



# NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK**

## The Overstory

Volume 30 Issue 3  
Fall 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](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com)

### INSIDE

Members Corner  
Coming Events  
Did you know...  
Annual Picnic

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Virginia Ryan, Lake George  
Saratoga PLAN, Inc, Saratoga  
Rosalba Torre, Lake Luzerne

### ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
[www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

## Leaf Of Faith

By John Greenwood



*Life* has this funny way of making you believe it cares. It lulls you into a sense of security by handing you things on a silver platter and then when your mind is at ease and your feet are up on the coffee table *Life* hides the remote. All of a sudden you have to get off your cushion and do something. That scenario has repeated itself on me for years. *Life* has teased me, tortured me, and treated me on and off so many times you begin to sense a pattern. Like the seasons, *Life* brings sunshine and sunburns, Frosty and frostbite, spring fever and hay fever. It's ability to run you ragged is what makes *Life* so complicated. As I headed out for a Sunday morning wrestle with my 100 year-old maple's deposit I found myself searching for something to restart my engine. Since photographs are a large part of this blog, and finding ways to keep my Baby Sony fulfilled are crucial to the survival of us both, I finally grew up and bought a new tripod. I felt it might give me more street-cred if I had one behind the seat of my pickup. I thought it would be fun to try and find a creative way to use it on this cool October morning so I unfolded it, grabbed a rake, set the timer, and began clicking away at the grasp *Life* had on me. The title, "Leaf Of Faith" came to me as the photo session progressed. My maple imitates *Life*. He has some age on him; some wear and tear. Weak limbs, sagging branches, and a scarred exterior are witness to his longevity and survival skills. He has good days and bad days. Generally he stands tall and proud but on those days when the snow is packed high around his trunk and his guardian is blowing it even higher he takes a deep breath and begins to count. He knows spring will arrive soon and fresh buds will supply a fresh outlook. Songbirds will flitter amongst his newness and *Life* will flourish once again. It's that Leaf Of Faith we must all embrace if we truly expect happiness to remain in our lives. Regardless of how deep the snow may get, looking forward to what follows is the key. If we stop caring, if we stop wondering, if we stop yearning for that next season we

Continued on page 4

# DEC Renames State Tree Nursery to Honor Colonel William F. Fox

## Civil War Veteran Recognized for Critical Role in Forestry and Forest Management in New York

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has renamed the State Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs the "Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today.

"Considered by many to be the 'father' of DEC's Forest Rangers, Colonel William F. Fox is arguably one of the most important people in the long-storied history of New York State forest lands and forest management," said **Commissioner Seggos**. "Today, DEC is recognizing Colonel Fox and celebrating his illustrious legacy by renaming the State Tree Nursery in his honor."

During its more than a century of service, the State Tree Nursery has adapted to the changing needs of forestry and land management. The trees and shrubs grown at the nursery support DEC's goals and overall mission. DEC encourages planting trees and shrubs by providing nursery service to provide low cost, quality stock that is readily available to the public.

Born William Freeman Fox on January 11, 1840, in Ballston Spa, NY, just miles from the tree nursery on Route 50, he studied engineering at Union College in Schenectady, NY, for three years. Fox is buried in Ballston Spa Village Cemetery. At 22, Fox joined the Army of the Potomac in 1862 as a Captain commanding "C" Company of the 107th New York Volunteer Infantry. Shortly after, he saw his first combat in at the Battle of Antietam, considered the bloodiest day in U.S. history. Fox was wounded in this battle, as well as at the Battle of Chancellorsville, where he served as a Major, and the Battle of Resaca, where he served as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was discharged from the U.S. Army on July 8, 1864.

On November 1, 1885, Colonel William Fox was appointed assistant secretary of New York State's Forest Commission, which oversaw the recently created New York State Forest Preserve. Throughout his career, Fox worked to expand the Forest Preserve and was unceasing in his attempts to purchase as much land for the preserve as possible. At the time of his death on June 16, 1909, the Forest Preserve had grown to include more than 1.6 million acres of "Forever Wild" lands.

In 1895, the Forest Commission and the Fish and Game Commission were consolidated as the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission. The Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission and the Forest Preserve Board were later consolidated as the Forest, Fish and Game Commission in 1901. This commission became the Conservation Department in 1911, and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in 1970.

Fox was Assistant Forest Warden from 1888 to 1891 and oversaw the Fire Wardens - the predecessors of today's Forest Rangers. When he was appointed the first Superintendent of Forests, he continued his oversight of the Fire Wardens.

Continued on page 3

Unsatisfied with the program, Fox called for "forest rangers" to replace the wardens. He is credited with making New York the first state in the nation to put forest fire protection under public authority. Shortly after the Conservation Department was formed in 1911, the title, duties, and responsibilities of Forest Ranger were established.

In 1898 Fox proposed that burned-over barren lands in the state be replanted. In response, New York created one of the nation's first tree nursery and reforestation programs. The tree nursery program began in 1902 and has been an integral part of forest stewardship on public and private lands since its inception. More than 1.6 billion seedlings have been produced by New York's tree nursery system to enhance and protect our forest resource.

Established in 1911, the Colonel F. Fox Tree Nursery is the oldest state tree nursery in the country. In the decades before World War II, the nursery's primary mission was to grow conifer seedlings for water supply protection, soil protection, and for timber plantations to ensure a steady supply of lumber.

In the early 1930s the State began the reforestation system by acquiring abandoned farms. Most of this land had to be planted to protect the soil. Nursery production rose to meet the demand and peaked in 1938 at 72.8 million seedlings produced for planting just in that year. These plantings were mainly accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The tree nursery's mission became more diverse when DEC was established in 1970. Along with traditional forest seedling production and wildlife shrubs, the tree nursery also began to produce trees and shrubs for remediation, wetland restoration, and riparian protection, with a focus on growing native species from local seed sources.

Article shared by member William Burke - source also found:<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/117260.html>

## Coming Events...

### NYFOA SAC Annual Meeting Saturday, February 8th Cornell Cooperative Extension Building 50 High Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Annual Meeting Begins 10:00 am

Officer nominations and vote

Break for lunch at 11:30 am

Pot luck lunch—please bring a dish to share

**Afternoon Presentation begins 2:00 pm—Open to the Public**

**Managing Sugarbush for Birds**

Zack Boerman, Forest Program Associate, Audubon New York

Maple sugarbushes provide nesting habitat for a diversity of forest birds. Many of these birds have experienced a steep population decline for decades. Sugarbush management activities that develop a structurally and biologically diverse forest can play a vital role in global bird conservation efforts while simultaneously enhancing the health and sustainability of the sugarbush.

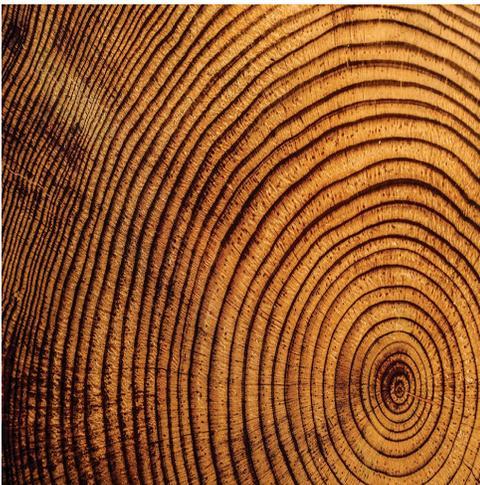
Continued from page 1

are doomed. On this particular Sunday morning in October I felt *Life* was reaching out to me. A pile of watercolored leaves was not a chore today, it was a pleasure. For the moment anyway, *Life* dumped a gift in my driveway, smiled and drove away. As *Life* idled up the road I saw the window roll down and out flew the remote. *Life* in all it's wisdom knows how to keep you guessing--how to keep you moving forward.



***Things can fall apart, or threaten to, for many reasons, and then there's got to be a leap of faith. Ultimately, when you're at the edge, you have to go forward or backward; if you go forward, you have to jump together.***

## Did you know....



**Dendrochronology** is the dating and study of annual rings in trees.

**The word comes from these roots:**

**ology** = the study of

**chronos** = time; more specifically, events and processes in the past

**dendros** = using trees; more specifically, the growth rings of trees

Source: <https://ltrr.arizona.edu/about/treerings> (read more here)

## Members Corner ...

### A Friendly Ruffed Grouse-the Bird

By Erwin Fullerton

Keeping our woodland trails open by removing fallen trees and brush is an endless job.

While removing logs that were lying across trails near our home in South Woodstock, VT., I slid off my ATV, walked behind and picked up my orange Husky chainsaw. I noticed a female ruffed grouse setting on a dead stick about twelve feet from me. Rather surprised, I watched it for five minutes. It came toward me and crossed the trail, paying no attention to the running, noisy chainsaw, and stayed by the treetop I removed from the trail. Thirty feet beyond it I removed two eight-inch spruce trees and the bird just stayed around. I got onto the ATV and watched. The bird then came up to within eight feet from me, stretched out its wings, spread its tail out, and then picked up leaves and threw them back over its shoulders.

Finally I started the ATV and moved up the trail about 100 yards where I stopped to cut limbs hanging across the trail. There was the little bird at the end of the limb I cut off! I carefully removed the limb not to scare the bird. I started the ATV again and left slowly at about 3 mph and the bird followed about a hundred yards to the top of the hill before disappearing.

In the short time of thirty-five minutes I had an unbelievable experience watching wildlife. I know I will never forget it! It is a lot more interesting watching than just picking them off with a shot gun for a meal. It is happenings like this that make life worth living.



## Thank you...

We would like to extend our appreciation to all SAC members that volunteered to represent our NYFOA chapter and work/organize our fair exhibits this past summer. It is a great opportunity to have personal contact to foster good public relations and promote understanding of the benefits derived through sound forest stewardship

This year's volunteers are:

Bill Burke (Saratoga Fair Organizer, (w)

Lea & Rich Covell (w)

Bruce Cushing (Washington Fair Organizer)

Tom & Diane Denny (s)

Kurt & Kristie Edwards (Saratoga Fair Organizer)

Chuck Felder (w)

John Greenwood (s)

Lou & Jean Inzinna (Saratoga Fair Organizer)

Jane & Dave Jenks (Washington Fair Organizers)

Susan Jones (w)

Mike & Marion Kratky (s)

Eric Lawson (w)

Ethel Lesh (w)

Bob & Tomoko Manning (w)

Mary & Dave Marchewka (s,w)

Jack & Gail Phelan (s, w)

Dodie & Pete Seagle (s)

Bob Sheedy (w)

Rosemary & Paul Thomas (w)

John & Peg Underwood (w)

Donna & Ed Welch (s)

Rolf Wentdorf (w)

Kris Williams (w)

---

(s) Saratoga County Fair  
(w) Washington County Fair

## Our Annual Picnic at Bear Pond Farm

By Donna Welch and Kristie Edwards    Photos by Laurel Gailor

It was a perfect autumn day for our Annual Picnic, hosted by Ed and Donna Welch at their Bear Pond Farm, a bit of Adirondack serenity. The view, reaching peak transformation is always a highlight this time of year. SAC members and guests enjoyed refreshments prior to the walk including a brief description of our hosts' history on the property along with their management goals.



SAC members enjoy the view from Huckleberry Mountain

Ed and Donna's 400 plus acre farm consists of three adjoining parcels named for previous owners, the Danker, Appleby and Drake parcels. The Danker parcel, purchased in 2003, contains many remnants of earlier use, including a small garnet mine pit, and old foundation, and a 12 foot deep rock-wall-lined pit whose use is still unclear. A small cabin was built in 2005, and a 1 ¼ acre pond that was built in 2007.

The pond is stocked with rainbow and brook trout every few years. The primary management goals for the property are timber production and recreational pursuits. Sound forestry practices will be used to improve growing conditions for the better quality trees and promote the development of high quality forest products. Timber harvesting conducted of the past 20+ years has created a high degree of diversity within the forest. The harvesting created a patchwork of openings, uneven-aged hardwood stands, a proliferation of browse and forest plants for wildlife and numerous roads for hiking, hunting, observing wildlife, skiing and show shoeing.

The Appleby parcel, purchased in 2008, was an active farm in the early to middle 1900's. The stands of timber are diverse and the species composition of each stand reflect the natural site conditions and human intervention. Aspen, white birch and white pine, which commonly regenerate in abandoned fields, are found in all of the stands, indicating that much of the property was open before the property became reforested. At the time of purchase the stands were overcrowded with many large trees. A timber harvest during the winter of 2013 served to improve growing conditions for retained trees, allow seedlings to become established and forest plants to flourish. Also on this parcel is a log cabin built around 1984 on a very old stone foundation. Another old log building that was reputed to have been a tack house, with animals kept below sits close to the cabin.

The Drake parcel was purchased by our hosts in 2013. It was a landlocked parcel that adjoins the Danker and Appleby parcels. It contains extensive wetland systems, in the past it was used primarily for firewood and some timber.

Continued on page 7



In the late 1980's a high-graded logging of adjacent property occurred, and this parcel was similarly logged. Remnants of wire fencing suggest that the land was once used for grazing.

Currently Ed and Donna's work on their land includes extensive mowing and brushing to keep meadows and trails open, road maintenance, removal of invasive bittersweet and firewood production for personal use. In addition they are researching the historical ownership of the properties and attempting to identify more information about the former

uses of the properties. They have created an LLC as part of their estate plan, identifying two of their children to serve as future managers of the property. It is their hope that their children and grandchildren will have the interest and wherewithal to maintain the property with little or no additional development.

Our tour ended on the Appleby property where we fired up the grill for our pot luck annual picnic at the old log cabin. As always, a great part of the day is when we spend time with our friends, enjoying the beautiful surroundings and just being together again!



Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?  
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](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com)



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