

# 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*

November/December 2010



*Member Profile: Sydney Antonio*

*Volume 48 Number 6*



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PO Box 1281  
Pittsford, NY 14535; (585) 414-6511

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7885 Center Road  
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**Liana Gooding, Office Administrator**

PO Box 541  
Lima, NY 14485; (800) 836-3566  
lgooding@nyfoa.org

**Peter Smallidge, Chair Editorial Committee and  
Ex-Officio Board Member**

Cornell University, Fernow Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 592 3640

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**The New York  
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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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.

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**COVER:** Family picture taken Thanksgiving 2007 on Sydney Antonio's property. Shown are her daughter, Ashley Antonio, granddaughter Kaiya Schneider, husband Evon Antonio, Sydney and her cousin, Hennon Lucas. Their dogs Tucker and Kalli are also included. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Antonio's.

# From The President

A number of people have asked me recently why there seem to be a bunch of organizations all doing the same thing: NYFOA, Tree Farm, Master Forest Owners, consulting foresters and DEC foresters and other natural resource professionals with various government agencies. A lot of names and acronyms get thrown around, and it can be confusing for somebody who is new to the field. The truth is that each



of these organizations has a distinct role in helping landowners manage their property, and that while there is overlap among our efforts we try to work together so each organization can do what it does best.

Consulting foresters and state or federal natural resource staff are professionals; they have the education and experience to provide detailed technical advice on a wide range of topics. Professionals need to make a living and their advice and assistance is usually money well spent; I feel I have gotten excellent value for the money I have spent on a consulting forester.

Master Forest Owners are volunteers who visit your property, typically just once, to help you understand your property and guide you in getting started with taking an active role in managing it. This is an extremely helpful program that NYFOA has been happy to support for many years.

Tree Farm is a certification organization. To be eligible for certification, you have to meet minimum requirements in acreage, have a qualified management plan and maintain that plan to meet the international standards of sustainable forest management.

NYFOA is an educational organization. We don't require that you own a minimum number of acres, or that you own any property at all; and we don't require that you do anything in particular as a condition of membership. Our mission is to promote the preservation and health of New York's forests, and we try to do that by helping people understand their woodlots, realize the benefits and enjoyment they can get from their woodlots, and giving them opportunities to interact with other like-minded people.

The Forest Owner magazine that you are reading now is one way we try to provide education to our members. This is an easy

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

one; it shows up in your mailbox and you can read it at your leisure. But there is no substitute for meeting other landowners in person and seeing work in the field. If you have not been to a woodwalk recently, try to get to one in the coming months. If there is a particular topic that you would like to see addressed by a woodwalk or a speaker, suggest it to your chapter leadership or, even better, offer to help organize it for your chapter. Getting involved in your chapter is a great way to meet some experienced landowners and get even more from your NYFOA membership. 🌲

—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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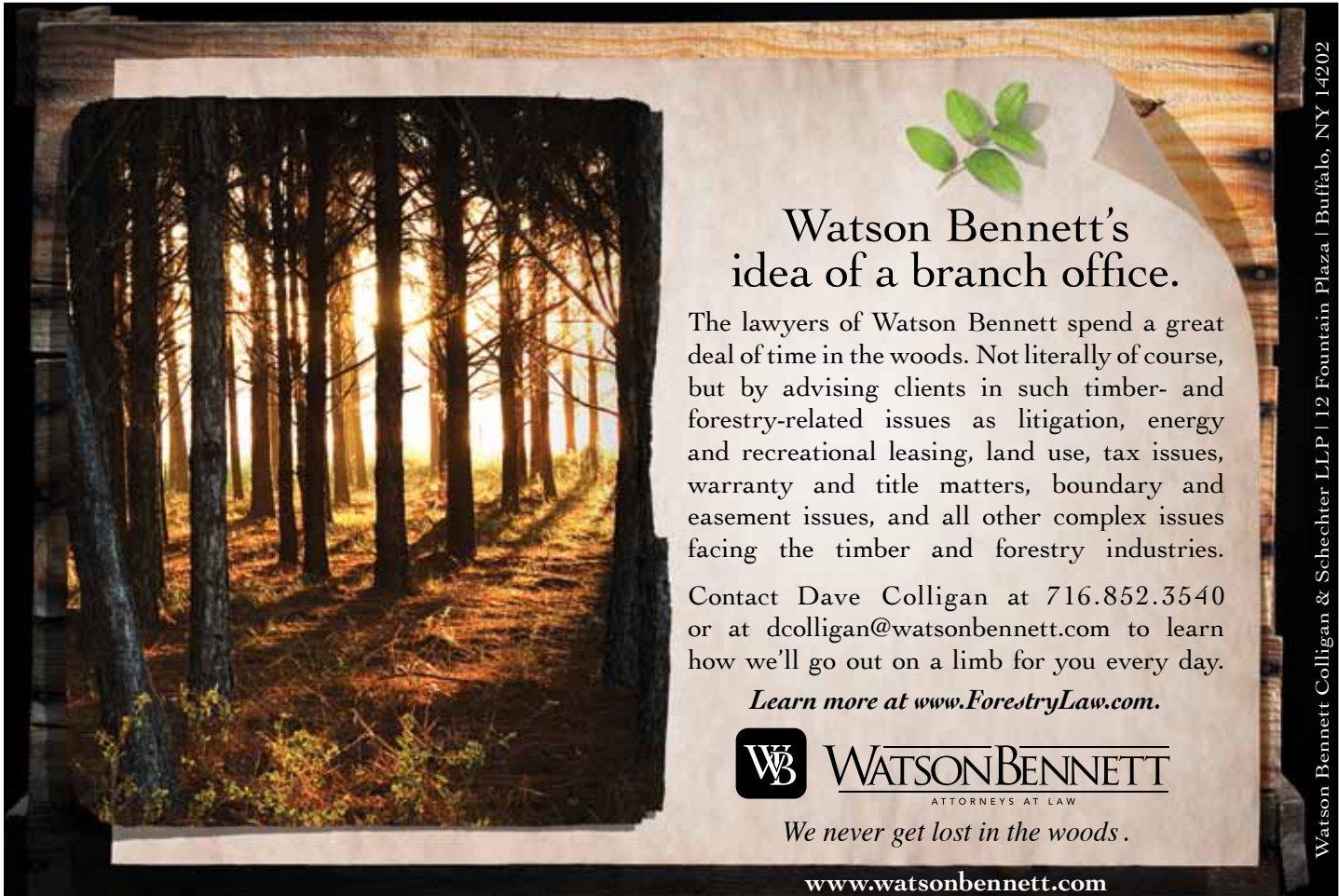
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# OBITUARY

## *Robert M. Sand*

**R**obert "Bob" Morris Sand 85, of Liverpool, New York, formerly of Odessa, New York, passed away unexpectedly on Monday September 6, 2010.

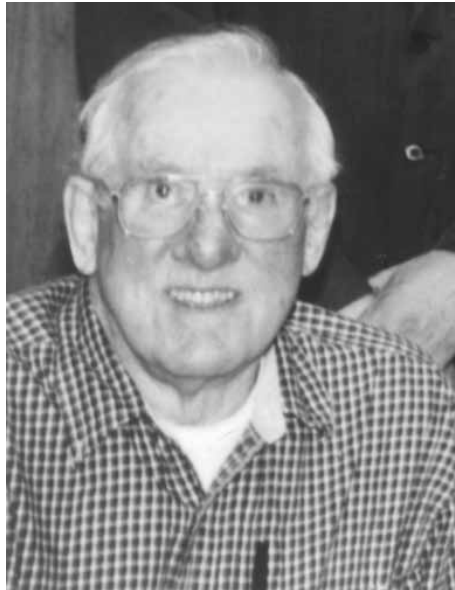
Bob was born June 20, 1925, in Lockport, New York, to Seaward A. and Gertrude Sand. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Dr. S. Alwyn Jr., Kenneth and Paul; as well as his wife of 54 years, Betty Lou Stoune Sand, "Lulu." He is survived by his wife of four years, Nancy Frantzen Sand.

Bob graduated from high school in Niagara Falls in 1942. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, from 1943-1946. He graduated from the College of Forestry in Syracuse in June of 1950. He was the first chief forester to Cotton-Hanlon Inc, retiring in 1991, after a 40- year career.

Bob was an active member of NYFOA and in 1993 was awarded a 30th Anniversary special recognition award. Bob also received the Heiberg Award in 1988 for his outstanding contributions in the fields of forestry and conservation.

Bob was also a member of the NY Society of American Foresters, serving as both president and vice president. In 1963 he became a chartered member and received a 50-year award for his service.

Bob was a dedicated and active member of the SUNY ESF Alumni Association and College Foundation Boards. Bob was one of the college's most loyal and generous donors and an outspoken advocate for ESF. He served as chairman of the SUNY-ESF Alumni Association for four years, speaking at their commencements. He also helped endow the ESF Bauer-Sand Scholarship award for ESF students.



Bob thoroughly enjoyed spending time on his various forest properties. One of his many claims to fame was that he planted 1,500,001 Christmas trees over his lifetime.

A member of the Odessa Lions Club for over 50 years, Bob twice served as president. He was a member of the Odessa United Methodist Church for 60 years. He was a dedicated and generous member of Liverpool First United Methodist Church.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Nancy; children, Dr. Mark Sand (Leslie) of Winter Park, Florida, Paula Sand German (Jack) of Provo, Utah, Lisa Sand Sullivan (Hal) of Chicago, Illinois, and Kristen Sand Wooten (Aubry) of Atlanta, Georgia; many grandchildren, great grandchildren, beloved nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

Bob was a great friend to New York forestry and a mentor to many people. He will be dearly missed but certainly not forgotten. 🌲

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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](mailto:pjs23@cornell.edu) with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at [www.forestconnect.info](http://www.forestconnect.info)*

## Question:

If I want to become more active in my woodlot, do I need to talk with a forester, how do I find one, and what should I expect?

## Answer:

A landowner who plans any management activity in their forest should seek advice and counsel from a forester. The logical basis for the recommendation to seek assistance is consistent with advice to the homeowner who seeks counsel from a plumber, electrician, attorney, or a tax preparer when confronted by a new situation. In these examples, we need technical information and perhaps assistance with complex decision-making. Typically, our efficiency and the results improve when we get advice from a professional. We almost always pay for these services.

The exception to the "pay for services" rule is when a DEC public service forester visits a woodlot. In those cases, the DEC forester arrives pre-paid through your state and federal tax dollars and provides services free of any additional charges. Public-sector foresters will provide many important services, such as develop-

ing a stewardship management plan based on your objectives. Because of time constraints and work-load demands, DEC foresters must limit the variety of services they provide. At some point, you may need to locate a private-sector forester.

There is no legal definition of a forester in New York, but the profes-

sion recognizes a forester as a person who has completed college-level training that has a forestry focus. This education most often includes a 4-year degree, in a science-based curriculum that emphasizes courses that often include tree identification, forest ecology, forest management, soils, forest measurements, silviculture, wildlife management, hydrology, harvesting, recreation, and more. Other foresters have a 2-year degree, with more limited course work. All foresters should expand on their original education with continuing education. Foresters work in either the public sector, as described above, or the private sector. Foresters in the private sector include consultants whose primary business is providing



*Foresters have the training and tools necessary to take measurements in your woods, assess the health and growth of your trees, and make recommendations on action you can take to achieve your ownership objectives.*



*Landowners should try to walk in their woods with their forester. Time spent with the forester will help you convey your interests, learn about the ecology and management of your woods, and generally strengthen the relationship you have with your forester.*

services to landowners or industrial foresters who work for the forest industry and provide services to landowners as part of the process of supplying wood to the mill. All foresters are important to forestry

in New York. The landowner pays the consultant a fee and the industrial forester is paid by the mill. Landowners should consider both consultant and industrial foresters when looking to develop a relation-



*Foresters should work with owners to review their management plan and strategize a work schedule. Building a relationship with a forester takes time, but is an important process for the long term health and sustainability of your woods.*

ship with a private sector forester. The extent to which any forester can service the specific needs of the landowner depends on many factors, such as technical ability, conflicts of interest, business philosophy, personal ethics, landowner resources to invest, and the landowner's ability to communicate their ownership objectives to the forester.

A group of people will try to present themselves as a forester wanting to help the landowner. These people are actually timber brokers, loggers, or perhaps trained foresters who de-emphasize their forestry skills to work as brokers. This group of people seeks only to maximize their own profits and often disregard the landowner's objectives. When hiring a forester you are buying a service and "Buyer Beware."

Loggers are critical to many forestry processes, and unfortunately they are often maligned. Loggers are trained to harvest trees in a safe and effective manner. They can often construct skid trails and haul roads, which your forester should locate, that you can subsequently use for hiking or skiing. However, loggers are not trained to give technical advice on how to sustainably manage your woods to meet the full range of your ownership objectives. Your forester, and many educational web sites, can help you think about the process of selecting a logger.

Plan to spend an adequate amount of time when selecting a forester. There is no single criterion to use. Rather, select a forester based on a combination of factors. These factors include:

- educational background,
- involvement in continuing education,
- participation in their professional forestry society,
- work experience,
- references,
- your visit to their previous jobs,

*continued on page 16*

# New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



## Dear Modern Tree Farmer,

Very few of the people who own forest land are in the "business" of growing timber, in fact, only about eight percent are in the business of growing anything, that's the few who are farmers. Most forest owners are either inheritors or investors, even by accident when the land came with the new house. Many were looking for wildlife and outdoor recreation, or even list aesthetics as their primary objectives for their land. That is, if they have any concrete objectives at all. If you can't answer the long-term goal question on every foresters list, you're not alone!

Now, here's the problem, only five percent of current forest owners having property greater than 10 acres in size have a written plan, of any kind, in place that sets out how they want their forests to be managed. Often because of this, fewer than 20 percent consult a professional forester before they harvest timber. Forest owners with a tangible, written management plan are much more likely to call the guy who helped them put it together before they make any major decisions.



Why is this a problem, you ask? Because most of those forest owners ultimately do cut trees. Sustaining forested landscapes depend on getting more sustainable forestry on more acres. And that depends

on getting more landowners to think purposefully about what to do with their woodlands. Sound, sustainable forests begin with determining objectives, deciding what resources are available on your land, and developing a written forest management plan that meets your forest needs for generations to come.

Your management plan will include your name and address as well as the location and description of your property. It will describe the current condition of your timber and resources, as well as your future desired conditions. The management plan will also list the ever dreaded goals and management objectives! Some items that are required in a management plan meeting Tree Farm standards are forest health, including invasive species and the insects we all keep droning on about, the soils, water and water quality issues, threatened and endangered species, and special

ecological, cultural and historic sites. A professional forester can answer your questions and help you develop your management plan.

I hope this helps as you strive toward understanding and implementing sustainable forestry and leave a legacy for future generations. With all this in mind, if you'd like to learn more about the American Tree Farm

System & Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification, remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail ([nytreefarm@hotmail.com](mailto:nytreefarm@hotmail.com)) away. 🌲

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



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You will receive an email every two months that includes 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.



# Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



NYFOA member Arthur Wagner submitted this photo of his granddaughter Caitlin Rose Wagner. She had just helped transplant a white pine at the Wagner Family Tree Farm. Caitlin is a 5th generation Wagner enjoying the Farm in Broome county.

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!

## Make Your Own Paper

Paper is one of the many forest products we use every day. In fact, Americans use 749 pounds of paper every year for writing, wrapping gifts, packing our groceries and blowing our noses. Paper is made from pulp, which mainly comes from woodchips and recycled paper. Woodchips are ground, mixed with water (and sometimes chemicals), and then heated which separates the fibers. These fibers are then sent through giant rollers that compress them into paper.

Most of us don't have the ability to make paper from woodchips at home, but we can make paper from recycled paper. Handmade paper is a fun and practical project for kids of all ages. The project below was adapted from Cornell Waste Management Institute's "Trash Goes to School" resource.

### MATERIALS:

- A large baking pan/or kitchen tub
- A large jar, can or rolling pin
- A large spoon
- blender (optional)
- For every 2-3 pieces of paper:
  - 3 pieces of stiff window screen 5" square (one for each piece)



- 2 cups of hot water
- 2 8-1/2 x 11 pieces of paper (used paper is perfect)
- 2 Tbls. of liquid starch
- 6 pieces of blotting paper (ordinary paper) the same size as the screen (two for each piece)
- 6 sections of newspaper (two for each piece)

### PROCEDURE:

1. Make the pulp: Tear paper into very small pieces in the pan (do not cut, it will shorten the fibers). Add 2 cups of hot water and stir for 3-5 minutes to make pulp. Process in a blender for best results.
2. Add starch and stir 3 more minutes.
3. Pour the pulp out into a shallow pan.
4. Slide screen under the paper pulp and move around until screen is completely covered.
5. Lift screen out, let it drain a few seconds, then place it on a piece of blotting paper on top of a section of newspaper. Place another sheet of blotting paper on top, and then the second section of newspaper.
6. Press the excess water out by rolling the jar, can or rolling pin over the newspaper. Remove the top newspaper,

turn the blotting paper sandwich over and take off the top piece of blotting paper and the screen.

7. Let your new paper dry for 2 hours, then loosen it from the blotting paper then gently peel off. Let your new paper dry overnight before writing on it.

Thinner paper is easier to work with, so don't pile too much on the screen. For more colorful paper, add some torn colored paper to the blender, or add sparkles, flower petals or other small colorful objects. You can perfume the paper by adding scents to the water, or make the paper into a garden by adding seeds to the pan before screening.

Paper is essential to our everyday lives. On average it takes 17 trees to make a ton of paper. By recycling paper we use less new trees per ton, but during the recycling process some of the wood fibers are lost. Were you able to make the same amount of paper as you started with? Wood fibers can be used seven times before they become too small to make paper.

Think about what you can do with your new paper; be creative. When the paper is still damp, you can fold or mold it into shapes that it will retain when dry. 🌲

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

# Improve Your Woodlot for Wildlife

KRISTI SULLIVAN

## MINK (*MUSTELA VISON*)



*The mink is a semi-aquatic member of the family Mustelidae. Its relatives include weasels, martens, fishers, wolverines, badgers, and otters. The mink occurs throughout New York State in areas with suitable habitat.*

*Adult male mink average two feet in length, including an 8-inch tail. They weigh 1.5 to 2 pounds. Female mink are slightly smaller than males and weigh up to half a pound less. Like weasels, the mink has short legs, a 6-8 inch bushy tail, a long neck and body, short head, and a pointed muzzle. A mink's coat is thick, full and soft. The fur is dark chocolate brown on the back, blending into a slightly lighter shade on the belly. A distinguishing characteristic of mink is a small, white patch of fur on the chin.*

Mink are very active and inquisitive animals, with a keen sense of smell and sight. They are most active at night and in early morning. On land, they move with a quick, bounding lope, which they can continue for miles. This characteristic lope leaves paired tracks, which stand out in the winter snow along stream banks and beaver ponds. Mink are at home in the water as well. They swim and dive with ease.

Mink occupy a wide variety of wetland habitats but are most commonly found along streams and beaver dams in undeveloped rural areas. Here, they can be seen traveling from one stream bank to the other, investigating nearly every hole, crack, crevice and overhang that may hide a potential meal. Mink are best suited for

areas with very good water quality, because these waters will hold the greatest concentrations and varieties of prey. Like most mustelids, they are agile and fierce fighters, killing prey with a hard bite to the back of the skull. Prey includes muskrats, mice, rabbits, shrews, fish, frogs, crayfish, insects, snakes, waterfowl, and other land birds. Mink are opportunists, feeding on whatever is most abundant or most easily caught. They occasionally kill more than they can eat and will cache carcasses in the winter and revisit them to feed. In turn, mink are prey for foxes, bobcats and great horned owls. In the wild, mink typically live to be two or three years old.

To find enough prey, a male uses a home range up to three square miles,

while a female's range is much smaller. Individual territories overlap, and several animals in succession may use the same den. One mink will have several dens along its hunting route. They den in abandoned woodchuck tunnels, hollow logs, vacant muskrat lodges, holes in stone piles and beneath large tree roots. Dens are usually near water and may have more than one entrance. Mink line their nests with dried grass, leaves and feathers.

Overall habitat requirements for mink include an abundant food supply, permanent water, and undeveloped shores. Woodland owners who would like to enhance habitat for mink can focus on protecting water quality, and limiting the use of pesticides on lands adjacent to water. High

# NYFOA CALENDAR

## **Parcelizing the Catskills and “The Boiled Frog Syndrome” Film**

Date: Friday, November 12

Registration deadline: November 10

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Where: Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23 in Acra, New York

Cost: Free

Pre-register by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension 518-622-9820 or emailing [greenec@cornell.edu](mailto:greenec@cornell.edu)

Parcelization leading to fragmentation has been identified as a significant threat to the rural landscape from both ecological and economic perspectives. As a response to this, two Catskill Mountain residents, Art Siegel and Jack McShane, felt that the continuing development of their beloved Catskills was similar to the changes in the natural environments in which they grew up and loved. Art, who has produced a number of other films, directed, interviewed key people including leaders or regional organizations, did flyovers and rendered the film you will view. Jack generously subsidized it. The purpose of the film is to assist us all in making thoughtful decisions and help protect what we have and enjoy here in the Catskill Mountains and surrounding region. Jack and Art will be present for a follow-up discussion.

## **Woodland Stewardship: A Primer for Woodland Landowners**

Date: Saturday, December 11

Registration deadline: December 9

Time: 1:00-4:30 pm

Where: Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Agroforestry Resource Center,

6055 Route 23 in Acra, New York

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Pre-register by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension 518-622-9820 or emailing [greenec@cornell.edu](mailto:greenec@cornell.edu)

Presenters: Carl Wiedemann, Capital District Chapter of New York Forest Owners Association; Marilyn Wyman, Natural Resource Extension Educator; Peter J. Smallidge, Ph.D., NYS Extension Forester and Director, Cornell University’s Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Speaker from Columbia Land Conservancy, Jens Braun, Woodlot Owner.

Did you know that over 60% of New York State is forested and of that 85% of these forests are owned by private forest landowners? Would you like to learn how you can protect the environment and supplement your income too? Are you interested in learning how a conservation easement might be an appropriate strategy for your forested land? Often private forest landowners don’t know the important role they play or the many resources available to them. This workshop will provide forest landowners an overview of forestry in New York State, opportunities and local resources available to help them make informed decisions and experiences of forest landowners who have incorporated their —land ethic’ into appropriate forest stewardship practices. You will also learn how you can improve the value of your forest by Dr. Peter Smallidge, Cornell University’s State Extension Forester. Attendees will receive interesting and free material on topics such as how to choose firewood trees, forest gardening and much more. All participants will receive a *FREE* 72 page tree identification field guide.

*Co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County, Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council, New York Forest Owner Association and Columbia Land Conservancy. Funds from the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District support this program.*

## **Mark your calendar for the annual Harvest and Holiday Forest Farmers Market Saturday, December 4 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

CCE’s Agroforestry Resource Center will be hosting a *Harvest and Holiday Forest Farmers Market*. This free event highlights wonderful edible agroforestry products such as honey as well as other “farmers market” favorites from local farms to help you make this a delicious and memorable holiday season. There will also be gifts from regional craftsmen to round out your holiday list and lovely items to decorate your home using native materials. So plan on stopping by and support your local farms and craftsmen.

## **2010 Trained Logger Certification Courses**


The Trained Logger Certification (TLC) program was developed to provide loggers a comprehensive training program that covers tree felling techniques, Forest Ecology and Silviculture practices and First Aid/CPR skills. For a listing of programs covering these three areas of importance to loggers, including the Game of Logging that teaches appropriate chainsaw use and safety courses, contact:

Marilyn Wyman

518-622-9820 ext 36

[www.nyloggertraining.org](http://www.nyloggertraining.org).

quality, pesticide-free water improves insect populations, which in turn provide food for animals that mink prey upon, like frogs. Woodland owners can also create riparian and wetland buffers, and protect existing buffers from development. Brush piles can

be made to serve as denning sites, if naturally occurring dens are not available. A few large trees felled and left on the ground can provide future logs for feeding and denning. Dead wood protruding into the water will provide cover for prey items as well. 

*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](http://arnotconservation.info)*

# 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

## GOT THE TENT CATERPILLAR BLUES?

BY DYLAN PARRY

If you have spent time in the woods in May or June over the past five years, you have undoubtedly encountered the all-too-familiar forest tent caterpillar (FTC) and its rather dramatic effects on hardwood forests throughout the state. Although most people can identify the distinctive (and attractive, in my opinion) larvae with their bluish bodies and white 'footprint' markings along their back, much misinformation exists about their ecology and effects on forested ecosystems.

Unlike gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and other invasive insects garnering media attention, FTC is a native insect. Found in virtually all hardwood forest types throughout North America, this insect is one of a small selective group of moths characterized by periodic population outbreaks, sometimes over vast areas. An outbreak in Ontario, Canada was reported to have covered more than 25 million acres, perhaps the largest insect defoliation event ever recorded in North America! Caterpillars were so numerous, it was reported that rail crews applied sand on upgrades because locomotive wheels were spinning as they crushed the wandering larvae.

In New York, we have a long history of outbreaks going back into the mid-1800's. Although there is usually some defoliation somewhere in the state every year, region wide

outbreaks occur at approximately 10-year intervals. Within individual stands, 20 years or more may elapse between defoliation events. The long intervening periods between high population levels contributes to public alarm because few people remember the last outbreak, so it seems like something unusual is occurring in our forests.

The most recent outbreak in New York began in 2002 with small seemingly innocuous patches of defoliation totaling a few thousand

acres in St. Lawrence and Lewis counties. By 2006, more than 2 million acres of FTC defoliation were recorded across NY, MA, VT, and NH, making it the largest outbreak in the Northeast in a half century. While populations collapsed across much of northern New York, VT, and NH in 2006, and MA in 2007, extensive defoliation has continued to occur every year through 2010 in south-central NY and southern tier counties. Although central New York populations now appear

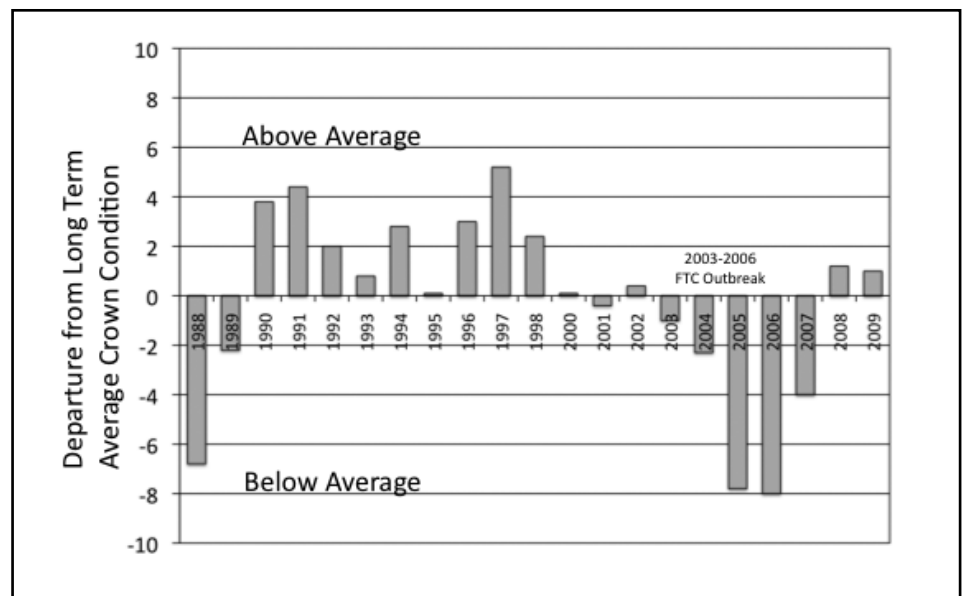


Figure 1. Vigor of sugar maple in long-term monitoring plots (part of a network of plots established as part of the North American Maple Project NAMF) in Vermont before and after the most recent (2003-2006) forest tent caterpillar outbreak. Trained personnel from state forest agencies visit plots annually and assess the crown condition and growth of trees. Positive values show percent improvement in tree health (crown condition index) above the long-term average. The data suggest that trees at most sites regained their vigor once the outbreak subsided. Data from Vermont Forest Health Highlights 2009 ([http://fhn.fs.fed.us/fjh/fhh\\_09/vt\\_fhh\\_09.pdf](http://fhn.fs.fed.us/fjh/fhh_09/vt_fhh_09.pdf)).



Figure 2. Extensive sugar maple dieback and whole tree mortality near Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks in 2009. This area had severe defoliation in only a single year (2006) but poor growing conditions and other factors such as historical land use likely exacerbated the stress of defoliation and the stand is now in a state of advanced decline. (Photo D. Parry)

to be on the decline, it is likely that new areas of defoliation will continue to spread in the southwest part of the state.

Dramatic transformation of lush spring forests to a winter in summer landscape by the middle of June alarms many landowners who fear the worst for the health of their woods. Should landowners be worried and what can or should they do? That is a tough question and depends on a lot of different factors. The first thing to consider is that healthy hardwood trees are remarkably resilient to even severe defoliation episodes. On a good site, a healthy stand can withstand a single or even two consecutive years of complete defoliation with little long-term effect. Hardwood trees have the capacity to re-foliate by breaking dormant buds and producing a second set of leaves to replace those lost to the caterpillars. This is, however, physiologically expensive and diameter and height growth will certainly be reduced as the tree allocates resources to re-foliation.

Most trees will have some minor branch dieback following defoliation and suppressed or already unhealthy trees may die, but overall stand health is often little changed when measured after an outbreak subsides (Figure 1).

On the other hand, when defoliation is coupled with additional stress factors such as drought and/or poor site quality, stand health can deteriorate rapidly following even a single defoliation event. The effects of the 2004-2006 defoliations in the North Country are very evident today. In St. Lawrence County extensive areas of sugar maple dieback and whole tree mortality can be seen throughout the Route 3 corridor from Harrisville through the Cranberry Lake area. In some stands, more than 70% of the maple is dead even though many of these areas were heavily defoliated only once (Figure 2). In contrast, little mortality is evident in areas of central New York that have been defoliated 3 out of the last 4 years, illustrating the influence of site and environ-

ment on the outcome of defoliation. Regardless of pre-defoliation stand health, forest owners do need to avoid inflicting any additional stress such as thinning or selective harvest until after the outbreak subsides. Trees undergoing defoliation have reduced capacity to recover from wounding whether it is from logging equipment or tap holes for syrup production.

Forest tent caterpillar outbreaks are usually short-lived at any given location and typically consist of a year of light defoliation as the population builds, a year of heavy defoliation and then a decline in the local population as natural enemies proliferate (diseases such as the NPV virus and the fungus *Furia gastropachae*, and parasitic insects, especially the so-called 'friendly fly', the large, annoying gray and black striped flies which attack the cocoons) and stress from

*continued on page 14*

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## TENT CATERPILLAR BLUES (continued)

food limitation reduces the population. Of course, variations in these population dynamics occur and some areas, for example Highland County Forest (Onondaga County) experienced moderate to heavy defoliation for four consecutive years, while Bear Swamp State Forest at the south end of Skaneateles Lake in Cayuga County was defoliated 3 out of 4 years, as was Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins County).

Management options for FTC are limited in large part because the spatial scale of outbreaks is so large. It is certainly possible to protect small areas of high value trees for economic or esthetic reasons (campgrounds, lake associations, etc.) but over larger areas, costs become prohibitive. Several chemical and biological insecticides are licensed for tent caterpillar control although success is often equivocal. Larvae emerge from eggs very early in spring, usually coinciding with bud break, and grow rapidly as the leaves expand. This creates a relatively small window when spraying can be successful because you need enough leaf development to provide sufficient surface area to hold the spray (as well as a rain free application period) but at the same time, the susceptibility of

caterpillars diminishes rapidly as they grow larger. Furthermore, if only a small area is sprayed, caterpillars will wander extensively from adjacent unsprayed forests and re-infest stands protected earlier in the season. Most landowners will likely accrue little benefit from spraying and should let nature run its course. Increment growth relative to unsprayed areas would need to be balanced against the cost of the spray operation to accurately assess the cost/benefit of active management for this insect, calculations, that to my knowledge have not been published for FTC. We need to remember that this is a native insect, hardwood forests are adapted to occasional periods of defoliation, and once the current outbreak has collapsed, we may not see another one for at least a decade and probably a lot longer in many areas. So if you are singing the tent caterpillar blues, be heartened, we are a long way into this outbreak cycle and the end is likely coming soon. 🌲

*Dylan Parry is Associate Professor and Forest Entomologist at SUNY-ESF*

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

Do you want access to woodlot, wildlife, agroforestry, maple and other related information at your finger tips? Internet resources exist and help connect NY woodland owners to unbiased research-based information. Check out Cornell Cooperative Extension – Woodlots on the Internet

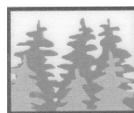
- Publications, webinars, links to resources, FAQs, and more at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info)
- Got Questions (and answers) at [www.ForestConnect.info/forum](http://www.ForestConnect.info/forum)
- Calendar of workshops offered by the CCE Department of Natural Resources [www.DNRCCE.com](http://www.DNRCCE.com)
- Social networking via [www.FaceBook.com](http://www.FaceBook.com) search for “ForestConnect”
- Micro blogging at [www.Twitter.com/CornellWoodlot](http://www.Twitter.com/CornellWoodlot)

## Got Trees? Got Questions?

Visit the new Woodland Owner's Forum at:

<http://ForestConnect.info/forum>

to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across New York.



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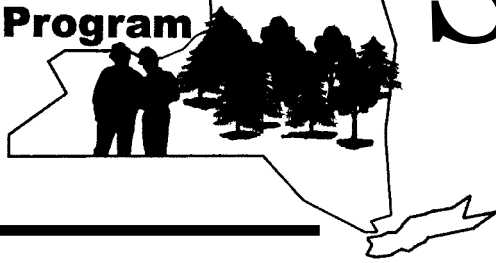
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**NY Master Forest  
Owner/COVERTS  
Program**



# Stories from the Woods

GARY GOFF

*The goal of the MFO/COVERTS Program is to provide private forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests to enhance ownership satisfaction.*

## Yours for the asking!


*A free, no-obligation visit from a volunteer neighbor*

The NY Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer Program has over 200 volunteers available state-wide, ready and able to meet with you to walk your property and discuss your ownership objectives. They are experienced forest owners who have accomplished much on their lands and are ready to share that experience with you. In addition, they all have completed a 4-day training conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension where they broadened their knowledge regarding a host of management topics of interest to all forest owners. Through that training and annual refresher workshops they are a

valuable local resource that can help you find the assistance you need to establish and accomplish your ownership goals. Their motivation is strictly voluntary, based on their desire to promote good forest stewardship in their community.

If you are interested in having such a half-day visit to your woodlot, contact a volunteer from the listing on the program website [www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/index.htm](http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/index.htm). The first name listed in each of the regions is the regional coordinator who knows all of the volunteers in their region and can suggest the specific volunteer that will best match up with your interests. Alternatively,

you can call your county Cornell Cooperative Extension office and speak to an Extension Educator who also has the listing on hand.

If you are interested in becoming a MFO volunteer, new trainings take place each September at Cornell's Arnot Forest. Applications and information about those trainings also is on the website. 

### Program Results

The MFO program has helped over 1,000 forest owners via on-site visits since its inception in 1991. The program has shown very encouraging results. Mail surveys of owners who were visited by MFOs, showed that the value of information received was rated a 4.2 on a 5-point scale. As a result of the visit:

- 34% of the forest owners prepared a written management plan, and 18% plan to do so.
- 60% of the forest owners met with a professional forester, and another 20% plan to do so.
- 32% of the forest owners implemented wildlife management practices, and 21% plan to do so.
- 42% of the forest owners sought out more information on forest management, and another 7% plan to do so.
- 20% of the forest owners used the information to save or earn on average \$7,000 in the year preceding the survey.



*The 2010 class of MFO volunteers*

## Ask a Professional (continued)

- a stated and demonstrated commitment to sustainable practices,
- certification through a professional society or independent organization, and
- their personal interactions with you.

Price for services is an issue, but this is a secondary consideration after you are satisfied with the other factors.

Finding potential foresters in your region is a straightforward but daunting task. Here are five strategies that, if used together, will help you build a list of potential private sector foresters.

1. Start with a copy of the DEC Cooperating Forester Directory from your local DEC office or their website. The directory isn't a complete list of foresters in the state and those listed meet minimum eligibility requirements.

2. Go to the Society of American Foresters webpage and look for Certified Foresters in your area. Foresters are certified by SAF based on education, work experience, statement of work ethic, and a written exam that evaluates competency. Additionally, many NY consulting

foresters are members of the NY Institute of Consulting Foresters or the Association of Consulting Foresters.

3. Talk with other woodlot owners and look for advertisements in forest owner magazines. The next NYFOA chapter gathering is a great place to talk with other owners to learn some names of potential foresters.

4. Ask for a free visit and consultation with volunteers in Cornell's Master Forest Owner program. These landowner-volunteers are trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide non-technical assistance. They have typically experienced, and overcome, the same problems you're currently dealing with.

5. Attend landowner workshops and woodswalks to meet with the foresters who are investing time in supporting the landowner educational needs.

Once you've selected your forester, how do you negotiate and foster a relationship? Foresters will encourage you to have a contract with a logger, and similarly they should be receptive to a contract with you. An example of a contract is available at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info) — be sure

to review any contract with your attorney.

In the forestry profession there is considerable discussion and debate about service fees. There are two categories of service — one is timber sale design and administration and the other is broadly grouped as woodland management activities. One of the most contentious issues among foresters is payment for assistance with timber sales. I won't address pay scale or amount, but rather payment method.

Some, but not all, industrial foresters won't charge you directly for services because they may expect the timber to be sold to their mill, and under some circumstances this is a desirable working relationship. Many mills have been established for decades and seek long-term sustainable relationships with woodland owners. Some mills have well-qualified and credentialed foresters who can provide a variety of services.

Among consultants the most common payment method is as a percentage of sale or "on commission." Payment on commission means some percentage of the timber sale value goes to the forester; the more high-value timber that is cut the more money the forester makes. If you decide to hire a forester using commission, know that you can negotiate the rate of commission and that you need not be bound by the "usual" rate. Most consultant foresters will be able to describe what they see as advantages to payment on commission.

An increasingly common payment method and one that has several advantages for landowners is to pay on a flat rate, such as per hour or per acre, rather than pay a commission for timber sale assistance. The advantages of flat rate include the following:

1. Avoiding the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential ex-



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ists because the forester paid on commission makes more money if they administer a sale where they designate a greater number of high value trees and a lesser number of low value trees for harvest. A primary cutting emphasis on high value trees may degrade the woodlot.

2. With flat rate, a forester receives fair compensation at a known rate for any and all services. A forester deserves fair compensation because they can provide important and valuable technical assistance. Because timber sales involve similar skills (e.g., inventory, planning, tree selection) regardless of the quality of the timber, a flat rate ensures fair compensation for the forester and a stable price for the landowner. Note that the sale of low value timber to improve your woodlot may require

more time for marking and marketing and thus perhaps higher costs than high value sales.

3. A flat rate allows a forester to provide services to a landowner without a timber sale or with a sale involving low value trees. Some foresters won't work with landowners who want to cut cull trees or other low value trees.

Good forestry, or bad forestry, can happen with any type of forester or payment method. The landowner needs to emphasize their desire for the use of sustainable practices that meet the goals for the property.

*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*

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# Timber Topics: *Getting to Know Your Logger*

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

The timber was marked by our forester and we were soliciting bids from timber harvesting firms. One firm said they would have marked the timber themselves and saved us the cost of the forester. They were somewhat unhappy over the trees that the forester had selected for harvest. Furthermore they claimed that they would have to search around to find the markings. Hemlock was not moving very well and we would be better off if none was cut at this time. The other major bidder had no problems with the timber marking and sat down and talked with us about how they would like to conduct the harvest and where landings could be placed. We were somewhat concerned about having loggers on our property when we were not there. The second firm said that would not be a problem. We just liked their more professional approach even though their bid price was somewhat lower than the first firm. We signed the contract with the forester from the second firm.

The people actually doing the logging were contractors working

for the timber firm. At first we were just curious about what they would be doing and took an opportunity to greet them and speak with them. Of course we were very careful to avoid getting close to machinery. However, as we spoke with one of the loggers we were surprised to find how old he was and that he had lived nearby for many years but now lived closer to his children. One of his sons was working with him and although he was shy at first he opened up after we talked about the work he was doing. As we walked through the logging area we noticed a cull tree that had been felled (according to the terms of the contract) but that it lay across one of our trails we used for walking and cross country skiing. At this time the loggers had finished working in this part of the woods and had moved their machinery to another landing. However, since we had established a good relationship with the “people on the ground” they readily agreed to come back and cut up this cull so that the trail was clear.

The harvest continued and we took several occasions to meet with

the loggers and talk with them. The forester for the timber harvesting firm also stopped by and we chatted with him. One of the loggers happened to mention to us that the forester said that we sure liked to chat and tell people about our land. This comment did not bother us but we didn't think we were so impassioned about our forests.

We were completely happy with the harvest. Our forester inspected the job before releasing the performance bond and said he was very impressed how well the residual stand looked and the excellent condition of the skid roads even though there had been lots of rain during the logging.

*Authors note: We have changed the details somewhat but have drawn on actual experiences in this column to show how getting to know the loggers and treating them as equals can also be an important step in insuring that the timber harvest goes the way you want it. Not exactly timber theft, but avoiding misunderstandings and not creating hard feelings. 📌*

*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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# State Expands Quarantine For Emerald Ash Borer

## 18 Counties Now Under State Regulation to Slow the Spread of Tree-Killing Beetle

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis recently added 16 counties to existing state quarantines that restrict the movement of ash trees, ash products, and firewood from all wood species to limit the potential spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The quarantines are in response to new findings of EAB in the State.

“It is quickly becoming evident that the Emerald Ash Borer, which was first detected in New York State last year, is more widespread than originally hoped,” said Commissioner Hooker. “It is no surprise that we are finding this pest in other counties, but it is our intent to try and slow the human spread of this pest by expanding the quarantine area and regulating the movement of firewood and ash wood and nursery products in those areas. We look to our fellow New Yorkers to assist in this effort and follow the quarantine orders in the respective areas.”

“The movement of untreated firewood and other wood products is a direct pathway by which EAB and other invasive species are able to infect new regions,” Commissioner Grannis said. “Quarantines are one of the tools New York is using to prevent the spread of EAB from the areas where the insect’s presence has been confirmed. When used in combination with other tools, such as our statewide regulations restricting the movement of firewood, we hope

to slow the spread of EAB to save as many ash trees as possible, for as long as possible.”

The Emerald Ash Borer has now been confirmed in seven counties in New York: Cattaraugus, Genesee, Greene, Livingston, Monroe, Steuben and Ulster. The expanded quarantine includes the counties where EAB has been confirmed and eleven others that are adjacent to confirmed detections both in New York, Pennsylvania and Canada, including: Allegany, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuylers, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

The quarantines restrict the intra-state movement of the EAB insect itself, nursery ash, green lumber and any other ash tree material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches, and wood products within and beyond, as well as into and through the quarantine areas. Because it is difficult to distinguish between species of firewood, all firewood and wood chips and bark mulch are covered by the quarantine.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is expected to issue a parallel quarantine for interstate movement in the near future. State Agriculture and Markets’ quarantine goes into effect immediately; DEC’s quarantine goes into effect on the tenth day after being filed with the clerks of quarantined counties (approximately September 18).

EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green,

white, black, and blue ash. The first detection of EAB in New York was in the Town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County in June 2009. Subsequent infestations have been confirmed this summer in six other counties. In addition to New York, the beetle has also been found in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

New York has more than 900 million ash trees, representing about seven percent of all trees in the State. Ash is important in the manufacture of baseball bats and serves as a common shade tree in many communities.

To help monitor for EAB, watch for signs of infestation in ash trees. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, yellowing, extensive sprouting from the roots and trunk (called “epicormic shoots”). Infested trees may also exhibit woodpecker damage from larvae extraction. If it is suspected that an ash tree could be infested by EAB, go to <http://www.stopthebeetle.info/> or call 1-866-322-4512.

For more information, visit the following web pages:

- [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml)
- [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/CAPS/pdf/Emerald%20Ash%20Borer%20Poster.pdf](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/CAPS/pdf/Emerald%20Ash%20Borer%20Poster.pdf)
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# Member Profile: *Sydney Antonio*

CARLY NEUMANN

**S**ydny Antonio owns and manages 450 acres of woodlands in Greene County that her family has owned since 1959. Sydney, along with her husband Evon, own and reside on 37 acres of the parcel and 416 acres have been placed in a Family Limited Partnership and are jointly owned by Sydney and her brother James Wesley. Evon manages both parcels of land and works closely with their forester Brian Bower.

The story of the land coming into Sydney's hands speaks tremendously to her family's appreciation for the outdoors. Sydney's mother initially purchased the land because she (Sydney) didn't like camp. She recalls being sent to camp and disliking it to

the extent that she hitchhiked home to Brooklyn. It was then that her maternal grandmother suggested that Sydney's mother purchase vacation property in the country, and that is what they did. The land will continue to be passed through the family. The Antonio's have a daughter and a granddaughter.

Sydney works with a certified forester and they work with a management plan that goes back to the mid 1990's. She also uses her mother's management plan and she has records going back to 1961. Although she tends to stick with the advice of her forester, she "tries to do her homework." Both Sydney and Evon are Master Forest Owner volunteers



*Healthy tall sawtimber tree crowns.*

and managing the property is a family project.

The property itself has about 3-4 acres of non-forested land. The forests consists of in order of volume; hard maple, red oak, white ash, yellow birch, black cherry, and hemlock. They signed a contract earlier this year so there will be a harvest taking place soon. They are bordered in part by a New York State Forest so that gives them additional privacy buffer.

The couple uses the property for personal recreational use. They permit longtime family friends to hunt on the property but the couple enjoys walking in their woodlands. They use the logging roads for business purposes but the roads also allow for leisure and "seeing what is going on in the woods." The couple enjoys the bears on their property, although they don't encourage them. Sydney states "but they were here first" so the couple is happy to share the property. The property boasts a certified trout stream that is a branch of the Katterskill as well as an acre



*Decline and deforestation from forest tents on the Antonio's property.*

*continued on page 22*



*Hard maple regeneration, also called advanced regeneration and represents the next crop.*



*Mortality of medium sawtimber (note 3 dead 14-16" hard maples).*

of pond that is stocked with trout and koi. Sydney reminisces, "I learned to ice skate on it, and so did my daughter."

"They're not making anymore land and if you have it you don't sell it. You take care of it the best you can." This advice from her paternal grandmother guides Sydney in managing her property into the future and represents one of the most important reasons she owns the property. That and the trees help keep the air clean. As far as the big-

gest success of her practices "it's the fact that you can have your cake and eat it too [in reference to timber harvests]. You keep your trees and your land and every now and then you get what I call milk money that you can use to buy a car or take a vacation."

Sydney's advice for other forest owners is to find a good forester, it's worth your time to locate one and it is in your advantage financially in the long run. Even though you can do your homework they still have the contacts. Further Sydney says

"Trust, but verify." Even though you trust your forester, go out in the woods and walk with them. ▲

*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.*



*Tall hard (sugar) maple saplings that are entering pole timber size class*



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Contact:  
Mary Beth Malmsheimer,  
Editor  
(315) 655-4110  
mmalmshe@syr.edu

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the January/February 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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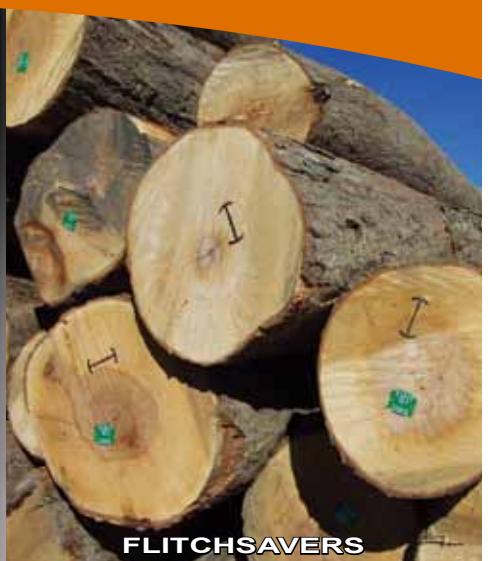
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