

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

May/June 2011



Member Profile: Renee Bouplon

Volume 49 Number 3



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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 3

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth 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 July/August issue is June 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.

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

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Renee Bouplon and “Bailey” sit along a stream on her family’s property. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Renee Bouplon.

From The President

I've been pretty busy the last few weeks, coming up to speed on all the things a president of NYFOA should be doing. Outgoing president Mike Seager's shoes are pretty big ones to fill, even for my size 15 feet.

My excitement about what lay ahead for our organization was severely tempered with the recent, unexpected passing of a stalwart NYFOA supporter,



Mike Greason. A testimonial to the character of the man and Mike's many abilities and contributions is properly given more fully on page 12 of this issue and I couldn't possibly do justice to him in this short

column other than to simply say he will be sorely missed.

A little background about myself... Although we live in Rochester, my wife, Barbara, and I have strong ties to the Finger Lakes region with many of my ancestors being among its earliest settlers. We love the area and in 1994 purchased a little over 200 acres of land in Schuyler County consisting of farm, pasture, and woods. Recognizing we really didn't know what we were doing and wanting to be good stewards of the land, it didn't take us long to discover NYFOA.

We started attending meetings and woods walks, making great new friends in the process. I realized that the best way to learn is by doing, and so I volunteered for positions within the chapter, starting out as the Western Finger Lakes Chapter's newsletter editor. That put me in the center of what was going on

there and was invaluable in extending my knowledge and contact resources. Over the course of time I've subsequently held several positions in the WFL Chapter and on the state board of NYFOA and have enjoyed and been enriched by it all.

Based on my experience I would encourage each of you, as a NYFOA member, to consider volunteering some of your own time and energy to advance the mission of NYFOA. The ten NYFOA chapters spanning New York are at the heart of our ability to provide information to you and your fellow woodlot owners and to help all of us realize our objectives on our woodlots.

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

To find out more about how you might contribute, you'll want to contact the chapter chair for your area. If you have access to the web, from the home page of nyfoa.org click on the Chapter tab and then your chapter (see the associated map if you're not sure what chapter you're in) to locate contact information at the bottom of that page. Those without web access can simply call Liana Gooding, our Office Administrator, at 1-800-836-3566 to find out how to get this information.

I am looking forward to meeting many more of you at forestry-related events during this coming year.

-Jim Minor
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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NYFOA Scholarship Winner

Each Spring the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Forest and Natural Resources Management department awards the NYFOA Scholarship to the Junior who has the highest GPA. This year's recipient of the scholarship was William Brown, an undergraduate student in the Natural Resource Management program. Following is an excerpt from William's note of appreciation to NYFOA:



René Germain (left) NYFOA board member and Professor at SUNY ESF with NYFOA Scholarship winner, William Brown.

I was awarded the NYFOA scholarship for the 2010-11 school year and would like to take this opportunity to express my extreme gratitude. Forestry has not always been an interest of mine. In fact, as a child from the suburbs of Michigan, it wasn't until my late twenties that I chose forestry as a career. The specifics of how I ended up in New York at ESF's Ranger School pursuing a degree in Forest Technology are unimportant. The important part of the story is that after years wandering and maintaining unfulfilling jobs I found something that I was genuinely interested in; forestry. Now that I am at ESF's main campus as an out-of-state student, every dollar in scholarships that I receive is vital to continuing my education. The generosity of groups like NYFOA has truly made my college, and future professional career, possible. When I graduate I hope to either join the Peace Corps as a volunteer or begin a career with the US Forest Service. Thank you for the scholarship and affording me the opportunity to pursue a career that is both fulfilling and interesting. ▲

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Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

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

Question:

"My neighbor has been tapping twenty of my 18 to 20 inch diameter sugar maple trees for each of the past three years despite my verbal requests not to tap and my obviously marked property boundaries. If he had asked first, I likely would have granted access to the trees. I feel that my neighbor has taken advantage of me and I want this to stop. This year I contacted the local sheriff who has filed my written complaint. The neighbor was concerned that I might press charges for trespass. My attorney says that I can sue for loss of timber value. How should I proceed?"

Answer:

It is unfortunate you had this experience. The maple syrup producers that I know would not trespass and behave this way with their neighbors. I realize, however, that some producers, and also some woodlot owners, do not understand or do not respect private property rights as represented by the land and the trees. Some people excuse their neglect of these rights because these are "just trees." This attitude fails to recognize the property rights of the owner or the pivotal role that private property of all types plays for us personally and in our society. You should be commended for having your property boundary delineated and for calling the sheriff to

help you resolve this problem. In many situations, though not your situation, a clearly marked boundary dissuades the trespasser.

Before I offer my response, I need to be clear that I am not an attorney and cannot provide legal counsel. Your attorney can help you decide if you should pursue this situation from a criminal or

civil perspective. I can respond from a forest and maple perspective, and offer some suggestions of strategies for you to discuss with your attorney.

Regarding your question about the loss of tree value, the most defensible calculation of tree value is to determine the loss of timber value. This is the process used in cases of timber theft. In your situation, the laws pertaining to timber theft may not apply because the trees are still standing. You can learn more about NYS timber theft laws at www.NYFOA.org via the education link. However, laws relating to vandalism and destruction of personal property may apply, and would also depend on the loss of value. To determine the reduction in timber value, you would need to hire a forester to estimate the timber value of each tree before and after tapping. The defendant would also potentially hire a forester to conduct the same assessment. Because of the specifics of your situation, I doubt that the "change in tree value" strategy would be a cost effective approach for several reasons. (1) Tap holes are often less than 1.5 to 2 inches deep and presumably any current physical damage or staining of the



Maple syrup production can benefit a woodland owner. Owners can gain access to local syrup, generate revenue through leasing of trees, reduce land taxes through agricultural assessment, and improve security on their property through increased use by a vested neighbor.

wood from three recent years of tapping will be predominately contained in the outer and unused slab wood with minimal reduction in tree value. (2) Some of the trees may be of low timber quality before tapping and the tap holes would not have reduced their value. (3) As a quick estimate of sawtimber value, with several assumptions, the trees might each contain 150 board feet in the lower log (a board foot is 1" x 12" x 12", a log is 16 ft) and a value of \$0.50 per board foot. If the tapping reduced value by 10%, that amounts to \$7.50 per tree or a total of \$150 for all trees, if the entire 16' log is considered. (4) Some log buyers are paying as much for "tap hole" maple as untapped maple because it offers a specialty wood for furniture and other products. On the basis of these premises, your expense to hire the forester and pursue a favorable judgment might not result in a net financial gain and could potentially leave you with a net loss.

If your ultimate desire is to make sure the neighbor stops trespassing, you may have stronger ground to use the sheriff's written report through your attorney to negotiate compensation and assurance of appropriate behavior in the future. An alternative strategy to the lost value of the timber is the lost value of the sap. You can calculate the value of the lost sap, and also provide a personalized written legal notice to the neighbor prohibiting subsequent trespass.

There are two ways to determine the value of the sap, and these provide an upper and lower bound on what you might consider as compensation. The lower bound would be if you were to calculate the potential leased value of the trees to the neighbor. The price per tap is approximately \$0.75 to \$1.00 per year. Thus, you have a lower range of about \$15 to \$20 per year or up to \$60 for the three years. The value of the leased trees may be significantly higher if you were leasing to a producer who qualifies for agricultural assessment. Your access to agricultural assessment may result in a reduction in land taxes that you could also enjoy.

For the upper end of lost value, syrup production may range between 0.25 gal-




Woodland owners and maple producers can often work together as neighbors to accomplish more than they can accomplish individually. With all neighbors, make sure you have a common understanding of boundary lines. Discuss your interests with your neighbor to learn where you might mutually benefit.

lons to 0.5 gallons per tap per year. With maple syrup retail prices at about \$65 per gallon, the syrup value equivalent for the twenty trees is between 5 and 10 gallons of syrup or \$325 and \$650 per year. Note, however, boiling sap to syrup is a value-added process and includes costs that you, the landowner, wouldn't typically carry.

In summary, your attorney may be able to help you negotiate compensation in syrup or cash and provide a more onerous legal consequence for the neighbor if they trespass in the future. The benefits to you to work with your neighbor based on sap or syrup value and negotiation of trespass charges include that: you would potentially strengthen communication with the neighbor; you have demonstrated the willingness to confront the neighbor's behavior; you acquire fair compensation for your loss; and you have an improved position for a more aggressive resolution in the future if needed.

This situation of trespass and damage is unfortunate because it diminishes the potential gains that can result through a

mutual agreement of woodlot owners and maple syrup producers. Some woodlot owners, if approached responsibly, would enjoy knowing their maple trees were contributing to the local economy and would benefit financially through lease revenue and agricultural assessment reductions in their land taxes. When the details are resolved between woodlot owners and maple producers, this type of arrangement can be a win-win situation.

More information about agricultural assessment law is available in the forest resources section of the "Guide to Farming in NY" at www.smallfarms.cornell.edu. An archived webinar on building relationships between woodlot owners and maple producers is available in the webinar section of www.CornellMaple.info. A list of some maple producers in your area is available at www.NYSmaple.com. 

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

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future.

—Gifford Pinchot

We've all been there...in the grocery store, at the laundromat, at the school football game and we hear, "Oh, I can't believe they're cutting the trees down over there." We've all been there, but here's the thing, we don't say anything! NY is more heavily forested today that it was two centuries ago and our forests are growing faster than they are being harvested. We all know that and the science is on our side, but there is so much mis-information about timber harvesting, recycling and renewable resources and we just turn our heads and let it go. If we don't speak up, who will? We're the landowners, and the foresters, and the loggers. We need to stop turning away from difficult conversations with our friends, neighbors and colleagues when they make comments about our jobs and our interests.

When your son's teacher says, "Recycling saves trees," we wait until we're in the car to make sure our kids know that's not true instead of turning to the teacher to let her know that it's a myth. That we fully support recycling and the maximum use of each fiber but that there are many

products made from trees that would have required the harvest of that stand and a fiber cannot be recycled indefinitely, only about a half dozen times...if you'd like, I could come talk to the class.

When your sister-in-law complains at Sunday dinner that their neighbor is cutting all his trees, we shouldn't wait until we get home and complain to our spouse (who has undoubtedly heard it *all* before!). We should speak right up; remind her that there are literally hundreds of benefits in managed forests from future timber value, to wildlife habitat to recreation and carbon sequestration.

When we're at the grocery store and the clerk says, "Ugh, my neighbor is installing one of those outdoor wood boilers. They're worse polluters than my furnace is anyway." Don't just smile and nod and hurry her along. Take a minute and explain to her that while at the outset it may seem that way since wood heat is less efficient than natural gas, but in the long run, wood is a renewable resource and through responsible management, the re-growth of the trees will provide heat for generations and that the younger trees growing in it's place will convert the carbon dioxide emitted back to clean oxygen.

It is our responsibility to take the reins of our own future and do our part to dispel these incorrect assumptions when

we hear them, wherever we may be. As landowners, foresters and loggers, we are partners in creating a future of responsible resource management and as partners we owe it to each other to make sure our story is told. What we're all doing is important work. We contribute to our local economies, we improve the health of our environments and we provide goods and products to society. Let's be proud of it!

As always, with this in mind, if you'd like to learn more about NY Tree Farm 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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More information on the training at: www.ForestConnect.info



Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



This could be your photo!

Please submit photos to
mmalmshe@syr.edu or
New York Forest Owner
134 Lincklaen Street
Cazenovia, NY 13035\

Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, and it may end up on this page!

Catch an Emerald Ash Borer—With a Wasp! *The Emerald Ash Borer Wasp Watcher Project*

Have fun, contribute to science and help detect a killer insect.

The Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit, *Cerceris fuminpennis*, is a unique native predatory wasp that catches and stuns exotic Emerald Ash Borer beetles. The Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit can be a great monitoring tool for outbreaks of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which is new to New York State. EAB is a small, green beetle that will kill all our ash trees. It came to the US in the 1990's, landing in Detroit, Michigan and is spreading from there. EAB does fly, but it is also carried long distances in ash firewood (Don't Move Firewood!). The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in seven locations around

New York State as of fall 2010 and it is probably in other locations around the state, we just don't know. Emerald Ash Borers are hard to detect when their population level is low. You can learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer, the outbreak locations, and the threat to our ash trees at <http://nyis.info>. This summer you can help! You can find Emerald Ash Borers just by watching the Beetle Bandit bring home her beetle prey.

Here's how the Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit wasp works. The female wasp builds an underground nest. She then goes out and hunts for buprestid beetles, like the Emerald Ash Borer as well as native beetles, such as the bronze birch borer and the two-lined chestnut borer. When she finds one, she paralyzes it

with a sting and brings it back to the nest. She places the beetle in an underground chamber and lays an egg in it. When the egg hatches, the young wasp feeds on the stunned beetle.

Using a simple piece of cardboard with a hole punched in it, we can force the Beetle Bandit wasp to drop her beetle, so it can be collected and identified. If it is

an Emerald Ash Borer, we can start taking action in that area – it's a great first alert system. The Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit is most active on sunny days in July and August.

What you need to do: Go to <http://www.cerceris.info/> and read up on the Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit. There you will also find the details on how to find them and watch them and what you need to do to collect the captured borers for identification; click on Wasp Watcher Program. If you are successful at finding some wasps, let your local Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4-H office know. We are part of a state-wide effort to use the Beetle Bandit for EAB monitoring.

Knowing where EAB is will help forest owners, homeowners, and communities make decisions about their ash trees. Ash wood is used in baseball bats, floors, tool handles and more. Across the state, seven percent of our trees are ash trees; that is one in every 14 trees. The Emerald Ash Borer threatens them all.

For more information about the NYS 4-H Wasp Watcher project, contact Gary Goff at grg3@cornell.edu. 🐝

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



Philip Careless

Smokey-winged Beetle Bandit

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

PREDATORS IN NEW YORK STATE

From black bears to bobcats, fishers to forest raptors, predators play important roles in our woodlands. Typically large and charismatic, people enjoy the opportunity to observe these animals. However, because of their size and prey requirements predators often require large home ranges and have low population densities. With few individuals spread across large areas, chances to view these creatures are often limited and catching a glimpse of these animals may be a rare, but exciting occurrence. Landowners can take a number of steps to enhance habitat for large predators, which in turn play a valuable role in our forest ecosystems.

Because of their home range and prey requirements, predatory carnivores (and omnivores) can be good indicators of ecosystem health. Conserving and managing forest lands in consideration of their needs — adequate space and habitat — can result in the conservation of a whole range of species and the ecosystems they inhabit. In some situations, predators help enhance the diversity of plants growing in the ecosystem by limiting overgrazing by herbivorous prey. They can also serve as indicators of toxins in the environment. Smaller prey animals accumulate low levels of chemi-

cals in their bodies. When long-lived predators feed on their prey, the toxins from the prey accumulate to higher levels in the tissues of the predator. In the past, certain species of raptors in particular have been detrimentally affected by chemicals in the environment, and have served as “canaries in the coal mine.”

Recently, the role of top predators in controlling “mesopredators” (middle level predators) has received a great deal of attention. Scientists are finding that, when top predators are removed from an environment mesopredators (e.g. feral cats, raccoons, foxes), which tend to be more generalist and opportunistic species with a high reproductive rate relative to larger predators, can quickly increase in abundance and have a strong, negative effect on prey species, such as songbirds. Top predators may reduce mesopredator populations directly by killing them, or indirectly by instilling fear which causes them to reduce or change their times of activity, and can reduce their ability to find adequate food. Fewer feeding opportunities in turn lead to lower rates of reproduction and survival and can suppress population levels.

Some of our most intriguing predators in New York (NY) State include the black bear, coyote, bobcat, fisher, northern goshawk, great-horned owl, long-eared owl, river otter, and even the snapping turtle. Predators typically share a number of characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable to human influences including the need for large areas of suitable habitat, low population densities, low reproductive rates, and vulnerability to pollution. Not surprisingly, several predator species in NY State are either currently con-



Northern Goshawk

sidered “Species of Greatest Conservation Need,” or their populations were substantially reduced or even eliminated from the state at one time. The river otter, for example, disappeared from western NY in the early 1900s as a result of unregulated harvest, habitat destruction, and water pollution, and is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need today. Snapping turtles, which feed heavily on aquatic organisms and are known to accumulate chemicals in their bodies, are also listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The northern goshawk is a species of special concern and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need because it is an uncommon year-round resident, and a top predator that depends on forest habitat, and its numbers have been declining over the last several decades. The long-eared owl is another raptor listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and considered vulnerable. This rare and secretive owl is difficult to locate and monitor and, as a result, there is a lot of uncertainty about its population size and trends in the state. While not considered a Species of Greatest Conservation

continued on next page

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Species	Habitat	Home Range Size	Habitat Maintenance and Management
Black bear	Contiguous forests, often mixed with bogs, swamps, agricultural areas	24 -120 square miles	Encourage or plant mast-producing trees and shrubs; retain trees with large cavities; leave tree tops following a timber harvest.
Bobcat	Extensive forests, wooded swamps, rocky outcrops, and occasionally agricultural areas	12-136 square miles	Create young or early-successional habitat areas by cutting; build brush piles; leave tree tops following a timber harvest; leave large logs on forest floor to attract prey, and provide den sites.
Coyote	Overgrown fields, brushy thickets, and woodlands	8-20 square miles	Leave large logs on forest floor for feeding and den sites; build brush piles to attract potential prey.
Fisher	Mature evergreen or mixed evergreen and deciduous forest	6-12 square miles	Maintain or encourage evergreen trees as a component of the forest; retain or create large trees with cavities; leave large logs on forest floor or fell several large trees to create denning sites and thermal cover.
Great-horned Owl	Open and second-growth woodlands, often mixed with other land uses	3-4 square miles	Maintain large live trees with cavities or standing dead trees; favor conifers and oaks for roost sites.
Long-eared owl	Dense evergreen or mixed forest adjacent to openings	0.25 – 8 square miles	Plant or maintain evergreen stands.
Northern Goshawk	Large tracts of mature forest	3-24 square miles	Maintain stands of mature forest with closed canopy within a wider forest mosaic; retain large deciduous trees for nesting; retain large amounts of woody material on the forest floor.
River Otter	In and along streams, rivers, beaver dams and associated riparian habitat	3-10 miles	Maintain undisturbed aquatic systems and adjacent riparian habitats.
Snapping Turtle	Ponds, wetlands, and adjacent upland habitat	0.5 mile or more	Reduce pollutants; maintain aquatic habitats and nearby upland openings for nesting sites.

Need, fisher numbers experienced a severe decline in NY during the late 1800s and early 1900s due to over-exploitation and loss of forested habitat. Today, they can be found throughout forested habitat within the northern, eastern and south-eastern parts of the state and recently they have begun to return to the southern tier of central and western NY.

The role of predators is an interesting and complex one. Just as interesting and complex, however, are their unique characteristics, their popular allure, and their often extensive habitat requirements. Many of the top predators in NY State may benefit from habitat conservation, management, and enhancement on private forestlands (see Table above).

In return, landowners can increase their opportunities for viewing these charismatic species. 

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at arnotconservation.info

OBITUARY

Michael C. Greason

Michael C. Greason, 69, of Catskill, died on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 while in his favorite habitat — the woods.

Born in 1941 in Salem, Mass., he started working in a saw mill at 14, became a self-employed logger and attended the University of Massachusetts, graduating with a BS in Forestry Management in 1964. In 1966 he was hired by the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources, managing 100,000 acres of State Forest.

1969 began a 29-year career for Mike with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. As a field forester, he annually marked 1,000 acres of wood products, wrote 6,000 acres of management plans, and in 10 years had walked over 65,000 acres of forest in Albany County. Mike was promoted to Associate Forester in 1980, responsible for private forestry assistance statewide. He was co-author of the state's present forest tax law, developing policies and their implementation. In 1985 he became Section Chief over service forestry and urban forestry programs. NY State led the

national implementation of the Stewardship Incentives Program which led the NYS Forest Owners Association to present Mike with their prestigious Heiberg Award in 1993. He served 18 years on the NY Tree Farm Committee. In 1996 Mike became Chief Forester, overseeing private and urban forestry, utilization and marketing, forest health programs and the state seedling nursery. He retired in 1998 to start a private forestry consulting practice. Demand for his services grew steadily. Mike's integrity was displayed by the way he did business (charging by the hour rather than a percentage of what is cut from the client's property) his passion manifested by the endless hours of volunteering, mentoring, and educating anyone who wanted to learn about sustainable forest management.

Some of Mike's life's achievements include: being a Society of American Foresters' Certified Forester from 1970, Fellow Member (President's Award of New York and New England in 2000), NY Society of American Foresters' Chairman (1993 Forester of the Year

and 1999 Communications Award), 2005 Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Northeast, member of the NYS Forest Owners Assn. since 1990 (helped develop the Capital Region Chapter and newsletter editor for eight years), board member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene Co. and member of their Agroforestry Resource Center advisory committee.

He wrote articles for the *NY Forest Owner*, *Tree Farm National Woodland Owners*, *Kaaterskill Life*, the *Conservationist*, *Northern Woodlands*, and the *Journal of Forestry*. Many articles have been written about Mike, most notably in the January 2006 *Audubon* and *Northern Woodlands* in 2007.

Michael is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Margaret "Peggy" Greason and their three children: Michael "Rich" Greason and his wife Meredith of Davidsonville, MD, Carolyn Elmore and her husband Jamie of North Chelmsford, MA, and Jennifer Rogers and her husband Tim of Amherst, NH; eleven grandchildren: Lauris and Lainagail Greason, Benjamin, Maggie, James, Jasmine, and Nekisha Elmore, Tom, Trevor, Marin, and Cole Rogers. He was predeceased by his grandson Jacob Elmore.

Mike loved woodworking, telling jokes, smiling, hunting, hiking, paddling, mentoring young people, travel, and most of all, his family. When friends think of him ... tenacious, compassionate, honest, stubborn, smart, generous ... and missed.

A celebration of Michael's life was held at the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, NY on Friday, April 15, 2011. Memorial contributions in Mike's name may be made to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene Co. at 6055 Route 23 Acra, NY 12405.

Editors Note:

Because of Mike's impact on so many people, it seemed quite fitting to provide something more personal besides the obituary above. We asked various individuals to contribute 3 to 5 sentences about how Mike touched their life, the lives of forest owners, and/or the forest resource. The following page is the accumulation of those thoughts and represent the breadth of impact that Mike had on so many people.



Mike Greason, June 2007. A 28.5 inch sugar maple left to grow in May 1999 timber harvest when it was 25 inches. Photo by: Jimmy Bulich

As long as there is an Agroforestry Center in Greene County Mike's legacy will remain intact and permanent. The oak floor that surrounds the entrance and hallway of that building in Acra was his idea and he delivered on that idea from felling the trees himself in the Siuslaw Model Forest across the street, to milling them on the sawmill he sold to me, to sanding and planing them with his own equipment, to cutting and installing each and every plank. That beautiful oak floor will always remind me of Mike, a man who truly loved trees and who left the woodlands of NY State and his friends, far better off than had he not existed.

— Bob Beyfuss

Mike marked his client's lesser quality trees for removal and left the healthy, promising ones to grow. He did this work to increased the long term economic return to the landowner, improved the health of the forest and ultimately to make the ownership of woods and the practice of forestry sustainable. He created order out of chaos left by generations of overcutting, high grading and poor layout of roads and log landings. His legacy is woods scattered across several counties of enduring beauty and sustainability. His good work sets high standards for foresters and woodland owners.

— Mike Birmingham

I met Mike in 1999 when he was starting his consulting forestry business and I was in search of a forester to manage our newly purchased farm woodlot. First, we walked the woodlot and talked about goals, recognizing a common interest in long term management. Next we marked timber for harvest, me painting, Mike tallying, story-telling, and teaching. When we came upon this 25 inch sugar maple, Mike was impressed, and he took a good long look. He suggested the tree stay, it's healthy and growing, increasing in value, and is great seed stock. I was impressed.

Mike walked a lot of folks by that tree over the years, NYFOA woods walks, potential clients, and a legislative contingent. Each time he told the story, why we let it grow, how much it increased in volume and value, recalling and recalculating the years, diameters, board feet,

and dollars. Inspired by Mike's teachings and vision, I came up with a phrase that he really liked and quoted in one of his many articles about sustainable forestry; "It's not about the trees that are removed, but about the trees that remain."

— Jimmy Bulich

Some undoubtedly saw Mike as gruff and tough. He could be gruff, and he was tough. Tough and outspoken in his defense of what he loved and believed was right—the forest, forest landowners and good silviculture among others. NYSAF lost two strong "field foresters" recently in Mike and Bob Sand. I would have loved watching the two of them working a timber sale together. Add in research guru Ralph Nyland and the learning experience would have been marvelous. Friend Mike, you died with your boots on, in the forest you loved. What a way to go. RIP.

— Jim Coufal

Despite Mike's claims that his transplanted Scotch-Irish New England Yankee heritage made him frugal, he was indeed a very generous man, both with his wallet and with his compliments. I always appreciated Mike's compliments because I knew he had uncompromisingly high standards. He was not at all shy about pointing out where people fell short, though to his great credit, he never named names. And he was even quicker to reward with praise. In nearly every conversation I ever had with him, he pointed out the work of a fellow forester, logger, or landowner whose commitment to stewardship he found admirable.

— Steve Long
Northern Woodlands

Long before retirement, Mike worked two full time jobs: days at DEC, nights and weekends with NYFOA. Private woodlot owners energized him, he energized us. As my forester and my friend, he willingly gave his time, even to taking his Wood Miser 150 miles each way to saw larch on our farm. His advice and principles will continue to guide me, and will be evident in our woods for generations to come.

— Ron Pedersen

I met Mike through NYFOA and almost all my contact with him was in the context of NYFOA activities and meetings. His enthusiasm for NYFOA and for all things related to forestry seemed both boundless and contagious. I often came away from my conversations with Mike with a renewed sense of the importance of our mission and optimism that it is achievable. Mike had issued me a standing invitation to visit some of his woodlots with him when I was in the area, and I am sad that I missed that opportunity — it would have been a chance to see him in his native habitat. Mike's passion for forestry continues to inspire me as I work in my own woodlot.

— Mike Seager

There are few people who so fully and consistently gave of themselves to support the management and sustainability of private woodland owners. I feel blessed to have known Mike for most of my career. I valued Mike as a mentor and close personal friend. I benefited from his counsel, his encouragement and his support. He was always ready to do whatever was necessary in support of NY forest owners. I will miss not having the chance to work with Mike and to share in his joy of support for private woodlands.

— Peter Smallidge

Mike was my friend and colleague. I can't remember when or where we met but I knew soon after meeting him that he was someone I wanted to be around, someone I could learn a lot from. In many ways Mike was the Wikipedia of New York Forestry. His recall of facts and statistics was amazing and although he referred to himself as "just a humble forester," he was eloquent and articulate when he needed to be. I wasn't an easy student—we had different backgrounds, different ways of viewing forests, but over time Mike helped me see, as he has 100's of other private forest landowners, the practical and utilitarian values of forests and how important these values were to the overall sustainability of our forests. He instilled in me the desire and passion to share this understanding with whomever I could, professionally or personally.

— Marilyn Wyman

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

DON'T FORGET THE HEMLOCKS!

By MARK WHITMORE

With all the doom and gloom surrounding invasive forest pests these days it's important to work towards saving what we can of our native forest trees. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is a case in point. This ecologically significant species has been threatened by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*). The good news is that we now have tools to save trees; now it's time to develop priorities and be prepared to act.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was first detected on the East Coast in the mid 1950's near Richmond, VA. Since that time it has rapidly spread throughout the East Coast where it has caused significant mortality, especially in the vast hemlock forests of the Appalachian Mountains. Mortality due to HWA is so widespread and rapid there that whole drainages of hemlock forests have been killed, and it is a real possibility that Eastern and Carolina hemlocks may be eliminated from the landscape. In New York, HWA has been gradually moving up the Hudson River Valley and into the Catskill Mountains. Most recently, it has become well-established in the central Finger Lakes region (Figure 1). Early

spring is the time of year to monitor your hemlocks for HWA and to begin thinking about what you will do when this invasive forest pest arrives on your property.

HWA is a tiny aphid-like insect that grows on hemlock twigs at the base of needles (Figure 2). The adults are tiny, only about 1/32 of an inch, and covered with dry, white, waxy wool that makes them look like the tip of a small cotton swab. HWA is native to eastern Asia where it has both sexual and asexual life cycles. In North America, only asexually reproducing females are found. Each female lays an average of 100 to 200 eggs.

With two generations per year this makes for a remarkable reproductive potential (10,000 to 40,000 progeny per year) and is the key to its invasive success.

The adults of the overwintering generation produce eggs March through May. These eggs hatch into the first instar nymph, or crawler stage. This is the only life stage that disperses to other hemlocks and can be carried by wind or on the feet of birds. The crawlers settle on twigs near the base of a needle and insert long, sucking mouthparts. Once the crawler settles, it turns a dark color and will not move for the rest of its life. The spring generation develops into adults that begin producing eggs in June. The crawlers that hatch in early summer from these eggs settle and enter a non-feeding resting stage that lasts through the summer. HWA are difficult to detect during this resting stage because they are small and have not produced much of the characteristic waxy wool. Feeding resumes in October and this generation continues to develop through the winter months with the adults producing eggs the following spring. Feeding by HWA gradually kills the twig leading to defoliation, ultimately leading to tree death in 4 to 10 years (or more).

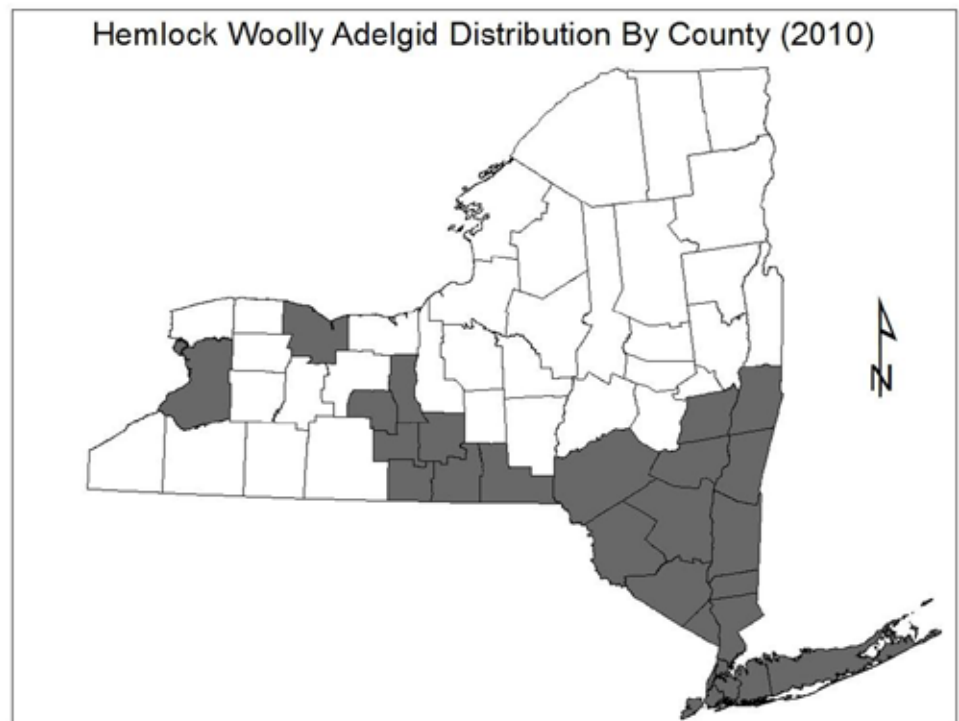


Figure 1. Compiled from Cornell University and NYSDEC data, 1987-2010. Created by Mike Roberts NYSDEC.

2011 Statewide NYFOA Fall Workshop/Meeting

Save the Date! Saturday, September 24, 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.



Figure 2. Heavy infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgids in the Finger Lakes. Photo by Mark Whitmore.

Two mechanisms keep insect populations at low levels in a forest: host tree resistance and natural enemies. Neither of these mechanisms appears to be currently at work on the East Coast. However, on the West Coast, where HWA is present but not considered a threat to hemlocks, there are a number of insect predators. Long-term management goals for HWA in the East include the establishment of predators (known as biological control), but this is a necessarily long and detailed process. As you are probably well aware, the introduction of some natural enemies in the past, without necessary rigorous investigation, created more problems

than were solved. To date, entomologists have found and tested a few native beetle predators from eastern Asia as well as a promising yet tiny predaceous beetle (*Laricobius nigrinus*) from the Pacific Northwest. This North American beetle has been introduced in both the Hudson River Valley and in the Finger Lakes. Although it takes years for predator populations to build to sufficient size that they are exerting control, research has indicated that the beetles have established populations, an important first step.

Cold temperatures in winter have been shown to kill significant numbers of HWA and are thought to limit its spread northward. This may be limiting HWA spread into the northern Hudson River Valley. However, our temperature data in the Finger Lakes suggests that temperatures low enough to kill a significant proportion of the HWA population rarely occur here. Even though we have yet to witness widespread hemlock mortality, we have observed HWA populations grow and spread in the Finger Lakes much as it has in areas along the Eastern seaboard where widespread mortality is prevalent.

So what management tools do we have that *will work now*? Pesticides have been shown to effectively control HWA and even bring trees back from almost total defoliation. Yet treating whole stands with pesticides on an area-wide basis is neither feasible economically nor environmentally. However, treatment of individual trees can be cost effective. Horticultural oils have been used successfully on smaller trees that are easily accessible by spray rigs. The problem is that the treat-

continued on page 16

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

Got Trees? Got Questions?

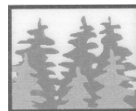
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Emerald Ash Borer(continued)

ment must be very thorough and repeated every few years because of the HWA's enormous reproductive potential. On the other hand, systemic insecticides, injected directly in the tree or applied through the soil, are very effective and can be used in areas not accessible by spray rigs.

The active ingredient in the most effective systemic insecticide is imidacloprid. In fact, research has shown that a single treatment can remain effective for up to seven years. This product can be applied in a number of formulations: soil drench, soil injection, time release tablets, and stem injection with a number of different devices. Note that the only formulation available to the general public is the Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub soil drench; all others require application by a licensed pesticide professional. The problem with this technique is that if imidacloprid travels into a nearby waterway can kill non-target aquatic invertebrates. *Be certain that before you use any pesticide that you carefully read and follow the instructions on the label.* Great care must be taken when working with imidacloprid near water and it is best to enlist the help of a registered pesticide applicator in these circumstances.

It is important at this time of year for forest owners to learn the signs and symptoms of HWA and monitor their stands.

Once HWA is detected in your stand you have some time to decide what management actions you will take, but it might be best to develop plans ahead of time, especially because older trees require more time for systemic insecticides to reach the crown. Prioritize treatment for the healthiest trees in your stand, i.e., the ones you want to produce seed over the long run. Locate a trusted registered pesticide applicator and determine what resources will be necessary to implement your management plan. Don't let this invasive non-native insect destroy your hemlocks. Monitor and be ready to act. 

For more information:

US Forest Service HWA website: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/>

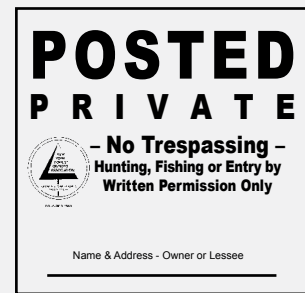
New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse website: <http://www.nyis.info/insects/HemlockWoollyAdelgid.aspx>

Forest Connect Fact Sheet Series: Early Detection of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) in Small North-eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) Woodlots

<http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/FC%20factsheets/HWA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

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

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NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Logging with Farm Tractors

Peter G. Sformo, Loss Prevention Consultant

Woodlot owners using farm tractors to haul logs out of the woods need to follow several safety rules. First and foremost, farm tractors should have a cab with full rollover bars and/or falling object protection (FOPS). These structures are designed to withstand and keep their shape in the event of a rollover. A farm tractor should be powerful enough for your logging needs. The tractor should be a 4-wheel drive model. All safety features that came with the tractor should be operational.

Some modifications that might help in the woods would be attaching a steel skid plate under the engine, transmission and steering components to reduce the chances the tractor will get hung up on stumps. Further, 10-12 ply tires should be used to reduce punctures and the valve stem should also be protected. Counterweights on the front of the tractor should also be installed to offset the weight of the logs and a portable fire extinguisher should be secured inside the cab.

Special logging winches should be purchased for your particular

tractor. These winches are designed to haul logs, provide protection from broken cables and secure logs tight against the winch. Most winch units will operate off the tractor's 3-point hitch. It is important that the logs be winched tight to the winch frame and lifted off the ground. This allows the logs to be skidded easier, less ground disturbance and reduces the chances that the logs will get hung up on a stump and possibly causing the tractor to flip.

When hauling the logs, always position the tractor on flat ground in line with the direction of the pull. Do not winch from angles exceeding 30 degrees sideways. When winching a load, lock the brakes of the tractor before winching. Lower the 3-pt. hitch so that the stabilizer legs or dozer blade are anchoring the winch to ground. Stand in a safe position when winching in case of cable failure.

Finally, all parts of the tractor, cables and chains should be inspected before going into the woods. If any part of the equipment is damaged, the tractor should be taken out of service. And as always, along with tractor safety, personal protective equipment should be used, including a hardhat, eye and face protection, ear protection, and gloves.

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

Editors Note: The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, in Cooperstown NY sponsors the Rollover Protection System (ROPS) Rebate Program. This program pays up to 70% of the cost of a rollover protection system, rollover bar and seat belts, for old tractors that do not have a rollover protection device. For more information on the program go to <http://ropstr4u.com/> or call the ROPS Rebate Hotline at 1-877-767-7748 for registration and pre-approval.



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Timber Topics:

Whether or When to Have a Timber Harvest

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

In the last *New York Forest Owner*, the Timber Topics column really got me thinking. I'd never given much thought to many of the considerations that should go into deciding whether or when to have a timber harvest. And, I'd been thinking some harvest money would come in handy! Instead, I decided to do some homework — talk with some experts. My first step was to meet with my financial advisor and my consulting forester, who had never met. Here are some of the key points we discussed.

Financial considerations are just one of the factors to consider when trying to decide if you want to have a timber harvest. However, it is a major one and there are some tools and guidelines

available that can be very helpful in making a decision.

Looking at your timber from a financial aspect is similar to examining any other asset in your portfolio. Trees have a market value when they are sold. That value might be captured with a sale right now, or if postponed, the trees will increase in diameter and merchantable height and very likely have a much greater value in a few years.


A greater value compared to what? How does the value from cutting the tree today compare with the value if it was allowed to grow for a few years? Put another way, what is the return on my investment (which is the value of the tree today) if I leave the tree for a few years? For many of us, thinking about the return on a savings account or certificate of deposit or a new venture is second nature, but the same principles apply equally as well to trees in the woodlot.

At this point in our conversation, I had to remind my advisors that I'd inherited the property and therefore I didn't have any investment in the trees. There was a pause, a deep breath, and then an explanation. Yes, I do have an investment. I could sell the mature trees and receive the income now, but if I do not sell them now, I'm foregoing that income. The

trees are the investment. Economists call this the opportunity cost; the income foregone by not doing something.

Yes, I replied, but suppose I need cash right now to pay for my daughter's college tuition. Well my financial advisor replied, you need to see how much interest (rate of return) you are getting on other investments like your CD's and compare to how fast those trees might be increasing in value. You also need to look at what interest rate you will be charged if you borrow money for the tuition. If the rate at which the trees increase in value is greater than the alternatives, then a wiser financial decision is to leave the trees to grow and plan to pay the tuition another way.

OK, but I can call the bank and get a CD's percent return. How do I determine how fast the trees are increasing in value? My forester's response made lots of sense: we can calculate their volume, consider characteristics that enhance or detract from value, look at present stumpage prices, and with data based on years of research and growth records for various species, we can come up with a pretty good projection on rates of return.

The discussion was an eye opener. I had begun to see my woodlot from another perspective. I'll wait to see what my forester can calculate for me and in the meantime learn more about some of the other considerations described in the Timber Topics article of the March-April 2011 issue. 

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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Member Profile: *Renee Bouplon*

CARLY NEUMANN

Renee Bouplon is the associate director at the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA), which is a non-profit land trust that works to conserve working farm and forest lands in Rensselaer and Washington Counties. Bouplon started at ASA in 2007 but she has been working in the conservation field since college. What started as a summer internship at a local river conservancy before grad school, led her to a conservation career for the past 14 years. She has been a NYFOA member for 10 years and served on the State Board of Directors from 2004-2010 even though she doesn't own forest land herself. While working for another land trust in 2000, Renee participated in the Master Forest Owner Program (MFO) taught by Gary Goff and Peter Smallidge where she learned about NYFOA. At the MFO training, she met NYFOA members and one invited her to participate on a steering

committee that was putting together an all-day forestry workshop in the Catskills. Bouplon once again met more NYFOA members and foresters and became active in the local chapter. Mike Greason had a particularly significant impact on Renee and many others. "He was a terrific mentor and friend and his knowledge and generosity were unparalleled." Mike recently passed away and Renee remembers him and states that "we lost a true friend for New York forests. The greatest thing that we, as NYFOA, can do to honor him is to continue to provide opportunities for forestry education and spread knowledge of good forestry practices."

Not owning her own forested land has clearly not stopped Renee from becoming involved and learning more about forest management. She believes "everyone is a forest owner if you're a New York resident because



Beef cattle occupy the land. Some of the pastures and woods are seen in the background.

we all have a stake in New York forests. We all want clean water, clean air, open space, forestry-related jobs, wildlife habitat, a strong economy, and recreational opportunities and they're all tied to forestry." She uses the knowledge that she has learned through NYFOA and works with landowners interested in conservation and it allows her to be a resource to others. Her training makes her better able and equipped to read forestry and timber harvest plans which allow her to have informed conversations with foresters and loggers.

Bouplon credits her career and direction to focus on conservation to experiences on farm and forestland as a child. Her family owns 95 acres of land in Washington County. She recently moved back to her hometown and lives about 4 miles away from the family property. The land features fields, forest, pastures, rocky outcrops, a stream and a wetland. Her great-grandparents who initially owned the land had a small dairy farm and the farm has been passed down through the generations. In her youth, Renee's family was involved in harness racing and used the farm for pastures and the

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An 1800s hay barn on the property.



View looking northwest at open fields and the wooded hillside.



A small perennial creek flows through the eastern part of the property.




South-facing rocky outcrop occupies the property.

fields to make hay. Her father now owns the land and keeps a few beef cattle and hunts deer on the property. There are also trails and the fam-

ily enjoys picnics on the property. Renee has a history with the land; she explored the woodlands as a child and enjoyed searching for newts in vernal pools and looking for wildlife, haying with her family, sledding, learning to ride mini bikes and ATVs, and ice-skating. "It's a place I've always gone to," Bouplon states and it's a place she still goes to and brings her dog on walks.

The northern part of the property

where the majority of the woods are located is more steeply sloped. There are a variety of trees including pine, black cherry, maple, oak, hickory, birch and ash. Right now there are not many management actions being taken on the land. Her father was working with a forester to conduct a potential harvest but due to a sluggish market decided to postpone the project. The harsh winter has caused several trees to fall and Renee looks forward to using firewood from her family property to heat her home next winter.

She advises forest owners to utilize professional foresters whenever possible because "they have great insights, outside perspective and background." She also suggests that forest owners should "never stop learning about your woods and good forestry practices and to pass that along to others. There are so many who aren't forest landowners and they need education too because they have a stake in it." She believes that "any day you can take a walk in the woods is a good day because nature is therapy for the soul and can be very entertaining if you are observant." 


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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Materials submitted for the July/August 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.



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