

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

January/February 2011



Member Profile: Cynthia King

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

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VOLUME 49, NUMBER 1

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COVER: Cynthia King shown on her eleven acres of woodlands in Amsterdam, NY. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Cynthia King.

From The President

It is barely December as I write this, but already we are planning for our annual meeting in February. The annual meeting is Saturday, February 26, at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. That is the weekend of the New York State Farm Show, which means that there is a lot going on and a lot of interesting things to see. The Central New York chapter organizes a number of forestry-



related seminars throughout the three days of the Farm Show, and we try to keep our meeting lively with a keynote speaker and presentation of awards to recognize people who

have made significant contributions to the organization over the years.

One of the most important parts of the meeting is the election of new board members. Each year we elect four board members to a three-year term. The candidates for this year's openings are listed on page 12 in this issue. As with many other organizations, we typically do not get a lot of participation from our members in voting for directors. I urge everybody to vote, either by mail in advance of the meeting, or in person if you are plan to attend the meeting.

We are also planning other events for 2011. The highlight of the calendar looks to be a statewide meeting hosted by the Capital District chapter next fall. Inspired by the event sponsored by Northern Adirondack chapter in Lake Placid last year, the weekend schedule is full of interesting seminars and woodwalks. Headquarters for the event will be the

Agroforestry Research Center in Acra, Greene County. I have heard wonderful things about the facilities there and I am looking forward to a chance to see it in person.

At our most recent board meeting, we decided to join NYFOA to the coalition of similar organizations in the National Woodland Owners Association. NWOA focuses on representing the interests of landowners to our representatives in Congress, so this represents an opportunity for NYFOA to have a voice in Washington. Many of the cost-sharing programs available to landowners such as EQIP, WHIP and CRP are federal programs, so it is important that our members' interests are heard in Congress. There are other benefits of affiliating with NWOA as well; we will explain them in more detail after the official paperwork is in place.

At the state level, the annual Forestry Awareness Day is our main event to educate lawmakers in Albany about the benefits of forests and the need to protect them. But hearing that message one day each year is not enough; it is important that legislators hear the message from their constituents on a regular basis. This is a place where each member can make a difference: write to your representatives, or visit their local offices, and make them aware of the importance of forests. As woodlot owners and managers, we know that our forests help provide clean air, clean water, flood control and raw material for the important wood-products industries. Explaining these values to our elected representatives can help ensure that woodlots will continue to provide these benefits in the future. ▲

—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.

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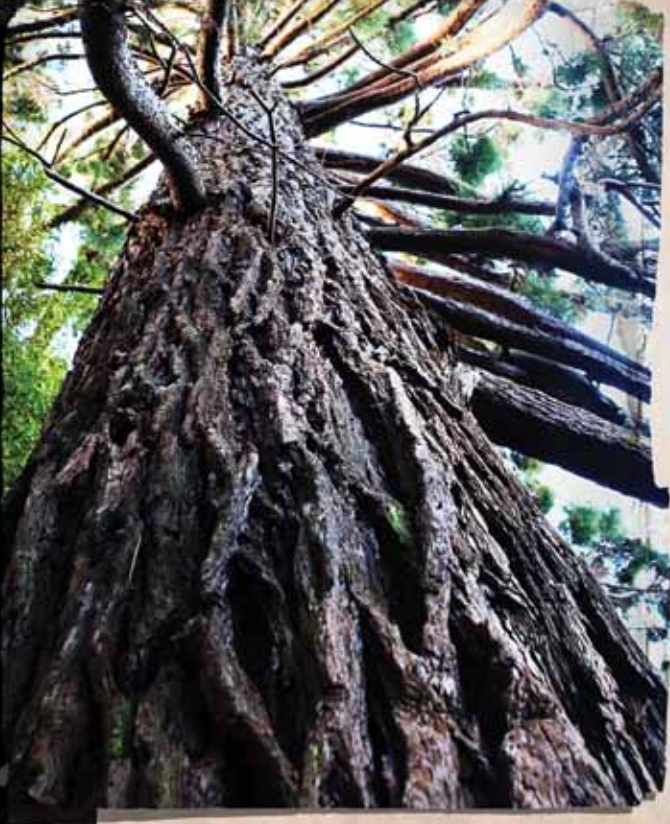
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NY Farm Show 2011

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Got Trees?

The New York Forest Owners Association, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will present a series of free forestry programs on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday February 24, 25, and 26 at the New York Farm Show annually held at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show has many exhibits displaying information, equipment, and items of interest to landowners as well as farmers. Landowners who own woodland as part of their property can get information on many subjects that will help them enhance the value of their woodlots for timber, wildlife, and recreation. The following tentative seminars will be presented in the Arts and Home Center Building in the Somerset Room. People are free to attend whichever seminar interests them. The speakers are knowledgeable in forest and rural land subjects and come from university, government, private industry, and volunteer organizations.

Forest Management Seminars

Thursday, February 24

- 1:00 *Wild Turkey Biology, History, Management, and the Role of NWTF.* Doug Little, National Wild Turkey Federation Regional Biologist (New York/New England)
- 2:00 *Conservation Easements for New York Farmland.* Don Fisher, President, Pomeroy Associates


Friday, February 25

- 10:00 *Deer Impact on Forest Land.* DEC Wildlife Biologist
- 11:00 *Best Practices for Improving Timber Value.* Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell

- Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
- 1:00 *Firewood From Private Woodlots.* Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
- 2:00 *Getting the Most in a Down Market.* Dave Skeval, SAF Certified Forester, Consulting Forester, Acer Forestry
- 3:00 *Wildlife Habitat Improvement.* Rich Taber, NYFOA State Wildlife Grant Project Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chenango County

Saturday, February 26

- 10:00 *Timber Value: The Market, Present and Future.* Andy Metz, Consulting Forester, Cortland Forestry
- 11:00 *Wild Canines of New York: Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves.* Nathan Roberts, Natural Resources Department, Cornell University

There will also be a joint New York Forest Owners Association, NYSDEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF Forestry Information Booth, I55, in the International Building each day of the Farm Show. Before or after the seminar presentations, people can go to the booth and talk with knowledgeable Forest Owners Association volunteers, DEC Service Foresters, CCE Extension Foresters and with Master Forest Owner volunteers. Free information (brochures, publications, people, organizations, and resources) will be available at the booth. People can sign up for more information or for a free visit to their woodlot. The International Building has many forestry related exhibits for landowners. For further information contact: Jamie Christensen 315-472-5323 kchriste@twcny.rr.com 

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Ask A Professional

BRETT CHEDZOY



Brett Chedzoy

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

Question:

The gas lease on our woodlot and rural property recently expired. What are the key factors to protecting our land if we decide to sign another lease?

Answer:

The first step is to make sure that your lease has actually expired. Under the New York General Obligations Law (Chapter 24-A, Title 3, Article 15-304), the leaseholder is required to send a Letter of Surrender to the landowner within 30 days of the expiration date. Due to complex legal issues surrounding "force majeure" (Acts of God) clauses found in most leases, a landowner should not assume that their lease has expired until they receive this acknowledgement. Detailed steps for requesting a "Surrender" can be found at www.tiogagaslease.org

The outlook for widespread natural gas development in New York is still unclear as policy makers and numerous stakeholder groups continue to debate the risks and benefits. What is certain, however, is that many portions of up-state New York contain rich natural gas reserves beneath the ground which may someday be developed. Therefore, it is likely that energy companies will continue to seek leases with rural landowners for both drilling and related activities such as pipelines, compressor stations,

water storage and access roads.

At the same time, many landowners have come to realize that natural gas development affects more than just their individual properties. Experiences from Pennsylvania and other major gas development regions have shed light on the numerous positive and negative impacts that reach throughout communities. Regardless, many landowners will be

attracted by leasing incentives and therefore must evaluate the risks and benefits in the context of their own situations. Covering all the issues that one needs to consider before leasing would be difficult in this article, but the following are some key considerations to protect both your property and interests.

Join (or form) a local landowner coalition. If no group exists in your area, consider starting one with your neighbors. The reason is simple: strength in numbers. Few landowners control sufficient acreage to be of strategic importance to a particular company or developer. But multiple landowners become a "force to be reckoned with" and can negotiate terms that most individuals cannot. Coalitions serve multiple purposes such as promoting common interests, collective marketing, the sharing of



Drilling operations are one of the more notable operations during the development phase. A well pad may initially require several acres.



Pipeline construction is necessary to move gas from the well to distribution centers. Woodland owners may need special considerations for pipeline construction that might occur on their property to make sure they can travel over the finished corridor with their necessary woodland management and harvesting equipment. These terms need to be included in the lease.

Once completed and restored, a gas pipeline can provide some unique features to a woodland beyond any lease payments. Review the information and educational resources suggested in the article to learn more about how to optimize the presence of a gas lease on your woodlot.

resources and expenses, and the leverage to bring partner companies to the table – both before and after agreements are signed. Most importantly, coalitions provide a forum for education and the collective sharing of experiences.

Don't sign a lease that you are uncomfortable with. Even if you are contemplating signing a lease developed by your coalition (which would presumably be more considerate of your interests than a lease developed by a natural gas company), have it reviewed by your own attorney to see if it sufficiently addresses your unique situation. Considerations like mortgages, conservation easements, ownership goals, and future plans for the property may require customized lease terms. Proposed modifications to the coalition's lease (which can be requested at the time of receiving an offer from a qualified bidder) may result in a counter-offer, or even a withdrawal of the bid. In that case, negotiation in good faith

combined with patience will usually resolve initial differences between you and the bidder. Don't be discouraged if the initial response to a request is "no." Know in advance the issues on which you are willing to compromise or not compromise.

Retain your own consultant to supervise work done on your property. A lease is only as good as its execution. Consequently, leases should contain language that authorizes oversight and enforcement by the landowner's qualified agent (such as a forester or other qualified professional). This is a common practice in timber sales where consulting foresters supervise logging activities and act as a liaison between the seller, buyer and buyer's contractors (loggers) to mutually resolve issues and encourage a quality job.

Two additional standard practices with professionally supervised timber harvests are to require the operator to

post a performance bond and evidence of insurance prior to commencement of work. These are prudent and recommendable terms that can also be included in gas leases and easements.

In some cases, public agencies like NYS Department of Ag and Markets, NYS DEC, and county Soil and Water Conservation Districts may inspect and oversee specific construction activities on your property. But hiring your own expert with a small portion of your leasing revenues will help fill in the gaps and ensure compliance with contractual agreements that are not regulated by others.

Clearly define time frames, deadlines and compensations by written agreements. Before granting permission for any activity on your property, negotiate how long the company can take to complete the various phases, as well as compensations for incompli-

continued on page 16

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



What the heck is woody biomass?

We're all talking a lot about woody biomass and fuel wood these days but what exactly is all the this about! We can start with the basics; the USDA and Forest Service refer to biomass as the by-products of forest management including the stems, limbs, tops, leaves and needles of woody plants. This biomass can be utilized by harvesting it and selling it for energy. In addition to energy, there are a whole range of bio-based products like fuel pellets in the marketplace now. These emerging markets will have benefits to forest products industries, forest health and local economies. The downfalls will be offset by sustainable forestry management and good timber harvesting practices.

Now that we've got that established, let's get down to what the increased marketability of biomass products really means to the Family Forest Owner. Traditional harvesting operations generally occur on tracts of land over 50 acres in size and at an age that stem size and density permit profitability. These harvests would, on average, remove between 25-45% of the total volume of merchantable timber. While some amount of harvest residue, slash, should



remain in the forest to provide essential nutrient cycling and habitat, the ability to market the biomass would increase the profit margin, accelerate the growth cycle of the residual products and increase the aesthetic quality of that same operation.

What you can do! There are some provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill for jump-starting woody biomass utilization for private landowners. You can learn more on the ATFS website www.treefarmssystem.org about this. Additionally, make sure your management plan includes the current condition of your timber and resources, including your woody biomass resources. A professional forester can answer more of your questions and help guide you as you include these opportunities in your management plan. It's important to refer to your management plan and create a pre-harvesting plan to manage water quality according to NYS Best Management Practices.

Some things to keep in mind is that woody biomass, although having the same potential to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, does not have the same governmental support as solar and wind power. This reduces the tax credits and incentives manufacturing companies

can receive by utilizing this renewable energy. Similarly, although power companies are required by law to provide a certain percentage of energy from a renewable resource, woody biomass has been excluded from the definition used in the standard. Your voice can be heard on these matters through support of organizations like NYFOA and Tree Farm.

If you'd like to learn more about the American Tree Farm System & SFI certification, 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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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.



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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!

Life in a Tree, Part 3 – The Roots

Our last stop down our tree is the roots. Slowly expanding out into the soil, roots take up water and nutrients, store sugars, and hold trees in the ground. Roots are often forgotten until a storm comes along and tips a few trees over and the whole root structure is pulled from the ground.

When a seed starts to grow, the first thing to emerge is the root. This fine root grows larger and larger over the years, with smaller roots branching off. As roots grow, they become “woody,” but it is the finer, root hairs that do most of the nutrient

and water uptake. If you’ve ever transplanted a plant, you’ve seen these creamy white root hairs.

Fun root facts:

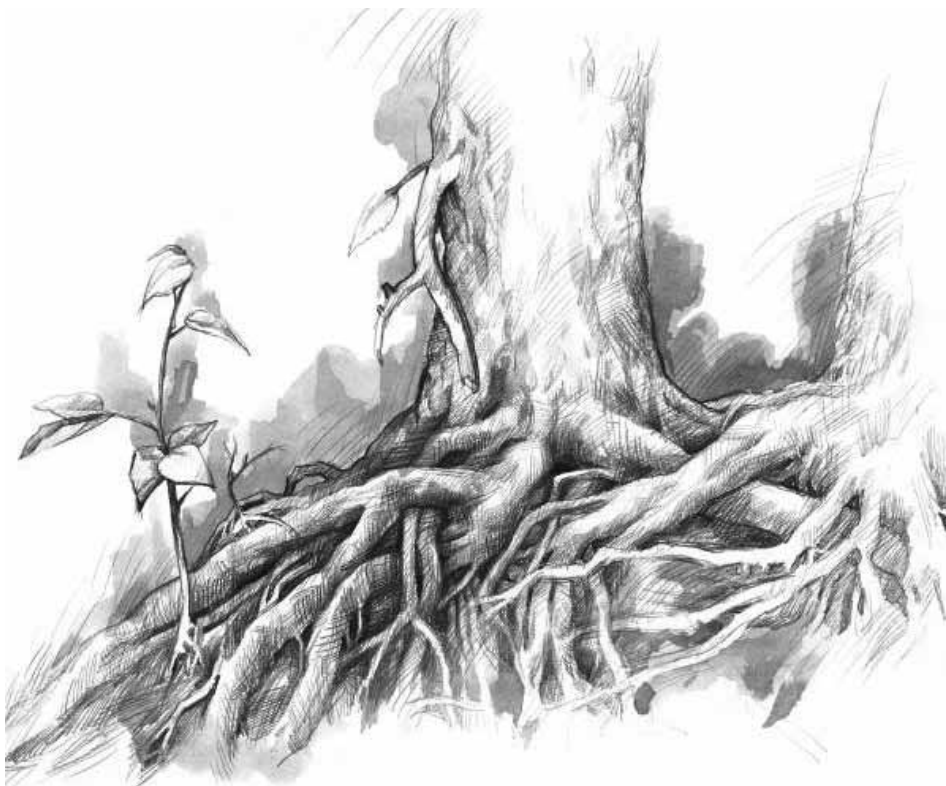
- Root Beer is made from sassafras root, and can include sarsaparilla root, burdock root, yellow dock root, juniper berries, birch sap, black cherry bark and other natural flavors (not to mention sugar!).
- Some plants don’t have roots in the soil: Mistletoe grows into branches; orchids cling to trees, roots pulling food and water from

the air; and water lilies’ roots float in the water.

- Most roots live in the top 18 inches of soil.
- There are two basic types of tree root systems: tap root, with a main root that penetrates deep into the soil surrounded by smaller roots (walnut, white oak); and fibrous roots, a large mat of smaller roots that spread out flat under the soil (sugar maple, birch).
- Tree roots can extend 2-3 times the width of the tree’s canopy.
- Many roots live with fungus called mycorrhizae that help the roots take in more water and nutrients, and in some cases convert nutrients to more usable forms.

Take a Hike!

- Find some trees that have tipped up from wind or ice. Their roots will be up in the air and there will be a hole in the ground where they once were.
- How big is the root mass? How deep did it go into the ground? (More than 18 inches?)
- What type of root mass do you think it is? (Tap or fibrous)
- Are any animals using that hole as a home? Or, drinking water that has collected there?
- Why did the tree fall over? Do you think anything could have been done to prevent it?
- Where else do you see tree roots? 🌲



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

FLYING SQUIRRELS



Northern (Glaucomys sabrinus) and southern (Glaucomys volans) flying squirrels are the smallest species of squirrels in New York State, weighing just a few ounces. Similar in appearance, the northern flying squirrel is larger (10 to 15 inches long) and reddish-brown in color, while its relative is smaller (8 to 10 inches in length) and mouse-like grey in color. Both species have soft, dense, silky fur, with white belly hair, and broad, flattened, furry tails that are about 5 inches long. Like most nocturnal animals, their gleaming black eyes are large and round. Prominent flaps of skin stretch from their wrists to their ankles giving them the ability to glide through the forest. In both species, males and females are similar in size. Mating takes place early in the spring, and the young are born in May or June. In the wild, flying squirrels typically live to be four or five years old.

Because of their nocturnal habits, few people are fortunate enough to have seen a flying squirrel in the wild, and many are unaware that these nighttime creatures exist. Emerging at dusk, they glide from the forest canopy down to the forest floor to feed. Although they don't truly fly (bats are the only mammals that do), they have two large flaps of skin that extend from their wrists to their ankles and act as miniature parachutes. When leaving a tree, they initially drop straight down for about 3 feet or so before flattening out into a glide. Like a miniature hang glider, a flying squirrel can move its legs to change the position of its membranes and swerve around obstacles. The higher a squirrel is when it drops out of a tree, the greater the speed and distance it can travel. From heights of 100 feet, they can reach speeds of up to 20 mph, and glide as far as 50 yards (over half the length of a football field).

Two species of flying squirrels are common in New York State and their ranges overlap, though the northern flying squirrel is more common in the

northern part of the state, and the southern flying squirrel is most prevalent south of the Mohawk River Valley. In regions where their ranges overlap, they usually separate by habitat. Both species require large areas of very mature, deciduous or mixed forest with large trees and cavities for nesting and escape cover. Flying squirrels usually occupy old woodpecker holes in the winter, but in warmer months often build or re-use existing leaf nests in the crotch of trees. They line their nests with shredded bark, lichens, grasses, and moss. Forest stands inhabited by these animals need to be relatively open beneath the tree canopy to provide unobstructed gliding areas for movement from tree to tree, and from tree to ground.

In addition to providing adequate nesting sites, older forests support the lichens and fungi that the northern flying squirrel relies on for food, including truffles, the fruiting bodies of underground fungi that live in association with tree roots. These fungi are important to forest health because they increase the ability of trees to absorb nutrients and

water from the forest soil. By feeding on the fungi and depositing the spores in the soil through their droppings, squirrels spread the spores throughout the forest, maintaining ecological processes that are important to forest health. Other foods of the northern flying squirrel include seeds, buds, fruit, insects, and small animals. Similarly, the southern flying squirrel eats seeds, berries, fungi, bark, flowers, insects, and other animal matter. However, the southern flying squirrel prefers hickory nuts and acorns, and is found most often in oak/hickory forests.

During the cold winter months, the southern flying squirrel will forage less often and at times become inactive, while the northern flying squirrel remains active even at the coldest temperatures. Flying squirrels are sociable creatures, and will curl up together to conserve energy. Up to 50 animals have been found huddled up in one nest!

In mature woodlands, landowners can enhance habitat for these wide-eyed creatures of the night by retaining live and dead trees that contain holes, or cav-

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Safely Using Chemicals in Woodlands

Part I – Containers & Labeling

Chemicals are useful tools for the forest owner. Gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic oil as well as various pesticides and fertilizers are commonly used. Problem vegetation or insects can be controlled with the right pesticide. However there are hazards both to people and to the environment if a chemical ends up where it is not supposed to be.

Labels provide valuable information and are the first place to learn how to safely handle and use a chemical. They carry valuable information. Whether it is a label on the pump at the gas station or the can into which the gas is poured there is important information to read—basic but important. Unlike pesticides that come in their own labeled containers, fuels are placed into personal containers which should be made for that purpose and labeled for contents and the hazard. Fuel cans should have UL or similar certification on the label that indicates the design has been tested and approved to contain the fuel. Many gasoline cans have the information impressed into the plastic. Read the label.


A new label should be placed on a container when it holds something

different than its original label. Remove or black-out the old label. For instance chainsaw gas cannot be used where straight gasoline is required, but the same can may contain either fuel. A sprayer can contain herbicide or insecticide and the owner may forget what is inside.

Gas and diesel fuel are everyday chemicals, what's the problem you might say? Some people have allergic reactions to these chemicals. Their fumes are heavy and sink to low spots. An uncapped container may allow fumes to collect in a room and ignite from a spark. On a hot sunny day a plastic fuel can sitting on the back of a truck bed will swell in the sun. The flowing vapors will be visible as shadows in bright sunlight potentially exploding with the right ignition source. Never put chemicals into food containers.

The best resource for chemical information is a Material Safety Data Sheet. The sheets are available on request from manufacturers and many are available on the internet. The MSDS explains who manufactured the product, how to get in touch with the producer, what the chemical looks like, smells like and at what temperature it is a solid, liquid or gas. Even more importantly it tells what type of extinguisher can be used on inflammables. It explains what happens if it gets on or

in your body and includes first aid measures. Ways to avoid exposure to the chemical are described and this is important because when it comes to personal protective equipment you don't want to wear something that is going to dissolve. Most people are too comfortable with chemicals they have used for years but still oily rags cause fires because people did not put in closed metal containers. Labels and chemical information are important and we need reminders.


Usually the only protective clothing needed is long sleeve shirts and long pants with some kind of face and hand protection. First aid information in the MSDS is valuable. We once saw a backpack sprayer filled with herbicide and diesel fuel come apart on a worker. His shirt, pants and socks were soaked. We got him into a shower quickly and the clothes were washed in a bucket a couple of times. Generally recommendations call for washing skin for five minutes. If anything gets in eyes rinse for 15 minutes. Launder the clothing well but not with family laundry. The MSDS will also detail what first aid treatment not to use. 

Part II will appear in the March/April issue of the New York Forest Owner.

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

ities. An ideal den is an old woodpecker hole about 8 to 20 feet from the ground with an entrance hole of about 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. In New York, large beech trees often provide cavities for nesting wildlife, and produce seeds that serve as food. In forests without many cavity trees, landowners can install artificial nest boxes on trees to provide shelter for flying squirrels. Retaining or providing woody debris and rotten logs on the forest floor will provide ad-

ditional sites for flying squirrels to take refuge from predators when foraging, and promote growth of fungi for food.

Landowners wishing to catch a glimpse of a flying squirrel can sometimes catch them feeding at bird feeders after dark. The best way to see a flying squirrel in the daylight is to tap or scratch on dead trees or hollow limbs containing abandoned woodpecker holes. If a squirrel is inside, it will often stick its head out to see what is amiss! 

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/

Flying squirrel photo courtesy of Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles ©California Academy of Sciences.

NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by February 12, 2010 or vote in person at the Annual Meeting on February 27, 2010.

Roy Emerling – Orchard Park, NY

Roy is a successful businessman in western New York, owning and managing numerous and varied enterprises. He bought his first piece of forest land at the age of 18, collecting scrap metal to pay for it, and has been a hands-on practitioner of forest management ever since. A NYFOA member for over 20 years, he has vast experience in timberland improvement and marketing and is a knowledgeable participant in many of the available cost-sharing programs. He also has considerable expertise in finding ways to produce extra income from forest land including gas, wind and hunting leases. Roy looks forward to being able to share his experiences with NYFOA members.

Ed Neuhauser - Groton, NY

Ed lives on approximately 130 acres of land near Ithaca, NY. Through the use of TSI practices with several friends, this land supplies the heating needs of four families and a great chance for folks to enjoy working together. Using small band mills, large amounts of lumber have been obtained over the years that is turned into flooring and molding for several homes, as well as work bench tops. Ed earned his degrees from ESF in soil biochemistry. He currently works at National Grid (the old Niagara Mohawk) in the Environmental department as an environmental scientist. Ed became a Cornell MFO volunteer in 2006. His goal as a member of the NYFOA board would be to get our members excited about their forest resource and help them explore all the ways that this resource can be enjoyed.

Sarah Stackhouse – Bluff Point, NY

Sarah and her husband Charles live in Bluff Point, NY and own a 300+ acre farm overlooking Keuka Lake. They raise grapes, hay and timber, managing 127 acres of woodland under the NYS 480-a program. Much of their woods was open pasture and fields in the early 1900's and, more recently, was high graded, so it needs lots of work. Their goals are to improve the health and quality of their timber and wildlife habitat. They enjoy working in their woods, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing and watching the wildlife – all out their back door. Sarah has always had an interest in natural resources, has a BA degree in geology and worked for an environmental consulting firm. She is treasurer/bookkeeper for their farm and her husband's medical practice and is on the board of trustees for Yates County Cooperative Extension and on the Forest Connect Advisory Committee. Recently she served on the Town of Jerusalem Comprehensive Plan and Subdivision Regulations Committees and has served as treasurer for her church and the Penn Yan Public Library. Sarah became a MFO volunteer in 2008 and enjoys helping other forest owners to improve the health of their woodland and maximize their enjoyment of it. As a member of the NYFOA board, Sarah would strive to make more private forest owners aware of NYFOA and its mission, through education, of promoting sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship of private woodland.

Marilyn Wyman – Catskill, NY

Marilyn has lived in the Catskill region for over 25 years. She has applied her B.S. background in biology and certification in high school science to regional natural resource education. Marilyn's work through Cornell Cooperative Extension in Greene County includes the development of the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, whose mission is to "promote the ecological, aesthetic, and economic values of forested lands" through their educational programs. Her work has involved collaborations with government agencies, non-profit organizations, community leaders and educators. She completed her master's degree, focusing on rural community landscape issues relating to forests. She and her husband Rick are both NYFOA members and enjoy their forested land in Schoharie County.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Roy Emerling ()

Ed Neuhauser ()

Sarah Stackhouse ()

Marilyn Wyman ()

Write-in candidate _____ ()

_____ ()

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter / Affiliation _____

Send ballot to: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485

49th Annual NYFOA Meeting

The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting, in conjunction with the three-day New York Farm Show, on Saturday February 26, 2011, at the New York Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

The annual meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and be held in the Arts and Home Building.

At the meeting the Heiburg Memorial Award, the Outstanding Service Award, and NYFOA's Chapter activity awards will all be presented.

The meeting will also feature guest speaker Ashley Dayer who is in the doctoral program with Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Human Dimensions Research Unit. Ashley focuses on the human dimensions of wildlife conservation and her topic of discussion will be "Conserving Wildlife While Cutting Trees: Early Successional Forest Habitat on Private Lands." With changing land-use practices and suppression of natural disturbance, early successional forest habitat (or young forest) and related wildlife species are in decline in New York State. This habitat supports the Golden-winged Warbler, American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, New England Cottontail, and other important wildlife species. The existence of adequate habitat to support these species hinges on private forest owners undertaking forest management activities. Learn more about this habitat type, the wildlife that depend on it, and how forest owners can contribute to conservation of an appropriate amount of this habitat on the landscape—while benefitting from timber harvest. Ashley will also discuss results of a collaborative research effort focused on early successional forest habitat conservation by private landowners, which forms the basis of her dissertation research. Many NYFOA members contributed to the interview phase of this research in February-April 2010 and the survey phase in November-December 2010. This research aims to inform future programs to support forest landowners in the state. Hear the latest results and how you might contribute to this research or benefit in the future from program opportunities.

For more information, contact Liana Gooding at 1-800-836-3566 or go to www.nyfoa.org for more details.

NYFOA Awards

At the annual membership meeting each year, NYFOA presents several awards:

The **Heiberg Memorial Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York.

The **NYFOA Outstanding Service Award** recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership and furtherance of NYFOA's mission.

NYFOA's **Chapter Activity Award** thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area. Each Chapter is urged to name one volunteer individual or couple each year for recognition by the state membership at the annual meeting in 2011.

Please send the name of your "Chapter Activity" awardee, and any suggestions on individuals for the statewide awards to Liana Gooding by January 30, 2011.

Liana Gooding
NYFOA

P.O. Box 541

Lima, New York 14485

Email: lgooding@nyfoa.org
(800)836-3566

Got Trees? Got Questions?

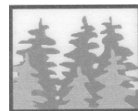
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Woodland Health

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

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

EMERALD ASH BORER IN NEW YORK: 2010 UPDATE

BY MARK WHITMORE AND MELISSA FIERKE

2010 was certainly an active year for scientists, land managers, forest owners, and government officials concerned about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, in New York.

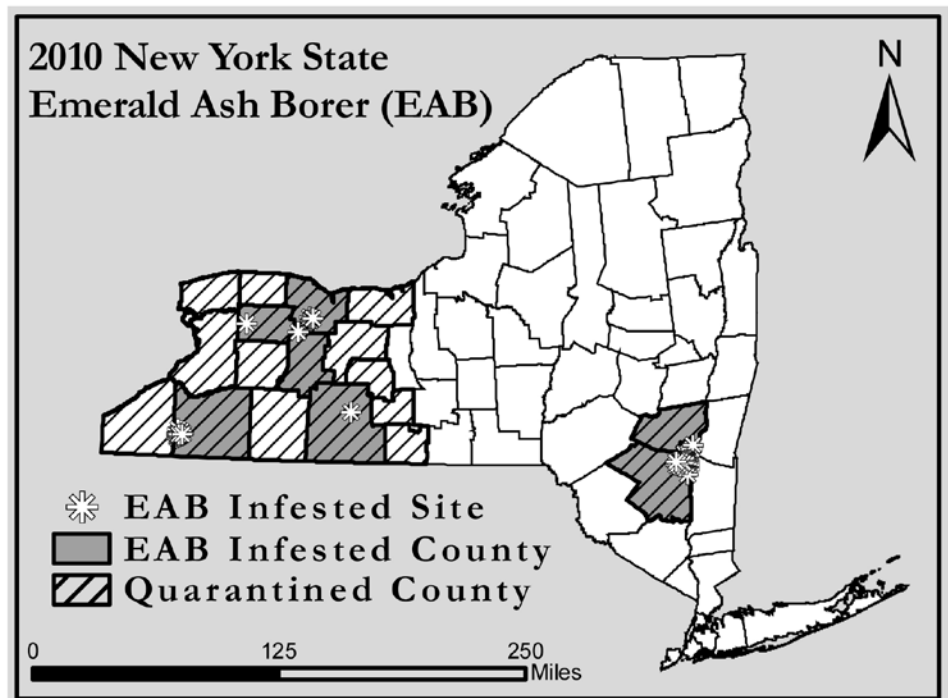
EAB is a small invasive green beetle that feeds on the inner bark of ash trees, killing them in a few years. EAB, a native of eastern Asia, was likely established near Detroit, MI, in the early 1990's but was not identified until 2002 (EAB biology can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info). Since that time it has spread to 15 states and 2 provinces. EAB was first detected in New York by USDA-ARS researchers on June 14, 2009, in the Town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County. State and federal officials rapidly responded to the new EAB infestation, and all identified infested trees were destroyed. Unfortunately, the early detection of EAB is extremely difficult; typically, it is detected only after it has been present and actively dispersing for years. Evidence from infestations in the Midwest indicates EAB is a strong flier and quickly moves across the landscape. Often, EAB dispersal is inadvertently aided by people moving firewood. Thus, questions that emerged following New York State's first EAB detection in 2009 were: *How far has the beetle spread in Randolph? Has EAB established elsewhere in the state?*

The most common tool used to detect EAB is the sticky Purple Prism Trap (PPT). PPT's are about three feet tall, a foot in width, and hung from the

branches of ash trees. They are easily seen from a distance and are frankly one of the best EAB outreach tools we have; people always want to know what the heck those purple contraptions are. In 2009, over 6000 PPT's were deployed around the state, yet not a single EAB was caught, even after an additional deployment of 1800 more PPT's within a 10 mile radius of the infestation in Randolph. Unfortunately, PPT's are notoriously inefficient at detecting EAB at low population levels so we researchers needed to employ another technique to help us delimit, or deter-

mine how far out, EAB had infested the area in and around Randolph.

We turned to colleagues in Michigan who have been developing a new EAB management approach called SLAM, or SLOW Ash Mortality. There are two components of SLAM: infestation delimitation and population reduction. For years researchers have used girdled trees as a tool to aid the study of insects that feed on the inner bark of trees; this works for EAB as well. Soon after a tree is girdled (stressed and killed by removing a strip of bark from around the bole) it releases chemicals that attract EAB females in search of a place to lay their eggs. Researchers have used these 'more attractive' girdled trees as an additional and more effective trap to help detect EAB, particularly at low population densities. Thus, given no positive detections in PPT's in 2009, we set PPT's in girdled trap trees in 2010 to better delimit the Randolph EAB infestation. With girdled trees acting as EAB bait, we expected PPT's to be much more effective, and indeed they were. In June 2010, we caught EAB in PPT's hanging from trap trees up to 2.5 miles from the center of the Randolph infestation.



2010 EAB infestations and quarantine zones in New York State. Scott McDonnell, Forest Health Unit, Lands and Forests, NYSDEC.

WEB RESOURCES FOR EAB INFORMATION

General information and links for EAB and other Invasive Species in New York. NY Community EAB Planning Workbook is found here.	http://www.nyis.info
National EAB website with biology, management, and many links to work in other states	http://www.emeraldashborer.info
NYS DEC Emerald Ash Borer website. Many resources and maps specific to New York	http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html
EAB quarantine and firewood regulations for New York State	http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47761.html
CCE's Forest Connect web seminar and information portal for woodlot owners	http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/web.htm

We are currently evaluating the population reduction aspect of SLAM in our Randolph research by creating super attractive "clusters" of girdled trap trees. We expect EAB will lay eggs on the more attractive trees in these stressed "clusters" and ignore other healthy trees nearby. The cluster will reduce EAB populations as we remove and destroy the girdled cluster trees before the next generation of adults emerge. In Randolph, we established a few clusters near the center of the infestation before the adult flight period and 14 additional clusters throughout the flight season in spots where we caught EAB on PPTs hung in trap trees. The purpose of this effort is to slow the population buildup of EAB and afford everyone time to make plans in advance of their arrival elsewhere in the state.

In 2010, over 8000 PPT's were deployed throughout the state to help us determine if EAB has established in other locations. By mid-summer, we had a number of positive detections. The first trap catch occurred in mid-July near Bath in Steuben County where a single EAB was caught on a PPT deployed in a campground. Traps had been strategi-

cally placed in these locations because campers are likely to unknowingly transport infested firewood. Many experienced observers spent hours scouring the landscape for an infested ash tree, but we were unsuccessful. However, we just revisited the site and found many infested trees by observing where woodpeckers had been foraging on the bark. Once you learn to recognize this sign of EAB it is easy to detect in winter even from a distance.

In the week following the Steuben County detection, we caught two EAB on a PPT placed in a campground near Saugerties in Ulster County. NYSDEC personnel quickly located infested trees, and over the summer determined that EAB had infested an area of approximately 65 square miles, extending from the southern edge of Greene County to the City of Kingston.

Soon thereafter, an EAB was found on a PPT near the Town of Caledonia in Livingston County, and two more were detected on a PPT near the Town of Chili in Monroe County. Only one infested tree was later identified adjacent to the Caledonia PPT, but unfortunately a large woodlot along the Genesee River

near the Chili find was discovered containing heavily infested ash trees. The Chili infestation is only six miles from the City of Rochester and has huge implications for management of their urban ash trees. Though Rochester began preparedness planning this summer, their timeline for EAB arrival has been shortened considerably.

About 40 miles west of the Chili infestation yet another EAB was found on a PPT near the town of Pembroke in Genesee County. Despite much effort we have yet to find infested trees associated with this PPT catch but we expect to find them.

Prior to 2009 EAB had been undetected in NY for years and events of the past summer indicate that we will likely detect it in new locations soon. Detections at or near campgrounds implicate the movement of firewood as a significant factor in its distribution across our state. We cannot stress enough that the time to take action to prevent further spread of EAB is NOW! Take the time

continued on page 16

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Ask a Professional (continued)

ance. This will create incentive for the operator to complete the project in a timely fashion, but also compensate the landowner when things don't go as planned. Another important, but frequently overlooked consideration is long-term compensation for infrastructure and deed restrictions (easements) that affect property value and use. In the case of gas wells, landowners are compensated through royalties over the productive life of the well. But in the case of non-royalty bearing projects like utility rights-of-ways, landowners should either negotiate periodic "rental" payments for the use of their property, or include an expiration date for the agreement. All too often, landowners have felt compelled to grant permanent easements for a minimal one-time payment that does not adequately compensate them for the long-term impacts to their property value and conflicts with desired use. ▲

For additional information related to gas leasing, visit: <http://naturalgas.cce.cornell.edu>

By Brett Chedzoy, Senior Resource Educator in Natural Resources - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, Montour Falls, NY bjc226@cornell.edu 607 535 - 7161

Emerald Ash Borer(continued)

to explain to your friends and neighbors why the NYSDEC firewood regulations are in place. The sooner we limit firewood movement, the more we slow EAB spread and the less likely we will face similar difficulties with the next invasive forest pest (and it will come).

So what do you as forest owners need to do now about EAB? Plenty!

- Don't act rashly in your woodlot. Know your ash resources and don't forget other species that may be more valuable when considering harvest plans. Dr. Ralph Nyland put the management philosophy for forest health and EAB succinctly: "As a precautionary measure (though yet unproven), landowners should switch to silviculture. They can remove low-vigor and physiologically mature trees, reduce inter-tree crowding to make the residuals more robust, and begin regenerating less susceptible species as opportunities arise."
- If our SLAM approach in NY is successful in slowing EAB, we will have more time to plan and research new management techniques. You may be lucky and have time to plan harvesting activities in advance of the EAB. This can be valuable because every year without EAB allows ash to continue to grow; and that volume increase can be significant in your woodlot.
- Become familiar with the signs and symptoms of EAB. Early detection is

critical to the effective implementation of SLAM. Table 1 provides some helpful resources.

- Be aware that even though your property might be located within an EAB quarantine, the NYSDEC firewood regulations still apply, restricting movement to no more than 50 miles from the origin. Just because a quarantine is in place doesn't mean we don't need to worry about moving firewood and spreading EAB. Indeed, it's quite the opposite. This is precisely when we need to be most careful about firewood movement. Everything we can do to slow EAB spread will buy us valuable time for planning.
- Another way concerned landowners can help is by participating in seed collection programs to preserve the genetic resources of our native ash species. The time is now, while we still have specimen ash in our forests. Get involved so ash is not put through a genetic bottleneck by EAB and options for integrating ash into future forests are preserved. See Table 1 for helpful resources
- The largest and most immediate economic impact of EAB will be felt by communities and homeowners. Ash are common urban trees and dead ash will pose a public health hazard requiring rapid and expensive removal. Community planning is important to develop priorities and management strategies to help minimize these inevitable costs. An important first step towards Community Preparedness Planning is taking stock of ash trees within your community's jurisdiction. A workbook to help communities develop these plans can be found at www.nyis.info.

Remember that over time EAB will affect us all. We need to take ownership and help others in our community understand the issues, the profound economic impacts, and the need to plan ahead. ▲

Melissa Fierke is a forest Entomologist and an Assistant Professor on the Faculty of Forest Biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

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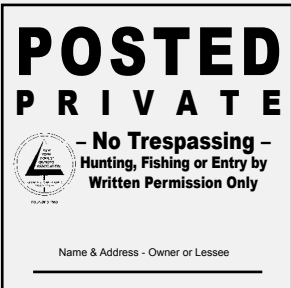
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- Publications, webinars, links to resources, FAQs, and more at www.ForestConnect.info
- Got Questions (and answers) at www.ForestConnect.info/forum
- Calendar of workshops offered by the CCE Department of Natural Resources www.DNRCCE.com
- Social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

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Timber Topics:

Top Ten Things Not To Do When Selling Timber

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

Trees are a valuable product; some woods can be worth several thousands of dollars per acre and if managed properly can earn you hundreds of dollars per acre per year. If you own woods, you should manage them properly. Part of management is selling timber; these are the basic things you should know if you ever sell timber.

1. Don't Sell To A Timber Buyer That Is Not Bonded. (Iowa has a bonded timber buyer's law that requires anyone that buys timber to be bonded although New York does not.) This may not mean that all bonded buyers are reputable but it gives you a good starting point.

2. Don't Sell Unless Everything Is In Writing. A good timber contract can go a long ways to ensure that you have a good experience selling timber. The contract should state how the trees are marked, how many trees, the purchase price, time period to remove the timber, what logging conditions are acceptable (dry or frozen), and who is liable for damage to the property, etc.

3. Don't Sell Unmarked Trees. If the trees to be harvested are marked there is no question as to which trees should be

harvested. It is also advisable to solicit comparable bids on the timber when each company is bidding on the same item. After the sale is done, don't add or exchange trees, remember trees vary considerably in value, by changing things the whole bid process can be ruined.

4. Don't Sell Timber On The Spur Of The Moment. Think about what you are doing. Once you sign the contract or accept the money there is no going back. The deal will more than likely be there tomorrow, so take time to check it out. Timber varies considerably in price-know what you are selling.

5. Don't Sell Trees On A Diameter Limit. The size of the tree shouldn't dictate if that tree should be harvested, the condition or potential of the tree should. The woods contains many different species, each maturing at a different age and size, when selling on a diameter limit you often will over-cut the woods selling many trees that would increase significantly in value in the near future.

6. Don't Sell Only Your Best Trees. Trees vary considerably in value, often from only a few dollars to hundreds or on occasion thousands of dollars. Selling

only the best trees is called high grading and can hurt the long term productivity of the woods. When selling timber sell the trees that are declining in value, sell the less desirable or weeds trees and mix in the best trees when they've reached their peak value. The best trees are probably earning you at least 10% per year and you will always find a buyer who wants them.

7. Don't Sell Cut And Scale Or On Shares. Unless you know how to cut and scale trees you are relying on the buyer to determine what trees are worth and to maximize the yield from the tree. Some buyers may not want to mess with the lower grade logs at the tops of the tree even though there may be value in those logs. Sell your timber on a lump-sum, up-front payment and "take it or leave it" for only the marked trees.

8. Don't Accept Cash. Accepting cash may not be a problem, but it often may entice you into acting too quickly to sell. Don't forget once you accept the money and sign the contract it's a done deal - there's no going back.

9. Don't Enter Into A Management Agreement Giving A Company Exclusive Right To Your Timber. A management agreement may sound good, but there is usually a cost. The buyer has a conflict of interest if he works for the timber company and they want your timber.

10. Don't Include Trees Damaged During The Logging. This may sound like the logical thing to do, but the problem is trees can be damaged on purpose. When the trees are marked care should be taken to make sure the trees can be harvested without damage to the remaining trees. ▲

From: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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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NYFOA CALENDAR

49th Annual NYFOA Meeting

The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting, in conjunction with the three-day New York Farm Show, on Saturday February 26, 2011, at the New York Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The annual meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and be held in the Arts and Home Building.

For more details, see page 13 of the magazine or visit www.nyfoa.org.

2011 Statewide NYFOA Fall Workshop/Meeting

Save the Dates! Friday, September 23 – Sunday, September 25, 2011.

The event will be held at the Agroforestry Resource Center of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County, in Acra, NY. The meeting will include speakers, interesting and timely woods walks and the opportunity to connect with other NYFOA members, as well as meeting the Capital District Chapters' regional partners. Watch www.nyfoa.org or the Forest Owner for more details.

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Member Profile: *Cynthia King*

CARLY NEUMANN

Cynthia King owns eleven acres of woodlands in Amsterdam, NY and lives on an adjoining property, which is jointly owned by King and her husband Thomas Dandrew. The land had at one time been farmed which means that there are very few “nice old trees” with the exception of several growing on a steep slope. Her property includes an apple orchard and an old field in which oaks and sugar maples have seeded themselves. King comments, “now the woods are marching through the field and up to the house I’m hoping that I won’t have to mow three acres of lawn.” The property features a stream, a few very old maple trees and fairly mature younger trees that show a good age gradient.

When asked how she manages her woodlands King replies “as little as

possible.” She does have a forester, Mike Greason, who asked what she wanted to do with it. Her response, “not a lot, really, I like it the way it is.” Although the woodlands would support a small timber sale King doesn’t believe she has any great needs and has let her woodlands “do their own thing”. The stream was a feature of the property that King was really looking for but has surprised her as well. King reflects, “I stupidly thought that streams stayed in the same place but no they don’t, they move.” This stream movement has affected some of Kings projects. She has started gardening in the woods planting native wildflowers and is a volunteer propagator at the George Landis Arboretum. This project has gone well for some species but others have been flooded out or eaten by



King loves winter in her woodlands the most because the “bones” of the forest are exposed. She tries to do what is best for her woodlands but can’t bear to cut down these grapevines for the beauty they offer.

deer. King also takes time to make paths through the multiflora rose to the top of her orchard where she hopes “one of these days real trees will grow.” She has taken some initiative to help these “real trees” out and planted Black Walnuts and Shagbark Hickories several years ago, which are now 5-6 feet tall.

She became a Master Forest Owner in 1999 in response to challenges she had protecting her own woodlands and now enjoys learning from as well as teaching others. She is passionate about wildflowers and understory plants and while on woods walks she will take time out to photograph them. She also enjoys bird watching and the general relaxation of being in the woods where it is “nice and quiet”. The story of King’s acquisition of the land is nothing short of spectacular. She was in a nearly fatal car accident but after a very long stay in the hospital she and her husband decided to sell the house they owned and buy their current home because it had a view. When King was young she had a stream behind her house and



King is an artist by both education and profession and loves the shapes and colors that the woods offer, such as these leaves in autumn.

continued on page 22



The newly forged stream bed after a flood in 2009 moved the stream about 100 feet.




The spring flowers of a White Birch.

had always wanted one of her own. While exploring after they moved in she discovered the stream and woodlands that she now owns and decided to contact the owner to try and purchase the land. He agreed to sell her the 11+ acres and King used money from her accident. When the property owner's wife visited King to drop off the deed and some other paperwork she thought that she recognized King. She (King) recounted how fortunate she was to be buying this property because of her accident. As the story unfolded it turned out the property owner's wife (a nurse) realized she knew King because she was the second person on the scene of her accident and was the one to recognize

that King's seatbelt was choking her to death and assisted the first responder with cutting the seat belt so she could breathe. I can say it no better than King when she said, "obviously, I was meant to have it."

The series of events that has lead King through her path of woodland ownership has given her perspective. She is now concerned with managing the woods as you get older and ensuring that there are sufficient pathways for her to continue walking in and enjoying her forest. King's recommendations to other forest owners include posting your property to avoid trespassing issues. Also, having someone come and look at your property and teach you about woodlands. "I know

a lot of people who think their woods are wonderful but have no clue what do with them or all the possibilities that exist." 

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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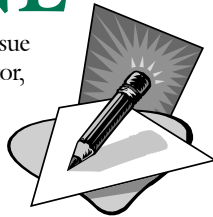
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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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



Deadline for material is February 1, 2011

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