



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

The Overstory

Volume 30 Issue 1
Spring 2019

SAC OFFICERS

Chair: Bruce Cushing
Vice-Chair: Vacant
Secretary: Bill Burke
Treasurer: Bob Manning

NEWSLETTER

Editor and Design:
Kristie Edwards

To submit articles for publication,
please contact: Kristie Edwards, 411
Beech Street,
Mayfield, NY 12117
edwardsk922@gmail.com

INSIDE

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Adirondack Rawlings Tour
Remember When
Internet Resources

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Justin Potter, Long Island City

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

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

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Found in Saratoga County

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

This spring, Capital-Mohawk PRISM interns located Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, or HWA, a hemlock-specific invasive insect, in Anchor Diamond Park in the town of Ballston. Later that fall, HWA was found on a single tree by a homeowner approximately five miles north of the previous infestation. These two locations mark the first occurrences of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Saratoga County, findings that should concern Southern Adirondack Forest Owners.

We don't need to discuss Hemlock's importance to its eponymous forest type, hemlock-northern hardwood. We don't even need to talk about the fact that it is a keystone species that supports a wide variety of animal, plant, and fungus life. If you live in this area of New York, you already know these things. These facts used to be apparent in the southern part of the state as well, where HWA has been present for over 30 years. When you visit those forests, it's rare to see a hemlock still standing; more often you find an open pocket in the forest covered in Japanese Stilgrass and Japanese Barberry.



Continued on page 3

Adirondack Rawling's Tour a Home Run!

By John R. Greenwood - photos by Bob Manning and John Greenwood

I must admit to being a casual baseball fan who only comes to life when the World Series approaches each year, so when I signed up for the Adirondack Rawling's Tour, I wasn't sure what to expect. When the tour was over, I felt like I'd just witnessed a bottom of the 9th, game-winning home run.

Our group of twenty or so NYFOA members gathered in front of the crisp white Rawling's Office in Dolgeville, NY, on an equally crisp Wednesday morning. In contrast, we were warmly welcomed by Plant Manager Ron Vander Groef.

After a brief history of the plant and after answering several questions, Ron split the group in half. He then entrusted us to Kevin and Pat, two longterm Rawling's employees, to take us through the plant. As each man explained their tenure and many job experiences at the plant, the theme of the day began to emerge. It became clear that the employees at Adirondack Rawlings take a great deal of pride in the bats Rawlings produces. This pride became even more evident as we were told about the fire they'd experienced less than a year prior. In September 2018 the plant's sawmill suffered a severe structure fire. Although the majority of the production wood was saved, the building itself was destroyed. The mill was not attached to the production plant, so they were able to keep up with customer demand without a significant effect on sales. Until the new sawmill is complete, they've had to rely substantially on outside sources for their billets. Rawling's battled through adversity and from what we witnessed, the work ethic here is as strong as their bats.

Before entering the building, we were supplied with ear and eye protection. This was due to the many lathes, saws and air systems we would see in the first half of our tour. It was in the initial billet grading, cutting, and weighing process that you began to understand the finite details that go into producing a high-end, high-quality bat. Identifying grain quality, moisture content, and detecting imperfections are crucial. Advancements in technology have helped with all the above, but it takes a caring and knowledgeable craftsman to utilize it to its full potential. We were told Rawlings possesses close to 1,000 different templates for bats of various sizes, weights, and shapes.



This wood lathe transforms a billet to a bat

Continued from page 1

Hemlocks die slowly after being infested, and the good news is that they will probably decline slowly in this region due to cold winters knocking insect populations back. All that being said, once they die back, the habitat that they leave behind is significantly degraded. Thankfully, there are things that landowners can do to fight the spread of HWA. It is extremely important to be looking at hemlock foliage, especially after May when the second generation of the insect hatches. This is an insect that can reproduce asexually, and when you are able to locate some from the ground, it's likely that there are higher populations in the canopy. The same is true regionally, HWA was found on Prospect Mountain in 2017- more than 40 miles from the next closest identified location. This large jump suggests that HWA is scattered throughout the landscape between Prospect Mountain and Ballston making this one of the premier areas of the state to look for HWA.

If you find HWA on your own land, it is recommended that you treat your trees, either through an over-the-counter treatment using imadicloperid tablets, or through hiring a certified forestry pesticide applicator to treat infested trees with a basal bark spray of imadicloperid and dinotefuran. These treatments can protect hemlocks for up to eight years, buying valuable time as the research progresses on long term solutions like biocontrol insects. To stay informed of the progress of that research, visit the New York State Hemlock Initiative website. For updates on what is being done in your neck of the woods, stay informed by linking with the Capital-Mohawk PRISM, either through our Listserv, our Facebook or Instagram page, or visiting our website for a calendar of trainings.



Here you can see hemlock trees damaged by HWA

Coming Events...

Saratoga County Fair

July 23rd thru 28th

This year the volunteers to staff our booth will be organized by Kurt and Kristie Edwards. Please email or call them to sign up for a time slot.
edwardsk922@gmail.com or (518) 661-5685

Annual Picnic

We are currently in need of a host or idea for the Annual Picnic this fall, usually held in September. If you are interested in hosting this event contact Kurt Edwards at: edwardsk922@gmail.com.
Watch for more details in our July issue of the Overstory.

Welcome!

We are pleased to announce and welcome our new chapter chairman Bruce Cushing. We have been without someone to officially fill this office for a number of years. During that time our steering committee has been working as a group along with outgoing chairman Lou Inzinna's continued efforts to fulfill of the duties the chairman. We are excited to again have leadership and feel that Bruce will be a great addition to our slate of officers and steering committee. He has been a member of our chapter for many years and we have been able to get to know him as he has attended many of our events. We look forward to working with him –Thank You, Bruce, for joining us!

The SAC Steering Committee

Once the bats are shaped and sanded to size, they head off to be finished. This is where I became most impressed. Knowing that some of the biggest stars of Major League Baseball rely on these bats to make their multimillion-dollar salaries highlighted the importance of quality control. The meticulous attention to detail given to a baseball bat here in Dolgeville was something I wasn't prepared for when I left the house this morning. Every step in this part of the process required a delicate touch. Whether it was applying a decal or lasered brand, it had to be precise. The lacquering and painting of each MLB player's bats were also to their personal specifications. Add to that all the other retailers that carry the various lines of bats, and you have an enormous responsibility to get everything right.

An interesting story came up during our tour when the question of supply and demand came up. Our guide Kevin explained that when the Toronto Blue Jays clinched their second consecutive playoff birth in 2016, there was a phenomenal surge in Canadian Little League. The number of kids and teams skyrocketed, and so did baseball bat orders. Little league bats, American and Canadian are a large portion of Rawlings business. Large sporting goods retailers like Dick's and online sales also contribute to Rawlings success.

Rawlings produces bats from three types of wood; northern white ash, maple, and some birch, with maple continuing to grow in appeal over the other two.



An assortment of bats produced at Rawlings

Continued on page 5

Did you know....



Trees can talk to each other...

Willows attacked by pests send a defending signal to other trees growing nearby and inform them about attacks from pests. Read more at source below

Source:

<https://treedoctors.ca/surprising-facts-didnt-know-trees/>

Online Resources

Paul Smith's College School of Logging – The goal is to provide the next generation of forestry professionals with a breadth of experiential training and to assist them with entry into the workforce. Open to high school graduates 18+ years old.

<https://www.paulsmiths.edu/summer/school-of-logging/>

Volunteer with DEC! Volunteers enable DEC to expand and improve our services to the public. If you or your group would like to help preserve, maintain and enhance New York's natural beauty, enter into a VSA, Volunteer Stewardship Agreement!!

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/90822.html>

It is no surprise that Rawlings and members of NYFOA have a mutual concern with the destruction caused by the Emerald Ash Borer. The implications a tiny insect can have on an entire industry is the reason continued education and vigilance are needed in protecting a natural resource as necessary as our forests. Adirondack Rawlings is a perfect example of how industry and society need to work together in protecting each other's interests.

The members of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA want to thank Plant Manager Ron Vander Groef and tour guides Pat and Kevin for their hospitality and for providing such an informative and enjoyable tour of their impressive facility. I went home that day with an insatiable urge to watch *Field of Dreams* with a bowl of popcorn on my lap.

I want to thank Kurt Edwards of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA for organizing this tour—it was a home run!



These bats have been dipped in paint or stain and then hung to dry



A Time To Plant

By Bonnie Colton (re-printed from the Nov/Dec 1992 Forest Owner)

I walked the yard this afternoon, stopping every few inches to pick up acorns. The neighbors have a big oak tree which drops its bounty indiscriminately on both lawns.

Acorns have always fascinated me. Topped with tiny Scottish-looking tams, they almost beg to have faces painted on them. But I put them in a bag instead, planning to take them to the woods and help nature plant them. Our woods have no oak trees and we'd like to encourage some to grow there in the open spots.

Someone once said it takes an optimist to plant a tree. That's because trees take so long to grow up, only an optimist would expect to sit in the shade of one he'd planted or to cut it down for lumber.

Really, it takes optimism to plant any kind of seed. Even in short-term settings enough to yield a good crop. The rain may drown the seed or the lack of rain may shrivel it. The sun may scorch it or the lack of enough sunshine may make the soil too cool for germination.

But we plant gardens just the same. And there is plentiful reward in watching them grow. And sometimes there is disappointment when they don't survive. But we still plant them.

And we still plant trees, often rewarded by seeing them grow and thrive. We may not expect to benefit from them personally, but we want to leave the earth in better shape than we found it. There's no denying that trees will help that to happen. If they are given a chance to grow to maturity.

That's a bit like bringing children into the world. We plant the "seeds" and nurture the "seedlings" until they grow strong. Sometimes a prevailing wind bends a growing sapling and we tie it to stakes to help it grow straight and tall.

Just so with our teens-sometimes a prevailing fad or social aberration begins to bend them out of shape and we tie them to the stakes of family values and religious heritage and worthwhile goals and long-term perspective, hoping these stakes will straighten them out and help them grow tall and strong in character.

We plant other seeds, too. We plant seeds of friendship when we smile at folks we meet on the street, when we compliment someone for an achievement, when we show interest in someone's projects. We nurture seeds of friendship when we visit someone who is lonely, when we listen to someone who needs to talk, when we lend a helping hand or comfort someone who is hurting.

And when the winds of misunderstanding or injured feelings or differences of opinion threaten to bend and twist a growing friendship, we tie it to the stakes of forgiveness and patience and loyalty and encouragement to help it grow strong again.



Bing Images

Continued on page 7

And so I gather acorns, knowing some will rot and some will be eaten by squirrels and insects. But some WILL grow. And years from now others will be glad that someone had the foresight and the optimism to plant those trees.

We didn't plant a garden this year-too many other projects. But some of our neighbors did, and have shared their surplus with us. We are certainly glad they took the time to plant those seeds and we appreciated the seeds of friendship sown when they shared their lettuce, cucumbers, squash, zucchinis, tomatoes and beets.

It was years ago we planted the beginnings of our family. Our children have grown tall and strong and, like oak trees in a park, they give refuge and comfort and beauty to those around them. In turn, they have dropped their "acorns" and nurtured the growth of another generation.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven..."

A time to gather acorns – From beneath the autumn oak,

A time to scatter acorns – In a clearing in the wood,

A time to watch excitedly – As new young growth appears,

A time for satisfaction – When the sun and rain are good.

A time for raising children – With tender loving care,

A time to set protective stakes – When threatening winds abound,

A time to loosen the family bonds – And let our "young trees" free,

A time to bask in blessings – Of the "new shoots" gathered around.

A time to plant friendship seed – And nurture it along,

A time to sow a helpful deed – To fill a heart with song,

To everything there is a time – Don't let that time slip by,

A tree, unplanted, never will – Reach up to touch the sky!



Are you interested in hosting a woodwalk?

Do you have a suggestion for a chapter event?

If so please contact Kurt Edwards, event coordinator,

at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at edwardsk922@gmail.com



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN

PO Box 541
Lima, NY 14485
1-800-836-3566

SAC Officers:

Chairman :
Bruce Cushing
becushing@gmail.com
(518) 695-9207

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer:
Robert Manning
bobmanning@frontiernet.net
(518) 251-4638

Secretary:
William Burke
liamsb46@gmail.com

Steering Committee Members:

Kurt & Kristie Edwards
edwardsk922@gmail.com
(518) 661-5685

Dave & Jane Jenks
janejenks.adkmts@yahoo.com
(518) 532-7595

Ed & Donna Welch
trautwei@gmail.com