The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people who care about New York's trees and forests

May/June 2010

Member Profile: Larry Becker

Volume 48 Number 3

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
FOUNDED 1963
www.nyfoa.org

In This Issue . . .

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Forest Owner

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Volume 48, Number 3

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the July/August issue is June 1, 2010.***

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

This publication is printed on Finch Opaque, Smooth, 70 lb. text paper. Located in the beautiful Adirondacks, Finch has long understood that the viability of our business relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources. Finch papers are made with renewable energy, post-consumer recycled fiber and elemental chlorine-free pulps. In addition, Finch Paper was the first integrated paper mill in the US to received both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

Cover: Larry and Carol Becker on their property in Wyoming County. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Becker's.

From The President

I went to a woodswalk this weekend, hosted by our local Western Finger Lakes chapter. It has become an annual tradition to meet at Sugarbush Hollow each spring for a woodswalk and pancakes, and it is usually a lot of fun. This year's was exceptional.

I spend much of my NYFOA time doing office stuff – handling mail and email, dealing with paperwork, etc.

And a lot of the news I hear about is bad – invasive species, timber thefts, seemingly unpredictable government programs and the like. All of this needs to get done, and it certainly is important to help spread the word about threats to woodlots that our members face, but sometimes I seem to forget why NYFOA can be so much fun.

So a woodswalk like the one this weekend is a great change of pace. We heard from a nursery representative about a new method of planting trees that offers more robust growth and better survival rates than traditional bare-root methods. We got to see a young maple and cherry plantation and hear about the work and rewards that it entails. And we got to talk with fellow NYFOA members, people who are engaged in all sorts of interesting projects on their woodlots and who are happy to talk about them. It was a refreshing reminder of all the positive aspects of NYFOA.

I encourage everybody to make a point to attend a woodswalk. Even if the nominal topic does not sound particularly appealing, you might be pleasantly surprised. And there are always good opportunities to pick up some interesting information, or just to socialize with other members.

If your chapter does not have any woodswalks scheduled, or if there are topics you would like to see addressed, get in touch with your chapter leadership and tell them what you want. (Contact information for all chapter officers can be found at *www.nyfoa.org*.) Better yet, offer to organize a woodswalk or other meeting to address a topic you think would be of general interest.

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

If you are wondering what events are coming up, you are not alone. Chapters generally do a good job of publicizing their events to their members, but we have not done a particularly good job of making our calendars available to a wider audience. One of my goals for the coming year is to make a calendar of all activities around the state a part of our web site, so you will be able to see what is going on in your chapter or other parts of the state without having to remember where you put your latest newsletter. Watch this space for updates...

–Mike Seager
NYFOA President

The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group 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.

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The 4th Annual Woodswalk At Cucaniensis: 2010 A Forest Owner's Odyssey
Are you new at the business of managing your woods? Do you know a "pulpwood" tree from a "small saw log"? Do you need to know if your property was sustainably harvested or high-graded before you bought it? How can a Master Forest Owner help you? Come to Winnie Godfrey's place on June 19th at 10 a.m. with a picnic lunch and get answers to your questions. To have complete information sent to you, contact Winnie at 315-298-7258 -or- godfrey5@frontiernet.net -or- 2772 CR 22; Richland, NY 13144. Attendance is by pre-registration only, no later than June 14th.

Previous woodswalk attendees

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org). You would get an email every two months announcing when the current edition is available for download; and be given the URL for a webpage where you can go and get a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

Why Can't I Move Firewood?

Justin A. Perry, CF/FCA

We have had a long history in New York dealing with exotic insects and diseases invading our forests and wreaking havoc on our trees. From the introduction of the gypsy moth in the mid 1800s, chestnut blight at the turn of the 20th century and Dutch elm disease in the late 1920s, our beloved hardwoods have been under attack.

Today, that war is not over with new exotic pests invading our forests. Most recently, our hardwoods are at risk from being devoured by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) attacking our ash trees and the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) attacking our maples and many other hardwoods. Attempting to control the spread of these non-native pests and cleaning up the destruction left behind after their infestation has racked up millions of dollars in costs for landowners and the government.

Controlling the spread of these pests has been a daunting task at best. Knowing where the insect or disease is and eradicating it immediately has proved both expensive and only partially successful. We have only a few options in our arsenal such as attacking the insect or disease through the use of pesticides or by taking their host (the trees) away and "starving" the pest of the food they depend on. However, in order to be successful we need to know where the invasive pest is, what can kill it, and enough resources to be sure it is gone for good.

You can probably see the flaws with this approach.

We don't always know where the invasion is occurring. More commonly, by the time we learn of an infestation it's long after the pest has established itself on the landscape and beyond control (think of gypsy moth or the chestnut blight at the turn of the 20th century). And when we do find the pest invading our trees we usually don't have the right tools to kill it efficiently. For instance, attacking the ALB or EAB with an insecticide has proved difficult at best due to the nature of the stage of life when the insect is in its larval stage and is bored into the tree, protected from an insecticide spray by bark and wood.

Sure we can inject an insecticide into the tree with hopes that the larva will ingest the poisoned wood but this is an expensive proposition best kept for individual trees. Not your entire forest. There may be other, better means of controlling the invasion by researching and understanding the natural controls found in the exotic pests country of origin. Unfortunately, this research takes time. If we are lucky we will find the cure or control before the invasive pest destroys all our trees.

As landowners and firewood users, this is where we come in to the picture. There are two primary ways we can slow the spread of these invasive pests down and buy us more time. First, each and every day we are out walking through our woodlots, splitting and stacking wood, or walking down tree-lined sidewalks and parks we should be looking for signs of these bugs. By finding where they are and eradicating either them or their host in the immediate area early enough, we may have a chance to slow the invasion. The more eyes in our forests and on our trees looking for any indication these pests exist the better we are to catch the invasion early enough to slow its spread.

The second line of defense we have is to slow the pests spread by not helping it travel. Nobody intentionally wants to help these pests spread to new areas. However, we become unintentional accomplices in the pests movements by transporting firewood infested with the killers. The firewood itself isn't the problem but moving it from the dead tree in your backyard to the campground on a weekend excursion is. The bark on firewood can harbor insects and diseases. Commercial lumber, unlike most firewood, is "treated" through debarking and kiln-drying, which kills most pests.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has established firewood regulations to control the spread of these and other pests by restricting the movement of untreated firewood. The goal of these regulations is to control the unintentional movement, and subsequent spread of these pests and save our trees.

How does this affect us? It means we shouldn't be trucking even the small-

continued on page 17

Image shows Justin Perry's stack of firewood.

Forest Science Becomes Forest Practice

Reviewing practical science to help forest owners sustainably manage their woodlands

PETER SMALLIDGE

Peter Smallidge

Integrated Vegetation Management – Strategies to Control Undesirable Plants in your Woods

On most woodlands, the owner will recognize the presence of at least a few undesired plants species. In some cases, these plants become sufficiently abundant and interfere with the owner's objectives. Interference might include the development of a beech or fern understory that impedes maple or pine regeneration; hardwoods that interfere with the establishment and growth of conifer forests; or invasive shrubs that reduce the diversity of native plant species. In situations of overabundance, the owner may need to control the interfering plant to more fully achieve his or her objectives. Each situation of interfering plant control is somewhat unique, so a set of guiding principles will help owners consider the range of management strategies.

Strategic Goals

Landowner should consider the following factors when planning for control of interfering plants:

- Efficient use of labor, energy and equipment
- Cost effective to minimize the consumption of tools, supplies and especially time
- Targeted control of the interfering plants with minimal damage to desired plants

Integrated vegetation management, or IVM, is the approach that incorporates these management goals in a framework that allows optimal control of interfering plants. IVM originated with plant management on power utility corridors, but it principles apply to private lands.

The foundation for effective IVM is a situation profile that includes knowledge of: plant biology, the extent of the plant problem, the desired level of control, and an estimate of the costs. The owner and manager should consider these four elements of the profile before commencing any treatment of the vegetation. Not considering these elements may result in unnecessary cost, undesired damage to desired plants, excessive use of herbicides or wasted labor and supplies, and a failure to control the target plant.

IVM Situation Profile and Vegetation Treatments

- *Plant Biology* – Identify the plant, understand its life cycle, reproductive strategy, and any mechanism that the plant uses to store propagules or energy reserves. Give special attention to what allows the interfering plant to be successful.
- *Extent of the Problem* – The geographic extent of the problem plant on the property being treated and within the landscape will influence the likelihood of reintroduction, the operational efficiency of potential treatments, the likelihood of treatments affecting viable non-target species, and the amount of disturbance and open space following the treatment.
- *Desired Level of Control* – Complete annihilation of a species is a difficult task. In many cases, ownership objectives can be satisfied with less than 100% control of the target plant. However, any residual plants may allow for spread into the treated areas. Some objectives may be satisfied

In some situations herbicides may be an appropriate method of control for landowners to consider. Using herbicides, a type of pesticide, requires the landowner be familiar with the chemical, use the specified personal protective equipment, and read the label. Offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension can assist with pesticide selection. More information about pesticides is also available online at http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/

Invasive, non-native species like buckthorn can dominate woodlands, exclude desirable species, and limit recreational access. The first step to controlling undesirable plants is to positively identify them and select effective control methods.

with spatial control (e.g., within rows for a plantation) or control for a period of time to allow other species to become established.

- *Costs* – Costs include the actual financial cost of the materials and labor, the ecological costs associated with the treatment, the ecological costs of not controlling the undesirable plant, the cost for re-treatment if the initial effort fails, and the risk to the staff applying the treatment. Failure to plan to successful re-vegetation with desired species is an added future cost.

IVM treatments can be described by mode and method (Table 1). Mode is the specificity of the treatment to the target and is either broadcast or selective. Method is the mechanism that allows the treatment to limit the plant and includes mechanical, chemical and biological. Each treatment is a combination of mode and method, the choice depends on the profile of the target plant. Each method functions differently to control target plants. Mechanical methods remove the plant and thus future propagules. This removes the plant, depletes the root energy reserves as plants attempt to resprout, and limits the ability for on-site reintroduction. Chemical methods disrupt biochemical pathways by changing the plants' ability to, for example, regulate growth hormones or form enzymes used in photosynthesis. Biological methods include a variety of host-specific insects, fungi, viruses and bacteria the limit the success of the target plant to grow and reproduce.

All the advantages (Table 2) and the disadvantages (Table 3) may not apply to each situation, but should be considered. The integration of ownership goals and IVM situation profile determine the combinations of methods and modes to consider. Use the treatment that is least intrusive and has the lowest environmental impact, but that gives an adequate level of effectiveness and efficiency. Managers should independently scrutinize each situation, assess the likelihood of potential advantages and disadvantages, and discuss treatment options with the owner to achieve management goals with minimal costs.

The complexity of IVM rests primarily in understanding the biology of the plant and the relative merits of the different treatment options. Most owners will benefit from the advice of foresters or others trained in plant biology and vegetation management. Consult with your state's forestry agency and Cooperative Extension Service to help identify people who can help. A recorded web conference of IVM, including descriptions of several problem species, is provided at *www.ForestConect.info*

Table 1. Examples of vegetation management techniques.

Method	*Mode*	
	Selective	**Broadcast**
Mechanical	Pulling, clipping	Mowing, goats
Chemical	Cut-stump, low-volume foliar, basal bark	Mist blower
Biological	Some available	

Table 2. Potential advantages of method-mode approaches to vegetation management.

Method	*Mode*	
	Selective	**Broadcast**
Mechanical	Target specific, limited site disturbance	Some equipment commonly available to owners and managers
Chemical	*Foliar* – uses low amount of active ingredient *Basal* – stem numbers are limited *cut stump* – stem and root control	Kills everything
Biological	May become self perpetuating	

Table 3. Potential disadvantages of method-mode approaches to vegetation management

Method	*Mode*	
	Selective	**Broadcast**
Mechanical	Efficient with low abundance, not for plants that sprout, may be labor intensive	May be equipment or labor intensive; may extensively damage site
Chemical	*Foliar* – drift to non-target *Basal* – expensive for high stem density *cut stump* – handle material twice	Kills everything
Biological	Expensive to develop	Hopefully these don't develop.

[This article was adapted from an article by the author for the Forest Landowner]

Peter J. Smallidge is the NYS Extension Forester and Director Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. He can be reacted at email:pjs23@cornell.edu or visit his website at www.ForestConnect.info

Landowners can learn more about strategies to control interfering vegetation in their woodlands through activities hosted by their NYFOA chapter or CCE workshops. Numerous strategies exist to control undesirable species and owners will benefit by the investment of time to gather more information.

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL

Earth Day!

So another Earth Day has come and gone and what did you do about it? Probably nothing if you're like me. I usually think, "I'm doing my part already, I recycle and compost...and I'm a forester for heaven's sake." And then another Earth Day passes by and I've done nothing to spread our message.

Well let me give you a few facts to keep in your arsenal for next year... Earth Day was thought up in the mid 1960s by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. It all started with a horrible idea he had to persuade President Kennedy to go on a "conservation tour"...which he did... he spoke on environmental issues in a five-day, 11-state tour to people who thought the environment was a non-issue, especially in the political theatre. It was *not* a success! It did, however, succeed in making the Senator even more determined to give the environment a political stage and as we know, the idea did eventually succeed. (Six years later! This is the never give up strategy!) Finally in the fall of 1969, the Senator announced there would be a nationwide, grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment. This idea spread quickly and the response by the people was huge. On April 22 of 1970, the first Earth Day was 20 million people strong. The politics followed leading to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

In 1990, Earth Day went global. This past Earth Day was celebrated by more than 5,000 environmental groups in over 184 countries.

OK...so what do I want you to do? It's simple, and you don't have to wait until next year...I want you to spread the word about organizations like Tree Farm and NYFOA. Let people know that managed forests are healthy forests. They protect our Clean Air, Clean Water and Wildlife Species as well as helping our economy, providing clean energy and awesome outdoor recreation opportunities...see, I told you it was simple!

If this all sounds like something you would like to be a part of, remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away.

Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.

Kid's Corner

Rebecca Hargrave

This could be your photo!
Please submit photos to
mmalmshe@syr.edu or
New York Forest Owner
134 Lincklaen Street
Cazenovia, NY 13035

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 Malmsheimer, and it may end up on this page!

What's Bugging You?

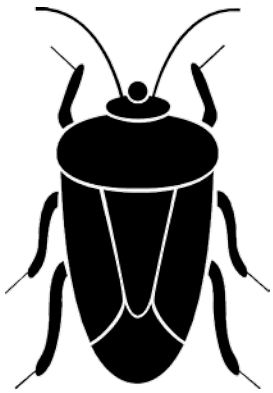
Insects are everywhere and an important part of our environment. Do you know what makes an insect an insect? Or, why insects are important?

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

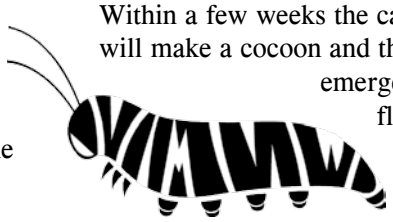
One pair of antenna, two pairs of wings, and three pairs of legs. Grab a paper cup and a magnifying glass and catch some insects. Do you see all the parts?

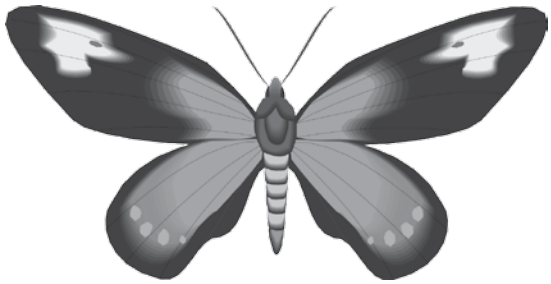
Do all insects have these three things? Well no, especially if you catch a young insect. There are two groups of insects, those with complete metamorphosis and those with incomplete metamorphosis.

Insects with complete metamorphosis 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.

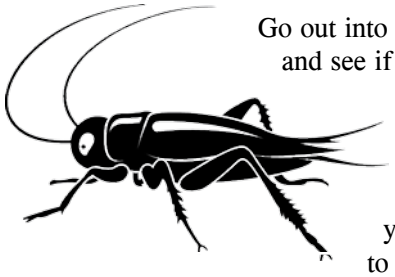


Have you ever seen a caterpillar or found a cocoon (pupa)? A fun experiment to try: Catch a caterpillar; put it in a big jar with air holes in the lid and give it some leaves to eat. Try to find a caterpillar feeding on leaves so you know what ones to give it. Within a few weeks the caterpillar will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

Some other fun insect activities include creating a display of beetles, moths or butterflies mounted on foam board, growing a butterfly garden, and photographing insects in their environment. Enjoy the hunt!

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

Black-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus erythropthalmus)*

The black-billed cuckoo is a slender, long-tailed bird about 12 inches in length. It has a black, down-curved bill, and brown head, nape, back and upper tail. Its underside is white except for the tail, which is gray below with very narrow white tips on the tail feathers. Another distinguishing feature of this species is its reddish eye ring. Both sexes are similar.

As spring arrives in New York State and the trees begin to leaf out, the black-billed cuckoo makes its annual northward trek from its wintering grounds in South America. This cuckoo breeds in southern Canada and the northern half of the United States, east of the Rocky Mountains. Its habitat includes deciduous and evergreen forests, open woodlands, forest edges, and moist thickets.

The black-billed cuckoo is usually secretive, and often its presence is known only by the distinctive call — a rhythmic cu-cu-cu, cu-cu-cu-cu, cu-cu-cu — heard somewhere in the distance. However, this otherwise shy bird may become very vocal, flying at intruders and clapping its bill loudly, when its nest is nearby.

A typical black-billed cuckoo nest is built either on a horizontal limb or in a cluster of shrubby vegetation, about six feet off the ground and resting against a tree trunk. Some nests may be built on or very near the ground. The male and female cuckoos work together to construct a nest of twigs and line it with ferns, grasses, mosses, feathers and rootlets. The female lays from two to five eggs (typically two or three), which are incubated by both parents. The black-billed cuckoo sometimes parasitizes the nests of other black-billed cuckoos, and occasionally parasitizes nests of other species. Brood parasites lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. The black-billed cuckoo may parasitize another bird's nest if it has no nest of its own or an unusually large clutch size.

This species is known to produce a greater number of young in years with large outbreaks of caterpillars. In addition to caterpillars, the cuckoo feeds on large insects such as katydids, cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, and butterflies. It occasionally eats other birds' eggs, and has been known to feed on small mollusks, fish, and aquatic insect larvae. The cuckoo is famous for its appetite for hairy caterpillars like the forest tent caterpillar and the gypsy moth caterpillar, particularly during periodic outbreaks of these pests. Each cuckoo can consume thousands of caterpillars in a season, and over 100 large caterpillars in a day. Unlike many other birds, the cuckoo has a special adaptation that allows it to eat these hairy caterpillars. Caterpillar hairs pierce the inner lining of the stomach and remain there, but when the hairs become numerous, the entire stomach lining is sloughed off and regurgitated as a pellet.

The black-billed cuckoo is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in New York State due to a decrease in the number of birds detected through the Breeding Bird Survey from 1966 to the present. Habitat fragmentation caused by suburban development, degradation of riparian habitats, and a reduction in the number of caterpillars due to insecticide use are some of the potential factors contributing to its decline. The best way to provide ideal habitat for the black-billed cuckoo is to manage for an open forest canopy (<30% closure) with a well-developed understory of seedlings, saplings, and shrubs 2-10 feet in height. Any small openings made in the tree canopy that allow light to penetrate to the forest floor and encourage understory growth might benefit this bird. Encouraging

NYFOA Safety Tip

Cut Slope Hazards

In a recent article in Smithsonian magazine about an archeological dig, the accompanying picture showed an excavation on a steep slope under a huge red oak tree. The filled soil on which the oak tree grew had been in place over 180 years. That oak tree with no support under half of its roots and growing on a slope was liable to tip over. Had workers considered the danger?

Trees undercut by bulldozing skid trails and woods roads face the same problem. Without support a tree may fall at just the right time to hurt someone. The same hazard arises when making any cut into a hillside to create landings or quarry gravel. Even if the tree and the slope are stable at the time of the excavation, erosion from rain, underground water flow or the rocking motion of the wind can erode supporting soil and undermine the tree allowing it to fall.

When the top of a cut slope is at least 15 feet (horizontally) from the tree stem the tree is likely to remain standing for a long time. The fine roots of a tree extend as far from the stem as the limbs. Anytime a closed forest canopy is opened wind picks at the edges and those edge trees are more likely to topple from wind.

When roots are seen very close to the surface, they are indicating a shallow soil because of rock, high water table or hardpan. Trees can be uprooted more easily when they have shallow roots. When there is a risk a tree may fall the best solution is to remove the tree before excavation or move the cut further from the tree.

Pre-planning an earthmoving project is beneficial. Layout the centerline then mark the perimeter or where the top of the cut and the toe of the fill will fall. You may find springs that will need attention. You may change the grade. Flagging the outside edges will help when visualizing not only where the work area or trail surface will lay but the impact of the whole disturbance.

The work can be adjusted with new flagging but once the bulldozer has made the cut, there is little opportunity for change. It's better to deal with removing a live tree in a controlled situation than to have to worry about cutting down a dead snag.

Article written by Loss Prevention Consultants, Jeff Worrall.

Safety tip provided by Ed Wright, President, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc.

young tree and shrub growth at the edge of wooded areas can also provide good habitat.

To learn more about this bird and get to know the characteristic sounds made by the black billed cuckoo, visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site at http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-billed_Cuckoo/sounds

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 www.arnotconservation.info

Image by Wolfgang Wander. Licensed under CC-By-SA-2.5

NYFOA AWARDS

Carl Wiedemann Honored with Heiberg Award

Carl Wiedemann received the 2010 Heiberg Memorial Award

The Heiberg Memorial Award, memorializing Svend O. Heiberg, a world-renowned professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. Heiberg was one of the original founders of the New York Forest Owners Association in 1962. The award, presented to Carl Wiedermann, was announced at the Association's annual membership meeting held Saturday, February 27 during the New York Farm Show on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Carl is the immediate Past Chair of the Capitol District Chapter and continues to support the chapter and the state organization with dedication, enthusiasm and vision. Upon ending his term as Chapter Chair he undertook the editor role of the chapter newsletter and has made that an effective communication tool for the chapter. He also chairs the statewide Policy Committee.

Over the past year, Carl has researched the impacts of high grading, diameter limit cutting and other exploitive harvesting practices. He proposed having NYFOA and New York Society of American Foresters develop vision statements acknowledging that these practices are not sustainable forestry and that these organizations support sustainable forestry. This effort certainly supports the NYFOA mission and shows NYFOA as a leader in forestry in New York.

Carl has also been involved in several presentations on forest history in New York and in the Adirondacks through power point presentations he has developed.

For all of these efforts, Carl was also selected by the Capitol District Chapter to receive its 2010 Chapter Service Award.

Heiberg Award Recipients

1966	Hardy L. Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutchess
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatich
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil
2008	Gary Goff
2009	John Sullivan
2010	Carl Wiedemann

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Dick Patton

The New York Forest Owners Association presented its Outstanding Service Award for 2009 to Dick Patton. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Association membership.

Dick is an active member of the Allegany Foothills Chapter and of the state board of directors. Dick has served as the AFC chairman and vice chairman, and is currently their representative to the state board of directors. He has also hosted two woodswalks on his property and is an active participant in the chapter steering committee.

As a member of the state board of directors, Dick listens respectfully to all sides of a discussion, and then offers his opinions simply and frankly. His wisdom, experience and his manner command respect from everybody. He is always willing to take on additional tasks and his leadership encourages others to follow his example.

We are very pleased to present Dick with the 2010 Outstanding Service Award.

NYFOA's Chapter Service Awards

AFC: Kim Sherwood

Kim is the AFC Chapter Secretary, gets our emails out for chapter business and has worked on the nut collection fundraiser, the summer picnic, Christmas party, steering committee meetings and the landowner conferences. He is very active in a local watershed watchdog group and has written articles for our newsletter. Kim is a very valuable member of our AFC family.

CDC: Carl Wiedemann

Carl Wiedemann is the Capital District Chapter Award recipient for this year. Carl is our immediate Past Chair and continues to support the chapter and the state organization with dedication, enthusiasm and vision. For more information on Carl, see the Heiberg Memorial Award write-up on the previous page.

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

1978	Emiel Palmer
1979	Ken Eberly
1980	Helen Varian
1981	J. Lewis Dumond
1982	Lloyd Strombeck
1983	Evelyn Stock
1984	Dorothy Wertheimer
1985	David H. Hanaburgh
1986	A. W. Roberts, Jr.
1987	Howard O. Ward
1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty
1989	Alan R. Knight
1990	Earl Pfarner
1991	Helen & John Marchant
1992	Richard J. Fox
1993	Wesley E. Suhr
1994	Alfred B. Signor
1995	Betty & Don Wagner
1996	Betty Densmore
1997	Norman Richards
1998	Charles P. Mowatt
1999	Eileen and Dale Schaefer
2000	Erwin and Polly Fullerton
2001	Billy Morris
2002	Donald G. Brown
2003	Henry S. Kernan
2004	Hugh & Janet Canham
2005	Jerry Michael
2006	John Druke
2007	Ron Pedersen
2009	Alan White
2010	Dick Patton

CNY: Peter Cann

Peter is a 25 year member of NYFOA and has served as Chapter secretary for several years. He is a MFO and Regional Coordinator for the last two years. He and Nancy live on a 70 acre Certified Tree Farm on the hills overlooking the Canaseraga Creek Valley in Madison County. They have hosted multiple woods walks showing the improvements on their woodlot including the planting of 8,000 nursery trees with Norway and White spruce, Douglas fir and Larch, which are now 30 feet tall. Their 35 acres of hardwoods were thinned eight years ago. The land has 2.5 miles of roads and five ponds. Green energy improvements on their property with the goal of becoming NetZero (a house running totally on renewable energy) include geothermal, windmill, solar panels, and future plans to add a micro turbine to harness and make electricity from a pond outlet.

Peter is associated with Habitat for Humanity, Chittenango Rotary, Link Trail Association, and the Madison County Search & Rescue Team.

NAC: Thomas Gilman

Tom has been active with the NYFOA - Northern Adirondack Chapter since about 2000. He has served as trustee,vice chair, chair and presently on the BOD. Although not a forestland owner he enjoys working with landowners and educating them on good forestry practices. Tom has been active in our raffles for ESF Wanakena and Paul Smiths, is instrumental in getting donations for chapter events and is a great person at woodswalks with all his experience in the woods as a forest manager of several tracts of forest land and men that work for him. Tom has a son that participates with Tom at the events all the time and shows a strong interest in forestry so Tom must work with him at home also.

Tom Gilman is a graduate of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse with a duel degree in resource management and forest biology. He is currently the New York Area Forester for Fountains Forestry, Inc. He lives in Tupper Lake with his wife and two children. Before settling in Tupper Lake in 1997 he worked in the Hudson Valley for a large private landowner. He and his family really enjoy living in the Adirondacks and taking advantage of the many forms of outdoor recreation the region has to offer. Besides volunteering his time to NYFOA, Tom is active with the Cub Scouts and coaches youth baseball and softball.

SFL: Dick Harrington

Dick Harrington has been an active and hard working member of NYFOA for many years. He is a member of the SFL steering committee and a member of the NYFOA board. He has actively participated in all meetings keeping communication lines between the board and the chapter open.

Dick practices what he preaches. He has a management plan for his property and uses best practices as a steward of his forest land. He lives on his property spending time in the woods and personally harvests the firewood to heat his house. He has a strong connection to the land, his farm and woods.

Dick has worked tirelessly to involve young people in forestry. He has worked with the schools to create activities for high school students and created a link for NYFOA involvement. He has used his many public roles to further the NYFOA objectives, as a member of the Tioga County legislature and as a member of the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board as landowner representative. For his hard work, dedication and many accomplishments Dick is deserving of this award.

continued on page 16

Woodland Health

A column focusing on topics that might limit the health, vigor and productivity of our private or public woodlands

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

What's Sirex woodwasp doing in New York?

BY KEVIN DODDS

Sirex noctilio, a pine-infesting woodwasp, is one in a series of exotic forest insects that have become established in New York State. Previous articles in this series have covered the Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly adelgid and discussed some of the forest changes that can be caused by these insects. In 2004, Sirex woodwasp was detected in a New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets survey trap placed in Fulton, NY. Subsequent surveys have detected Sirex throughout much of New York and also in portions of Pennsylvania, Vermont, Michigan, and Ohio in the U.S., and Ontario and Quebec in Canada (Figure 1). While insects like emerald ash borer and possibly Asian longhorned beetle can severely alter forest structure and eliminate specific tree species, Sirex is not a threat to eliminate pine on the landscape.

Sirex is a Eurasian species that is considered a secondary insect, or one that does not directly kill a tree, throughout its native range. However, Sirex has been introduced to numerous southern hemisphere countries (Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, and Uruguay) where it often behaves as a more aggressive primary tree killer. Sirex does especially well in the commercial plantations of North American pine species that are common throughout the Southern Hemisphere. At times, significant pine mortality is attributed to Sirex in these countries. It is this success in North American pine trees that is especially worrisome now that Sirex is established on this continent.

The life history of Sirex woodwasp is fascinating and relies on a mutual association with the fungus *Amylostereum areolatum* and also produces a toxic mucus that aids in stressing trees. Female Sirex (Figure 2) arrive at a tree and drill through the bark into sapwood with their ovipositors to assess suitability for oviposition. It is at this point that Sirex leaves the tell-tale sign of their attack, a small bead of resin on the surface of the bark. If after assessment the host tree is deemed too vigorous, Sirex injects the mucus and inoculates the fungus, but does not lay an egg. Susceptible trees that are most likely to produce brood, however, receive the mucus, fungus, and an egg. The combination of Sirex feeding, fungi spreading within the tree, and the effects of the mucus generally lead to tree death. More vigorous trees that only received the mucus and fungus are likely negatively affected by Sirex, but generally recover.

Eggs hatch and Sirex larvae begin feeding on the fungus as it spreads throughout the tree's wood. Larvae develop entirely within the sapwood and create frass-packed tunnels or galleries. After pupation, new Sirex adults chew round exit holes through the wood and bark, emerging to disperse throughout the forest. Sirex are strong fliers and can disperse long distances seeking susceptible hosts. It generally takes a year for Sirex to develop from egg to adult in New York and adults can be seen flying from the beginning of July through September.

The ability of Sirex to fly long distances makes controlling this insect particularly difficult. This is one of the primary reasons that eradication of Sirex is not possible and spread into new areas of North America is eventually expected. Fortunately, current populations of Sirex do not appear to be behaving very aggressively in susceptible stands. While Sirex has been found in red, Scots, jack and white pine thus far, regardless of species it is generally found in suppressed trees growing under poor conditions. There are few observations at this point of Sirex in jack or white pine, and it appears the insect has been more active in Scots pine than red pine stands. Although little economic damage has been observed thus far in New York, it is unknown how future stand conditions and environmental factors will influence Sirex populations. Of particular concern is the spread of Sirex into the vast pine resources of western North America and the southeastern U.S. which may have stand conditions and landscapes more favorable to supporting larger Sirex populations.

The landscape and pine forests of New York are very different from forests where Sirex has been problematic and this may help keep populations low. Regional landscapes are diverse with a mixture of agriculture and forest lands. The forested components of landscapes in New York are typically dominated by

Figure 2. An adult female Sirex noctilio *on a Scots pine in New York. Females drill through the bark of host trees into the sapwood to lay eggs, deposit a mutualistic fungi, and a toxic*

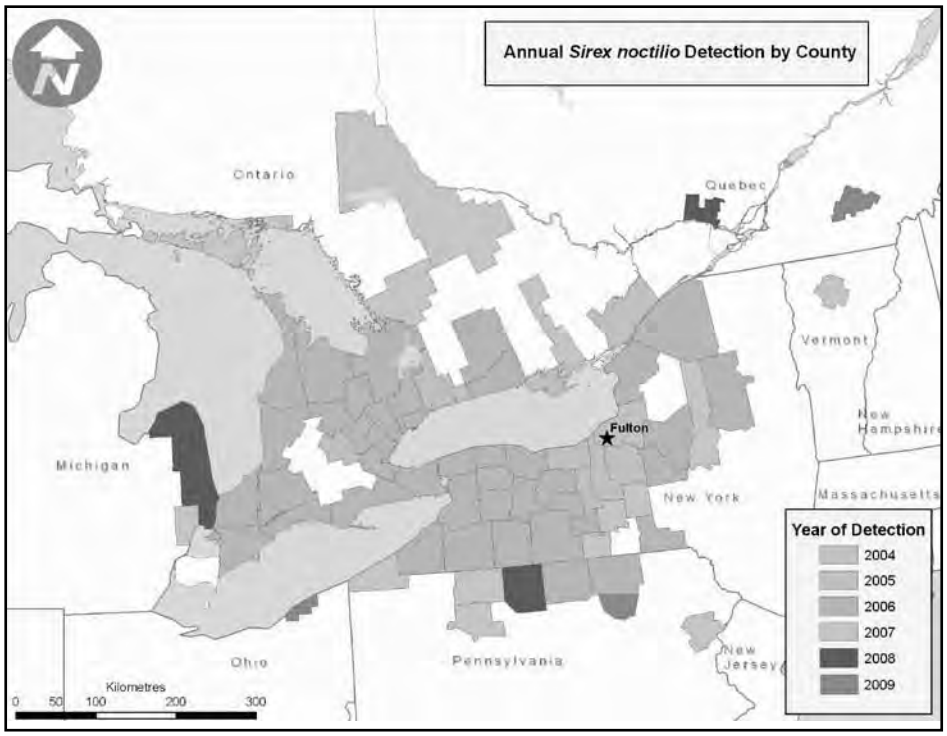


Figure 1. The currently known distribution of Sirex noctilio *in North America. Darkened counties are positive for* Sirex noctilio.

hardwoods, with somewhat isolated pine stands dispersed throughout the region. This landscape heterogeneity is beneficial from a pest management perspective as Sirex will have a harder time locating susceptible stands. Additionally, the limited amount of susceptible habitat found on the landscape makes building large populations difficult. Sirex has been a problem in areas where cultivated pine plantations are contiguous and widespread. In these areas, Sirex populations build in weakened trees and gradually move into healthy trees, becoming primary agents of mortality on a large scale. With limited amounts of this material on the landscape, it is hoped epidemic populations may never be seen.

While a new introduction is always an unwanted event, there is some good news when considering the introduction of Sirex into North America. As already mentioned, the fragmented pine resource available to Sirex in New York may help regulate populations. However, there is another important factor that also may help regulate Sirex populations. Parasitic wasps native to North America have already been observed attacking Sirex developing in pine trees and they may help keep Sirex populations below a level where economic damage is seen. Ibaliid and rhyssine wasps are common occurrences on Sirex-infested trees and have emerged from logs brought into a laboratory for insect rearing. If Sirex populations begin to expand and more tree mortality is seen, tools developed elsewhere to manage Sirex can be modified for use in North America. The most important tool may be a tiny nematode that has been used as a potent biological control organism in other places where Sirex has been introduced and its use in North America is currently being evaluated. This nematode is very specific to Sirex and sterilizes females as they develop within trees.

Finally, good silviculture practices can be used to help proactively protect pine stands from Sirex attack. Thinning from below targeting low vigor trees will remove potential habitat for Sirex and improve growing conditions in a stand. Residual trees will be more vigorous and better able to defend themselves against Sirex attacks. Good silvicultural practices will not only help protect stands from Sirex attack, they will also help reduce losses from other insects or disease.

Since detection, much effort has been focused on answering important questions that will provide tools for better detection and management of Sirex in North America. While Sirex is an unwanted addition to New York forests, it appears at this point in the invasion that this insect may not be as destructive as other invasive insects and that tools and natural control measures exist to help regulate populations. We cannot predict exactly what Sirex will do under changing environmental conditions and in different locations, but hopefully populations of this insect will remain low and not cause excessive damage in pine stands.

Kevin Dodds is a forest entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry where he works on native and exotic insects in the northeastern U.S. He can be reached at kdodds@fs.fed.us with any questions. More information about woodland management and Sirex is available at www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/FC%20factsheets/Sirex%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf

Mark Whitmore is a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council.

Chapter Awards (continued)

SOT: Les Lovelass

Les Lovelass has been an active NYFOA member for more than 15 years and has served on the Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee for ten years. Les has hosted several woodswalks, including a crop tree management workshop and Game Of Logging program on his forest property in northern Broome County. Les has also served as a Master Forest Owner Volunteer for many years, and has performed dozens of visits to forested properties in Broome and neighboring Counties. Les readily volunteers to help staff NYFOA and MFO tables at the annual Farm Days At The Mall, and various other venues, and has signed up many new NYFOA members during these events. Les richly deserves this recognition for his dedicated service to the forest owners of New York State.

WFL: Anne & Tony Ross

Tony and Ann Ross acquired their 15 acre parcel in Livingston County in 1996. Within the first year, they took advantage of the MFO program and scheduled a visit to learn some of the best ways to manage their woodlot. Of course that included joining NYFOA. Tony and Ann have been members since 1997 and are currently serving on the Board of Directors. Tony was also a past WFL Chairperson from 2005 to 2006. They have always been willing to volunteer at chapter activities and reach out to other landowners whenever possible. Thank you and congratulations Tony & Ann Ross!

All of these write-ups were provided by each individual chapter. We appreciate their assistance in providing this information.

NYFOA Scholarship Winner

René Germain (left) NYFOA board member and Professor at SUNY ESF with NYFOA Scholarship winner, Julie Claire Van Winkle. Julie is from Edina, MN and will be graduating in 2011 with a BS in Natural Resources Management. This summer she will be working on a fellowship with the EPA regarding wetland draining and restoration policies. After graduation she plans to attend either graduate school or law school to further her studies in natural resources policy. Julie states that the award money will go towards reducing her student loans.

Firewood (continued)

est amount of untreated firewood. In fact, all untreated firewood from New York State cannot be moved within the state more than 50 miles from its source. That means if I own property more than 50 miles from my house I cannot bring any wood from my woodlot to my house. Additional rules are summarized below:

- Untreated firewood from other states or Canada cannot be sold, possessed, transported or used within New York State.
- Untreated firewood from New York State that is being sold/purchased in the state must be accompanied by a receipt, invoice or label that includes the source of the firewood, and the producer's name and address.
- Untreated firewood from New York State that was not purchased (i.e. from someone's own woodlot or yard) must be accompanied by a self-issued certificate of source, which is available on the DEC website (link address below) and in regional offices.

You might wonder how your local grocery store can sell firewood if you are not allowed to move it yourself. This wood is considered treated by kiln-drying it to a minimum core temperature of 71 degrees Celsius (about 160 degrees Fahrenheit) for at least 75 minutes. Heat treated firewood can be moved into and within New York without restriction. However, it must be accompanied by proof of treatment – there is no official label or document, but the proof of treatment must include the producer's declaration that the firewood was heat treated to New York's specifications, and the producer's name, legal address and place of business.

To learn more about EAB and ALB and other forest pests go to: *http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5252.html* For questions or to report any invasives you find, call toll-free 1-866-640-0652. To learn more about the Firewood Regulations and to download a "Self-Issued Certificate of Source" go to: *http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/309.html*

Justin A. Perry is a CF/FCA with the NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests.

Timber Theft and How to Prevent It

Hugh Canham and Ronald Pedersen

For some, timber theft means criminal trespass and stealing, for others it brings to mind having been financially cheated or losing future potential from their woodlot. Again we are looking at some actual cases that illustrate the human dimensions of putting into play the advice we've been offering for some months — mark your boundaries, use a forester, avoid quick decisions, sell marked trees by bid with up front payment, and monitor harvests.

Could Have been a Big Loss, or, Saved by a Phone Call

We'd never met, but his friendly countenance and clean-cut appearance invited confidence. We were in the yard when he drove in, stepped from his well-kept pickup, introduced himself, complimented my wife on her garden, and asked if we'd considered selling timber from our property. He said that market conditions were good and from what he'd seen from the road, we had a lot of very marketable trees. He pointed out that he would selectively harvest, leaving more room for the younger trees to mature.

It must have been very obvious that we'd not thought about selling trees. He respected our reticence, said he'd like to give us an estimate if we decided to sell, gave us his card and left.

A few days later I called him to ask what would be involved if we decided to have trees cut. He offered to come by, mark the trees he felt would be appropriate to harvest at this time, and give us an estimate. "No obligation, glad to do it" he said. The next week while we were out, he marked a lot of trees with a splash of orange paint, left a note with his offer of $15,000 saying he'd call in a couple of days.

Wow! It could not have been a better time for a financial windfall. It would resolve a big problem for us, and yet, something didn't seem right. We talked and talked about our financial need and all that orange paint and the love of our property, but couldn't reach a conclusion. Then it dawned on us— we knew nothing about selling trees. It was not something we'd planned and we were letting the lure of "found" money drive our discussions.

Feeling a bit sheepish, I called a neighbor I knew only slightly but remembered he worked with the county Cooperative Extension. He said he was not a forester, but he'd be glad to come over to look at the trees that had been marked and chat about timber harvesting practices generally.

A couple of afternoons later when John came over, we learned he was a Master Forest Owner volunteer, trained by Cornell University to help folks like us. As we walked through the woods, John pointed to some marked trees he felt were not ready to be cut, trees that were growing at a healthy rate and far from mature. We also talked about some poorly formed trees that were not marked, but might be thinned to give the better trees more elbow room.

He commented that the offer seemed low and asked whether the buyer had explained when and how we would receive payment. We hadn't even thought about that!

John reminded us that he was not a forester, suggesting that our woodlot and the proposed harvest would definitely benefit from professional guidance, and that seeking bids for a sale would likely yield a reasonable market value. He explained that the Department of Environmental Conservation maintains a list of foresters and mentioned names of ones that we might contact.

We took his advice, chatted with three private consulting foresters, decided to work with the one who seemed to best understand our situation. Several steps later — marketing trees to cut (using blue paint), inviting buyers to bid and checking references of the ones under consideration, a contract was signed. The forester had marked high-value timber trees as well as what he called "firewood" trees — far fewer trees than originally marked for and the successful bid was almost THREE TIMES the original offer.

The successful bidder was happy with the outcome, we were comfortable with the feeling we had done the right thing for our woodlot, and of course, we were very pleased with the financial outcome. We learned that taking care of our woodlot requires planning, that timber sales cannot be a spur-of-the-moment decision, and that there are neighbors and professionals ready to help.

(Names have been changed to protect the affected parties. We would welcome learning of your experiences with your permission to tailor them into a future column).

Hugh Canham is a retired professor from SUNY ESF and a member of NYFOA's CNY chapter. Ron Pedersen is a past President of NYFOA and is a member of the Capital District chapter.

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The New York Forest Owners Association thanks the people and organizations that supported our programs and publications in 2009. Your help is essential to our work.

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Member Profile: *Larry Becker*

Carly Neumann

Larry Becker has been an outdoorsman, conservationist, and hunter for over 40 years. It was 15 years ago when Larry learned from a friend that a property on which he had previously hunted was coming up for sale through an auction. Larry decided to purchase the 115 acre property in Wyoming County and his son purchased the adjacent 85 acres. While Becker is not entirely sure of the previous land-use of the property, he believes that the land may have been used as a dairy farm at one point due to what appear to be abandoned fields and pastures. Today he lives on the property with his wife, Carol.

Becker's management strategy and activities over the past 10-15 years have created a property that he doesn't foresee changing much in the near future as he is satisfied and has accomplished his management goals. The property is about 70 % hardwoods and 30% conifers and features several food plots for deer and other wildlife as well as shallow ditch ponds. Becker's primary woodland management strategy revolves around his passion—hunting—but he and his family also enjoy spending time hiking and bird-watching on the property.

Becker recommends utilizing educational and professional resources available before embarking on any forestry venture to prevent wasting your own time or money. For example, he works with his local DEC forester Patrick Marren and also participates in the New York Master Forest Owner Volunteer program.

Wildlife are key in Becker's management strategy, especially managing for deer and turkey for hunting. The land was posted for the first time in 1997 and since then hunts have been limited. Safety is the Becker's primary concern when managing their property for hunting. He began a Quality Deer Management Program in 1999. The main goal is to maintain a "trophy buck" population within the herd. He limits turkey hunting to three spring toms and three fall juveniles per year. Small game has been off limits until recently in order to establish a sustainable population. He has also worked to reduce the predator population.

An example of a shallow ditch pond installed by Becker to attract wildlife and amphibians.

Sargent Crab Apple plantings have been very sucessful.

Larry has worked hard to create and maintain wildlife habitat on his land. The property now hosts two to shallow ditch ponds that he has stocked with fish. He also installed wood duck and blue bird boxes on the property. He has reclaimed several meadows as well as releasing wild apple trees. He logged part of the property in the winter of 2006 and has also conducted thinning on different plots.

Currently Becker is planting shrubs to replace the viburnum lost to vi-

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Part of the 3 acre wild apple tree release site.

burnum beetle, which also decimated a planting of cranberries. The most successful of his tree plantings have been those of Sargent Crab Apple. Becker's other concerns include the striped maple on the property, which he has been controlling by manually pulling them out with the help of his son Todd. They also remove all the beech that they can and spray the base with Round-Up to prevent cloning.

The management plan developed by Becker has evolved over the past 15 years and he is satisfied with the end result. He doesn't foresee changing his strategy other than possibly adding another shallow ditch pond to attract more wooducks, wildlife, and amphibians.

Becker's hard work has paid off; he won the National Wild Turkey Federation's "Wildlife Management Excellence on Private Lands" both in the Northeast Region (2003) and Nationally (2004). He also received Tree Farm Certification by the American Tree Farm System in 2009. Becker is very passionate about his conservation work, conservation being one of the most enjoyable parts of owning his woodlands. "If you're a hunter you have a responsibility to give back to the environment and help animals in other ways."

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This stand of trees was logged in 2006.

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Magazine Deadline

Materials submitted for the July/August Issue issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe @syr.edu Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

Deadline for material is June 1, 2010

The New York
Forest Owner
A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

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