

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

July/August 2006



*Member Profile: Bob Coupal – A Third Generation Owner
of his Forest Property Known as “Little Hill”*

Volume 44 Number 4



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VOLUME 44, NUMBER 4

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 541, Lima, N.Y. 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$35.

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www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Photo shows entire Coupal family at recent family reunion at Little Hill. All present but about 5 cousins. It takes a family to work a forest and the Coupal property has been a family effort. Photo courtesy of Bob Coupal.

From The Executive Director

Good news! In June, NYFOA received a grant from the USDA Forest Service (USFS) for more than \$160,000 to continue to support the landowner cost share effort of the New York State Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). We had thought that last year's funding would be the end of this important revenue source for private land conservation and stewardship due to reduced federal funding in 2006 for 2002 Farm Bill initiatives. So it was indeed good news when this award was announced. Not all states received FLEP funding this year; and the USFS identified New York specifically as a state that could make good use of the funds given the state's private forest landowners' (like you!) outstanding track record in applying for and completing forestry projects on their properties.



(like you!) outstanding track record in applying for and completing forestry projects on their properties.

The new funding will be distributed in the same manner as in previous years. NYFOA's partner in the FLEP initiative, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will continue to evaluate landowner practices and approve projects for cost share funding based upon the State Priority Plan. According to the Plan, "Management activities and practices funded under this program shall provide multiple resource benefits." NYFOA's role is as program administrator.

While the new funds are certainly appreciated by all, there is still a considerable gap between the current backlog of project requests (over \$400,000 of proposed cost share needs meet the

criteria for funding) and the actual dollars available to complete the work. NYFOA's policy committee and I are cooperating with other forestry and land owner organizations and NYS-DEC to express our support for not only continuing, but strengthening, the FLEP program in the 2007 Farm Bill that is presently being considered by Congress.

More good news for many New York State forest owners – new legislation was enacted that provides landowners whose land is restricted by a permanent conservation easement an annual rebate of 25% of the property taxes paid on that

Please share this magazine with a neighbor and urge them to join NYFOA. By gaining more members, NYFOA's voice will become stronger!

land, up to \$5,000 per year. New York taxpayers will be able to claim this rebate when they file their 2006 state income tax returns. It is available to all owners of easement-restricted land, regardless of when the easement was created, provided that the easement was wholly or partially donated to a land trust or a governmental agency. A landowner with multiple easement-restricted parcels can claim more than one tax credit, but no individual taxpayer or corporation can claim more than \$5,000 in a single year. Eligible landowners will receive the rebate regardless of how much income taxes they

continued on page 4

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 landowners and others interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of NY State landowners promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of ***The New York Forest Owner***, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

I/We own _____ acres of woodland.

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From the Executive Director (continued)

owe. See related article in this edition of *Forest Owner* page 12.

The "Tree Tax" issue remained a hot topic throughout the 2006 legislative session. Thanks to all NYFOA members who took the time to personally contact their senators and assembly people; or who participated in the Council of Forest Resource Organizations' automated letter writing campaign. Learn more about the issue—and what you can be doing—online at www.nyfoa.org and click on the top button "Get Involved." This page contains a link to the letter-writing site and the most up-to-date information on the status of related pending legislation.

NYFOA is looking for new members. With more members, NYFOA will have a stronger voice in policy issues and other matters; and we'll be able to offer more services to all of our members. Our current membership totals just short of 2,000. At the June NYFOA Board of

Directors meeting at the Arnot Forest, the Board approved the NYFOA Membership Committee's recommendations to increase this number through a variety of innovative tactics.

Two guest speakers (and NYFOA members) at the meeting, Jim Ochterski and Chris Grant, challenged the Board and Committee to think about where to advertise for new members and what messages about NYFOA's products and services would resonate best with these individuals. Thanks for giving your time and ideas, Jim and Chris! One of the approaches to getting new members is to ask all of our current members to each recruit one or more of their friends and neighbors to join NYFOA. Please share this copy of the *Forest Owner* with others; and if you need more copies or hard copies of the NYFOA membership brochure, just let me know. 📧

—Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

Planning membership recruitment:

As NYFOA's membership grows, so does our voice!



NYFOA membership committee (l. to r. Dick Patton, Carl Wiedemann, Kelly Smallidge, Hugh Canham, and Ron Pederson (chair) at a May Committee meeting held at Arnot Forest. Some of the Committee's recommendations to increase membership include accepting multi-year and credit card dues payments. See membership form on page 3 to take advantage of this new service.

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Would you like to receive updates via email on emerging forestry issues and opportunities for forest owners? If so, please make sure we have your current email address. Contact Liana in the NYFOA office: lgooding@nyfoa.org

HOW TO: *Implement Forest Farming Practices*

RYAN DEE

Most public and private forestlands in North America have been modified to varying degrees from years of human activity. Certain high-value “nontimber forest products” have been overexploited and are difficult to find. Forest farming practices can be used by private enterprise to grow desirable nontimber forest products on private lands, to supplement family income, and to allow biodiversity to reestablish within forests.

Concepts and Principles

In forest farming practices, high-value specialty crops are intentionally cultivated under the protection of a forest overstory that has been modified and managed to provide the appropriate microclimate conditions. Typically these systems are established on private land by thinning an existing forest or woodlot to leave the best crop trees for continued wood production and to create the appropriate conditions for the understory crop to be grown. Then the understory crop is established and intensively managed to provide short-term income.

Planning and Design

A forest farming practice is usually a small area of land (5 acres or less) whose vertical, horizontal, and below-ground dimensions are managed intensely to produce multiple crops simultaneously. Systems usually focus on a single specialty forest product (SFP) plus timber but can include several products. Examples of such systems include:

- Ginseng + maple syrup + bee products + timber
- Shiitake mushrooms + timber
- Ferns + bear grass + mushrooms + timber
- Ginseng + walnuts + black walnut veneer logs

Thinning, pruning, or adding trees alters the amount of light in stands. Existing stands of trees can be intercropped with annual, perennial, or woody plants. Compatibility among understory and overstory plants and cultural methods is essential.

Before investing time and money in growing a particular SFP, an entrepreneur should obtain production and processing information, locate a source of technical expertise, and make an effort to locate or develop potential markets.

A common problem with developing an enterprise around a new product is the scarcity of technical information. Sources of expertise for producing specialty forest products can be obtained from state forestry and conservation agencies, the Cooperative Extension Service in county offices or state universities, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDA Forest Service.

Market analysis and business plans are essential before starting an enterprise. The existence and type of market depend on the SFP. Markets are often local stores or cooperatives. For example, shiitake, matsutake, morel, and chanterelle mushrooms, as well as truffles, may be sold directly to gourmet French and Asian restaurants; Asian and natural food stores; or a middleman or cooperative for resale to larger, more-distant markets. Markets for decorative products like salal and bear grass are in urban areas and overseas. Decoratives may be sold through cooperatives or to local buyers. Non-local buyers may also be reached through the Internet.

Economic Benefits

Some products, especially medicinals and botanicals, can have tremendous

economic value, and others provide a lower but steady supplemental income. For example:

- Forest-cultivated ginseng averages \$200 to \$400 per pound, depending on how closely the product resembles wild ginseng.
- A cord of wood worth \$50 to \$100 can produce \$500 worth of shiitake mushrooms. In 1990, wholesalers paid from \$3.50 to \$10 per pound for shiitake mushrooms in the Southeast. Retail prices were between \$9 and \$12 per pound.
- Markets for floral decoratives have been steady or increasing. In 1991, buyers paid \$1 for salal, \$1.60 for beargrass, and about \$0.01 for swordfern per frond.

Conservation Benefits

Forest farming activities modify the forest ecosystem but do not significantly interfere with its crucial contributions of water capture and filtering, soil erosion control, microclimate moderation, and wildlife habitat. Producers should avoid harmful species and follow EPA-approved guidelines for herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

Social Benefits

Forest farming provides opportunities to generate short-term income from existing woodlots with minimum capital investment. Especially on small family farms, this may contribute significantly to rural economic development and diversification. ↴

The information contained within this article first appeared in Agroforestry Notes (No. 7, November 1997), a publication of the National Agroforestry Center. It is reprinted here with the center's permission. The entire text of the publication is available online at www.unl.edu/nac/afnotes/ff-1/ff-1.pdf. For more information, contact Ryan Dee, National Agroforestry Center, North 38th Street and East Campus Loop, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0822; (402) 437-5178, ext. 14; ryandee@fs.fed.us.

This article appeared in the October 2004 issue of "The Forestry Source" a publication of SAF. It is reprinted with their permission.



Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.forestconnect.info

Question:

What does stand improvement mean? Is this a way to make my best trees better?

Answer:

Summer and fall are times when many forest owners are able to get into their woods and make improvements that support their ownership objectives. The owner may want more timber in the future, greater mast crops for wildlife, healthier trees, more robust fall color, or all of the above. These and other "forest products" can be enhanced through stand improvement. Traditionally, stand improvement was known as TSI or Timber Stand Improvement. TSI focuses on concentrating growth on those trees for timber crops. Because most owners desire more than timber, TSI is now often referred to as forest stand improvement or just stand improvement.

Simply put, stand improvement is a treatment, or action, that improves the growth of your best trees and removes any trees that are in the way. The nice thing about stand improvement is that the concept can be completely adapted to the specific site conditions, ownership objectives, and resources at hand. Stand improvement generally does not attempt to establish new

seedlings, but rather to make the best existing trees better. Stand improvement is hard work because it usually involves cutting trees, but might also involve herbicide applications, prescribed burning, or girdling. For trees to provide the values that humans want and need, they need to increase in size each year. Often, the faster and bigger they grow

each year, the more abundant the products of wood, fruit, sap, etc. This is unlike animals that stabilize in size at maturity.

In our region, the factor that most limits tree growth is access to sunlight. (In some cases, competition for soil water and nutrients may also limit growth.) The simplest thing you can do to make the best of your forest better is



Sometimes the stems cut for stand improvement can be utilized for firewood or other projects. Often, the volume of wood cut is more than the owner can handle and can be left on the ground to enhance wildlife habitat and soil fertility. Always use appropriate safety practices when cutting or moving trees.

to make sure that your best trees have access to plenty of sunlight. Stand improvement improves the growth of desired trees by reducing their competition for sunlight with other trees. The trees that have the greatest potential to provide the values desired by the owner are the ones that should be retained and enhanced by stand improvement. The trees that have less potential and that compete with the desired trees should be removed. In general retain those trees with large healthy crowns. These trees are often the tallest trees in your woods. Most trees having small and deformed crowns are not good candidates for retention.

The first time a forest is treated to improve growth, the trees selected for removal should include undesired species, trees of poor form or health, and trees of low vigor or at risk for damage due to unstable branching patterns. The intensity of the stand improvement treatment, the number of trees cut per acre, will depend on several factors, including tree species, soil productivity, ownership objectives, labor and equipment availability, and more. To make sure you get the details right, contact your service forester. Alternatively, you can work with a private sector forester to determine if the treatment can be done as part of a commercial operation. Be certain that the forester understands your desire to emphasize cutting of lower grade trees, thus ensuring an improvement in the stand. Once undesirable trees are removed from the forest, subsequent improvement treatments will require greater attention to the ownership objectives as the most desirable trees will have to be retained from among other semi-desirable trees.

Depending on the size and quality of trees being cut, the volume available, and local markets, some forest owners can sell some or all of the trees being culled. Selling trees for an improvement cut has the advantage of generating some amount of revenue while having the work performed by someone else. The revenue may be




Forests often have a variety of species, such as the aspen, red maple and white pine shown here. Concentrate growth on the vigorous stems of species that best serve the landowners objectives.

quite small; in fact, there may well be no net gain, but revenue may cover the cost of the treatment. In many cases the ability to get the work completed is more than sufficient compensation. Forest owners should be attentive to whom they hire, as unskilled contractors may do excessive damage to the residual stand.

Although stand improvements can be an excellent idea in the right situation, there are a couple of things to be careful to avoid. First, it's critical that the forester and/or logger involved clearly understands your objectives for the treatment. If your desired outcome depends on leaving the best trees in the woods, then it's critical that your forester and/or logger understands that. The opposite approach, removing the best trees and leaving behind the worst, can seriously degrade the quality of your stand for years to come. This is called high-grading, and it's the opposite of stand improvement. Second, a careless contractor may do excessive damage to the residual stand. This could seriously undermine the future condition of the stand. A forest

management plan through a skilled professional will help avoid these problems. All cutting should be supervised to ensure quality standards are met.

In situations where there are few cull trees, of small size, poor quality, or no local markets for low-grade trees, the improvement cut will be non-commercial. In these cases, it's common for the forest owner to personally cut the trees, or to pay someone to cut the trees. Don't feel that you need to remove all of the culled trees—in our region there are seldom ecological problems associated with just leaving them on the ground. The culled stems form slash that benefits many wildlife species. Also, as these stems decompose, they release stored nutrients back into the forest soil. Your service forester can advise you of any risks specific to your area and situation. Any utilization should be closely monitored to ensure the correct equipment is used and that harvest is done safely with minimal damage to the residual stand. 

continued on page 8

Ask the Professional (continued)

Recommended Links

Stand improvement

- <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/privassist/fsi.html>
 - <http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/forestry/g05150.htm>
 - http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/forestry/mankato/timber_stand.html
 - <http://ohioline.osu.edu/for-fact/0045.html>
- Selecting and marking trees
- http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/forests/public/guide/tree_marking_guide.pdf (4MB file)

Avoid stand degradation

- http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage/pubs/articles/fortom/high_grade.htm
- <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forestry/silvics.htm>
- <http://www.forestrycenter.org/library.cfm?refID=73625>
- <http://www.massforesters.org/high-gra.htm>

Response provided by Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. This response was adapted from a FAQ developed for the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry web page.

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Pest Alert

The USDA Forest Service has issued a detailed, two-sided pest alert sheet discussing the Emerald Ash Borer. The sheet includes overall information on the Emerald Ash Borer as well as Identification, Biology, Distribution and Hosts, and Symptoms. If you are interested in receiving a full color, 8½ x 11 sheet, please contact Liana Gooding at NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 or by calling 1-800-836-3566.



Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmshaimer, (address on page 22) and it may end up on this page!

Pete Smallidge submitted this photograph. The picture shows Kelly, Nathalie and Adelaide on their Crown Point, NY property inspecting Kelly's cutting technique as she prepares to fell an aspen using your recently acquired skill with Game of Logging. Adelaide is predicting the direction of fall. When the saw is running, the girls stand two tree lengths away.

What's Bugging You?

Insects are everywhere and an important part of our environment. Do you know what makes an insect an insect? Or, why insects are important?

Butterflies, moths, dragonflies, beetles, bugs, bees, flies, and ants are all insects. What do they have in common?

One pair of antenna, two pairs of wings, and three pairs of legs. Grab a paper cup and a magnifying glass and see if you can catch some insects. Do you see all the required parts?

Do all insects have these three things?

Well no, especially if you catch a young insect. There are two groups of insects, those with complete metamorphosis and those with incomplete metamorphosis. And then there are some insects, such as ants, that only have wings when they are migrating to a new colony.

Complete metamorphosis insects include

butterflies, beetles, ants and dragonflies. When their eggs hatch, the baby insects, called larva, look nothing like the adults. The larvae feed and grow until they are big enough to go into a pupa stage where they transform into adults.

Have you ever seen a caterpillar or found a cocoon (pupa)? A fun experiment to try: Catch a caterpillar; put it in a big jar with air holes in the lid and give it some leaves to eat. Try to find a caterpillar feeding on leaves so you know what ones to give it.

Within a few weeks the caterpillar will make a cocoon and then later emerge as a butterfly or moth. In some areas you can even buy monarch butterfly caterpillars to raise. Once the adult has emerged

remember to release it near where you found it. Incomplete metamorphosis includes insects like crickets, grasshoppers and true bugs (yes

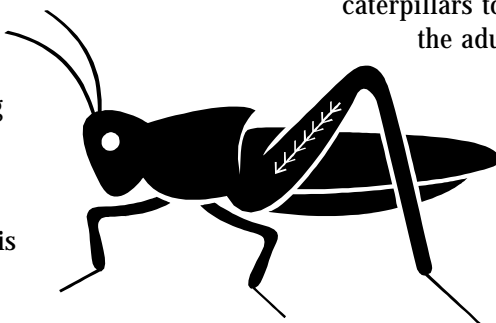
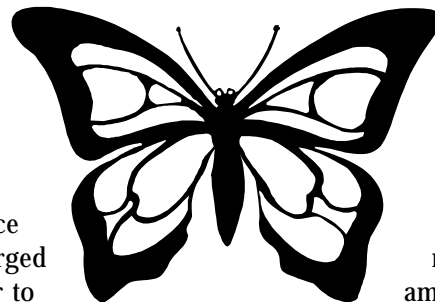
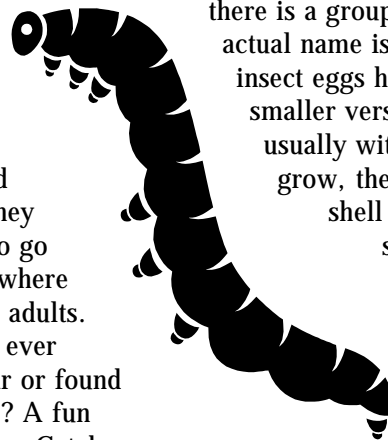
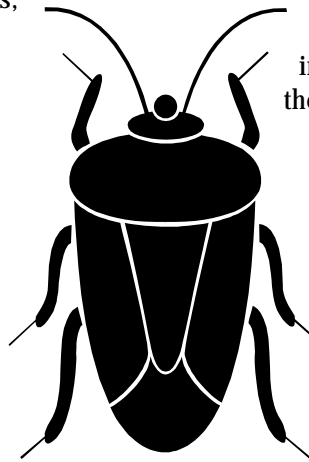
there is a group of insects whose actual name is bug). When these insect eggs hatch, they look like smaller versions of the adult, but usually without wings. As they grow, they shed their hard shell exteriors, just like snakes do, and their wings begin to grow.

Go out into the tall grass and see if you can find some grasshoppers. Take a good look at one, if you can get it to sit still, or catch one in a jar. How big is it? Does it have wings yet?

So, why are insects important? Insects have crucial roles in our environment including decomposing plant and animal material; feeding on plants and other insects; being food for birds, mammals, reptile, fish and amphibians; and pollinating flowers. See

if you can find insects in each one of these roles. 🐞

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.



Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

EASTERN COYOTE (*CANIS LATRANS*)



The eastern coyote is larger than coyotes in the west. Adults females average 35-40 pounds, while males typically weigh 45-55 pounds. The coloration of most eastern coyotes is similar to that of a German shepherd, with gray on the back, neck, and upper sides. Some coyotes may be a lighter reddish-blond color, or even solid black. From a distance, coyotes can be distinguished from dogs because they carry their bushy, cylindrical tail outstretched and pointed slightly downward. Coyotes also have yellow eyes, and pointed upright ears. They are much larger than foxes.

Across New York State, summer is the time of year that you are most likely to hear the complex sounds of coyote serenades. At this time, when family units are together, communication occurs through a series of overlapping high, trembling howls combined with a series of short, high-pitched yips. Hearing or seeing a coyote is a thrill indeed.

Once an animal associated with the west, coyotes now live in every state east of the Mississippi River. New York State is home to 20,000 to 30,000 coyotes, occurring everywhere except Long Island and New York City. They commonly inhabit overgrown fields, brushy thickets, and woodlands, and tend to travel trails, dirt roads and habitat edges. Although common in many areas, people rarely see them.

Coyotes are usually secretive, avoiding humans by day and becoming more active at nighttime.


Coyotes breed in February and give birth to from 2-10 pups (average 5-6) in April. Larger litters are born when coyote populations are low and food is plentiful. Mothers give birth in a ground den (e.g. renovated woodchuck or fox den), in hollow logs or rock caves. Families stay together until fall or early winter, when the pups leave the family unit.

Coyotes are omnivores and eat just about anything. They are opportunistic, eating whatever is most abundant and easiest to obtain at any given time. Food includes small mammals, rabbits, woodchucks, beaver, insects, berries and other fruit. Coyotes also kill deer, both adults and fawns.

However, they seldom prey on healthy adults and mostly feed on deer killed by other means (e.g. automobiles).


Although most coyotes are timid and stay away from people, some animals have lost their fear of humans. Coyotes that frequent highly populated areas are more likely to associate people with food and lose their fear. They do prey on house cats and may attack dogs, particularly as a territorial defense behavior during the breeding season and pup birthing period. Just seeing or hearing coyotes in the woods, fields, and brushy habitats in your area is little cause for alarm. However, a coyote that comes into your yard and refuses to leave even after you bang pots and pans to scare it away is a safety concern. The best

thing you can do for coyotes is to do your part to prevent them from associating food with people by keeping garbage, birdseed and pet food safely secured indoors. Keeping pets indoors or under your control, especially at night, can also prevent conflicts.

For more information about coyotes, visit <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/coyinny.htm> 

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at ArnotConservation.info

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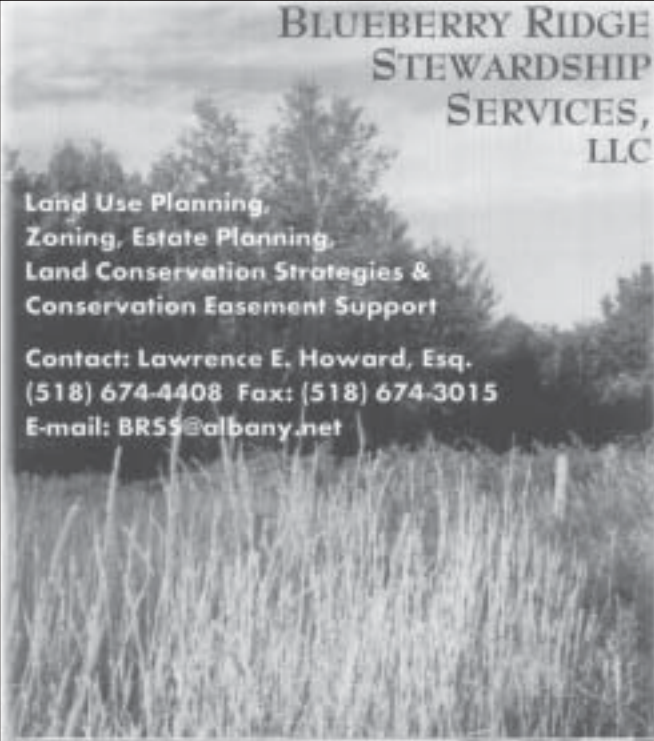
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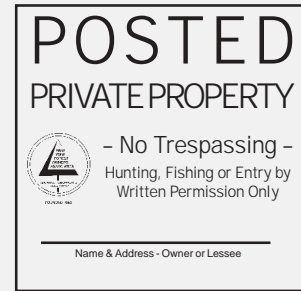
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The New Conservation Easement Tax Credit

HENRIETTA JORDAN

For the past 6 years, the Land Trust Alliance and New York's 80+ land trusts have been working hard to create a state tax incentive for conservation. In 2006, our efforts finally paid off: New York's Conservation Tax Credit officially became part of the State tax code.

This innovative credit will give New York State landowners whose land is restricted by a permanent conservation easement an annual rebate of 25% of the property taxes paid on that land, up to \$5,000 per year. New York taxpayers will be able to claim this rebate when they file their 2006 state income tax returns. It is available to all owners of easement-restricted land, regardless of when the easement was created, provided that the easement was wholly or partially donated to a land trust or a governmental agency. A landowner with multiple easement-restricted parcels can claim more than one tax credit, but no individual taxpayer or corporation can claim more than \$5,000 in a single year. Eligible landowners will receive the rebate regardless of how much income taxes they owe.

Land trusts tell us that the Conservation Tax Credit will create a powerful incentive for conservation all across the state because it:

- Removes one of the most significant barriers to easement donations in NYS - the lack of property tax relief on easement-restricted lands;
- Enables landowners with modest incomes, such as retirees and farmers, to conserve their land without sacrificing financial security;
- Provides a powerful motivator for landowners to abide by the terms of their easements;
- Runs with the land so that successor owners will benefit from it as well as the original easement donors. This not only recognizes the ongoing public benefits of private land conservation, but also helps ensure that new owners, too, will comply with their easements.

And, importantly, the Conservation Tax Credit does not reduce local property tax revenues, so there is no negative impact on town and county budgets.

No other state has a tax incentive that will appeal to so many landowners and provide such lasting benefits. In the words of one land trust executive director, "This is a *huge* boon for conservation in our state!"

Soon the Department of Taxation and Finance will begin drafting regulations to implement the new tax credit. The Land Trust Alliance will continue to represent the interests of land trusts so that the tax credit is fairly administered, easily accessible to qualified applicants, and truly achieves its objectives. Watch for updates as we work to make this pioneering tax incentive a model for the rest of the nation. 🏡

*For more information, please contact:
Henrietta Jordan, Land Trust Alliance, PO Box 792, 110 Spring Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Tel: 518-587-0774; e-mail: hjordan@lta.org*



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Woodlot Calendar

See www.nyfoa.org or more information on these events and for a complete listing of other upcoming workshops and woodswalks across the state.

July 15, 2006 (Saturday)

NY MFO/COVERTS Volunteer Program Western Refresher Workshop.

Hosted by MFO volunteers Mary Perkins and Ann Feuchter in Allegany County. All certified MFO volunteers and guests are welcome to attend. Call or write Gary Goff for more information 607-255-2824 grg3@cornell.edu

July 17, 2006 Dehi, Delaware County

July 21, 2006 Warsaw, Wyoming County

4-H Forestry Invitational curriculum

Two, one-day regional trainings will be conducted by Rebecca Hargrave and Gary Goff for CCE Educators and 4-H Volunteers on the topic of 4-H Forestry Invitational curriculum (<http://www.aces.edu/n4hfi/page75.html>). These will be conducted in Wyoming and Delaware Counties. *New volunteers wanted!* Call or write Gary Goff for more information at 607-255-2824 grg3@cornell.edu

July 29, 2006 (Saturday)

MFO/COVERTS Volunteer Program Arnot Refresher Workshop.

Will be held at Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Schuyler Co. All certified MFO volunteers and guests are welcomed to attend. Call or write Gary Goff for more information 607-255-2824 grg3@cornell.edu

August 5, 2006 (Saturday)

Capital District Chapter Woodswalk

At the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area, 10:00 am

This woodswalk will deal with the history and archeological resources that can be found in local woodlots. It will be led by Charles VanDrei, Historic Preservation Officer for DEC. For directions and information, call Carl Wiedemann at (518)280-8892

September 9, 2006 (Saturday)

NY MFO/COVERTS Volunteer Program Eastern Refresher Workshop.

Will be held at 4-H Camp Shantatunk, Delaware Co. All certified MFO volunteers and guests are welcomed to attend. Call or write Gary Goff for more information 607-255-2824 grg3@cornell.edu

Revised Dates: *September 20 - September 24*

(Wednesday-Sunday)

NY MFO/COVERTS New Volunteer Training Workshop.

Will be held at CU's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Schuyler Co. *New volunteers wanted!* Call or write Gary for more info. 607-255-2824 grg3@cornell.edu or visit www.CornellMFO.info

September 23-25, 2006 (Saturday-Monday)

Western Finger Lakes Chapter "The Game of Logging" Training

Genesee County Park, South Bethany.

The Game of Logging is a nationally recognized training class in the safe and effective use of a chainsaw. The first class covers safe use of a chainsaw, safety equipment, sharpening, and basic tree felling techniques. It is suitable for people who have never used a saw as well as people who have some experience but no formal training. Everyone leaves this class with the experience of having cut down a tree. The second class deals with saw maintenance, additional felling techniques and how to handle some hazardous situations such as spring poles. Cost is \$125 (discount available for WFL members.) Please contact Dale Schaefer at (585)367-2849 for more information and to register.

October 2006

Northern Adirondack Chapter Woodswalk at Cornell's Uihlein Sugar Maple Research Station in Lake Placid.

November 4, 2006 (Saturday)

Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Woods Walk - 1pm-4pm All NYFOA members are invited to a woods walk of Hobnob Forest, 130 acres of northern hardwoods near Ithaca owned and managed by Peter Levatich since 1975, with the assistance of his son Tim. We will tour several areas of the property to show and discuss thinning, timber stand improvement, regeneration, forest roads, forestry equipment and more. How did we start and what have we learned? Bring your questions and experiences so that everyone can benefit at this meeting. Light refreshments provided. Watch the *Forest Owner* for more details in the September/October issue.

NYFOA CHAPTER EVENTS

Lower Hudson Chapter:

Partners with NYS-DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension to Offer Forest Stewardship Planning and Management Workshop

The second in a series of educational programs titled “Caring for your Forest Land” being offered in the Hudson Valley by the Lower Hudson Chapter of NYFOA in partnership with NYS-DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension was held on May 5. The focus of this workshop and woodswalk was Forest Stewardship Planning and Management. About 20 NYFOA members and other forest owners participated. According to Keith Hedgecock, LHC Vice President and one of the event planners, “the professional foresters who led the walk and discussed management planning in action presented a great variety of information that folks could go home and use in their woodlots”.

The event was held at the Black Rock Forest in Cornwall, NY. The Consortium that manages the Black Rock Forest property has recently approved a Forest Stewardship Plan

developed by a professional forester; and is in the process of implementing Plan recommendations. The Black Rock Forest is a 3,785-acre preserve administered and used as a field station by the Black Rock Forest Consortium, comprised of private and public educational, research, and cultural institutions. The forest is dedicated to scientific research, education, and conservation of the natural ecosystems that once covered the entire Hudson Highlands.



Black Rock Forest Executive Director Bill Schuster (l) and NYS DEC Forester Michael Callan welcoming NYFOA members and friends to workshop and woods walk.

The next event in the Hudson Valley Caring for your Forest Land series will be in the fall. Contact LHC Chair Anne Osborn (845 424 3683) for more information. 📍



Participants learning about funding options for implementing stewardship plans that call for protecting new tree seedlings from deer damage.



Deer enclosure fencing at work — at left of photo is the unprotected, heavily browsed vegetation and at the right of photo (behind the fence) is dense regeneration.

Exotic Species

Coming To a Forest Near You?

If So, What To Do?

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Biological invasions related to geological and evolutionary events have occurred for millennia. During the 1700s, a time referred to as “the period of great discoveries,” however, is when intercontinental trade and exploration first greatly facilitated, either accidentally or deliberately, the global exchange of plants and animals. Human-related events during the past 150 years have markedly accelerated this movement of organisms beyond their natural range. Many terms have been coined to describe them; such as, “alien”, “invasive”, “non-native”, “introduced” and “exotic.” The latter two seem to be the most commonly used for general purposes, but in specific situations “invasive” is more appropriate.

For example, an exotic or introduced species is defined quite simply as “a species of plant or animal that is transported beyond its natural range of potential dispersal.” An invasive, on the other hand, is “an introduced

species that is likely, or actually has, spread into native and managed systems and causes economic or environmental harm by becoming dominant or disruptive.”

Introduced species – Non-native plants and insects are far more common in North America than most people realize. We take their presence in stride and, for the most part, assume that most of the plants and insects encountered in our surroundings are native.

A large number of the flowering plants and many of the grasses one sees while driving along our highways, however, are not native to New York State. For example, common exotics such as the ox-eye daisy, dandelion (Fig. 1), spotted knapweed, and dame’s rocket (Fig. 2), to name only a few, are frequent denizens of our roadsides. Nationwide over 3,000 non-native plants have been identified in various aquatic and terrestrial systems,

and many of them have become true invasives. Additionally, a study by the U.S. Forest Service in the mid-1990s estimated that at that time there were 386 exotic tree-feeding insects (including wood borers) and 20 major exotic tree pathogens in North America.

When returning from a trip to western New York in late May, I was taken by the fact that much of the vegetation I was looking at was alien to our landscape. In addition to many roadside herbs, most fields were bordered by a small plantation of Scots pine or Norway spruce. Most abandoned or lightly used fields appeared to be filling up with autumn olive, buckthorn and Tartarian honeysuckle – all invasives!

Invasives – Much publicity has been given to exotic animals and plants that have truly invaded; that is, altered to one degree or another, our terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems. By now, most forest owners throughout the northeast-



Figure 1. The ubiquitous dandelion.



Figure 2. Dame’s rocket is pink, purple or white .



Figure 3. Emerald ash borer: a beautiful shade of green

ern United States have either encountered or read about exotic insects and disease-causing organisms that have caused economic hardship or significantly altered the ecology of many forest and urban communities. Historically, exotic pathogens like the Dutch elm disease, beech bark disease, and chestnut blight fungi have had a dramatic impact on our forests. Approximately 30 frequently encountered exotic forest insects occur in our northeastern forests. Many have received a lot of publicity in recent years; others have more quietly infiltrated our native fauna. The more notorious members of this group include the hemlock woolly adelgid (ah-dell-jid), emerald ash borer (Fig. 3), European pine sawfly, Asian longhorn beetle (Fig. 4), pine shoot beetle, and gypsy moth.

Future Prospects – The prevention of future introductions is problematic at best and, in general, a dismal prospect under current market and political conditions. The globalization of trade

has reduced opportunities to control the movement of goods. Until recent decades, a majority of North American invasives have come from Europe, but today's trade policies have opened our shores to insects and pathogens from many continents. Preventative tools and control options are limited and prohibitively costly given the magnitude of the task at hand, the disregard of recommended protocols by trading partners, and the cryptic nature of most target organisms.

“An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure” – This old adage comes to mind very quickly when one wrestles with the question of how to deal with our concerns about exotic species. The first lines of defense are 1) inspection and detection activities that occur at every major port of entry in the United States, 2) prevention activities that impose safeguards at points of origin prior to the entry of certain commodities, and 3) pest mitigation efforts using chemical or physical means at ports of entry. These requirements are the responsibility of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a unit within the United States Department of Agriculture. This is an awesome responsibility. APHIS activities at most ports of entry are limited by time, funding, and burgeoning trade activities. From a forest pest standpoint, APHIS is assisted by the U.S. Forest Service and state agencies such as the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture and Markets. It is inevitable, however, that exotic plants, insects and pathogens will continue to enter and establish in North America.

So What is a Forest Owner to Do? - All forest owners should be concerned about biological introductions. Once established, populations of exotic insects, plants, and pathogens have the potential to increase rapidly, because they lack the normal checks on population growth that have co-evolved with them in their continent of origin. This

unrestrained population growth is often accompanied by excessive damage to valuable economic resources or significant alterations to the ecology of indigenous plant or animal communities.

Once an organism invades; that is, it successfully evades prevention measures and spreads from its point of introduction, forest owners can contribute significantly to the eventual

continued on page 18

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Exotic Species (continued)



Figure 4. Asian longhorn beetle: shiny black with bright white spots and long, striped antennae.

success or failure of the invasive. First, keep abreast of regional concerns about invasive organisms. Secondly, take advantage of opportunities to familiarize yourself with the signs and/or symptoms associated with potential threats. Early detection and a rapid control response may not only prevent establishment of the organism in your woodlot, but it also can substantially inhibit its regional movement.

Sources of Information – all state and federal agencies associated with New York's forests are able to provide information about invasive species of

significance, their identification and, if management options are available, they will recommend remedial measures.

First, one should contact in-state agencies for copies of U. S. Forest Service, APHIS or locally produced publications that illustrate and describe problems of major concern:

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regional offices;
- Cornell Cooperative Extension regional offices;
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Tree Pest Information Service. 315-470-6751 kbadams@esf.edu;

- Invasive Plant Council of New York State (<http://www.ipenys.ene.com/default.htm>).

Secondly, certain units within the U.S. Forest Service are responsible for conducting research with introduced organisms or for disseminating information about forest health issues in the northeast:

- U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Center for Forest Health Research, www.fs.fed.us/ne/hamden/projects/4501.html, in Hamden, CT;
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service Invasive Species Program;
- www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies;
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry;
- www.fs.fed.us/na, in Durham, NH;
- Exotic Forest Pest Information system for North America;
- <http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/exfor/index.cfm>.

Finally, interested forest owners should review previous articles in *The New York Forest Owner* :

- July/August. 1992. "Introduced insects often pose biological and economic risks."
- May/June. 1993. "Hemlock woolly adelgid."
- May/June. 1997. "The Asian longhorn beetle."
- November/December. 1997. "Gypsy moth – down and out?"
- May/June. 1998. "Pine false webworm ..."
- November/December. 2003. "Keep your eyes peeled for emerald ash borer."
- November/December. 2005. "*Sirex noctilio* – an introduced wood-boring wasp." ▲

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This is the 85th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

Trees and Drought

BILL ELMENDORF

Adequate water is crucial for tree growth. Water is one of the main elements involved in photosynthesis. Without water trees cannot produce enough food to fuel growth. Drought impacts the leaves' ability to produce food, the roots' ability to grow and function, and the plant's ability to move food, hormones, and other elements around. The main problems associated with longer periods of drought (weeks and months) are poor and stunted growth. Ultimately, lack of water will lead to death either by desiccation and starvation, or secondary problems such as a soil fungus. Some trees (e.g., beech and dogwood) are more sensitive to drought than others (e.g., ginkgo and redbud).

Symptoms of drought include wilting of leaves for a number of days (especially those exposed to afternoon sun and wind). All trees leaves can wilt on especially hot days, but they should recover quickly in the evening. Ultimately, long-term drought will cause browning of leaves, loss of leaves, early fall coloring, poor and stunted growth, and death. Interestingly, the symptoms of overwatering are the same as drought due to the negative impacts too much water has on root growth and function.

Treating drought is not just about applying water. There is more to consider:


1) Treat any cultural problems such as soil compaction, soil fill, deicing salts, weeds and turf, and root damage.

2) To slow evaporation of water and control weeds and grasses, mulch as much area under the canopy as possible with 2- 3 inches of composted mulch. Keep mulch a few inches away from the tree trunk. Instead of mulching, protect the natural leaf litter – it serves a similar function.

3) Apply moderate amounts of water slowly and deeply so that water sup-

ports good plant growth, but does not exclude oxygen from the soil. There is no absolute rule on how much water to give trees. The need for irrigation is affected by tree species and size, soil/site conditions, and weather. Trees, young or old, need water to penetrate from 24 to 36 inches into the soil. Soil must be allowed to dry between watering. Newly planted trees should be watered every four days or so during hot, dry weather. This means applying about 10 gallons deeply through soaking. Two rules of thumb for older trees are: 700 gallons of water per 1000 square feet of tree canopy and 20 gallons per inch of diameter.

In both rules water is applied deeply and slowly through soaking. These are huge amounts of water, and in most cases it is not possible to irrigate large areas of trees. Mature trees benefit from irrigation when they have been hurt by soil compaction or root damage, or are especially valuable.

Periods of drought are to be expected and seasonal water stress is part of our growing season. But, even in Pennsylvania (and New York), newly planted trees must be irrigated; root growth and food manufacturing stops, or is greatly lessened, in dry soils. Two actions that will absolutely NOT HELP in drought are fertilization and pruning. Do not do these! 

The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program provides publications on a variety of topics related to woodland management for private landowners. For a list of free publications, call 1-800-235-WISE (toll-free), send e-mail to rnnext@psu.edu, or write to: Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Penn State's Forest Resources Extension, sponsor the Forest Stewardship Program in Pennsylvania.



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Eastern Cottonwood is an exceedingly rapid-growing, moisture-loving species that is found locally in moist places and along streams and lakes throughout the state except at the higher elevations. The wood is light, soft, and weak, and is dark brown in color with thick nearly white sapwood, warping badly in drying. It is used for pulp and for boxes. The cottonwood has been extensively planted as an ornamental tree along the streets, but, as such, it has few merits. It is short-lived, and the roots often penetrate and clog drains and sewers. It is not easy to destroy, for, once cut down, the stump continuous to sprout vigorously. *Bark*—resembles that of trembling aspen, though small branches are of a

more pronounced yellow color. The lower trunk is generally more deeply furrowed than is that of the quaking aspen.

Twigs—stout, round, reddish or yellowish brown in color in early winter, often pale and downy as contrasted with those of the trembling aspen which are shiny.

Winter buds—usually larger than those of the trembling aspen, terminal bud present; lateral buds generally bending away from twig, dull, dusty-looking, light chestnut brown in color.

Leaves—alternate, simple, from 3 to 6 inches long, roughly triangular with square base, blunt apex, coarsely toothed margin in direct contrast to the finely serrate margin of the quaking aspen.



COTTONWOOD
Leaf and fruit, one-half natural size; twig, one-third natural size

Fruit—very similar to that of quaking aspen. Seeds—spread by wind.

Outstanding features—coarse teeth on leaf with square base; twigs downy. ▲

Information originally appears in "Know Your Trees" by J.A. Cope and Fred E. Winch, Jr. and is distributed through Cornell Cooperative Extension. It may also be accessed via their web site at <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/tree/trees.htm>



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Member Profile: *Bob Coupal*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

Situated in the northwest corner of the Adirondack Park, within the town of Parishville, NY, lies the forest property affectionately known as Little Hill. Deceptively named, the property actually covers 240 acres of land, including a portion of Dead Creek, which flows into the backside of Blake Reservoir. Originally farmland, the property is currently in its 3rd generation of ownership by the Coupal family. First purchased from Niagara Mohawk in 1948 by Edward and Gladys Coupal, the property was 192 acres and then expanded to 240 acres in 1964. It was then passed on to Robert and Barbara Coupal, and finally to Bob and Sally Coupal, the current owners.

Aside from their work on Little Hill, Bob and Sally started their own business in 1995, Micro Precision Components Inc., which imports high precision machined parts from Swit-

zerland and distributes them across the country from their sales and engineering office located in Victor, NY. Bob also coaches youth soccer, while acting as the director of coaching for the Bloomfield soccer program. Along with her duties as a corporate officer of Micro Precision, Sally volunteers at the local elementary school. Their 5 year old son, Jason Taylor (J.T.), is already enamored with all aspects of the forest and will become the 4th generation owner. Though Bob, Sally, and J.T. are the primary managers of Little Hill, the entire Coupal family, including aunts, uncles, and cousins, contributes in some way to maintaining the property.

While a significant portion of the land consists of water and marsh, there is also plateau. In the plateau section of the property, the soil ranges from gravel to sandy loam.

Other sections offer extremely large, picturesque boulders and bedrock within the property boundaries. In 1948, the grandparents of Bob Coupal teamed with the local DEC office and drew up a management plan, which included planting 38,000 trees on the portion of the property that could be cultivated. White pine and white spruce flourished in what was a main farming field, however a plantation of Scotch pine alongside the road did not fair as well. The Scotch pine was, unfortunately, the “bad strain” and yielded mostly malformed trees.

While Bob’s father was a member of NYFOA for some time during his ownership, it wasn’t until after the devastating Ice Storm of ’98 that Bob and Sally became involved. “The Ice Storm of 1998 made a huge impact on our forest, despite being less than a mile inside the *ice line*,” as Bob stated. It was just after a 3 year logging project of the forest (winter-time only), while the remaining stems were exposed, that the storm occurred, leaving “1-3 inches of ice.” Approximately 30 hours were spent chain-sawing fallen trees in order to clear the road, which had become so blocked that it was impossible to reach the family cabin. Even now, 8 years later, the damage done is still evident despite the strong regeneration of the forest. Stated plainly by Bob, “In many parts of our forest it’s best to not look up.”

Though it was an unfortunate occurrence, the Ice Storm allowed the Coupal family to focus on trail making, which has proven to be their biggest accomplishment. The trail network running through the property

continued on page 22



Our signature front view. Dead Creek lazily winding through the valley

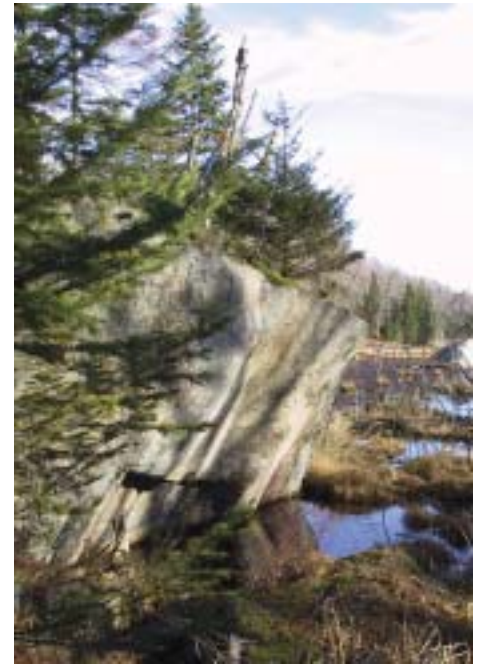


Humans! Sally and J.T. walking on one of their many trails (6+ miles).

required extensive and detailed planning, but succeeded nonetheless. Coupled with the trails, the re-sprouting of hardwood trees after the

storm was a pleasing sight. Hardwood tree planting had been a time consuming and painstaking process for the Coupal family, and has met with only mediocre success. However, the self-healing power of the forest has been proven, yet again, with the revival of the hardwoods.

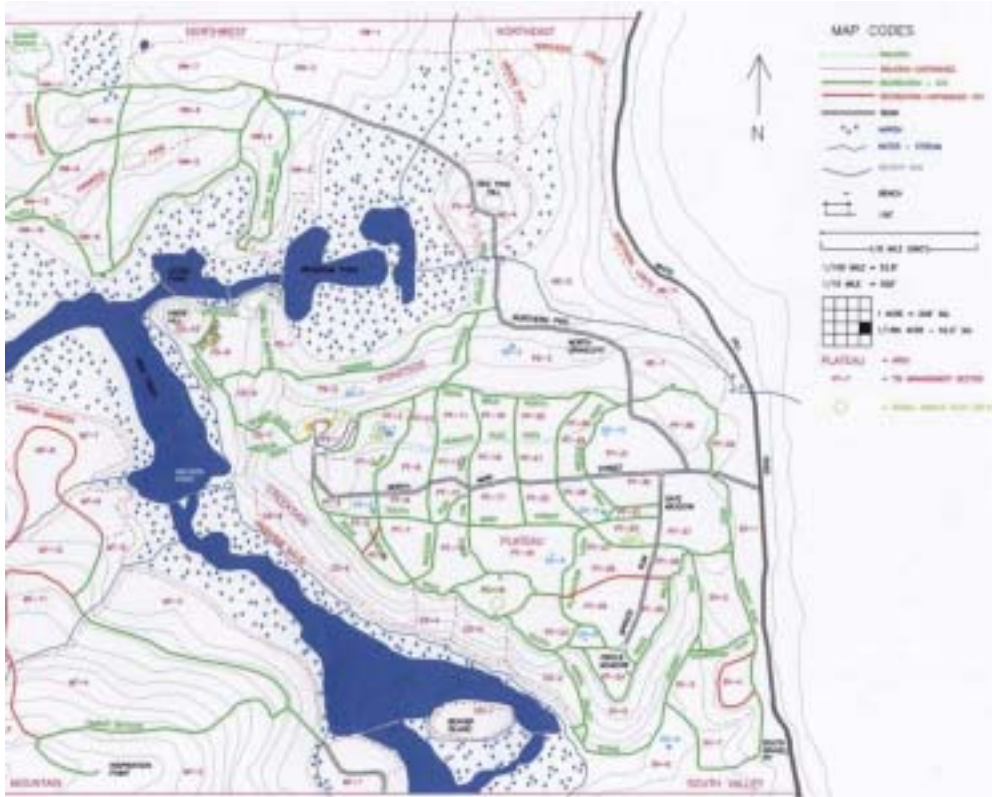
Unfortunately, Bob, Sally and J.T. must now face a Forest Tent Caterpillar infestation of Little Hill, which is still in recovery. Fearing the losses will be severe, the Coupal family realized that they must instead shift their attention and energy to aspects of the forest which are under their control. Working with forestry professionals, such as Don Brown, Mike Farrell and Jeff Luoma, has been of great help to the Coupal's. NYFOA, as well, has contributed to the success of Little Hill, through its educational materials, seminars, and camaraderie. Discussing and observing what fellow forest owners are doing has been of great help when deciding what sort of action to take



One of many boulder configurations on the Coupal property.

with their own property. Though Little Hill is a 4.5 hour drive from the Coupal residence in Bloomfield, the property is of great sentimental value, and will be a part of the family for generations to come. 🏡

Alexandra Silva is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853.



The AutoCAD developed trail map was created by the Coupal's. They created the AutoCAD map to scale themselves - not easy to do in AutoCAD but very flexible once the geo data was inputted.

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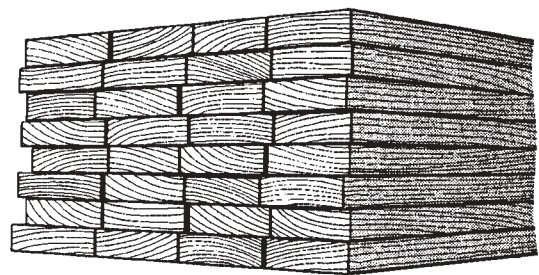
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