



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

The Overstory

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SAC OFFICERS

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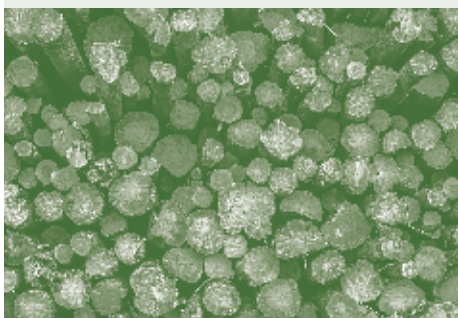
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ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html



Annual Picnic Highlights

John R. Greenwood

There are times when visits with friends go long overdue. Today's NYFOA Woods Walk on Kurt and Kristie Edward's woodland was one of those visits. It was evident by the common theme of today's conversations, that finding time to do all the things we want to do versus all the things we have to do is an ongoing challenge for everyone. Unlike the solar eclipse I missed last month, my work schedule, family commitments, and yes even the weather, finally aligned themselves so I could enjoy today's event.

ABOVE: Notice the background - it shows 5 years of regeneration after a seed tree regeneration cut.

It was an intimate turnout for what would be a beautiful day on the autumn weather-menu. Just shy of a dozen walkers enjoyed an informative and relaxing tour of Kurt and Kristie's land. I knew from the moment I stepped up on the wrap-around porch of the Edwards log home that I wanted to document the day in words and pictures. This piece will contain limited technical information on forest management. It will however emphasize the high level of caring the members of this organization have for their land's past, present, and future.

I looked up the definition of "forest" and "woodland" to see what the difference was. In doing that I saw another familiar synonym, "greenwood." As you'll notice by this author's name it goes a long way in explaining my love for anything with trees on it or around it. The other thing I did was to reread NYFOA's Mission Statement closely: "To promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State." "A not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations."

These two sentences kept resonating in my head as I thought of all the conversations I heard throughout today's walk in the woods. Spend a day with NYFOA members and you

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Annual Picnic, *continued from page 1*



FAR LEFT: Discussing a timber tree ready for next harvest. BELOW: The logs along the road side are part of a National Grid project. They cleared a path to extend the power lines.



will soon see that they are much more than their mission statement. They are kind and generous people who not only want to do the right thing with their land, but they want to do it the right way. They are good listeners and they are open-minded. What impresses me the most is their willingness to learn and educate themselves about best practices regarding forest and land management. I'm a forest lover, not a forest owner. I can literally count every tree on my quarter acre spread. My love for forest began in the pine grove behind my childhood home where I spent my earliest years honing my climbing, building, and imagination skills. I continue to relive those "wonder years" every time I pass my childhood home. These are the feelings the Edwards and their fellow NYFOA members are striving to preserve for their families and future generations. These are the kind of people I want to associate with. These are people you want living next door.

I want to thank our woods walk hosts Kurt and Kristie

Edwards. I also want to thank every member of the New York Forest Owners Association. I want each of you to know how much I appreciate the love and caring you put into preserving and maintaining something that means so much to me; forests, woodlands, and yes, greenwoods.

Sign me grateful.

Coming Events...

January 20th, 2018
SAC ANNUAL MEETING

CRANDALL LIBRARY
251 GLEN STREET, GLENS FALLS

10am – 11:30: Annual Business Meeting
11:30 – 2pm: Break for lunch at Davidson Bros.
2:00: Public Presentation of
"New York State Hemlock Initiative"
by Charlotte Malmborg, Cornell University
Department of Natural Resources

Complete details for the event will be available on the NYFOA website, and emailed and mailed as the event comes nearer.

Online Forestry

STEM jobs (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) are a hot topic these days. Students looking for a career in the woods have many opportunities available to them. Check out these web links for more information.

Top 5 STEM Forestry Careers

<http://www.stemjobs.com/5-top-stem-forestry-careers/>

Job Spotlight: Forest Firefighter

<http://www.stemjobs.com/job-spotlight-forest-firefighter/>

What is a Forester?

<https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/forester>

Holding the Line: Fighting the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Plotterkill Preserve

By Spencer Barrett, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator, Capital-Mohawk PRISM 🌿 Photos by Spencer Barrett



It was a brisk, cold November morning when the volunteers met at the top of the trailhead that leads down the steep ravine to the Plotterkill treatment site. Around 250 trees were scheduled to be treated with the tree-saving, insect-killing mixture of imidacloprid and dinotefuran; one for immediate knockdown of adelgid present in the tree, one for long-lasting protection from the invasive insect that has wreaked havoc on hemlock populations up and down the East Coast. DEC applicators were there in Plotterkill that day to fight this pest along the edge of the currently known populations in New York, a line that passes through the middle of the Capital-Mohawk PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) region.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is a tree pest that has been found as far south as Georgia and as far north as Maine, showing up in stands of iconic Eastern Hemlock. In New York, it finally reached the stronghold of this tree, the Adirondacks, earlier this year. The DEC did a rapid response treatment of that site at Prospect Mountain with APIPP, the Adirondack PRISM Partner group hosted by the Nature Conservancy and then used the knowledge that they gained through that treatment to quickly respond to another new discovery of adelgid at Plotterkill Preserve in Rotterdam. The treatment had been planned for a few weeks earlier, but due to changing weather conditions, it had been delayed until November, one of the last times available before it became too cold for the chemical treatment to work effectively. Just in time, applicators, Capital-Mohawk PRISM staff members and volunteers from the Schenectady County Invasive Species (SCIC) Committee descended on the site for two days, treating as many trees as possible to preserve the future of the Eastern Hemlock in Schenectady County.

Many homeowners and forest owners love their hemlocks, for their innate value, their attractive evergreen foliage, and the ecosystem services they provide. The trees themselves hold stream banks in place, shading the cool waters to provide habitat for many species. In places that have been particularly hard-hit by this insect,



FAR LEFT: Spencer Barrett, Mary Werner, Laurel Gailor, Eric Kuntz, Kathy Fisher, Eric Sage volunteered to assist DEC pesticide applicators with HWA treatment. ABOVE: DEC pesticide applicator, Naja Kraus applying basal bark treatment to hemlock. LEFT: Laurel Gailor confers with Naja Kraus on application rate per diameter inch of tree to be sprayed.

hemlocks have died back clearing habitat for invasive plant species such as Japanese Angelica Tree and more well-known invasives such as barberry and bush honeysuckle to take root. There are a variety of at-home treatments that can be used to protect standing hemlock trees, but how do you know if you have a problem in the first place? For one, it's likely that if your trees are in a location near where Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has been previously found, preventative measures are likely to help ensure their survival. Another indicator of adelgid presence is the wool that is their namesake, which will show on the bottom of hemlock branches.

If you have found HWA in a new location you can contact your regional PRISM office. Beneficial insects have been in development at Cornell University for some time now to provide land managers and invasive professionals with additional treatment options and many PRISMs are looking for release sites that are suitable for these natural predators of HWA. The key to the success of these varied treatments and the survival of the Eastern Hemlock is better data and knowledge of the increasing range of this dangerous invasive insect. This will allow for more successful and varied treatment statewide. In short, if you see something, say something. We can't let our hemlock trees go the way of the American Chestnut. This is a fight that New York can win.

I Like Stumps

By Al Roberts Reprinted from *The Forest Owner*, March/April 1980



Every woods should have some stumps in it* They let you know that it is a working woods, not just an idle, inefficient, do nothing woods. I like stumps because they can tell me so much about so many things. How come, you say, there should always be stumps in the woods? Well, young woods,

on a good site should be thinned every five to eight years, and older woods can have a harvest every ten to fifteen years. I hardly ever cut a tree down or see a fresh stump that I don't look it over carefully to see what I can see. (Maybe that is why I can't make any money cutting firewood.) Some of the things I can see are pretty obvious, but others maybe everyone wouldn't think about. Here are some of the things.

The most obvious thing you can see is the width of the growth rings, which of course, tell how fast the tree was growing. On cherry, ash and oak you should be getting rings $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. If you are not, the stand should have been thinned sooner. All species are capable of that rate under certain conditions, but usually six rings to the inch is considered good. I bought my woods 13 years ago and thinned it. I'm thinning again now (the third time), and it is gratifying to count back on the rings 10 to 12 years and see how the growth increased.

You can also figure out a little of the history of your woods from the stumps. In my woods there is a scattering of huge stumps cut 15 years ago. The stump of the trees I'm thinning out now all have about 45 growth rings. So until 45 years ago my woods were open pasture, with scattered shade trees. When



Joseph O'Brien/USDA Forest Service

the cows were removed the old pasture trees seeded all around themselves and a new woods started to grow. The old trees were cut for timber when the new woods was 30 years old.

Stumps, in their various stages of deterioration let you know how long ago the timber was cut. I had a man who wanted some advice on what he called his "virgin forest". At least it had not been cut for many, many years. He had just recently bought it. Visions of sugar plums danced through my head as I contemplated the timber sale I would conduct for him. But as we entered the woods, what to my wondering eyes should appear but stumps! I hated to disillusion him, but I told him his woods had been pretty heavily cut within the past ten years. He had been taken, but I'm not sure he believed me. He was going to get a second opinion.

You can tell a little bit about the woods owners from the stumps. Was the woods heavily cut, with all the stumps being small? Either the owner was awfully hard up, or awfully ignorant. Or are there big stumps, all of them sound and solid? I guess the owner didn't know enough to have the culls cut. Is there paint on the side of each sump? Good. It must have been marked by a forester.

Timber cutters leave behind them tell-tale evidence of their skill or lack of it, or their care or lack of it in felling trees. When I look at some stumps I wonder how the cutter knew which way to run when the tree started to go...uneven cuts in all directions and no hinge left to guide the direction of fall. Some cutters consciously use no hinge or undercut. It saves time, and the tree will roll out of a tree it otherwise might hang up in. He doesn't care to take the time to direction-fell the trees to avoid damage to the remaining stand.

Stumps enable you to reconstruct the sad tale of a timber trespass. By measuring the stumps and estimating the length of logs removed, from the position of the tops, a volume table will show the number of board feet stolen. Then try to collect...But that is another story.

*Except a limited amount of wilderness acreage to serve as museums.

NEW YORK STATE OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER FOR 1993

Reprinted from *The Forest Owner*, July/August 1993



Photo by Dave Taber

Erwin Fullerton (left) and Pauline (Polly) Fullerton receive their Award from Steve Warne, NYS DEC Region 5 Forester and Sue Kiester, Vice Chairman NYS Tree Farm Committee. Erwin and Polly Fullerton of Hudson Falls, manage 260 acres of forest, some of which, they have owned 25 years. They were leaders in the formation of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter, attended Master Forest Owner Workshop (Class of 1992) and a Conservationist of the Year for Warren County.



SAC Woodswalk on Oven Mountain

By Carl Manning 🍂 Photos by Bob Manning

On Saturday, October 14, Bob and Tomoko Manning led a hike up their 229 acres of forestland on Oven Mountain in Warren County. The feature attractions were autumn views from ledges in three locations. At several stops along the tour, Bob and his forester, Steve Warne, also explained their experiences on the land and its history with photos and stories.

Fourteen NYFOA members and friends met at Ski Bowl Park in North Creek, where Bob pointed out one of the lookouts to which we would climb. We carpooled for the drive up the steep private road from Rte 28 to the Manning's property. As we gathered to begin, Bob offered the hikers the option to take a longer hike that included an old garnet mine, showing photos. Steve had found the mine while doing fieldwork to prepare the management plan, and he later came across a newspaper article referring to the Holland mine. However, the majority of the hikers weren't interested in seeing what can now be characterized as just a pile of dark rocks, so we set off on the shorter hike.

We started walking up soft earth skid trails, remaining from a stand improvement cut on about 60 acres of northern hardwoods on the lower slopes, ending a year ago. Steve Warne had selected the low-quality trees to cut, marking them with red or blue paint. The logger, Dale Monroe, had carefully removed most of the marked trees to sell, mostly as firewood and pulpwood, leaving the unmarked trees mostly undamaged. Sharp eyes among the hikers spotted a few red marked trees the logger had left standing. Dale turned out to have a form of color blindness that made the red marks on dark bark difficult for him to see.

Our first stop was a site with artifacts from a previous occupant of the land. We saw a foundation for a structure with what

appeared to be the remains of maple sap pails. Walls of a small structure seemed to protect a spring (though no water was flowing today). A small trash pit contained old cans, bottles, and nondescript metal parts. One of the hikers found the metal part of a harness. Bob showed us photos of an early 20th century Witte engine that he had found sitting out in the weather. He explained that he had shown it to John Hastings who suggested contacting an engine collector and restorer, Tom Davies. Tom retrieved the engine from the woods using an ATV and trailer. Back at his workshop he managed to get it running again, though he had to fashion a substitute carburetor, and whack it with a sledgehammer to loosen up the piston. Bob showed a picture of a similar engine with an attached reciprocating saw, from the days before chainsaws. It was apparently used to cut up logs for firewood for boiling maple sap.

From there we made our way to another grove where a few maple trees have been marked. Here, each of the Mannings' children and grandchildren had chosen a tree. The Mannings are measuring the diameter at breast height during a family visit each July or August to compare how they grow. After several years of growing, this year's measurements showed little or no growth. None of the hikers could come up with a reason explaining this except possible human error. Kurt Edwards remarked that his family carefully marked the locations of each of their measurements so each tree would be measured in the same place year to year. (Later Steve noted that it might be a residual effect of the drought the previous year. A subsequent hiking group noticed evidence of maple leafcutter insects elsewhere on the property.)

We turned upward again, stopping briefly to observe a tall

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Oven Mountain Woodswalk, *continued from page 5*



Witte engine found in the woods on Oven Mountain.

beech tree with clear curved bear claw marks all the way up the trunk. Apparently a bear climbed this tree for beech nuts. Ed Welch remarked that a bear tree is a reason to keep beech, despite all the discussion about ways to get rid of it. Steve Warne countered that beech is one of best firewood trees, because it has as much heat content as maple, but drying or seasoning beech firewood only takes 6 months, compared to a year for maple or two years for oak.

The trail, marked in intervals with orange tape or yellow rope tied around stems, climbed steadily upward across the slope. Marks for other trails were also visible. Steve remarked that maidenhair fern is an indicator of soil that is well suited for northern hardwood forests. Kurt asked about a small plant, which Laurel Gailor identified as maybe sasparilla [*Aralia nudicaulis*]. Ed asked why the forest isn't more dense. Steve explained that not only has the site been logged, but also the high terrain is at risk for blow-down from high storm winds due to shallow soils, and he pointed out several areas with blow-downs. Steve recalled how he had worked on Oven Mountain in the '70s for International Paper, and they had discovered someone logging on the property. The loggers turned out to be from the neighborhood, cutting firewood for their own use.

Finally the trail curved around a ridge onto a ledge, and a broad view became visible, to the east over Wevertown toward the mountains around Lake George, and southeast to Crane Mountain. Climb rewarded.

Yet, the climb wasn't over. We continued climbing along the southeast side. Bob described a spot where he had once left a chainsaw and gasoline and oil bottles wrapped in plastic grocery bags to use again the following day. When he returned, he found them scattered down the slope with teethmarks in the bottles and saw, from a bear that had hoped to find food. Further up as the slope leveled out we passed a spot where Bob's son Carl had seen, just the previous day, (what was most likely) a skinny young black bear trotting across the slope below, like it knew exactly where it was going.

As we neared southwest facing slopes, more acorns and moss appeared underfoot. We skirted a minor knoll, passed near some hemlock, and stopped at a vernal pool with no outlet. It hadn't dried out completely this year as it does some years. Bob explained that, in the summer, salamander and frog tadpoles can be found, as well as insect larvae. Deer tracks were clearly visible in mud at the

edges, and Steve also spotted coyote tracks.

We made our way across a flat ridge to the southwest facing slopes just beyond the edge of the property. The second view featured the hamlet of Sodom, Height-of-Land Mountain, and the Route 8 pass near Eleventh Mountain. From there we backtracked across the ridge, returning onto the property and onto a parallel ridge where we found views of the Gore Mountain ski trails to the west, and Moxham Mountain to the north, with glimpses of the high peaks in the haze. Bob passed around a page with a photo of his grandchildren in a view from Oven Mountain with Moxham Mountain in the background, and on the new trail on Moxham Mountain with Oven Mountain in the background. A second photo showed several other groups of friends and family who he has led to this view. A third photo showed the view on a clear day with 15 labeled peaks visible on the northern horizon, from Marshall to Dix. We enjoyed the views over lunch, on seats Bob provided (short logs from a pine which he had cut to improve the view), and hoped in vain for the skies over the high peaks to clear.

On the downward trail, Bob pointed out a large erratic (boulder left by ice age glaciers) with small tafoni holes. He recalled that Evelyn Green had mentioned there were examples of tafoni in the hills near Garnet Lake, which he found, and so he looked for them on boulders on Oven Mountain. He showed photos of much larger examples near Snowy Mountain, and noted that they are common in other parts of the world, such as Castle Rock in California. He explained they are not created directly by water erosion but through a chemical reaction within the rock involving water.

Everyone was happy to make it back down safely, and someone remarked: "When's the next hike?"

While initially attracted by the forest and the views, for these New York Forest Owners, taking care of their forest land has also rewarded us with a little hidden history found on the mountain, of the wildlife, and even in the rock. Thank you for sharing!

MEMBER'S CORNER

October's Party

By George Cooper * Shared by member Jane Jenks

**October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came
The chestnuts, oaks and maples,
And leaves of every name.**

**The sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss weather led the dancing,
Professor wind, the band.**

.....
This member's corner is open to anyone willing to share something with the other members. Submissions can be mailed or emailed to Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.

We Need You!

Your Help is Needed to Chart the Course of Our Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA

Chapter Elections will be held at our SAC Annual Meeting on January 20, 2018. Bob Manning has agreed to remain as Treasurer and Bill Burke has agreed to remain as Secretary. The position of chairperson and vice-chair remain **open**. It is critical that we find someone for these positions. As chairperson, you will work with an experienced Steering Committee with many years of service to our chapter. The vice-chair will also be part of the Executive Board and Steering Committee.

Our excellent Steering Committee has continued to operate without a chair and vice-chair. We have all served as a chapter officer in the past, it is time for new leadership. ***We are appealing to members like you to step up and help keep our chapter operations functioning and taking it in the direction that you as members need and want.***

Our current Steering Committee **needs members** to get involved with our chapter board operations. This includes coordinating events, woods walks, community outreach, education, recruitment, etc. Our Steering Committee meets 3 times per year.

Our chapter is always looking to recruit new members. A good way to do this is to let your friends, neighbors and family members know the benefits of being a NYFOA member. See NYFOA website for details and upcoming events <http://www.nyfoa.org/>

We are all stewards of our forests. Let's all become stewards of our chapter and encourage growth and participation.

Please consider volunteering for these open officer positions, as well as, participating with the Steering Committee. We Need Your Help!

For information Please contact any one of our Steering Committee members:

Lou Inzinna	(518) 623-9864	Bob Manning	(518) 251-4638
Bill Burke	(518) 793-1825	Jane Jenks	(518) 532-7595
Kurt & Kristie Edwards	(518) 661-5685	Ed & Donna Welch	(518) 225-0629



**Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?
Do you have an suggestion for a chapter event?**

**If so please contact Kristie Edwards, newsletter editor,
at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at edwardsk922@gmail.com,
and she will forward your interest to the steering committee.**



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**SOUTHEASTERN
ADIRONDACK CHAPTER**

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