

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

March/April 2011



Member Profile: Chet and Bonnie Crosby

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**THE NEW YORK
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Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 2

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmshheimer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmsh@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the Mary/June issue is April 1, 2011.

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: Landowners Chet and Bonnie Crosby with their grandsons Braydon, Sam and Zack on their property. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Crosby's.

From The President

As I write this in early February, I am in the midst of working with the board of directors to plan for our annual meeting at the Farm Show on 26 February. At this meeting you, NYFOA's members, will elect a new set of board members, then the new board will select its officers for 2011. I have reached my term limit of six years on the board, so I will be stepping down from both



the presidency and the board itself. The new candidates for the board are already coming up to speed and I am confident the transition will be smooth.

It hardly seems possible that I have been on the board for six years. I have learned a lot over the course of that time, both about woodlot management — the reason I joined NYFOA in the first place — and about how the organization works. A lot of things have changed as board members and chapter leaders have come and gone. I have had the privilege to work with a lot of dedicated people who are passionate about woodlands and silviculture.

One thing, however, has not changed. All the time I have been on the board, I have heard from many quarters about the difficulty in getting volunteers to help with things. This is true of both the state and chapter levels of the organization. We have a core of regular volunteers, but they can't do everything and it seems increasingly difficult to draw additional members to help them.

Signing up to help your chapter can be beneficial to both you and the chapter. You will get better acquainted with others in the chapter, meet new members and potential members, and get drawn into conversations ranging from the latest status of the emerald ash borer to how to make wine from birch sap. A few hours helping to staff a NYFOA table at a county fair or similar event, for example, doesn't take much of your time, but it can be a big help to your

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

chapter. I hope all of you will make an effort to get just a little more involved in making NYFOA a better organization.

NYFOA is one of the most interesting and educational organizations I have ever belonged to. I want to close my final column in this space by thanking everybody who contributes to making it what it is: the board members past, present and future; the chapter chairs, newsletter editors and other chapter officers; the professional staff who keep things on an even keel; and the regulars in my local Western Finger Lakes chapter, whose energy and enthusiasm continue to inspire me. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you 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 helps the interested public 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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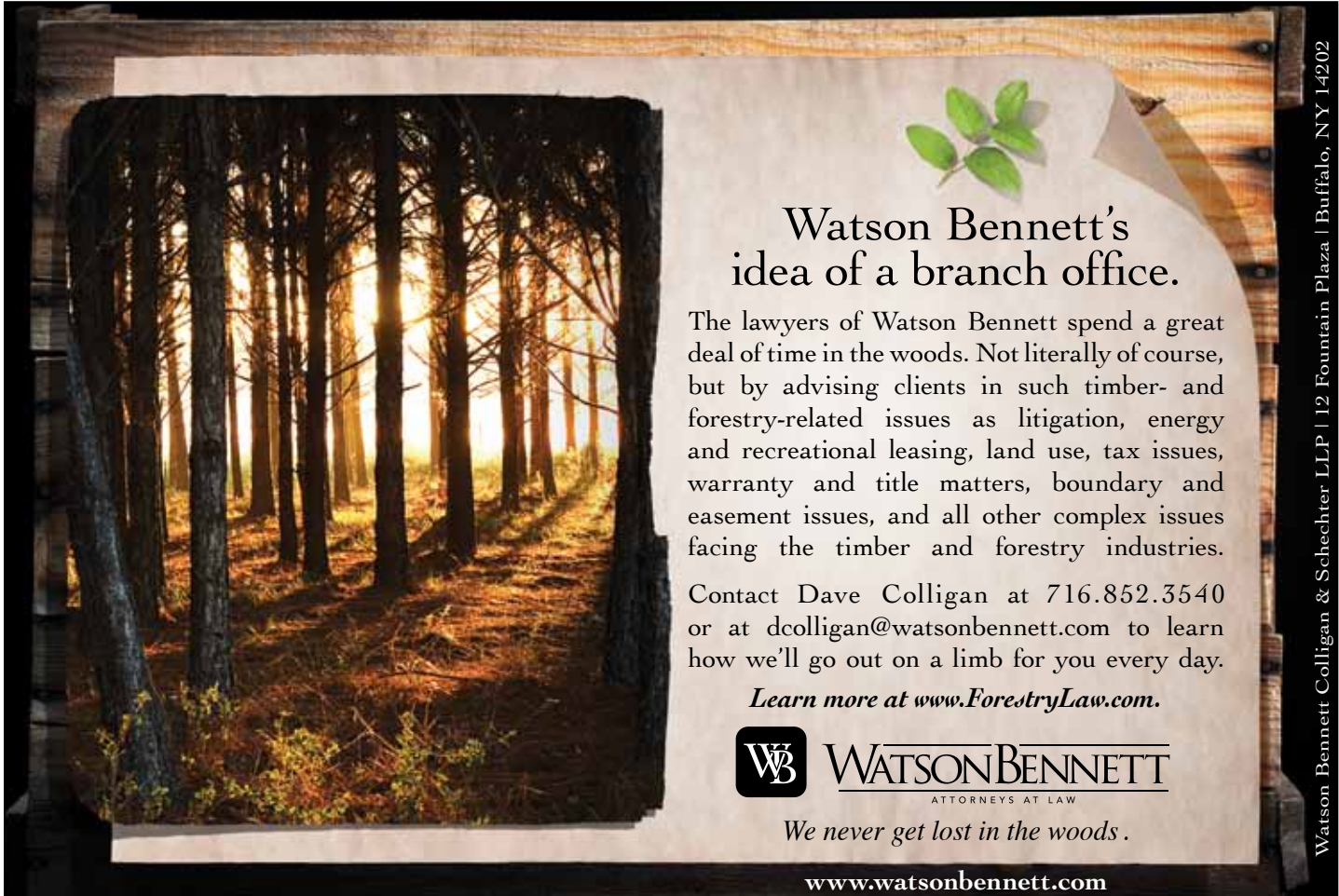
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Chapter Report

LARRY LEPAK

The Southern Tier chapter held its annual Pot-Luck supper meeting on January 20th. This meeting is eagerly awaited each year as chapter members look forward to the great variety of interesting entrees and desserts that are always brought to the dinner. Pot-Luck Supper 2011 did not disappoint again with a wide range of carefully created main dishes, salads and desserts. While all the dishes were great and enjoyed by all, one dessert deserves special mention for obvious reasons. Chapter member Barbara VanDusen of Homer made and decorated a NYFOA chocolate cake. In the collective memory of longtime chapter members, it was believed that Barb's cake was the first NYFOA cake we had seen in person. As you can see in the photo,

the cake was a work of art in which Barbara had the NYFOA colors and logo, together with a number of cake icing spruce trees. At first, no one wanted to cut Barb's cake and consume a piece. However, it didn't take long for the hungry NYFOA members to sample the masterpiece. It turned out to taste as good as it looked! Barb fielded many compliments on the cake and also recipe requests. The meeting concluded with a terrific presentation from the Southern Tier Beekeeping Association on the life-cycle and ongoing issues for the honey bee and beekeepers. 🐝



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Ask A Professional

PETE SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

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

Question:

Why do I need to control invasive plants in my woods, aren't they good for wildlife?

Answer:

Your question has wide application because most, if not all, woodland owners in NY have some invasive plants on their property. Invasive plants are alien or exotic species that significantly limit economic or ecological objectives. Interfering plants, a more general term than invasive, include native species that are problematic relative to ownership objectives. Whether or not you attempt control of invasive plants, and the urgency you might feel, depends on your ownership objectives. Failing to control invasive or interfering plants can have significant consequences for many ownership objectives. Controlling small populations or numbers of interfering plants is typically more effective than waiting. Interfering plants have achieved their undesirable statuses because they are able to dominate woodlands. A recent edited book addresses many of these causes, consequences, and controls (Kohli et al. 2009. *Invasive Plants of Forest Ecosystems*, CRC Press. 437 pp. ISBN-13 978-1420043372). For more information about specific invasive plants or animals, visit <http://nyis.info>

The origin of our problem with many invasive species was their anticipated value for wildlife or benefit to other human objectives. The "goodness" initially associated with invasive plants has given way to a broader recognition of concerns. Often, invasive species produce large quantities of fruit that attract wildlife. Owners enjoy seeing wildlife

and thus feel an affinity to the plants that attract them. However, the invasive plants may ultimately reproduce, establish, and grow more effectively than other species, resulting in dominance of woodlots by the invasive. Because most owners have multiple objectives for their property and those objectives require some diversity of plant species, domination by a single plant species becomes problematic. An understory dominated by a single invasive shrub, for example, may be only one significant wind storm or insect defoliation away from being the next "forest."

The problem caused by an interfering plant depends on both the characteristics of the plant and the objectives of the owner. Many interfering plants have a physical obstructive nature, for example



Interfering plants can form stable plant communities that exclude other plants from establishing. If the overstory of desirable trees, the natural seed source for regeneration, is lost due to some disturbance then the next woodlot is left to the interfering plants. In this picture, the understory is dominated by buckthorn and the overstory is oak.

the bush honeysuckles, that restricts movement into an area. Others have plant structures, for example the thorns on multiflora rose, that are uncomfortable. Others interfering plants provide habitat for species that cause problems, such as deer mice and Lyme disease associated with Japanese barberry. Finally, most interfering plants alter ecological processes, such as reduced reproduction of native species, that change the aesthetic quality of the woods or limit the abundance of future crops of commercially valuable species. Thus, interfering plants can limit most of the common ownership objectives, such as aesthetics, biodiversity, recreational access, and timber production. Perhaps the unusual owner with a singular objective to exclude marauders along the property boundary might seek to develop a heavy cover of multiflora rose or autumn olive; this boundary cover has broader negative attributes.

Consideration for the need and urgency of control should include expanding your knowledge about the life history characteristics of the plant in question. Many interfering plant species have reproductive strategies that allow them to develop a substantial capacity for expansion. For example, garlic mustard is a biennial plant. If you control it during its first year, with only foliage, you can avoid it developing fruits and seeds in year two, which can remain viable in the soil for many years. When the correct conditions exist, the interfering species can quickly dominate the site. Control of smaller populations might have been more efficient and effective.

Interfering plants become dominant because they are particularly successful in at least one of the stages of arrival, establishment, growth or reproduction. There are several distinct theories that describe how species might become dominant. All theories relate to single or combined success with producing and distributing seeds, gaining access to resources such as soil minerals or light, avoiding controls on their survival such as herbivory, or gaining some competitive advantage against native species. Controlling one species may simply



If interfering plants are abundant in your woodlot, as with this area dominated by honeysuckle, select your control efforts to complement your objectives. In this picture, the owner has emphasized control along a corridor for enhanced trail access that primarily supports a recreational objective. Other patterns of control would be used to complement regeneration, agroforestry, or biodiversity objectives.

allow success for another; removal of the undesirable species may need to be coupled with deliberate establishment of other species that can occupy the site. All efforts need regular monitoring to allow for adaptation to your management approach.

Given the objectives and attitudes of most NY woodland owners, control of interfering plants likely should be part of the management plan even if the controls are given a modest or low priority. A first step is to learn to identify and understand the ecology of the invasive or potentially interfering plants on your property. If the interfering plants are in low numbers, work to bring them under control throughout your property. Because your neighbors may have more of these plants, you will need to regularly inspect your property for new arrivals. You might also talk with your neighbor about a collaborative effort at control.

If you have greater numbers of interfering plants, they may be already limiting your success with other ownership objectives. Once you can identify and understand the ecology of the plant,

target specific areas of your property for control to better accomplish your objectives. You might target an area that is a trail corridor for better access or an area with a planned timber harvest to improve your success with desirable regeneration.

Several organic and chemical-based tools are available. Not all tools will work for a particular species. Pick your optimal tool after gaining familiarity with the ecology of the plant, particularly the onset and abundance of fruit production, ability to sprouts, seed retention in the soil, and the vigor of the root system. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of each potential tool. Time is the predominant constraint on owners, so select the tool that has the greatest probability of success at the first treatment. Monitor regularly after treatment to make sure you were successful. 🏠

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

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



You probably know...

Nearly two-thirds of New York State's landscape is forested.

85% of that is timberlands.

Three quarters of that timberland is owned by over 500,000 non industrial private forest owners like you!

But did you know...

Only about seven percent of those acres are enrolled in the Tree Farm program.

Less than one quarter of those acres are managed by a professional forester.

Overall, only three percent of those acres not enrolled in Tree Farm operate under a written management plan.

Tree Farm strives to promote the growth of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry. We are committed to sustaining forests, watersheds, wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities by giving family forest owners the knowledge and tools to manage their woodlot. If you're reading this now, it's because your goals are aligned with mine! I know this because the mission of NYFOA is to promote sustainable



forestry practices and improved stewardship on private woodlots.

So I ask the question, how is it possible that so many members of NYFOA are not members of Tree Farm and so

many Tree Farmers are not members of NYFOA. This is a question that many of us, as your leaders and representatives from both organizations, ask each other every few years or so. We don't have any answers, do you? Our organizations partner in so many ways, yet our membership rarely overlaps.

It is the start of another spring. The time of year that I always remind you to walk your woodlot, see what changes have occurred over the winter, review your management plan and contact your forester if you need help documenting the changes and making updates to your plan. However, this year, and in light of the figures, I feel that it's more appropriate to issue you a challenge for the coming season. Ask yourself if you're taking advantage of all that both organizations have to offer. Did you attend any of our landowner education programs? Are you a member, or a supporter of both organizations? Ask yourself if you can be a better land manager, if it would benefit you,

your family and your neighbor if you were. And as a second challenge, and in my mind a more important one, if you are reading this and you don't have a management plan, write one. If you don't have a relationship with a forestry professional, develop one. These are both key for sustainable forest management, that's what we're all striving for in the end, isn't it?

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 Immediate Past 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



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!

Blooming Branches

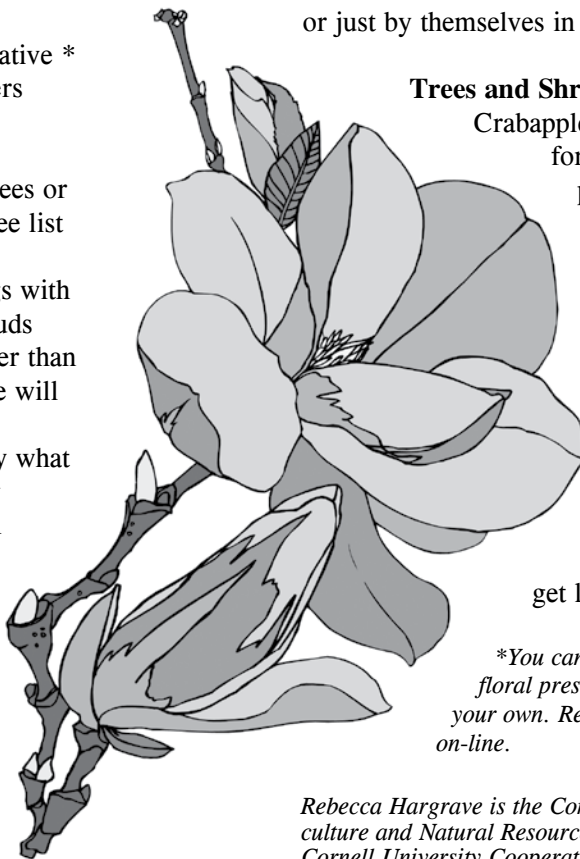
It may still be cold and snowy outside, but you can bring some Spring into your home. Many trees can be forced to bloom early, making your indoors beautiful and fragrant.

Tools:

- Hand Pruners (bring an adult!)
- Bucket to hold twigs
- Tree ID book
- Water
- Floral Preservative *
- Vase/Containers

Steps:

- Identify the trees or shrubs to use (see list below)
- Look for twigs with plump flower buds (which are bigger than leaf buds), those will be the best.
- Prune off only what you need, a few twigs from each tree, don't over prune. Have an adult help you. Branches should be 6 to 18 inches long.



- Bring twigs indoors, re-cut or smash the bottom of the twig to allow for water uptake, and place in a bucket of warm water 2-3 inches deep with some floral preservative for 30 minutes.
- Place bucket in a cool place, 60 degrees, out of direct sunlight for one to two weeks.
- Once blooming has begun, bring out the branches and use in an arrangement or just by themselves in a vase.

Trees and Shrubs to use:

Crabapple, apple, larch, forsythia, birch, pussy willow, cherry, honeysuckle and red maple. Try some others to see how they do; choose spring flowering shrubs, or you may just get leaves. 🌲

**You can use store bought floral preservative, or make your own. Recipes can be found on-line.*

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

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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. Watch www.nyfoa.org or the *Forest Owner* for more details.

Land Trusts Applaud Renewal of Enhanced Conservation Tax Incentive

KRIS WEST

Conservation-minded landowners now have until December 31, 2011 to take advantage of a significant federal income tax deduction for donating a voluntary conservation easement to permanently protect important natural resources on their land. Action taken with strong bipartisan support by Congress and the Obama administration at the end of 2010 renewed the enhanced federal conservation easement tax incentive. The incentive, which had been in place from 2006 to 2009, helped Land Trusts work with landowners in New York to conserve thousands of acres of productive farmland, working forest and diverse natural areas.

The enhanced incentive applies to a landowner's federal income tax. It:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allows qualifying farmers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and

- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

Under the previous rules, a landowner earning \$30,000 a year who donated a conservation easement valued at \$200,000 could take a \$10,000 deduction for the year of the donation and for an additional 5 years—a total of \$60,000 in tax deductions. The new rules allow that same landowner to deduct \$15,000 for the year of the donation and claim the entire \$200,000 easement value over the next 15 years.

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that limit the amount of future development on a property while, at the same time, keeping the land in private ownership, available for traditional land uses and on local tax roles. Conservation easements, which do not require public access, are tailored for each property depending on the characteristics of the property and the landowner's objec-

continued on next page



Most conservation easements allow sustainable harvest of timber on the property

Facts About Conservation Easements

- A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (or other qualified organization) in which the landowner places permanent restrictions on the use of his or her property in order to protect the natural values of the land.

- Restrictions usually include limitations on residential, commercial and industrial development. However, every easement is unique. Restrictions are determined by agreement between the landowner and the land trust.

- Land under a conservation easement remains in private ownership. The owner can still sell, lease, mortgage, farm, conduct forestry, or otherwise use their property consistent with the terms of the conservation easement. Only the specific restrictions negotiated with the Land Trust limit what can be done with the property.

- A conservation easement does not give the public any rights to your land unless you decide to include such rights in the easement.

- The easement becomes a permanent part of the title, recorded with the County Clerk, and future owners must comply with the terms of the easement.

- For tax deduction purposes, the value of a conservation easement is determined by independent appraisal and is the difference between the land's unrestricted and restricted value.

- The land trust is responsible for monitoring the property on a regular basis and enforcing the terms of the easement if necessary.

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Safely Using Chemicals in Woodlands

Part II - Spills

Many material safety data sheets will discuss what to do in the event of a spill. The New York State Department of Conservation has regulations for chemical spills. When a chemical spill should be reported is explained at their web site: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2634.html>. As they say, "an accidental spill is not a crime but not reporting those spills that are supposed to be reported is a crime." Many chemicals do not breakdown in the soil and are lethal to organisms for a long time.

Absorbent spill control kits are available for collecting spilled oil and chemicals. The individual items in a kit — pads, socks and pillows — can be purchased in quantities. Absorbent pads can be put down before doing repairs as well as after a spill. The tube-like socks are for collecting material that will flow or float. Even when handling the containment products, proper personal protective equipment needs to be used when handling contaminated spill materials.

Depending on the nature of a spill the contaminated soil may have to be collected and disposed of properly. Again the DEC can help locate a site for that purpose.

When chemicals are used for insect or plant control, proper chemical mix-


ing and application is crucial for personal and environmental protection. The old phrase, "the dose makes the poison," is still important today. Training is available for chemical applicators and although most personal use application does not require a license the same training for professional applicators is available to anyone. The Department of Environmental Conservation website tracks trainers and certified applicators at their website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/209.html>. Cornell Cooperative Extension is another resource for pesticide applicators.

Minor differences in commercial chemical mixtures are one reason to understand proper chemical application. Some herbicides have similar active ingredients but are mixed in different carriers such as diesel fuel or water. Sometimes the environmental problem is the "inactive ingredient." The inactive ingredient may harm fish so the manufacturer changes the inactive ingredient, re-labels and often re-names the product for use in water so the same core pesticide is used on land and in water but in a different mix.

One consideration for chemical hazard control is substituting a less toxic chemical. Good old 2-4-D is relatively safe to humans in its diluted form however glyphosate is much safer. Substitution can also include using a different control method such as a gas powered brush cutter, picking bugs off by hand and killing them in oil or pulling weeds by hand.

Proper chemical application requires calibration or sampling methods. Unless a label says "apply until it just starts to drip off the leaf" the applicator needs to measure the rate that the chemical is being applied. Simple tools like a bottle and a stop-watch are often used. But for other applications like backpack mist blowers where particle size and distribution are a concern, water sensitive paper stapled to leaves may help. The paper turns color where the water specks hit it. The fact that there may be fine particles in the air may justify respiratory protection of some type.

A simple piece of paper can be useful for granular application of chemicals. Using sheets of paper which have a known area that are placed on the treated ground an applicator can collect samples and weigh them to determine if too little or too much chemical is applied.

Information is the first line of chemical hazard control for a landowner. Labels, material safety data sheets and training are resources for the woodland owner to protect themselves personally, to avoid harming others and from harming the environment. Proper handling of chemicals will enable users to keep them under control and use them in a manner that is safe for the applicator and the environment. It will prevent overuse and waste. The legal expense from harming others or the environment is something any woodland owner will want to avoid. 

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

tives. Conservation easements may allow for timber management including commercial harvesting, agricultural practices, hunting, limited residential development and/or limited natural gas related leasing.

"Within the Finger Lakes Region, more than 70 conservation easement donations have secured scenic farmland, rugged gorges, and mature forest," said Finger Lakes Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. The best way to describe how this tool works is to examine some examples of conservation easement projects completed by a land

trust. Stories of two different landowners who worked with the Finger Lakes Land Trust to conserve their properties may inspire others to consider this option for their own land. In both cases, the conservation easements didn't change how the land is used. Further, it gave the landowners the ability to leave a legacy of open, working land to future generations.

In 2003, long time NYFOA members John and Carol Krebs donated a conservation easement on their 434-acre wooded parcel in the town of Springwa-

ter in Livingston County. John passed away shortly thereafter. Carol said, "The knowledge that his forest would be protected from residential development forever was important to him." Carol continues to enjoy her land for hiking and hunting. Conducting a timber sale four years ago, she works closely with a consulting forester to manage the property for high quality hardwoods including cherry, beech, maple and oak. Carol's advice to other forest landowners? She

continued on page 19

NYFOA AWARDS

Mike Birmingham Honored with Heiberg Award



Mike Birmingham received the 2011 Heiberg Memorial Award from Ron Pedersen.

The Heiberg Memorial Award, memorializing Svend O. Heiberg, a world-renowned professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. Heiberg was one of the original founders of the New York Forest Owners Association in 1962. The award was presented to Mike Birmingham at the Association's annual membership meeting held Saturday, February 26 during the New York Farm Show on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Mike has had a long and distinguished forestry career in New York State. He is a graduate of the SUNY College of

Environmental Science and Forestry and for many years managed his own woodlots in western New York. Although he retired from the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2002, he has remained active in the forestry community.

Mike is a long time member of the Forest Owners Association, the Society of American Foresters and of the North-eastern Forest Pest Council. But Mike Birmingham deserves special recognition in 2010 for his efforts in support of both state and local conservation organizations and in educating the public. Among his most recent accomplishments:

- Service as the state treasurer for the New York Forest Owners Association which required hundreds of hours of his time.
- Writing several articles for the *Warbler*, a publication of the Alan Devoe Bird Club of Columbia County, explaining the connections between bird habitat and forest conditions.
- Serving on the state board of directors of the Forest Owners Association.
- Serving on the steering committee of the Capital District Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association.
- Serving as a regional coordinator for the Master Forest Owner program in the capital district area.

Mike is a dedicated professional who deserves to be recognized with the Heiberg Award by NYFOA for his significant contributions to both forestry and the Association in 2010.

—Presented by Ron Pedersen

Heiberg Award Recipients

1966	Hardy L. Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutchess
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatich
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil
2008	Gary Goff
2009	John Sullivan
2010	Carl Wiedemann
2011	Mike Birmingham

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Outstanding Service Award Presented to Jamie Christensen



Jamie Christensen receives the Outstanding Service Award from Rich Taber at the Annual NYFOA meeting.

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

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

The New York Forest Owners Association presented its Outstanding Service Award to Central New York Chapter member Jamie Christensen. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Association membership.

Jamie, a local Syracuse resident, has been actively involved with NYFOA now for about ten years. A graduate of the New York State College of Forestry (now SUNY-ESF) in Forest Engineering, Jamie embarked upon a career here in Syracuse with the Crucible Corporation, retiring 11 years ago. Upon his retirement, he became very active in the Central New York chapter, and when longtime CNY Chapter Chair and NYFOA Secretary John Druke decided to step down, Jamie stepped up to the plate as the CNY Chair. As CNY Chair he has, for several years now, spearheaded the efforts not only for the CNY chapter, but has served yeoman duty in facilitating the NY Farm show each year. Each year, he has arranged for all of the speakers for the forestry seminars during the show, as well as orchestrating and frequently manning the forestry exhibit in the International Building, working with DEC, SUNY-ESF, and NYFOA. He has also arranged for the rooms for the NYFOA annual membership meeting, continually working with Farm Show personnel for several months out of the year to make this event possible.

Jamie has also been involved the past two years in setting up and manning the NYFOA booth at the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, visiting with and spreading NYFOA's mission to many.

At the chapter level, which consists of six counties, Jamie has arranged for and led the chapter on an ambitious program of activities each year.

Jamie, along with his brother John, owns a 345 acre woodlot in the Madison County town of Lebanon, in the Hatch Lake area, where he practices

sustainable forestry and enjoys many of the same amenities that all woodland owners do.

He and his wife Karen have two adult children, and three grandchildren, who enjoy their rural property for much of the year as well.

It gives me great pleasure to give this Outstanding Service Award to my friend, neighbor, and fellow chapter member Jamie Christensen, of the Central New York Chapter of the New York Forest Owner's Association. 🌲

—Presented by Rich Taber

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
- 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

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

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AND THE EMERALD ASH BORER

BY MARK WHITMORE AND PETE SMALLIDGE

Woodlot owners in New York will at some time be dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*. In the last issue of the New York Forest Owner we provided an update on the EAB situation in New York; please refer to this article for background information. In this article we will focus specifically on what you can be doing as a woodlot owner to prepare for the EAB.

One of the most important things to remember is that EAB is not currently widespread in New York so most woodlot owners have time to plan ahead and benefit from additional ash volume growth. Indeed, if the state's efforts to "Slow the Spread" are successful we will have even more time to develop and implement management strategies. One thing to consider is that every year your woodlot is EAB free the ash volume is increasing and in some stands this can be significant. Right now we really have no good guesses about how fast EAB will be moving through the state. However, if people stop moving infested firewood, many of the states' woodlot owners will have perhaps several more years before the EAB arrives in their neighborhood. So cool your heels if you've been thinking about liquidating your ashets and start planning ahead to minimize EAB impacts.

The specific course of action a landowner selects will depend on their objectives, abundance and maturity of ash in their woodland, the abundance

and quality of other species in the woodland, owner's geographic proximity to EAB infestation, the availability of markets, and owner's ability to complete or coordinate work tasks in the woods.

The attitudes and resources of the private forest owner will influence management decisions in response to EAB. Forest owners who seek productive forests may want to be proactive to capture value while markets are favorable but should be mindful of lost volume if EAB is not near. Forest owners who will be

able to personally utilize ash or sell in nearby markets may want to wait for the insect to arrive and harvest at that time. Owners who desire minimal manipulation of their woods similarly may wait and then respond to manage effects that may cascade from ash mortality, such as invasive plants, less desirable regeneration, loss of diversity or reduced forest stocking. Each owner needs to personally assess their objectives, and consult with forestry professionals attuned to the owner's objectives, to guide their strategy and timing for a response to EAB.

Effective management of forests in anticipation of EAB requires knowledge of forest characteristics such as the variety of other desired tree species, presence of invasive plants, forest density, tree age and average tree diameter. Most forest owners should work with a forester to acquire this information. Information on how to select a forester is available through Cornell University Cooperative Extension and at www.ForestConnect.info. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provides free Stewardship management planning advice to forest owners upon their re-



In young stands with mixed species, consider cutting some ash that shade desired species to promote species diversity and reduce ash abundance.

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

quest. Contact the local DEC forestry office to obtain assistance from a DEC Forester. DEC also maintains a list of Cooperating Foresters, foresters in the private sector who provide services to forest owners.

Because the arrival of EAB is imminent, and there are no known methods of control on an area-wide basis, forest owners should assess their interest in managing impacts and, if appropriate, capturing the value that exists in ash on their property. Young, fully forested areas but with low abundance of ash stems will experience minimal ecological impact from EAB. Forests

that are increasingly mature or having greater abundance of ash will be more dramatically affected when the insect arrives. Owners should strive for a mixture of species and forests that are adequately stocked for optimum growth. Stocking refers to the number and size of trees per acre; full or overstocked woodlots have reduced growth of trees and an increased potential of natural mortality. The natural mortality isn't controlled, and in some cases the ash may survive and future desired tree species may not.

In young forests and forests having low densities of ash, owners may

benefit from non- or pre-commercial thinning to reduce the density of ash in favor of alternative desired species. This will shift growth to other desirable species and ensure they are thrifty if and when ash mortality occurs. In areas being planned for planting, species other than ash that are suited to soil conditions should be used. In forests that are heavily stocked with ash a non- or pre-commercial thinning could be used in one or two steps to open the stand gradually and encourage regeneration of desirable species without opening the stand up too much and thereby encouraging invasives.

In maturing forests, where the average tree is 12 inches diameter or larger, owners should evaluate their desire to capture any value that exists in ash. However, owners should strongly avoid the temptation for unnecessarily harvesting other high value trees that may serve as an important seed source to restock the forest following the death or removal of ash. Management in mature stands with abundant ash may seek to establish regeneration of other species in anticipation of EAB's arrival. In woodlands with abundant ash, this management strategy will result in a dramatic visual change. Owners should carefully consider their ownership goals and all management options. Complete liquidation of ash from a woodland is not recommended. If there are no ash left in the woods we will not have the chance to

continued on page 16

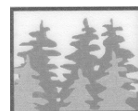
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Emerald Ash Borer(continued)

find that one rare individual that may be resistant to EAB.

Markets for ash in New York have remained remarkably resilient despite the implementation of quarantine regulation over large parts of the state and the flood of ash into the marketplace resulting from panic selling. This is largely because the regulating agencies, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and USDA APHIS, have been proactive with education and implementation of regulations that work with industry to enable commerce in a responsible manner.

When forests are disturbed through natural processes or management activities, they experience some type of change. Forests typically display predictable patterns of response, depending on local condition, existing interfering vegetation, current deer populations, and the type of disturbance. Specific conditions or actions that might inhibit the development of healthy and ecologically functional forests following EAB include: the spread of invasive plants that compete with desirable plants, deer browsing that reduces desirable species, logging disturbance without attention to water quality best management practices, high-grade (diameter limit) harvests

that remove all or most of the valuable trees prior to effective forest regeneration, damage to the root systems or stems of residual trees during logging, or removal of desired trees needed for seed production.

Lastly, now is the time to begin planning for the worst case scenario where the vast majority of our ash is killed. If we do nothing our genetic resources for possibly reintroducing ash into our future forests will be minimal. We should be collecting seed and preserving it now, before the EAB takes this resource away. There is a National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative by the USDA to conserve ash seed and information can be found at: http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/geneticconservation_ash.html

Cornell University Cooperative Extension recommends these steps for private forest owners:

1. Work with professionals to evaluate your need and desire to manage the impact and extent of mortality associated with EAB relative to your ownership objectives. Your ownership objectives influence the following recommendations. Be calm and deliberate in your decision making.
2. Determine the current status of

EAB in New York by checking the DEC website and identify any revisions to management recommendations. EAB status may change more than once each year. Consider geographic location and the need for timely actions.

3. Assess the abundance and age of ash in your forest. Consult with a forester to learn how ash abundance in your woodlands, relative to other species, will be affected by the potential complete loss of ash.

4. In young forests or those that have low ash density, you could harvest or kill the ash that compete (shade) with other desired trees. This will retain some ash that are not competing and will ensure that a mixture of species is thriving when the EAB arrives and affects your forest.

5. In mature forests and those with high densities of ash, identify potential markets and harvest ash trees to capture the best value. Avoid the temptation to include other species in the harvest to make the harvest viable. Retain vigorous and dominant stems of other species to form the remaining and future forest. The arrival of EAB into NY has resulted in quarantines but markets have remained robust and agencies are working hard to minimize any disruption of commerce.

6. Call Before Your Cut: Consult with a forester, DEC or Cooperating Forester, prior to making decisions to cut or not to cut.

For more EAB Information please refer to the table on the previous page. ▲

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

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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Ranger School Expands Offerings on Eve of its Centennial

JAMIE SAVAGE

On the eve of its centennial celebration (to commence in 2012), SUNY-ESF's Ranger School will begin offering a new curriculum titled Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation. This will be the third AAS



program to be offered by the Ranger School, complimenting the popular and long-standing Forest Technology and Land Surveying options. All three programs will operate according to the Ranger School's unique "one-plus-one" plan, wherein students must acquire 30 credit hours of liberal arts and basic science from an accredited college before entering into the School's nine-month, hands-on, field-based program. While at the Ranger School, students earn an additional 45 credits in courses directly related to their career interests. Currently, about 45 students enroll at the Ranger School each year, with

an additional 35-45 attending optional summer sessions.

The new Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation (ENRC) program provides students with the scientific theory and applied skills necessary for a technical career in the environmental and natural resources sector. It consists of a solid grounding in applied ecological and sociopolitical concepts, as well as in-depth technical training in plant and tree identification, land surveying, natural resources measurements, geospatial applications, soil and water monitoring, wildlife management, and forest recreation. Applications are now being accepted for the Fall 2011 semester, and a national search is underway for a new faculty member to help teach in the ENRC program. For more information, visit www.esf.edu/rangerschool

James M. Savage is a Professor and Certified Forester (CF) with the SUNY-ESF Ranger School



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Timber Topics:

Time to Sell your Timber? Maybe, Maybe not.

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

They really started me thinking. The truth is that the NYFOA Woods Walk, the workshop at Cooperative Extension a couple of years ago and the visit with the Master Forest Owner Volunteer had opened my eyes — at least a little bit. But, the trigger was when that logger approached my neighbor about buying his timber. Joe told me he was going to call his forester, ask around about the logger, and check on timber sale contracts.

What came to my mind was a list I'd picked up somewhere about "Is it time to sell" or some such title. I searched through my desk and found the fact sheet, and started to read:

Should you have a timber harvest? This is one of the most complex and important questions that you as a forest owner need to answer. Yet, too often landowners make a quick decision, or fail to consider all the alternatives and ramifications of cutting now or waiting until a later date.

This brochure discusses factors to keep in mind as you consider and plan activities and practices in your woods. These points may be particularly important when contemplating major activities such as a timber sale, for which you may have second thoughts, after it's too late.

Financial considerations are often a major factor. Do you have an immediate need for cash? Alternatively, perhaps you want to nurture the growing timber value in your woods for a future need. Those trees may be increasing in value far more quickly than the earnings from their stump value would be in the bank. On the other hand, some trees of lesser value may be using nutrients and space that could be better utilized by other trees.


Market conditions are related to the financial criteria. Find out about overall market conditions, and present stumpage values for the species that would be sold. Since 2008, markets generally have been depressed with the downturn in the economy. What are the prospects for future increases, or declines in prices? Answers to such questions are often vague and their usefulness may be limited, but they should be a factor as you, your family and your forester consider timber harvest alternatives.

Forest health is increasingly a major concern with the invasion of exotic insect pests. Even without the threat of exotic pests the health and viability of your forest must be considered. A forest is a biological community with each plant and animal being born, growing,

maturing, and then declining with eventual death. Should you harvest some trees now before they reach "old age" or maybe fall prey to some pathogen? Are there other practices that might help prevent or curb their spread?

Family values including reasons you acquired and continue to hold the land must be a major consideration. Is it the solitude of trekking through the woods on a crisp, cold winter day with the wind gently sifting through the pines? Perhaps you want better ATV or truck access or new ski trails through the wood lot. Are there special places you see from your front porch or woodland cabin? What about wildlife needs for low cover or food sources that call for cutting small openings in the forest canopy? Stream sides, wetlands and favorite picnic spots may come into play.

And, that's just the beginning. The decision to harvest timber can and should be approached as carefully as buying a home, providing for retirement, managing your investment portfolio, or contemplating other major changes. Your woods have become a part of you and your family. Decisions about the land and its resources require careful fact finding within the family and beyond.

Look to future *Forest Owner* issues for tools to help decide among alternatives, in concert with a professional forester. 

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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Land Trusts (continued)

says, "I highly recommend that anyone who wants to protect their forest consider a conservation easement."

In Ontario County, farmer Don Green decided to donate a conservation easement to the Finger Lakes Land Trust to ensure the future of his 200-acre farm, which has been in his family for five generations. Don said, "I work with NRCS, Cooperative Extension and a forester to apply best management practices on my property and I want to see that continue in the future." Don retained the right to subdivide the property which allowed him to transfer 100 acres to one of his daughters. For another daughter, he reserved the ability for her to build a home. Don continues to own about 70 acres where he harvests hay and works with a forester to manage his woodlot for timber stand improvements and firewood production. The easement will protect the land from further subdivision and development.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is a non-profit organization that was established in 1989 to work cooperatively with landowners and local communities to conserve those lands that are vital to the integrity of the region. With offices in Ithaca, Canandaigua and Painted Post, the organization has protected more than 12,000 acres of the region's important open space lands through the use of conservation easements as well as outright acquisition for the establishment of public conservation areas. Additional information about the Finger Lakes Land Trust and conservation easements may be obtained by calling (607) 275-9487 or at www.fllt.org.

To learn more about the enhanced incentive visit www.lta.org/easementincentive. To find a land trust serving your area, visit www.ltanet.org/landtrustdirectory. 

Kris West is a Senior Field Representative with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, Southern Tier Office.

Can a Conservation Easement Help me Lower My Tax Bill in Other Ways?

Landowners interested in learning about conservation related tax benefits should discuss these issues with their tax advisor or attorney. In addition to federal income tax deductions, a landowner may be eligible for a New York State income tax credit and significant estate tax benefits.

In 2006, New York State enacted a tax credit which offers tax payers whose land is restricted by a conservation easement an *annual* New York State income tax credit of up to 25% of the school district, county and town real estate taxes paid on the restricted land, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000 per tax payer.

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

Tap Your Trees and Sell Sap to a Nearby Producer

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Member Profile: *Chet and Bonnie Crosby*

CARLY NEUMANN

Chet Crosby and his wife Bonnie own a 71 acre parcel of land in Owasco, NY in Cayuga County. The property is rectangular and drops about 100 feet over the course of a half mile. The land was farmed up until the 1970's and fence posts are evidence of this even in the area that Crosby considers the most mature woodlot. The topography of the land gives it four distinct sections each about 15 acres. Currently the top 15 acres of the property is leased to a farmer who is using the land for a hayfield. The top 15 acres is the only tillable land. The property features an esker and diverse soil types and therefore different plants and tree species. The couple lives about three miles from the property, which even though it is near housing developments still feels secluded.

Chet Crosby is a retired middle school science teacher who majored in Biology as an undergraduate. He grew up in a

small town and moved to the city when he was 11. Even through the move he always had an interest in nature and as they say "you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy." His wife, Bonnie, is a retired elementary school teacher. Chet is the Vice President of Cayuga County Sportsmen Federation Club and President of the Owasco Lake Anglers Association where he helped head the project that restored Walleye to the lake. The group raised three-day-old fry and stocked the 2-3 inch fingerlings into the lake. Both Chet and Bonnie are very active in developing environmental curriculum and protecting the quality of their watershed and Owasco lake and are members of committees concerned with these issues.

The Crosby's have three sons and three grandsons and their family is an important reason for their purchasing the property in 2004. "I feel strongly



Son, Peter Crosby, checking out some of the trees he has planted.

in the need to preserve the natural areas that give us an opportunity to allow our kids and friends to use them" Crosby states. The 15 acre woodlot on the bottom of the property is a mixture of sugar maple, hickory, walnut, silver, red maple and ash. Some of the most mature hardwoods can be found here including a 48 inch Burr Oak and 36 inch Black Walnut as well as some larger sugar maples. Buckthorn grows in areas that were once pastureland and managing the species has presented a challenge. They have thinned some of it and also, with the help of Peter Smallidge and his students, tried flame burning but the process was "not very effective," Crosby states presumably because of the thick bark. Crosby has used NYFOA members and the DEC Forester from Cortland as resources to learn how to manage the land.

Managing the property has been a learning process. In the short amount of time they have owned the property they have seen many changes. Crosby released several wild apple trees that grew on the property by thinning. They encourage the growth of wildlife food sources such as the apples and wild grape. He has attempted some grafting

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Crosby's have a half acre wildlife pond that is used by ducks, geese, shore birds, deer, raccoons and other critters.



Grandson's Zachary and Sam watch over Uncle Tom's buck.



Images of a deer taken during rut with a trail camera on the Crosby property.

of domestic apples with the wild trees growing on the property in hopes of getting a fruit that will be edible for the family. Crosby's son Peter planted blue berries and they have been experimenting with exotic tree species and have planted Sequoias (which are growing very well), Ponderosa Pines, Cypress and English Oaks. Crosby also planted white pines, but all the tree planting must be accompanied by staking and plastic to protect the new trees from the overabundant deer population.

The couple enjoys the variety of wildlife that inhabits their property. They enjoy birds such as turkey, grouse, and pileated woodpeckers. Crosby recalls an experience while he was bow hunting in November when he was surrounded by

a flock of bluebirds eating the dogwood berries around him, "they let you get pretty close," he says.

As far as predators, there are mink and coyotes and Peter had a close encounter with a red fox while he was deer hunting. The beaver that built a dam on the stream last year was both good and bad. The Crosby's harvest around seven deer a year off their land and an over abundance of deer makes managing them important. Crosby remembers seeing three does in the field one spring and two of them had twins and one had triplets. Other than the personal encounters they have also set up trail cameras as another way to enjoy the wildlife. There are shots of a 8-10 point bucks and "some of them live on the property but

most of them you wouldn't normally see or would just catch a glimpse because they are just passing through."

In the six years that they've owned the land Crosby has also put in an extensive trail system that allows easy access to the different parts of the property year-round. Persevering this natural place to share with family and friends is something Crosby feels strongly about. They harvest berries grown on the land and share with friends. He also encourage their sons to experiment with the property and watch things grow. Crosby encourages landowners to gain an understanding of what is on their land. They always try to go out and find new plants in the spring and summer and have even discovered Indian artifacts on the bottomland. Crosby encourages landowners to "simply enjoy your property and leave it in a better place for others to enjoy." He quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson in saying "In the woods we return to reason and faith." ▲

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



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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the May/June Issue 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 April 1, 2011

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