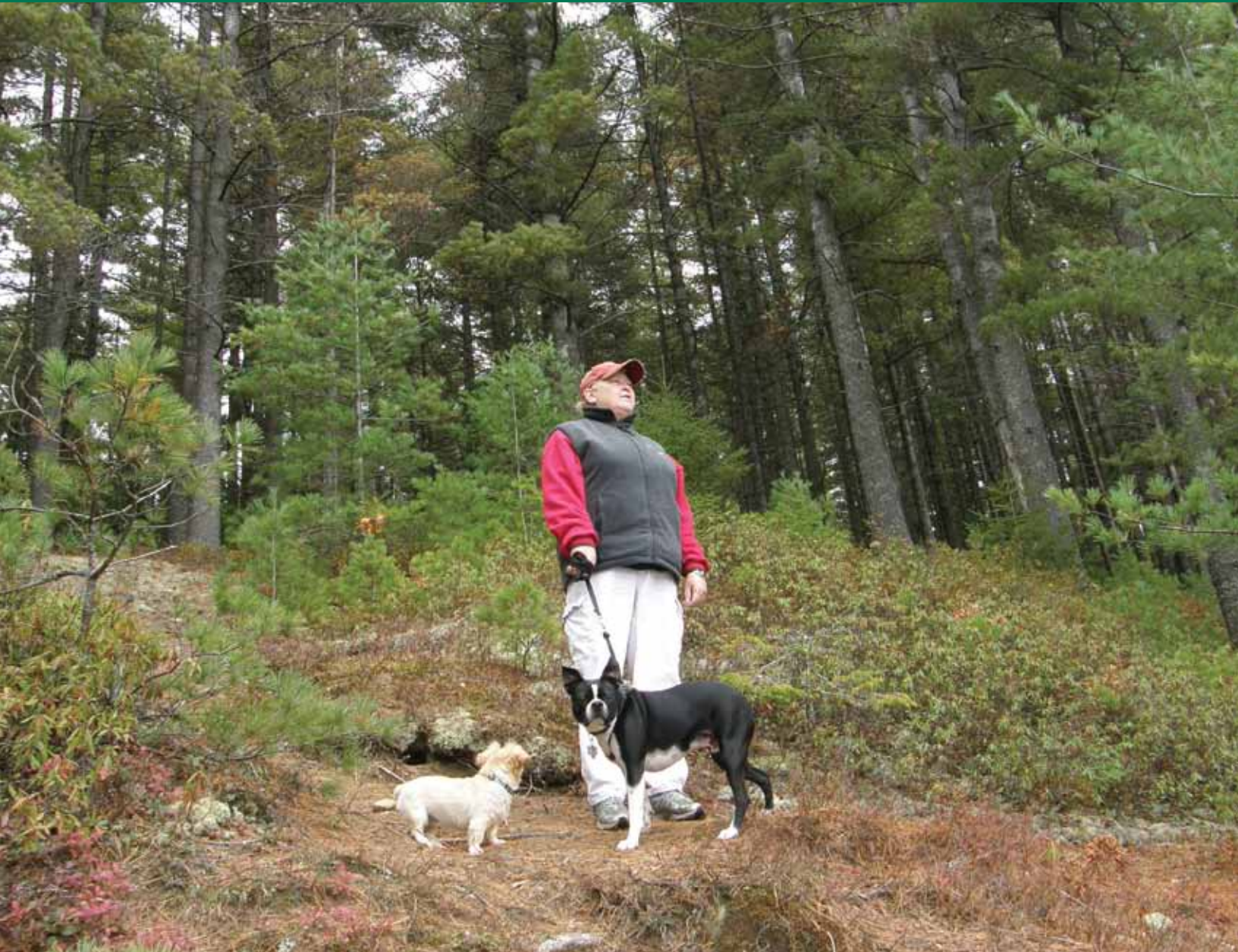


The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

July/August 2010



Member Profile: Diane Church

Volume 48 Number 4



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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 4

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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 receive both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Diane Church shown enjoying her view on a Fall day when she and her friends took a stroll in the woods. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Diane Church.

From The President

NYFOA is a statewide organization, but a great deal of its activity is driven by our ten chapters. Each of these chapters has its own leadership, goals and activities, reflecting its unique circumstances. Most people think of woodlot management primarily in the context of rural areas, and a number of our chapters are mostly rural. But several chapters contain major cities — Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and



others. I only recently learned that “urban forestry” is a discipline in its own right, with opportunities and challenges quite different from those seen in more typical rural environs.

This variety is reflected in the interests of NYFOA’s chapters and members. One of my goals as president of NYFOA is to improve the communication among the chapters, and to that end we have had a couple of conference calls recently among the chapter chairs and other leaders. I have found it both interesting and gratifying to participate in these conversations. Despite the varied circumstances of each chapter, there is a lot of enthusiasm for protecting our forests and for getting our message to the public, and there have been some excellent exchanges on how to go about doing that.

Our chapters are quite autonomous, and rightly so — a local organization knows better than anybody else how to address its own needs and interests. I am working to spread the wealth of knowledge and experience that is held, collectively, in our chapter leaders and other members, without intruding on the right, and responsibility,

of each chapter to conduct its own affairs. I have been very pleased with the ideas and the energy that chapter leaders have brought to these conversations, and most of the feedback I have heard about them has been quite positive.

I look forward to continuing these conversations, and I want to remind everybody that these lines of communication are open. Each chapter has a representative on the state board of directors who can bring ideas and feedback — positive or negative — to the board, or you can talk to your chapter leadership or to me. Contact information for the state board members is printed in this magazine, and for both statewide and chapter leadership is available at www.nyfoa.org.

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

I also want to take this opportunity to remind everybody of two upcoming events this summer: Empire Farm and Field Days, August 10-12 in Seneca Falls, and Woodsmen’s Field Days, August 20-22 in Boonville. Both events showcase lots of interesting tools and equipment, both have lots of seminars on all sorts of topics, and both have a festival atmosphere with lots of food and fun. If you are able to attend either event, feel free to stop by the NYFOA table and say hello — we have a lot of dedicated volunteers at each who would be happy to see you. 🌲

–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*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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Looking for a Few Good Forest Owners Volunteers in 2010

Below is a photo of the 2009 Master Forest Owner (MFO) class. The article on page 5 provides all the important information regarding this program. If you are interested in participating in the MFO program please contact Gary Goff, Program Director at 607-255-2824 or grg3@cornell.edu.



2009 MFO Class at Arnot Forest.

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.

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Looking for a Few Good Forest Owners Volunteers in 2010

GARY GOFF AND RICH TABER

It's all about stewardship. The vast majority of NY State's forest land is owned by private citizens; 500,000 landowners manage over 14 million acres. This huge resource is immensely valuable to the owners and all NY State citizens. We all enjoy and benefit from scenery, fresh water, wildlife, forest products, tranquility, biodiversity, and recreation that forests provide. However, good stewardship doesn't "just happen" without the benefit of awareness, knowledge, ability, and action on the part of forest owners.


The goal of the NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program is to provide private forest owners the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. As of 2010, there are over 200 forest owning volunteers, representing 53 counties, ready to help their friends and neighbors find the assistance needed to meet their forest stewardship objectives; but the need is always there for a new and fresh crop of enthusiastic volunteers. The focus of the program is having Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers arrange for on-site visits to interested forest owners. The typical visit consists of a 1/2-day walk around the woodlot, during which time the forest owner shows the volunteer various aspects of the forest and asks advice as to how to achieve various objectives. In addition, the MFOs serve as an outreach arm for the State Wildlife Grant, a collaborative venture between the NYSDEC, New York Forest Owner's Association, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. New York State is home to several hundred species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, most of which live on the habitat provided by private landowners. Information is available to assist landowners in managing their properties for a variety of wildlife and the MFOs are "front-line ambassadors" in spreading the word on assistance available.

The MFO volunteers are not professionals and they do not provide any service beyond helping the owner sort through some options. In addition to the initial five day training, the volunteers back up their years of experience with periodic refresher training provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

We are looking to fill this year's training workshop with a total of 20 new volunteers. The class will be held at Cornell's 4,000 acre Arnot Forest located near Van Etten, New York, from Wednesday through Sunday September 15-19. The total cost of training, meals, and lodging is only \$50.00.

The workshops consist of a blend of indoor presentations and outdoor exercises delivered by a variety of forestry and natural resource professionals. Topics include tree identification, compass use, forest ecology, sawtimber and wildlife management, agroforestry, forest economics, sources of assistance, and visits to managed forests and a local sawmill.

To get a better idea of the program objectives and to see a previous agenda, visit www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/. There is also a listing of current MFO volunteers and you may wish to give one or more a call to get their impression of the program. All new volunteer candidates must arrange for a visit from a local volunteer to your woodlot and meet with your County Cooperative Extension Educator, prior to applying. Application forms are also on the website.

We can send you an application packet if that is more convenient. Write or call: MFO/COVERTS Program Application, Rm. 108 Fernow Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853. Ph. 607-255-2115. For more information regarding details of the program, call or write Gary Goff, Program Director at 607-255-2824, grg3@cornell.edu. 

NYFOA STORE

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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



Licensed professional land surveyors use a variety of tools and their extensive training to locate and map the boundaries of woodland properties.

Question

We own our property primarily as a retreat, but also for recreation and firewood. We heard about marking our property lines, but don't know if we should or how to mark the lines.

Answer

Woodland owners cherish their woodlands and forests. They often seek numerous benefits from their property, including as a retreat, a place to work the land, for collecting maple sap for syrup, timber, wildlife, privacy, and recreational opportunities. In almost all circumstances, the ability of the woodland owner to fully and continuously enjoy the benefits of their property requires that they know and mark their property boundary. Marked property boundaries define your property from your neighbors and establish a legal structure that helps protect your interests.

Two examples will illustrate the value of marked boundaries. With a marked boundary, a timber harvest on the neighbor's property is less likely to accidentally include timber from your property. A clearly marked line is appreciated by neighbors, loggers and foresters, and helps keep honest people honest. A timber thief who steals trees from an owner

with a marked boundary cannot effectively use their ignorance of the property line to explain their actions. Similarly, people who are recreating or hunting on a property with marked boundaries are less likely to stray onto the neighboring property and potentially aggravate the neighbor.

Boundary marking establishes a legal structure on your property. As

a legal structure, certain NY laws will apply. If you have additional questions about the practices or legal details concerning boundary marking, contact a licensed land surveyor, a DEC Environmental Conservation



A corner monument, in this case rocks that bury a 4 foot iron pipe, is marked using three blazes in vertical sequence and painted with a bright fluorescent color.



Blazes on a tree indicate the proximity of the tree to the boundary line. In this case, the tree is blazed and painted to indicate it is within one foot of the boundary line.

Officer, or Forest Ranger if your property is adjacent to NYS Forest Land or Forest Preserve.

Before marking your property boundary you need to know the location of the line. There are several advantages to having a licensed land surveyor determine the property lines and corners. Surveyors are trained to interpret property deed descriptions and have tools and experience to locate and mark property corners and boundaries. If the line is disputed in court a licensed surveyor will be most capable of defending their work. NY Licensed Land Surveyors can be found in the phone book, by recommendation from other NYFOA members or online at www.nysapls.org

Land surveyors can be hired to conduct a variety of tasks and simply requesting them to “survey your property” won’t result in marked boundary lines. Ask the surveyor to also at least temporarily flag the boundary for you to blaze. A better request that adds minimally to the cost is to have the surveyor blaze and paint the boundary line. A blaze consists of removing a section of bark

30 to 40 square inches down to the wood. After the wood has dried, a permanent bright or fluorescent paint is used on the exposed wood and adjacent bark. Use caution when selecting a type of paint because some have the potential for fumes that can cause respiratory problems or can be an eye irritant. A blaze is a more permanent feature than a posted sign, but has a different legal implication. Posting is discussed further later in this article.

The process of blazing a property line previously established by a legal survey should begin by talking with your neighbor. Alert them to your plans, explain you will be using a legal survey on file with the county clerk, and describe how you will identify the line. Invite them to join you on the project. You can blaze a tree on your property, but talk with your neighbor about blazing trees on their property. They may allow blazing on low value trees, but to use only paint on species of higher value. Do not remove bark from a former blaze as that feature represents historical evidence that establishes prec-

edent for your legal boundary.

The position of the blaze on a tree depends on the location of the line. The convention is to place the blaze and paint facing the line. If a tree is truly a “line tree”, or positioned so the boundary line runs through the tree, a blaze is positioned on opposite sides of the tree where the line would enter and exit the tree. With a line tree, the blazes may be in the center or off-center of the tree, depending on the location of the line. If the tree is on your property, the blaze and paint are on the side of the tree facing your neighbor’s property. If the tree is on your neighbor’s property, the blaze and paint are on the side of the tree facing your property. Typically paint and blaze are not applied to trees more than 3 to 5 feet away from the line. At the next NYFOA woods walk, talk with the owner and other participants about their experience with blazing trees on and near boundaries.

Marking the corner follows a slightly different convention. A permanent corner feature, such as a pipe or concrete monument, is demarcated by placing three blazes in a vertical sequence on one or more witness trees, with the blazes facing the permanent feature. If the corner is a tree, the corner tree has blazes where the line enters and leaves the tree, and then one or more witness trees facing the corner tree. The species and size of the corner tree would likely be referenced in the written deed description.

Some Cooperative Extension publications suggest blazing into the wood and lifting a large splinter from the top of the blaze but that remains connected at the bottom of the blaze. This splinter will be evident in the blaze even as the callous tissue on the tree heals over the blaze. (see http://extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource000244_Rep263.pdf) Other resources describe the process for locating and

continued on page 17

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



The Forester Is Not The Middleman!

Lets talk about the economy again...is on everyone's mind, and talking about the economy and your woodlot in the same sentence makes sense. It's a big investment. I recently read an article and it occurred to me that sometimes people don't know the difference between a logger and a forester. When a logger knocks on your door and says, "You have some timber here, I'd like to look at it and I'll tell you what its worth. I can give you an inventory, mark your boundaries and leave you with some ATV trails to access your property." This may sound an awful lot like what that forester said last year and you may think this is the perfect opportunity to cut out the middleman! The forester isn't the middleman! That would be like hiring the Jury to



defend you in court...or hiring the car salesman to give you a tune-up. It doesn't make any more sense than that to hire the wood cutter to advise you what wood to cut.

The forester works for *you*, the landowner, and the logger works for himself and pays you. Harvesting can be used as a tool for landowners to meet their goals and objectives and good management will accelerate the natural progression of the forest to allow the landowner to reap the benefits in the present and his offspring to reap the benefits in the future. A forester can pay for themselves many times over during the course of a long-term relationship with a landowner and their property.

A forester can help you put that management plan on paper as well as implement it on the ground. In many states, there are tax reduction

programs when you have a management plan prepared by a professional forester, thereby, decreasing your costs. Avoiding added costs and fines by identifying boundary lines and ecologically sensitive areas is important as well. A forester can also increase your revenue in several ways. By using certified loggers, many are paying premiums for timber harvested under certification programs and your forester can find those markets for you. A forester can also make sure the value of the lowest and highest grades are being accounted for appropriately as well as keeping the logger honest and accountable for all the payments. By keeping up to date on the market conditions, a forester can often increase your revenue while selecting fewer trees to be harvested and therefore additionally increasing the residual investment on the ground as well as the value of future harvests.

Working with a knowledgeable forester will help you make decisions about how to manage for quality timber and how to improve aesthetics, create edges and brush piles for wildlife and to prevent erosion and damage to remaining trees. Then working with your forester to hire a logger trained and certified through the NY Logger Training Courses will help ensure a quality job.

So, with all this in mind, if you'd like to learn more about the NY Tree Farm certification program 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.



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Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Diane Brown of Panama, NY submitted this picture. It shows her and her Grandchildren, Cam and Carissa Minarovich with their dogs Hannah and Kaylie on a beautiful fall day walking on their property. Both Donna and her husband Bruce are NYFOA members.

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!

Life in a Tree Part 1- The Leaves

Leaves are the literal powerhouse of a tree; capturing sunlight and converting it into energy. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors, and are often the easiest part of a tree to identify. Leaves filter pollution out of our air, shade and cool our homes and parks, slow down winds, and provide homes and food for insects, birds and mammals.

As the leaves fall to the ground in autumn, they are still contributing to the environment. They become a blanket on the earth that holds moisture in the soil, provides homes for more insects and other little creatures, and add nutrients

back to the soil as they break down.

The more leaves a tree has the more opportunity it has to grow. Open grown trees (those out in a field) can grow faster than trees in a forest since they have more leaves and more access to sunlight. Some trees have very fuzzy, leathery or sandpaper like leaves. These features protect the leaf from feeding, from drying out, and from cold temperatures. Other leaves contain chemicals that kill or disrupt insects as they try to eat the leaves.

Test your leaf knowledge! Try the quiz below and e-mail your answers, and your name and contact information, to Rebecca

Hargrave at jrh45@cornell.edu. Correct quizzes will be entered into a drawing for a copy of "The Tree Finder" tree identification guide by May Theilgaard Watts. Two copies will be given away. Deadline is September 15, 2010.

- 1) What is the name of the green pigment in leaves that converts sunlight into sugar (energy)?
- 2) Name two trees that have purple leaves.
- 3) Name a tree with a heart-shaped leaf.
- 4) What is the difference between a palmate and pinnate compound leaf?
- 5) Name one major difference between a fir needle and a spruce needle.
- 6) Name a conifer that loses its needles in the fall.
- 7) What is the structure on a leaf that opens and closes to allow for gas exchange?
- 8) What does abscission mean?
- 9) What leaf is on the Canadian flag?
- 10) What plant does the phrase "leaves of three, let it be" refer to?

Bonus: Name a woody plant whose leaves are commonly eaten by humans. 🌲

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

AMERICAN TOAD (*ANAXYRUS AMERICANUS*)



The American toad is a chunky, brown, warty frog, with dry skin and black spots on its back, and a white belly with black markings. Each of the largest black spots on its back contains one or two large warts, and there are additional large warts on the rear legs between the knee and the ankle. Adults usually measure from 2-4 inches and mainly are seen hopping about on land, except during the breeding season when they enter shallow bodies of water. Males generally are smaller than females and have a dark throat and hardened, dark pads on their thumbs for grasping females. The American toad first reproduces at an age of two to three years. Individual toads can survive for 10 years or longer in the wild.

Common and widespread, the American toad occurs throughout New York State, except on Long Island. Toads are active from mid-March through October. They are most active and moving about in the rain or on moist nights. Breeding adults begin to show up at bodies of water after the first warm rains, often migrating by the hundreds to their breeding sites. The peak of the breeding season is usually around mid-April. At this time, males can be heard and seen calling day and night. Males call to attract females, usually while sitting in shallow water or at the edge of the pond. The call of the male is a long, musical, high trilling “bu-rr-r-r-r” that lasts up to 30 seconds. Occasionally, you may encounter a ball of males in the water, all entangled and holding

tightly to each other, with a lone female somewhere in the mix.

Like most North American toads, female American toads lay long strings of eggs. The eggs, often numbering from 2,000 to 10,000, usually are in two strings sitting at the bottom of the breeding pool. Eggs hatch quickly, usually developing within two to 14 days. The larval tadpoles, small and black, often swim in large groups feeding on algae and plankton for 35 to 70 days, until July or early August when they transform into miniature versions of adult toads and leave the water.

On land, toads hunt and catch a variety of prey. They are considered to be beneficial to humans because they eat many things, including insects, centipedes, and slugs, that are considered

pests. They use a quick flick of their tongues to catch insects and other prey, and they use their front feet to stuff the bigger items into their mouths. They are voracious feeders and can easily be observed feeding, especially when they station themselves near outdoor lights on a summer night.

American toads are abundant, widespread, and tolerant of a wide array of environments. They can be found in almost any moist shady area on land, from the most remote country areas to yards in crowded cities. Their choice of aquatic breeding sites is equally broad, ranging from still areas of rivers, to ponds, ditches, and ruts in dirt roads and parking areas. During dry days, they usually remain under cover, slightly burrowed into soil, or under a rock or

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Falling Limb from Dead Tree Kills Landowner

Background: A landowner was selectively cutting trees in gently sloping terrain on a clear, calm, summer day in the Appalachians.

Personal Characteristics: The 48-year-old landowner was not wearing any personal protective equipment and had no formal training.

Unsafe Acts/Conditions: The landowner felled a 75-foot tall, 24 inch diameter maple tree. He apparently remained crouched near the stump of the maple as it was falling. There was a large, standing dead tree located 13 feet from the maple tree and in the opposite direction from the maple's intended fall. Many trees in the area were entangled with grapevines, and a grapevine may have

entangled a large limb of the dead tree with the maple tree.

Accident: The maple tree fell to the ground, and the large, dead limb fell with it. The limb struck the owner on the forehead and knocked him backward.

Injury: Although no one witnessed the incident, the medical examiner's report indicated that the owner was killed instantly.

Recommendations for Correction:

- Properly evaluate the area around timber to be felled so that potential hazards can be identified. Each danger tree, including lodged trees and snags, should be felled or removed using mechanical or other

techniques that minimize the exposure before work is commenced in the area of the danger tree.


- Prepare an adequate escape path and move a safe distance diagonally away from the base of the tree as it is falling.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment for the work being performed.
- Before felling the cutter should be trained in the proper techniques in felling a tree and the hazards that are associated with it.

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

other cover object. They frequently hop around in the open at night and during rainy days. Thousands of toads are killed each year while crossing roads during spring migrations or during the summer months as newly emerging juveniles.

Toads are an important component of many ecosystems, functioning both as predator and prey. The American toad has enlarged paratoid glands, which look like very large warts on the head, directly behind each eye. These glands contain steroidal chemicals that can affect the blood and heart of unwise predators, causing illness or death in some mammals. To avoid sickness, some clever mammals (like skunks and raccoons) avoid the milky secretions and eat only the legs and the bellies of toads. Some snakes, fish, and birds eat toads without

any ill effect. People can touch toads safely but the secretions can be irritating to your eyes or mouth.

To manage habitat for toads, maintain or create cover items such as rocks and logs in both open and forested areas. Preserve shallow pools of water, and prevent pollution of streams, ponds and wetlands on your land. 

Adapted from "Hands-On Herpetology: Exploring Ecology and Conservation" by R. L. Schneider, M. E. Krasny, and S. J. Morreale.

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

NYFOA and the State Wildlife Grant:

What are "SWG" and the State Wildlife Action Plan?

RICH TABER

The term "SWG" refers to the State Wildlife Grant, a federally funded grant to each of the states. New York's overseer of the grant is the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, (DEC). As a result of federal congressional action, each state has developed a wildlife action plan, known technically as a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy (CWCS). These proactive plans examine the health of wildlife and prescribe actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become rarer and more costly to protect. New York State is home to 32 species of amphibians, 39 species of reptiles, 375 spe-

cies of birds, 92 species of mammals, and 160 species of freshwater fish. The presence of these species and their habitats is important for biodiversity preservation and ecosystem stability, concepts that are critically needed at local, state, national and global levels.

The continued existence of many of these species is imperiled due to a host of factors, such as habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, invasive species, inappropriate forestry and agriculture practices, degraded water quality, and negative human/wildlife interactions .

The Empire State has about 18 million acres of woodlands within its borders,

with much of it owned and managed by private forest landowners, to the tune of about 14 million acres.

With so much of critical wildlife habitat being owned by private landowners, it is imperative that they have guidance, information, and assistance available to them. The forested lands of New York State not only provide wildlife habitat, but "ecosystem services" needed and used by all people in society. Fresh water, forest products, soil



stabilization, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, outdoor recreation, and beautiful scenery are enjoyed by millions.

In support of the objectives of wildlife habitat protection and biodiversity protection, the New York Forest Owner's Association has an ongoing contract with the DEC entitled "A Statewide Plan for Coordinating Management and Critical Habitat on New York's Private Forest Lands". As the leading private forest landowner advocate in New York, NYFOA stands poised ready to make significant contributions to wildlife conservation efforts in this magnificent state of ours. Much of the actual work in accomplishing the goals of this plan has been contracted to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County, with assistance from several departments in Cornell's Department of Natural Resources. CCE Chenango recently finished a two year grant promoting the Cornell Regional Forestry Initiative, an effort which involved several Extension Associations pro-

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moting forest landowner outreach and education.

There are six overall goals that NYFOA will be developing in the SWG effort.

First, we are developing landowner outreach materials and a website where people can go for information, currently available on the NYFOA website (<http://www.nyfoa.org>) under "New York State's Wildlife Conservation Grants Program." Another effort is to publicize CWCS implementation needs to forest owners, and to encourage forest landowner visits. This will be done by using the Cornell Master Forest Owner program and training the MFOs to be "frontline ambassadors" in spreading knowledge of assistance available to landowners. Then, with the help of GIS systems, we are identifying landowners in selected

counties in the state who have lands which are home to wildlife habitat, and are reaching out to these people to offer assistance. From this computerized information, we are developing maps of these landowners and their critical habitats. The final step in the plan is to develop a Strategic Plan for implementing all of these activities that the DEC can eventually adopt to further this work throughout the state.

For more information on this project, contact Rich Taber at CCE Chenango, 99 N. Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815. Phone: 607-334-5841 ext.21, email rbt44@cornell.edu. 

Rich Taber is a member of the CNY Chapter of NYFOA and Secretary of the organization.

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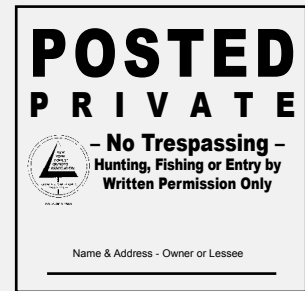


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Woodland Health

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

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

LONG ISLAND FORESTS: A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE ENTOMOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC LAB

BY DANIEL GILREIN

It may surprise some to learn that Long Island has large areas of natural forest. It first becomes apparent as you approach the eastern third of the region from the west and reach our Pine Barrens, populated by pitch pine with a scattering of oaks. We have extensive areas of oak forest as well, dominated by black, scarlet, white and other species. Other trees are also common, including eastern redcedar, sassafras, black birch, black gum, flowering dogwood, and black cherry with the occasional tulip poplar, red maple, and several others. Of course, that doesn't do justice to our urban forests, where the diversity of species is far greater. Thanks to our maritime location placing us in USDA Climate Zone 7, we are able to grow many kinds of trees and shrubs, such as *Cryptomeria*, that do not survive inland winters at this latitude.

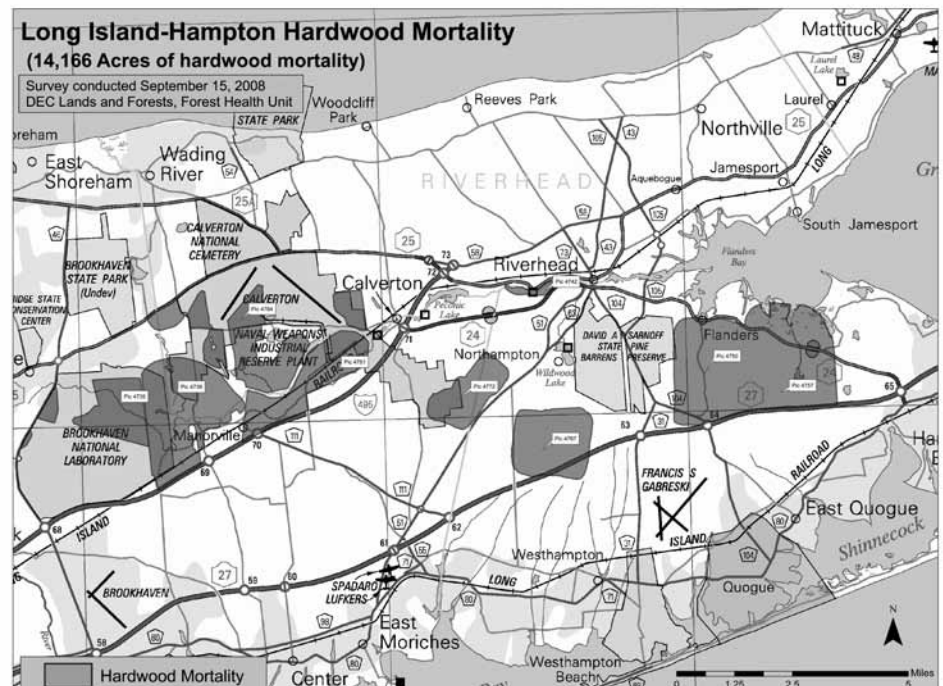
As the regional Extension Entomologist with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, I primarily serve our local agriculture and ornamental horticulture (nursery, greenhouse, landscape) industries, but I also receive inquiries and samples from forest areas as well. There are obvious connections between them and what happens in one area may affect the other. For example, invasive and exotic pests that arrive here in commerce could pose a serious threat to native tree stands, and outbreaks

of pests in natural areas sometimes 'spill over' into nurseries and urban forests.

Perhaps the most noteworthy example of the latter case concerns extensive forest areas of dead oaks around eastern Long Island. I alerted the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Health Section to an obvious problem in summer of 2008, and as it happens they were contemplating possible locations for an aerial forest survey later in the year. In mid-September, 2008 I joined DEC staff Jason Denham and Scott McDonnell as

we departed Manhattan, flying over Staten Island, then beelined to eastern Suffolk County where most affected areas were located. The extent of the situation became apparent from the air, with Scott estimating over 14,000 acres affected in the Brookhaven, Westhampton and Flanders areas. Scott provided the map of affected areas [credit Scott McDonnell, NYS DEC] and photos. Photo 1 ([IMG 4781, credit Scott McDonnell, NYS DEC], taken that day, shows a close-up of dead oaks from the Calverton area. I believe the problem is more widespread than shown, as there was no time to see areas further east and we had reports of many dead oaks south of Sag Harbor and other locations not included in the flyover. The widespread nature of the mortality suggests environmental and landscape factors are involved, as we have no evidence of new pests or pathogens.

Some of the areas were affected in recent years by successive defoliations from orangestriped oakworm, gypsy moth and/or fall cankerworm, sometimes in the same year. This alone could account for significant tree losses, as oaks are fairly intolerant of repeat defoliation. In 2005



Caption TK



Caption TK

our area experienced a significant drought, with almost no rain that summer (our soils are generally sandy to sandy loam), followed by nearly 20 inches of rain in the following October alone – tough conditions even for some maintained landscape trees and shrubs to tolerate. There were symptoms of forest and landscape tree dis-

tress during late summer and fall that year, and dieback and dead trees were common in 2006. Since then we have found evidence of twolined chestnut borer (beetles reared from infested trees and galleries in cambium) and Armillaria root rot (distinctive black ‘shoestrings’ or rhizomorphs, and the mushrooms at the base of trees),



Caption TK

both known to attack trees in poor condition; complaints about other opportunistic oak borers (roundheaded and clearwing species) have come into the diagnostic lab as well. A few commercial nurseries here sustained serious losses in recently planted oaks due to twolined chestnut borer in 2008 and 2009; I have encountered this species only once in the past 22 years, on a tree planted in New York City many years ago, so suspect the populations have built up on dying forest oaks, spreading from there to newly planted nursery stock.

Shortly after the aerial survey was completed I provided the survey map and information on the issue to our County Fire Marshall’s office; I have also been working with local nurseries to protect newly planted oaks, which seem to be quite susceptible to twolined chestnut borer attack, during this period of high borer populations. Fortunately the area of affected trees does not seem to be expanding.

continued on page 16

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Long Island Forests (continued)

Our forests, like those in other areas, continue to be under threat from other pests, both native and invasive, though we're not facing anything quite so devastating as emerald ash borer just yet, and Asian longhorned beetle has not advanced here from the New York City area though Worcester, Massachusetts is now experiencing a serious problem. Cottony maple leaf scale seems to be everywhere around Long Island this year; the white egg masses draw attention and in landscapes where aesthetics are important they detract from the appearance of trees and if infestations continue there may be dieback or other damage. Granulate ambrosia beetle is a recent newcomer to our area, known to attack apparently healthy trees in the southeastern US, though I have only seen mortality in landscape specimens. The last

few years have brought us periodic outbreaks of eastern tent caterpillar defoliating black cherry, Matsucoccus scale causing twig dieback on pitch pine, Kuwana pine mealybug heavily infesting naturalized Japanese black pine along our ocean shoreline, *Bassetia ceropteroides* gall wasps associated with dieback of black oak, and a somewhat localized but very heavy infestation of lecanium scale on oaks in the East Hampton/Sag Harbor area. Hemlock woolly adelgid seems to have run its course here; we had very few hemlocks outside of landscaped areas, but of course this insect is of major concern in other areas with native stands. Insects are not the only threat to our forests; parts of eastern Long Island have very high deer populations that inhibit regeneration of native oaks. Of course, we haven't yet considered the plant

pathogens and invasive plants!

Finally, a note of appreciation to landowners, consulting arborists, foresters, government officials, and others who bring sightings of new pests and problems to our attention. Early detection is key to containment and helps everyone prepare for an appropriate, coordinated response. 🌲

Daniel Gilrein is an Extension Entomologist with the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County located in Riverhead, NY.

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



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Ask a Professional (continued)

blazing lines (see <http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS619.pdf>)

The frequency of paint and blazes depends on the density of the vegetation. It is helpful to see one painted blaze from the previous blaze. Alternatively, try walking towards your property line and make sure you can see at least two blazes as you approach.

In the event of a timber theft, a journal entry describing annual maintenance of your property line will help your case. Most paint designed for boundary marking has a lifespan of 5 to 7 years. At a maximum, maintain your paint within this interval of time, but it is better to more frequently inspect your property lines to look for evidence of timber theft or other trespass. Tree marking paints are available through forestry equipment and supply dealers you can locate on the internet. On our property, our family tradition is to walk the line on July 4th and touch up the paint as needed. This helps reinforce the ownership of the property for our daughters and allows us to check on any neighbor activity that might affect our property.

In NY, a blazed and painted line does not equate to a "posted" boundary. There are valid reasons to post or not post your property. More information about how to legally post your boundary is available at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/posting.pdf

Although not equivalent to posting, a well maintained blazed and painted boundary indicates an owner who is attentive to their property and encourages potential visitors to ask permission before entering. If you post your property, you should also blaze and paint the lines. 🌲

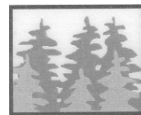
Peter J. Smallidge is the NYS Extension Forester and Director Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. He can be reached at email: pjs23@cornell.edu or visit his website at www.ForestConnect.info

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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.

The Happys live about 70 miles from their land and visit only in spring and fall. Mr. Happy is a member of NYFOA, does some timber stand improvement work periodically and keeps

the property boundaries well marked. Unbeknownst to the Happys one of his neighbors entered into a timber sale contract with a logger, who, in addition to the trees covered by the sales contract, crossed over onto the Happys' property and cut a number of trees, including several trees well marked as the property boundary.

Another neighbor of the Happys who happens to be a state trooper, noticed the cutting and investigated. Mr. Happy was notified; the trooper agreed to follow the case and help bring it to court. Mr. Happy contacted his consulting forester to get an estimate of the volume and value of the stolen timber. A factor in the case was that the logs from the affected trees were still on the neighbor's property at the time of the investigation.

Faced with the evidence, the logger/thief agreed to settle out of court. The Happys were pleased that they were able to be compensated for the stolen trees, although one of their friends pointed out that the logger was not really punished in any way and may not hesitate to con-

tinue stealing from others, if given the opportunity.

The value of good neighbors cannot be overstated. Important for all woodland owners, vital for absentee owners. Neighbors can help watch your land, are nearby in case of an accident while working in the woods, and are often alert to unusual coming and going in the area.

Consider this case for example:

Ms. Pleasant is an absentee owner, but regularly spends time on her land. On a recent visit, she was shocked to discover that some trees had been cut and the logs taken away. She spoke with several neighbors on what they may have seen or heard, and as a result of these personal investigations, identified the thief. She then sought the advice of a consulting forester and an attorney, but ultimately decided that it would be too costly to attempt to recover damages, given the circumstances and the limited amount of timber stolen.

However, Ms. Pleasant often visits the local restaurants, stores, and community centers, or as she put it, the "local watering holes." She decided to share her story as often as she could including specific mention of the thief by name. Thus from her vantage point, some satisfaction was obtained.

The lesson: know your neighbors. Share plans with one another. Stay in touch. You will probably find that feelings and concerns about property are mutual and that sharing yields a special peace of mind. 🏡

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

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NYFOA CALENDAR

2010 NYS Woodsmen's Field Days Offers Forest Owner Educational Assistance

Below is the schedule of seminars that will take place during the Woodsmen's Field Days. These mini-seminars will be held at the Fairgrounds in the new Forestry Educational Building

Friday, August 20th

9 am

ATV Timber Hitch/Fire Wood Retrieval System: Scott Bell, ATV Forest Equipment Inventor

10 am

Forest Invasives & Current Eradication Strategies: Kim Adams, SUNY ESF

11 am

Managing Beech in Your Woodlot: Peter Smallidge, Cornell University

Noon

Proposed Changes to the NYS Best Management Practices (BMP) Guidelines: The Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program

1 pm

Willow Bio Mass as an Additional Source of Landowner Income: Larry Smart, Cornell University

2 pm

Emerald Ash Borer/Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Status & Research Updates: Mark Whitmore, Cornell University

3 pm

Managing Invasives in Single/Small Numbers of Trees & Unique Sites: Terry Hawkridge, Asst. Superintendent Bldgs. & Grounds Hamilton College

4 pm

Small Woodlot Management - Low Impact Logging: Peter Smallidge, Cornell University

5 pm

New/Updated DOT Regulations for Commercial Vehicles & Operators: Dick Charles, Charles Safety Management

Saturday, August 21st

9 am

Proposed Changes to the NYS Best Management Practices (BMP) Guidelines: The Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program

10 am

ATV Timber Hitch/Fire Wood Retrieval System: Scott Bell, ATV Forest Equipment Inventor

11 am

Managing Invasives in Single/Small Numbers of Trees & Unique Sites: Terry Hawkridge, Asst. Superintendent Bldgs. & Grounds, Hamilton College

Noon

Let Them Eat Cake: The Business Case for Woody Biomass: The Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program

1 pm

Aerial Spraying to Combat Caterpillar Defoliators of Sugar Maples: Jeff Duflo, Duflo Aerial Spray Co.

2 pm

Tentative: Wasp as an Eradicant for Emerald Ash Borer in NYS: Warren Hellman, NY Biomonitoring Technician

3 pm

Tentative: Wild Edible Foods From Your Forest

4 pm

New/Updated DOT Regulations for Commercial Vehicles & Operators: Dick Charles, Charles Safety Management

Save the Date!

October 17-19, 2010

8th Biennial Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group Conference

Short rotation woody crops (SRWC) are being developed as a sustainable supply of woody biomass for the production of bioenergy, biofuels and bioproducts as well as for traditional solid wood and fiber products. Interest in SRWC has developed in the past because of multiple environmental and rural development benefits associated with their production and use, and most recently because of increasing concerns about dependence on and impacts associated with the consumption of fossil fuels.

As a result of increasing interest in SRWC the amount of related activity is expanding rapidly. The 8th Biennial Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group conference is an excellent forum to learn about the latest developments

in the science, production, harvesting, use and policies related to SRWC. The conference will also explore challenges and opportunities of successful commercialization of SRWC as a source of fiber or as an energy feedstock material. Please join us in Syracuse, NY from October 17 — 19, 2010 to learn more about SRWC and their role in the growing renewable energy economy and traditional forest industries.

A field trip included in the conference will highlight a demonstration of the SRWC single pass cut and chip harvesting system that has been developed by Case New Holland and a stop at a large scale alternative cover project using shrub willows. Post-conference tours will include stops at a pellet manufacturing facility, a wood-fired combined heat and power facility and hybrid poplar and willow plantations in New York State and Ontario, Canada.

The conference will be held adjacent to the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry campus in Syracuse, NY at the Syracuse University Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center.

For more information visit: www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/2010/srwc

Maple Sugarbush Management & Tubing Workshop

Monday September 27, 2010, Time TBD. The location will be the Orebed Sugar Shack located on Orebed Road in the town of DeKalb in central St. Lawrence County. Field instruction will be held by Cornell Maple Program Specialist Mike Farrell & CCE State Extension Forester Pete Smalledge. For more information and pre-registration, please contact CCE of St. Lawrence County at (315) 379-9192.

Low Impact ATV Logging Workshop

Sunday September 26, 2010, Time TBD. Field instruction will be held somewhere in St. Lawrence County and will include how to conduct low impact logging with the use of all terrain vehicles as well as chainsaw safety & felling techniques. Instruction will be done by CCE State Extension Forester Pete Smalledge. For more information and Pre-registration please contact CCE of St. Lawrence County at (315) 379-9192. ▲

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This is an attractive option for landowners who would like to see their property used but do not have the time or inclination to get into maple production.

Tap Your Trees and Sell Sap to a Nearby Producer

Many people collect and sell sap to a nearby producer rather than building their own sugarhouse. If you do not have the time or financial resources to develop a full-scale sugaring operation, working with a nearby producer makes economic and practical sense.

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Member Profile: *Diane Church*

CARLY NEUMANN

Diane Church lives on 3,200 acres of woodlands in St. Lawrence County. She worked as a social worker for 35 years and upon her retirement bought the 3,200 acre plot along with 80 other joint owners. She is one of two members that reside on the property year-round. Diane is also a certified naturalist who loves the outdoors.

She credits her father for fostering her love of the outdoors by taking her out into the woods as a child. He taught her how to fish and she is now an avid fly fisherwoman. She is also involved in the Sport and Aquatic Resource Educational Program (SAREP). Church is involved in various educational activities and believes that we need to educate youth

because “We’ve taken too much nature out of the children.” She works with 4-H to bring kids into the forest. “People need to pay attention to what we have and understand how important it is to preserve the forest.” She occasionally leads workshops about tree identification and wildflower identification for children each spring. She is also a hunter safety instructor and teaches classes for that as well.

Church has a self-sustaining home that is off the power grid. She set up running hot and cold water with the help of her grandson. A generator is the source of most of her energy with some solar power although she hopes to do more with solar power in the future. She manages the



The trees are on the way into and out of Diane’s drive to the cabin.

area around her cabin although she doesn’t call it work “because being in the forest isn’t work.” She makes good use of the forest around her, this year she collected her largest crop of morel mushrooms. She also collects fiddlehead ferns and hunts ginseng. She also worked on a project to grow shitake mushrooms. She enjoys birding on her property and was thrilled to hear Whippoorwills in recent years.

Church and her close friend Martha Grow are in the process of writing a book called “May the Forest Be with You.” “We have taken ourselves back to the early 1900’s writing letters back and forth.” The book is about women taking back the forest because years ago women were very involved in the woodlands. Together Church and Grow enjoy kayaking and enjoying the forest around them. The two contributed to a recently published book *The Plants of St. Lawrence County*. They both take advantage of opportunities to continue to build their knowledge. Church is a New York Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer and also the North East Coordinator for the



The first snow and how fresh everything looked at Diane’s cabin.

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This metal bird sculpture is at the entrance to Diane's cabin welcoming friends and neighbors.

Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program. Diane and Martha sometimes travel great distances to attend MFO Volunteer refresher courses around the state.

The 3,200-acre woodlot has an interesting history, including the ruins of an old church. The property was once the site of a Methodist Church. Current property owners roped off the location where the church once stood and some of the foundation still stands. More important, however, is the purpose of the land. The woodlot also was used as a hunting club but since purchase, has been

transformed into a family-oriented recreational area. Parts of the forest were logged and clear-cut in the past and Church believes that clear-cutting had a positive effect in the forest's regeneration. The property features a large clubhouse that all the members share as a place for family members to enjoy when they are visiting.

The joint members of the woodland property are clustered geographically throughout the woodlands. Church has taken time to teach the others near her area about managing their portion of the forest

including thinning the stands. She also keeps up with invasive species management in both her learning and teaching. As far as management goes, she believes that you need to know your woodlands, and its history.

Church loves the forest, more than being involved in any organization. "The forest is such a peaceful place to be, there is so much out there and so much to do, I never get bored." Her advice to others... "even if you do a little, it can be a lot, and don't be afraid to tackle a large amount of land." 🌲

Carly Neumann is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Dept. of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853. Dr. Shorna Allred is the faculty advisor for the Member Profile Series.



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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the September/October 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.



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