the American Legion.

As a member of the Northern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA, Bill not only hosts woodswalks, but he also co-hosts chainsaw workshops. In the future, however, Bill hopes to spend less time in meetings and more time in the garden on his home property and on the Knapp's Station Tree Farm.

Bill enjoys forest management because it makes for quality timber growth and wildlife habitat, as well as results in an excellent by-product: firewood. Bill has many roads and trails through Knapp's that he and Doris enjoy touring year-round. The couple finds that they see something different on each tour. As the home of wildlife, Bill toils diligently to manage his property so that it is in a favorable condition for all of the resident creatures.

"Any day in the woods is good for the body, mind and soul," according to Bill.

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