

THE OVERSTORY

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Points of Interest

- What you need to know about the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Why you should avoid potholes on your ATV
- Upcoming Woodwalks
- Online Resources for Forest Owners
- Open positions at NYFOA

“FROG FRIENDLY FORESTS”

New York forest owners place a high value on the wildlife on their land, with songbirds and game animals like white-tailed deer and wild turkey at the top of the popularity list. Our forests also provide homes for less visible species of wildlife, and among these are the amphibians. Frogs and salamanders are lurking under rocks and rotting logs, breeding in temporary pools, and foraging for food high in your treetops. With a little effort, forest owners can help protect these fascinating creatures and in the process develop a greater appreciation of nature.

Amphibians are commonly associated with wetlands and even small moist microsites, for good reason. Most amphibians spend some their life in the water. Many species, however, spend a good deal of time on land, and a few are totally terrestrial. Red-backed salamanders, perhaps the most abundant vertebrate in most New York forests, live out their complete life cycle on land. Most people are familiar with the piercing springtime calls of

the spring peeper, but are they aware that these tree frogs leave their watery haunts after the breeding season and head for the woods? Another amphibian commonly encountered in the forests of New York is the eastern newt. The bright orange

habitat to seek out small streams and seeps on forested hillsides for winter hibernation sites.

Amphibians are sensitive to environmental changes, and for some species their populations are on decline. Forest owners can help protect frogs and salamanders if they learn more about the types of amphibians that live on their property, and find out about their life cycles and habitat needs. To learn what amphibians are likely to live in your woodlot visit bookstores or libraries for identification manuals, use the internet, and contact local nature center for programs and information on amphibians. Armed with some knowledge you can start searching for amphibians on your property. Don't expect to all the amphibians in your woodlot, many salamanders for example are rarely seen outside of their brief breeding season.

Continued on page 3



colored juvenile form of this salamander called a red eft lives on land and is easily spotted walking boldly on the forest floor. Even amphibians usually associated with wet habitats like the common green frog use forests. Research conducted in upstate New York showed green frogs often venture considerable distances from their summer



NYFOA SAC WINTER WOODSWALK TOAD HILL MAPLE FARM ATHOL, NY

~By Charlotte Hewitt~
On Saturday, February 26, 2011 members of the NYFOA Southern Adirondack Chapter gathered at the Toad Hill Maple Farm in Athol for a winter woods walk. Approximately 19 people were in attend-

ance. Randy and Jill Galusha, owners of Toad Hill Maple Farm, greeted the group in the spacious kitchen of their new 4000 sq ft sugar house, where we enjoyed coffee and refreshments provided by our

chapter. After some socializing Randy gave a tour of the building. Toad Hill Maple Farm has been producing maple products for over 30 years and is family owned and operated. Randy's involvement with maple sugaring began in 1971 when he and his brother tapped their first maple trees,

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Adirondack (only) Stumpage Price Report

Winter 2011/#78



The Stumpage Price Report is published semi-annually (January/July) by:
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands and Forests
Forest Utilization Program
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4963.html

(518) 402-9425

International 1/4" Rule

Species	Low Price Range	Average Price Range	High Price Range	
Most Common Species				
Ash, White	50-150* (100)	75-325* (150)	90-575* (220)	Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer & Poles) Dollars per thousand board feet
Cherry, Black	80-700* (200)	120-800* (375)	160-875* (500)	
Maple, Red (Soft)	30-200* (75)	30-300* (120)	100-600* (240)	
Maple Sugar (Hard)	75-350* (200)	150-600* (330)	300-1750* (400)	
Oak, Red	75-200* (100)	150-650* (275)	250-1500* (365)	
Pine, White	30-100* (75)	50-270 (100)	90-500* (135)	
Less Common Species				
Aspen	10-80* (65)	20-110* (90)	25-175* (150)	
Basswood	10-100* (60)	20-200* (75)	20-200** (150)	
Beech	10-75* (50)	20-150* (50)	25-200** (115)	
Birch, Yellow	75-300* (100)	50-450* (200)	150-575* (250)	
Birch, White	40-110* (75)	50-165* (100)	70-350* (170)	
Butternut	NR	NR	NR	
Elm, American	NR	NR	NR	
Hemlock	10-75** (75)	20-100* (50)	50-120** (85)	
Hickory (spp.)	50-175** (80)	100-250** (155)	140-150* (145)	
Oak, Chesnut	50-90** (70)	100-175** (110)	150-200** (175)	
Oak, White	50-100* (80)	90-210* (120)	100-300* (250)	
Pine, Red	10-80* (50)	30-200* (80)	50-150* (80)	
Spruce (spp.)	10-75* (40)	30-200* (75)	80-150* (100)	
Tulip poplar	20-80** (50)	30-120* (90)	40-150** (100)	
Walnut, Black	80-200** (140)	120-800** (460)	NR	
Cordwood Price				
Aspen	20-10** (5)	1-12* (6)	5-10** (6)	Cordwood Price Dollars per standard cord
Birch, White	2-10** (5)	4-15* (10)	6-18** (7)	
Hemlock	7-12* (8)	5-15* (10)	10-20* (15)	
Mixed N. Hardwoods	4-12* (7)	4-25 (10)	6-20* (14)	
Pine	1-6* (7)	1-17 (5)	3-10* (6)	
Spruce/Fir	3-10** (6)	1-14* (6)	5-16** (10)	
Firewood	5-12* (10)	5-20 (10)	10-25* (14)	

This chart contains a portion of the most recent stumpage price report as compiled by NYS DEC. The report is printed twice per year and the full report is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/> or at your local DEC office.

“FROG FRIENDLY FORESTS”



Red-Backed Salamander

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After you become familiar with the common amphibians in your area and their habitat preferences you can examine your property to determine how well it meets their needs. One of the easiest ways to help enhance amphibian habitat is to provide plenty of cover. The moist environment in an underneath decaying wood provides excellent cover a number of salamanders, so leave some downed trees and large limbs behind when harvesting firewood or timber. Rock and brush piles also make good cover for amphibians. Adding logs or limbs to shallow areas of streams and ponds will enhance habitat for both juvenile and adult

amphibians. Avoid disturbing wetlands, streams, springs, seeps, ravines, and rock outcrops because they provide a unique habitat for amphibians. Temporary areas of ponded water, also called vernal pools, are especially important because they provide breeding habitat that is free of fish who prey on amphibian eggs and young. Set aside a natural buffer area around these pools so they are protected from timber harvesting and recreational activities. A buffer of 50 to 100 feet wide is often enough to protect a seasonal pool. If you don't have any seasonal pools on your property consider building some.

Many species of amphibians live in or next to small woodland streams. Set aside a buffer at least 50 feet wide to help maintain the quality of the creeks on your property. When conducting management activities like timber harvesting or trail building use care to minimize damage to streams caused by erosion and siltation. Minimize the number of stream crossings and use proper construction techniques for forest roads and trails. A professional forester or your county Soil and Water Conservation District can help you select best management practices that will help prevent

serious problems. Landowners sometimes inadvertently create hazards for amphibians. Large ruts in haul roads or trails may fill with water to create attractive pools for amphibians. If roads or trails are used by tractors or ATV's during the breeding season these pools become death traps for amphibians. Other hazards include mowing too close to pond edges and removing travel corridors between wetlands and forests.

Managing your forest to protect amphibians can be compatible with many other management objectives including timber harvesting. Just remember take the habitat and life cycle needs of frogs and salamanders into consideration before you embark on projects that can impact their homes.

For additional information on frog and salamander friendly forests visit:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/herp/index.html>
<http://www.cortland.edu/herp/>
<http://herpcenter.ipfw.edu>
<http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/woodlandpools/index.htm>

For additional information on for-

estland activities that will benefit your objectives, visit Cornell's forestry website at www.forestconnect.info, New York Forest Owners Association's website at www.nyfoa.org. Source: Kevin Mathers CCE Broome County; Binghamton, NY Courtesy: Herkimer Outdoors, Vol. 7 Issue 1, 2008



Eastern Newt

“One of the easiest ways to help enhance amphibian habitat is to provide plenty of cover.”



The woodswalk is scheduled for June 11, 2011 and will begin at 10 am at the Hartford Central School (4704 State Route 149, Hartford) at their alternative energy facility using wood chips . We will have a tour of the plant discussion the design, operation, and maintenance and how the school district saves up to 70% of fuel oil costs during a single heating season.

We will leave the school by 11:30 – 12:00 to drive to a woodlot that was recently harvested as a woody biomass operation. The second part of the tour will be led by Steve Warne, the forester that oversaw the harvest job.

Be sure to bring your lunch, water and insect repellent; and with the weather we have had, you may wish to have boots for the woodswalk. For more information, please call or email Heather Hamell 623-3291 or hkh26@cornell.edu

WINTER WOODS WALK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Our next woodswalk is planned for June 11 at the Biomass facility. See page 3 for details

hung buckets and boiled down their sap in a borrowed two by three foot evaporating pan over an open fire. "It's a disease," says Randy, "Once it gets in your blood, you can't get rid of it." The Galusha family manages more than 760 acres of forest land under the guidance of a professional forester who has prepared a written management plan based on the condition of each management area. More than 100 acres is actively managed for maple production with over 4,000 taps on a vacuum-assisted tubing collection system. The new state-of-the-art sugarhouse was made mostly from

timber harvested on their land. The new processing equipment features a reverse-osmosis system that takes



75% of the water out of the maple sap before it is boiled in the new wood-fired vortex evaporator, which re-uses the

steam to help boil more sap. After the touring the building, the group donned their snowshoes and traveled into the forest to see the tubing system up close and to see other areas being managed for timber production. As well as being informational, the sunshine and the fresh snowfall from the day before made for a beautiful snowshoe walk as well.

At noontime the group gathered, once again, in the sugarhouse kitchen to enjoy a brown bag lunch social and to thank our hosts for a most informative and enjoyable day.

WHAT HOMEOWNERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE EMERALD ASH BORER

MARK WHITMORE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a beetle that was introduced into the Detroit area from eastern Asia in the mid 1990's. First detected in 2002 it was already widespread and had killed ash trees over many hundreds of square miles. Despite intense eradication efforts EAB has currently spread to 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces, primarily through their inadvertent transport in firewood. To date there has been no resistance to the beetle detected in native ash trees and there are no effective area-wide treatments to stop EAB population growth. It appears that most, if not all ash trees in the Northeast are threatened with eventual infestation and death.

EAB was first detected in New York State in 2009 in the Town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County. This was a relatively small population and an effort was immediately initiated to reduce the number of EAB and slow their spread. In 2010 there were five more detections of EAB in New York ranging in size from only a few infested trees to one in Ulster County where over 65 square miles of heavily infested and dead ash trees were found. As in 2009, efforts are underway in all these locations to slow the spread. Currently about 99.2% of New York's forest are uninfested. Now is the time to prepare and hopefully the state's strategy to slow the spread will give everyone time to plan ahead and minimize economic impacts.

What do you as a homeowner need to do in preparation for the arrival of EAB? The first thing to do is don't panic! The infestations in New York State are still relatively small. You have time to plan ahead. Here is a list of things to consider:

- **Know your Ash trees.** Find out if you have any ash trees on your property. Determine their size and health; this will be important in determining your priorities for management.
- **Know your property lines.** Resolve any questions about who is responsible for a particular tree so decisions can be made.
- **Determine your management strategy.** There are no effective area-wide treatments for EAB. The only effective treatment is the single tree application of systemic insecticides. However, not all are equally effective. Research the different insecticides registered for use in New York State and when application is warranted at www.nyis.info.
- **Know where the nearest EAB infestation is.** This is important because if you have chosen to treat your trees you should wait until the EAB is less than ten miles away. You will need to treat your trees every year or two and you will be wasting your money if EAB is not yet a threat. Find maps of infestations at www.nyis.info.
- **Not all trees will respond to the same treatment.** Young, vigorously growing trees are going to respond best to application of systemic insecticides. Large trees that have been repeatedly pruned or have lost large branches may have a compromised vascular system and may not be able to spread the insecticide evenly throughout the crown. These trees may have large branches killed by EAB, and be aesthetically changed or even dangerous.
- **Consider removal and replacement.** Large or damaged trees might best be removed and replaced. The long term need to treat trees and the associated costs may also help out determine whether or not to replace the tree. It is difficult to say how long EAB will be active in your area but experience from the Midwest indicates it may be 10 years or more.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR NEW YORK'S RURAL LANDOWNERS

Forest Connect– www.forestconnect.info– Forest Connect is the online portal to woodland resource information in NY, connecting people who use and benefit from woodlands to the knowledge and resources needed to ensure sustainable production and ecological function on private lands.

Woodland Owners Forum– www.forestconnect.info/forum– Got trees? Got Questions? Then visit the new Woodland Owners Forum to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across NY.

Invasive Plants & Insects–www.nyis.info–A clearinghouse for science-based information, breaking news, and new and innovative tools to prevent, detect, control and manage biological invaders in NY.

Agroforestry–www.mushrooms.cals.cornell.edu/cornellagfo.htm–Information on mushrooms, medicinal plants, and other non-traditional , non-timber forest products can be found on this website.

Cornell Maple Sugar Program–www.cornellmaple.info–The Cornell Sugar Maple Program exists to improve the production and use of maple products by working with producers, consumers and others interested in this fascinating and traditional New York agricultural and woodland product.

New Farm & Forest Enterprises–www.smallfarms.cornell.edu– Valuable and comprehensive information for the new or diversifying farmer for successful start-up and expansion of farm and forest-based enterprises.

NY State & DEC–www.dec.ny.gov/land/4972.html–Department of Conservation foresters serve private forest owners by advising on management activities tailored to meet individual ownership goals. Foresters provide expert advice on wildlife habitat improvement, erosion control, tree planting, recreation enhancement, sugar bush management and Silviculture. Federal cost-sharing programs and the state's property tax reduction program are administered by DEC foresters.

American Tree Farm System–www.treefarmssystem.org–Tree Farm strives to promote the growth of renewable resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all the benefits of productive forestry. For information on certification as a New York Tree Farm, email nytreefarm@hotmail.com

Natural Gas–www.gasleasing.cce.cornell.edu– Find the latest unbiased and verifiable information on natural gas, wind farms and other energy development issues that affect the rural landscape.

EMERALD ASH BORER (CONTINUED)

- **Beware of guarantees to save your trees.** It's easy to save a tree if there are no EAB in your vicinity and it will often take more than three years to for a tree to die. So beware of short term guarantees to save your tree. Work with reputable arborists who know EAB and the long-term commitment needed to save a tree.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of EAB.** Monitor your trees regularly and report your findings to your local CCE office, (518) 623-3291, the NYSDEC at (866) 640-0652, or at www.beetledetectives.com.
- **Get involved in your community.** Help neighbors identify their ash

trees. Become a part of your local EAB task force to help develop a Community EAB Response Plan.

- **Learn about all the issues** surrounding the Emerald Ash Borer so you can make good, informed decisions. www.nyis.info.



New! "Northeast Tree Planting & Reforestation"
 ~Available at~
<http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/management/TreePlantingBulletin12-09.pdf>
www.forestconnect.info

New York Forest
Owners Association

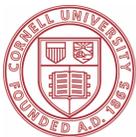


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The Overstory
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Message from the past chair:

This newsletter comes to our membership through the efforts of Laurel Gailor, our Cornell Cooperative Extension officer in Warren County. We thank Laurel for "stepping in" and helping us reestablish our regular communication with our membership.

At this time our chapter is in need of volunteers for some of the key positions in SAC. These positions include; the chair, vice chair, newsletter editor and coordinators for the Saratoga Fair and the Washington County Fair.

While each position requires a substantial level of responsibility, it will also have a corresponding level of support that will help the individuals get orientated to the particular tasks. So anyone who volunteers will not be alone. The volunteers will have the support of Laurel and myself as well as many of the members who have served in these positions in the past. In my tenure as chair I have been assisted by Laurel, John Sullivan, Steve Warne, Donna Trautwein-Welch (a relative), Ron De Witt, Deb Wentorf, Peter and Betty Gregory, Kristie Edwards, Erwin and Polly Fullerton, Jeff Kehoe, David and Jane Jenks, John Hastings, Jim Durler and most importantly, Barbara Hennig our Secretary and Bob Manning, our Treasurer (and email communicator). Beyond these are many others who I have missed here who helped me with moral as well as physical support. I can not thank you enough!

The "not alone" concept is important to stress here. We not only need to fill these important positions but we need to function as a team. We have done this in the past and, with help from each other, we can in the future.

Over the two years of my tenure as chair of SAC I have encouraged volunteers to accept a singular task so that we have many doing small pieces of the chapter work load instead of a few doing a lot of work. We have had great help from volunteers who have manned the fair booths - even from some who claimed that they knew very little about trees and woodlots (I felt that way my first time). But they did it and got better at it each time. Thank you all.

We now need volunteers for these positions. But we also need volunteers who will commit to helping these individuals create and establish a forest owner chapter that reflect our past leaders. As forest owners we have learned to learn from each other. Let's keep this going!

PS. You do not have to know all about forests - all you need is to love them.

To volunteer call: (518) 861-6038 or 225-0629 or
Email: ewelch1@nycap.rr.com

Ed Welch
