



# Newsletter

## Southern Finger Lakes Chapter

### NY Forest Owners Association



January 2019

Marty Borko – Jeff Joseph – Carol Holden – Brett Chedzoy – James Edwards

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 trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapter and statewide activities such as woods walks and tours, the bi-monthly New York Forest Owner magazine, and affiliation with other organizations with similar objectives, NYFOA helps woodland owners to achieve their management objectives for their properties and encourages the appreciation of the qualities and importance of New York's forests.

#### ***Welcome to new SFL chapter members!***

Liz Kreitinger - Ithaca, NY  
Donald Harner - Spencer, NY  
Kenneth Windstein - Ithaca, NY  
Scott Albrecht – Berkshire, NY

#### ***Message from the Chapter Chair***

This is our mid-winter newsletter that announces our regular winter seminar in February. It is usually scheduled around the winter vacation for our southern tier schools. That way we can rent the Spencer/Van Etten High School for our Saturday event. We've been fortunate for most of these seminars in the winter to be free of severely inclement weather, but we will announce a cancellation through the usual channels if there is a snow storm. Keep your fingers crossed.

I usually put in a few words here regarding observations of our forest conditions since the early fall, because we should all compare notes over our region of the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter.

The major observation I make this year has been the overabundance of rainfall and extremely moderate temperatures. (In the future, I would like to get some "official" meteorologic data.) Usually our forest of 40 A. dries out in the June/July timeframe, but this year there was too much rain for the drying out. The upside to this phenomenon is

that the forest produces an abundance of chanterelle mushrooms (and other unidentified types). I guess we should look for the upside and downside to our weather phenomena. Some impacts of these weather patterns in the fields next to the forest are that harvesting with machinery is challenging. Combines don't do real well in the mud, nor do potato harvesting tools.

The fields should be tiled better, but recently our Finger Lakes are experiencing overabundance of phosphorus inflows with outflows far below the inflows. Really great tiling offers accelerated outflow of field phosphorus into the ditches that rapidly transport, even though the fields might drain more quickly and be more ready for farming operations. There is now more attention being paid to this water overload by the various Intermunicipal Organizations that focus on lake health. More forested area would be a great "storage area" for excess water, but this is a complex subject that we all need to wrestle with. The forests are valuable, and sound forest management practices can be helpful for our lake resources.

Be sure to attend the Levatich Memorial Winter Seminar this year on 9 February. Details are on page 6.

-Bob Barton – Chair [robarton@ottcmail.com](mailto:robarton@ottcmail.com)  
(Please note the email change.)

## **Events of Interest**

**Don't Get Ticked NY** - January 26, 2019, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. Come learn about the habitat, biology, identification, and control of tick species found in our area. Learn how to monitor your yard for high density tick populations and how to reduce their occurrence. We will also cover some of the basics about what to do if you find a tick on your body. All families will leave with a tick kit to carry on hikes and the like. Sponsored by the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program. Refreshments provided. Please contact Jennie Cramer, [jrc10@cornell.edu](mailto:jrc10@cornell.edu) (607) 272-2292 ext 146 for more info. This workshop is free <http://db.cceetompkins.org/programs/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=1639>

### **Annual Sportsmen's Show at S-VE High School**

2-3 February (Sat 10 AM-Sun 9 AM) at the Spencer-Van Etten High School. The High School will be filled with everything from the woods, the fields, and the skies.

### **Succession Planning Workshop Series for Farm Business**

Register online for either location: <https://scnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>

#### **Central NY Location**

February 11, February 25 & March 11, 2019-10:00am – 2:30pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County at 100 Eaton Street, Morrisville, NY 13408

Registration contact: CCE Herkimer Office; [herkimer@cornell.edu](mailto:herkimer@cornell.edu); (315) 866-7920

#### **South Central NY Location**

February 13, February 27 & March 13, 2019 at 10:00am – 2:30pm

Dryden Fire Hall at 26 North St, Dryden, NY 13052

Registration contact: Shannon Myers; [srm242@cornell.edu](mailto:srm242@cornell.edu); (607) 391-2662

*Editor: Planning for your forest is important. A farm is no different from a forest. The legal steps are similar. When a forest is divided, it often loses the possible 480-a property assessment reduction.*

### **Maple Syrup Production Workshop and Farm Tour**

Saturday **February 16, 2019** 9 am to 12 pm. Do you have an interest in learning more about maple syrup production? If so, please join us for this upcoming workshop and farm tour.

Jeff Benjamin of Hill Top Maple Farm will be giving us an overview of syrup production as well as giving us a tour of his maple sugaring operation.

In order to help tailor this workshop to your needs, we are requesting that when you sign up that you let us know what topics you would like to learn more about in this workshop (eg. tapping, sap collection, boiling, processing, finishing, bottling, etc).

Suggested donation of \$5 per person. Pre-registration is requested in order to determine topics to cover in presentation as well as to ensure enough seats, handouts, and refreshments. For more information and to register, please contact Shona Ort at 607-734-4453 ext. 227 or [sbo6@cornell.edu](mailto:sbo6@cornell.edu).

### **Diversity of Macrofungi in New York**

**February 21, 2019** from 5:30 to 7:30pm held in CCE Chemung; Room 110. There's more to mushrooms than what you can find in the supermarket! Our state's forests are filled with incredible fungi of seemingly every shape, color, and ability.

Come learn about fungi that turn wood blue, mushrooms that can glow in the dark, and even some that "farm" aphids! We'll talk a bit about our ever-evolving understanding of these amazing organisms and the astounding diversity right here in our region's backyard.

This class is going to be held in Room 110 at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County (425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY 14904).

There is a \$5 per person suggested donation. Pre-registration is recommended in order to ensure enough seats, handouts, and refreshments. For more information and to register, please contact Shona Ort at 607-734-4453 ext. 227 or [sbo6@cornell.edu](mailto:sbo6@cornell.edu).

### **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop**

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop is FREE and open to the public. Learn what HWA is and how to look for it in your landscape or woods. Takes place on **Monday, February 25th** (snow date

Wednesday, February 27th) from 6-8:30PM at the Ovid Fire Halls, 2136 Brown Street, Ovid.

**Trees of Life: Nuts in the Eastern US and Their Importance through Time**

Tuesday, **March 12th**, 6-8PM at the Human Services Complex in Montour Falls in room 120.

This workshop traces the importance of nut trees to ecological and social development in the northeastern US from ancient times to visions of a sustainable future.

Class is \$20 and you must preregister by March 8th. About the guest speaker: Sam Bosco is a PhD student in the Horticulture Section of the School of Integrated Plant Science at Cornell University where he studies the agricultural, social, and cultural dynamics of nut tree-based agroforestry in NY.

**The Tax Tips For Forest Landowners**

Well managed forests produce timber and other forest products, provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, aquifer and watershed protection, and other amenities.

Non-industrial private woodlands comprise approximately 60% of the nation's total forests. Providing tailored tax information is one way in which the Forest Service is working to increase forest productivity on non-industrial forest lands. For the latest tax information and tips regarding private woodlands, visit: [www.timbertax.org](http://www.timbertax.org).

**Annual Dues:** Our dues year begins in January! Thank you!

Note: If you have electronic copy of this newsletter, you can command-click while hovering your cursor over the internet reference. For those with hard copy, you will have to type in the referenced URL or email address. (Sorry.)

**Woodland Owners  
Helping Woodland Owners**

Trained and certified woodland owner volunteers are available to visit other owners and provide non-technical educational assistance in support of sustainable forest management. Contact a Regional Director for a free site visit by an MFO volunteer. Southern Tier contact is Brett Chedzoy; [bjc226@cornell.edu](mailto:bjc226@cornell.edu); (607) 535-7161.



Brett Chedzoy offering ideas and concepts at Lew Ward's and Jayne Port's woods.

**About Us:**

The NYFOA SFL Chapter Newsletter is published for our chapter members three times a year in early spring, fall, and winter. We always welcome news, events, or any information of interest to those managing or caring for woodlots in the Southern Finger Lakes area. Send articles for our newsletter to James Edwards, [edwards855@gmail.com](mailto:edwards855@gmail.com). It's best to send pictures in jpeg format. Articles with about 500 words or less are best for us to include.

## ***Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Steering Committee***

### **Chapter Chairman:**

**Robert Barton**

Email: [robarton@ottcmail.com](mailto:robarton@ottcmail.com)

### **Secretary:**

**Brett Chedzoy**

[bjc226@cornell.edu](mailto:bjc226@cornell.edu)

### **Treasurer:**

**Scott Smith**

[ses83@cornell.edu](mailto:ses83@cornell.edu)

### **Chapter Designated Directors to the NYFOA State Board:**

**Jeff Joseph**

[jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com)

**Ed Neuhauser:**

[edward.neuhauser@gmail.com](mailto:edward.neuhauser@gmail.com)

**Carol Holden**

[chholden@frontiernet.net](mailto:chholden@frontiernet.net)

### **Committee Members**

**James Edwards**

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**Lewis Ward**

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### **NYSDEC:**

**John Graham**

[jjgraham@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jjgraham@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**Matt Swayze**

[msswayze@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:msswayze@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## ***Join NYFOA***

Join Us! Whether you simply read our magazine, attend meetings, take part in planned events or become a volunteer, you can enjoy the many benefits of being a NYFOA member. Join members on “woods walks” and tours to stimulate enthusiasm for good stewardship and goal-oriented woodland management.

Receive the New York Forest Owner bimonthly magazine as well as chapter newsletters. Attend state-wide meetings as well as numerous local educational events. Become part of a local chapter to establish relationships with neighboring woodland owners to share experiences and successes related to ownership of forest property.

Benefit from our affiliation with other organizations with similar objectives, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension. Become part of a larger voice advocating for sound forest management practices. Be able to subscribe to the hardcopy edition of the popular magazine Northern Woodlands at a reduced rate (\$15/year).

Membership includes: Six issues of the FOREST OWNER magazine, woods walks, chapter meetings and statewide meetings for all members.

Membership is not limited to landowners! Contact Us: NYFOA, PO Box 541 Lima, NY 14485, PHONE: 800-836-3566, EMAIL: [info@nyfoa.org](mailto:info@nyfoa.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **The Woods We Call Home**

*by Brett Chedzoy*

Fall may be that one time of the year that we stop to appreciate the remarkable forests surrounding us, as the foliage changes from green to gorgeous. But for the remainder of the year, our woods go largely unnoticed despite their vital importance to our quality of life, culture, economy and environment.

I recently attended the inaugural “New York Forestry Summit” at Broome CCE, which highlighted the contributions of forest resources in the Southern Tier. Some take away messages:

- 63% of NY is classified as forest. Three-quarters of this renewable resource is privately owned.
- Forests contributes 23 billion dollars and 100,000 jobs annually to the state’s economy, making it one of our largest industries.

Forestry's annual impact in the Southern Tier is over seven billion dollars.

- Over thirty commercially-important native tree species are found here, and our woodlands are considered to be the most valuable in the world on a dollar value per acre basis due to the high value, volume and quality of our timber. Over three-quarters of the hardwood lumber produced in this region is exported.
- These same woods are the foundation for several other multi-million and billion dollar industries, including tourism, hunting, recreation and agroforestry. One of the sweetest examples of agroforestry is the maple sector, which has grown five-fold since 2000 to a 50 million dollar industry. Much of this growth has been spurred by Extension and research programs at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Cayuta – home of the Cornell Maple Program ([www.cornellmaple.info](http://www.cornellmaple.info))

The summit also acknowledged the growing list of threats to the future health and value of our forests. Among these were studies done by The Nature Conservancy and Cornell Cooperative Extension showing that attempts to replace our aging forests with a new generation of trees have been largely unsuccessful in recent decades. The main reasons for this are excessive deer pressure coupled with the explosive growth of invasive plants. An adult deer will browse over 4,000 oak, maple and cherry seedlings daily to meet its dietary needs while ignoring the less palatable invasives that eventually take over. New research on regeneration strategies at the Arnot Forest show strong promise to resolving these issues.

It is also disconcerting to note that two of our most prominent species: Hemlock and Ash, are rapidly disappearing due to the Woolly Adelgid and Ash Borer. New invasive pests like the Spotted Lantern Fly and Asian Longhorn Beetle now threaten other major tree species as well as our orchards and vineyards.

Despite these challenges, our forests are resilient and will continue to thrive under the stewardship of many thousands of woodland owners. To learn more

about Cornell Cooperative Extension's ongoing programs to support these owners and the forestry professionals that work with them, visit: [www.forestconnect.info](http://www.forestconnect.info) and [www.cornellmfo.info](http://www.cornellmfo.info). The latter is for CCE's "Master Forest Owner" volunteers who provide free counseling to hundreds of less experienced woodland owners each year.

### A Piece of Arnot Forest History

Here's a picture of Arnot Forest Technician Cole Lake standing in front of some large ash on the upper part of the Arnot Forest. These trees are located within "Guise Plots", which are permanent forest inventory plots established in the 1930's by Cedric Guise, and are protected from any artificial disturbance (in other words, not actively managed).

Arnot Forest has a good bit of history. At the top of the forest there are plots of grasses that began testing by USDA for usefulness in farms and fields. They are still there and folks at the NRCS Plant Materials Research Center in Big Flats can tell you more about them. *There's history in them hills.*



Ash trees of all varieties are now challenged by the Emerald Ash Borer, and it is possible that most local ash trees will succumb. There are agencies saving seeds for the future, in hope.

## **The Peter Levatich Memorial Winter Seminar**

of the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA

*Selling Timber from Your Woods: What's It Worth and How To Do It Right*

**9:35** – a brief welcome by Bob Barton, NYFOA SFL chapter chair

**9:40** The importance of timber harvesting for the management of our family's tree farm – Tim Levatich (Tim will give a brief history of the Hobnob, his father's legacy, and why they cut trees to manage their woods. The emphasis is on why cutting trees is an important part of the management to meet their ownership objectives)

**9:55** Tips for a successful timber harvest to meet your objectives – Peter Smallidge (Peter will walk the audience through the steps for a satisfying timber sale experience including the basic principles of good woodlot management – i.e. "don't high-grade")

**10:50** Break

**11:10** The rewards and risks of selling timber – Jim Shuler (Jim will pick up where Peter leaves off and talk about the challenges of marketing timber from a sustainable harvest, the major differences between low-grade harvesting and the more common saw timber sales, and what expectations landowners should have for any harvest (but especially for low-grade thinning or regeneration harvests) in terms of timeframe, revenues, visual impacts, type of equipment, etc.)

**11:55** wrap up

### SYRACUSE FARM SHOW 2019 FORESTRY

**Thursday Feb. 21 - Moderator Kristina Ferrare**

**11:00 AM-NOON** – Insects that Threaten our Woods; Mark Whitmore, Cornell University

An update on the various insects that are invading the woods of New York and what can be done to save our trees.

**1:00 PM-4:00 PM** – It's Your Legacy: Planning for the Future of Your Land; Kristina Ferrare, Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County and Kimberly N. Rothman, Bousquet Holstein PLLC  
Your woodlot can live on after you, but to insure that your wishes are addressed after you are gone, careful planning needs to take place now.

**Friday Feb. 22 - Moderator Hugh Canham**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM** – New York's Woodlands: What We Have and Their Importance; Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor, SUNY College of Env. Sci. and Forestry

An overview of how the woods of New York have evolved over the last 200 years and how what happens in our forests affects every New York citizen.

**11:00 AM-NOON** – Identification and Ecology of Northeastern Hardwoods; Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester, Cornell University

Principles of tree identification using leaves, twigs, and bark and growth habits.

**1:00 PM-2:00 PM**- Ecology and Management of Invasive Species; Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester, Cornell University

How to control common interfering plants(buckthorn, roses, honeysuckle, Russian olive, and barberry) using organic and chemical processes

**2:00 PM-3:00 PM**-The Future of American Chestnut in New York, Sara Fern Fitzsimmons, Dir. of Restoration Penn State Univ.

The American Chestnut tree, once a proud member of our forests is making a comeback thanks to the creation of disease resistant families. Discover when restoration might begin in New York and what you can do to help.

**3:00 PM-4:00 PM**-White Tail Deer: Too Many or Not Enough; Jeremy Hurst, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Some woodlot owners want to have more deer for hunting or viewing. Others need to control the deer herd or their young trees will be destroyed but how to achieve a balance between these 2 needs.

**Saturday Feb. 23 - Moderator Hugh Canham**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM** – New York’s Woodlands: What We Have and Their Importance; Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor, SUNY College of Env. Sci. and Forestry

An overview of how the woods of New York have evolved over the last 200 years and how what happens in our forests affects every New York citizen.

**11:00 AM-NOON**- Protecting From Biting Insects & Pesky Plants in the Woods; Mike Burns, NY Center for Agriculture Medicine & Health

As we walk through our woods or work in them we need to be aware of the dangers from certain insects and various plants that can harm us and how to prevent injury.

**1:00 PM-2:00 PM** –Safe and Useful Trails in Your Woods; Stacey Kazacos, Woodlot Owner, Mt. Vision, NY

How to create and maintain trails and access roads in your woods, from actual experiences of a landowner.

**2:00 PM-3:00 PM**-Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements; Michael Fournier, US Dep’t of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

There are several programs available to woods owners for financial assistance to improve your property for timber wildlife, and other uses.

**3:00 PM-4:00 PM**- Woodlot Management and Income Taxes; Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor, SUNY College of Env. Sci. and Forestry

How you manage your property and handle the income from timber sales can greatly affect how much income taxes you pay.



A recent fall scene from the Brett and Maria Chedzoy farm near Watkins Glen. Brett has demonstrated the raising of Angus beef cattle in the forest environs. The forest benefits from the trodding of the cattle which helps the soil to become more fertile and helps lessen undesirables. The forest is also more hospitable to the cattle in severely warm and cold weather. An article about this farm appeared recently in the OdessaFile on the web.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County**  
Schuyler County Human Services Complex  
323 Owego Street, Unit #5  
Montour Falls, NY 14865

### **Lew's Corner**

*Editor: Over the past several years, Lew Ward has forwarded more than several forest and woods related news topics. To see if a group of these might generate interest, I encourage everyone to forward topics to me. Lew has been a great sounding board for our chapter's steering committee, and this eclectic mix of news bites might be a great way to RNYWs. (Yes, google it.)*

A recent publication from Lew is entitled "Healthy Tompkins Forests," contained on a website titled [HealthyTompkinsForests.com](https://HealthyTompkinsForests.com). As the name suggests, it is focussed on forests in Tompkins County. The article can be found at <https://healthytompkinsforests.com/david-weinstein>.

Lew captured another topic on beech trees. Beech trees in our area can experience some attacking agents, while other beech locations show

excellent characteristics. The article is found at <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190109114758.htm?fbclid=IwAR2qF5kZif0Bdn1mMnE2IYzleiURlfifCpqRH3s5hTK1a3WYv-YRSITtqO4>. This one is fascinating because one researcher notes the spread to be analogous to the spread of emerald ash borer in all native varieties of ash.

The subject of old growth forest has recently arisen in the Tompkins County area. I never thought it would generate such attention, but it is well deserved. Here's a good article on the details of trying to redevelop old growth characteristics when we manage our woods. [https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000429\\_Rep451.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000429_Rep451.pdf).