

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

January/February 2013



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FOREST OWNERS
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The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$35.

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

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Woodwalks provide opportunities to share and learn from others. Between May 11 and May 19, NYFOA members will host woodwalks statewide as part of the Restore New York Woodlands Initiative. More information is in this issue, and through the education tab at www.NYFOA.org

From The President

In addition to the many events arranged by NYFOA chapters across the state, we have three NYFOA events during the next several months that are being coordinated at the state level...

Once again, thanks to the efforts of NYFOA's **Ron Pedersen** and **Hugh Canham**, NYFOA is hosting a series of woodland-related lectures at the Farm Show February 21 - 23 in the Somerset Room of the Art and Home Center at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.



Please see page 22 for a schedule of these presentations and plan to drop in when you're at the show.

Our annual members' meeting on March 23rd in

Syracuse is considerably expanded over what it has been in the recent past. We've been able to line up some top speakers on a range of subjects we believe will be of interest to our members in an all day program. NYFOA Board members **Rich Taber** and **René Germain** have worked hard to develop the day's program and to have the facilities at the Syracuse campus of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry reserved for our use. Although we haven't gotten a firm commitment as of this writing, we hope to also have a tour of the new ESF Gateway building which we're told has lots of "neat stuff." Please see the Schedule of Events on page 13 in this issue and use the accompanying Registration Form to reserve your spot. Note the cutoff date to get your reservations in is March 11th.

We are continually grateful for the men

and women who volunteer to serve at the chapter and at the state level of NYFOA. One set of these volunteers are those willing to serve as Directors on our state board as elected by you, the members of NYFOA. Each year volunteers come forward to fill four 3-year positions as defined by our by-laws and coordinated by a leadership committee led this year by board member **Ron Pedersen**. Please note those members on the ballot on page 12 who have volunteered this year and who will be voted on by you via mail-in as tallied at the business meeting of our March 23rd program. If you get a chance to meet them in person, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and to say "thank you".

In addition, the Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) initiative is well underway to be held across the state May 11-19. Board member **Kelly Smallidge**, who is heading up this initiative, gave an overview of the initiative in our last issue and has an update in this one. Articles in support of the initiative have been in the last couple of issues and will continue up to the event itself. Those articles and others can be found on the now-live RNYW webpage located on www.NYFOA.org. In addition to learning more about RNYW on the webpage, you may register a RNYW woodswalk. There is an online registration form that takes a few minutes to complete. Every registered woodswalk will be included on a map that can be viewed on NYFOA.org. Please look it over, decide where you'd like to attend and invite your friends and neighbors to join in.

Related to this initiative, in October the Wall Street Journal published a 2-page

continued on page 5

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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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.

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Restoring New York's Woodlands: A NYFOA Initiative

KELLY SMALLIDGE

Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW), NYFOA's statewide initiative, was introduced in previous issues of the *Forest Owner*. Hopefully you have become familiar with the initiative, have considered hosting a woodswalk

between May 11-19, 2013, and are ready to plan your woodswalk.

Need help with your planning or more information about RNYW? Visit NYFOA's website (NYFOA.org) to learn more about RNYW where you will discover:

- Where and how to register a property that will host a RNYW woodswalk,
- Articles, webinars, and other educational events that focus on the issue of regeneration in New York's forests,
- Guides for RNYW woodswalk leaders,
- Information concerning legal liability of hosting a RNYW woodswalk,
- A planning timeline for preparing a RNYW woodswalk, and
- Where and how to purchase RNYW t-shirts as well as other promotional items.

Content on the website is continually being developed and updated, so visit NYFOA.org often.

Coming in February... webinar training for NYFOA members, MFOs, and other leaders who would like to learn more about the RNYW and would like some guidance in



developing a woodswalk focusing on forest regeneration. That webinar will be scheduled for early February and will be promoted on the NYFOA website and via email distribution lists. Meanwhile, if you have questions please contact Kelly at *RestoringNewYorksWoodlands@gmail.com* or call (607)589-7530. ▲

From the President (continued)

summary of a new book about wildlife problems encountered when expanding suburbs pushed into surrounding forest land. Sensing an opportunity to promote the RNYW initiative, we responded with a letter to the editor validating the issue and describing how the wildlife problems experienced by suburbanites was being felt by woodland owners as well. Please go to our NYFOA home page to get a link to the original WSJ article and see our published response.

...and finally a big "Thank You" to the good folks at Finch Paper for their generous donation of the paper on which we will print *The New York Forest Owner* for all of 2013. ▲

-Jim Minor
NYFOA President

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All shirts are heavy weight cotton with white lettering on the green and green lettering on the grey.

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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: When I walk through my woods, in some areas the brush is heavy. Is this normal and how does it affect my ability to use my woods for various types of activities?

Some types of understory can create problems

Almost one half of the forest land in NY is categorized as having trees with an average diameter that is greater than 12 inches. This threshold places those acres dominated by trees larger than 12 inches in diameter in the "sawtimber" category. These sawtimber-sized forest lands represent approximately 9 million acres, or almost one-third of the state's total land base. The sawtimber represents a significant resource from many perspectives. One perspective is that owners will be able to harvest trees to generate revenue, to pay taxes, and to recover property management costs. Previous articles in the NY Forest Owner have discussed how to work with foresters and loggers to ensure the correct trees are selected for harvest.

Of interest here is how the lesser vegetation, those plants closer to the ground, responds when harvesting creates openings in the canopy and increase the availability of sunlight. Harvesting trees will also disturb some of the soil surface layers that might stimulate seed germination.

There are several determinants of the next forest that result after harvesting. The plants that are present in the understory at the time of the harvest, the species in the seed bank, the trees that remain to provide seed, and the amount of sunlight made available at the surface of the forest floor are relevant. In addition, deer

browsing can reduce or eliminate some species.

The plants that can become the next "forest," and using that term generously, may not provide the images or values we have come to appreciate and expect. Some plants can dominate the understory, but never reach the large size and stature that forest trees attain. Size and species relate to tangible and intangible outputs of the forest.

Woodlots that have experienced the stresses of poor cutting practices, deer browsing pressure, or inefficient management activities may be moving towards a dramatic change. Examples of woodlots that are approaching a "vegetative cliff" are not uncommon. These are forests, for example, that may have numerous or a few large trees of assorted quality in the overstory, but an understory dominated by ferns or subcanopy trees. When the large trees are gone the existing understory dominates the space, and that woodlot will stop providing the benefits of tall canopy trees for many decades unless there is a significant investment.

Plants are not inherently good or



A wide variety of treatments options are available, include mechanical or chemical methods. If an owner chooses a chemical method, extra training or certification may be required. See details in the blog at <http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com> Some mechanical methods use sharp tools or power equipment and personal protective equipment is essential. This picture illustrates basal bark chemical girdling of beech.

bad. Some plants, and groups of plants, have attributes that limit the success of other plants. Owners may want certain species to have a greater abundance in the woodlot than other species. Plants that limit the desirable species are problematic or interfering.

How do interfering plants cause problems for desired plants

There are two ways that understory plants can become problematic relative to the forest's ability to provide forest-like benefits. One way is through the pressures that deer browsing create for desirable plants (see Curtis, Goff and Boulanger, 2012). Deer often preferentially browse the plants that are desired by the owner. The second way is through plant-plant interferences where undesirable plants limit the ability of desired plants to establish and flourish (George and Bazzaz 1999 a&b, Bashant and others 2005). Deer and interfering plants interact to impede the establishment and success of desired plants (de la Cretaz and Kely 1999).

Perhaps the most pronounced type of interference of plant-plant interference is the interception of sunlight by the undesirable plants. Plants need a certain quantity of sunlight and light intensity, to grow and survive because plants use sunlight for photosynthesis to make their food. The mature forest of sawtimber-sized trees often has multiple layers of vegetation including the upper canopy, a midstory of subcanopy trees, and a ground layer. The midstory, six to twenty feet tall, is often composed of trees, such as hophornbeam, striped maple, or beech. These species lack the array of benefits that desired species provide. The subcanopy species exist because they have tolerated the limited sunlight under a closed overstory canopy and because they were not previously eaten by deer. Without past management or unusual circumstances, desirable species such as oak, cherry, maple, ash or basswood do not typically occur within the midstory. If openings are created in the canopy through harvesting, crown dieback, windthrow, or other disturbances, the trees in the midstory will respond. Stems that were



Ferns are native, but can dominate the understory of forests through their underground root system. Ferns are particularly effective at excluding other species. Both chemical and mechanical options are available for control of ferns.

seemingly sparse below a closed canopy can become a dominant and closed subcanopy that fully shades the ground layer. Shading will hasten the death of desired species, many of which are intolerant of shade. Shading also will slow the growth of other more shade tolerant but desirable species (e.g., sugar maple) prolonging the time during which they are at a height that is accessible to deer.

A second type of plant-plant interference is through a reduction in the quality of light available to desired plants. The midstory and ground layer undesirable plants, actually all plants, preferentially absorb light in the red wave length because of its greater energy than far-red light. With less red light available to pass through to lower stature plants, the abundance of far-red wave lengths of light increases. As the red to far-red ratio shifts towards far-red, the germination of some seeds, such as maple, is inhibited.

A third type of interference by plants is the physical barrier created especially by ferns, and perhaps grasses. The root layer beneath a dense sward of ferns is sufficient to impede the success of species such as the birches from developing a

root system that penetrates into mineral soil. The fern root mat is inhospitable, and the seedlings can't survive.

Finally, dense ground layers and midstory vegetation create habitats that support seed predators. Oaks, and likely most seeds with nutritional value, are sought by rodents as food. The ground and midstory layers provide cover for the predators, reducing their predation and enhancing their survival. In addition to some native species, invasive shrubs such as barberry are associated with increased populations of some rodents (Ward 2011).

In summary, through these mechanisms of interference, together with the impacts of deer, undesirable plants can reduce the quantity and quality of light, create unfavorable seed beds, and provide favorable habitat for predators of seeds. Once established, undesirable species are well positioned to respond quickly to any sunlight made available through new canopy gaps. At the time of a canopy gap, if desirable species are not abundant and if undesirable species are present and not checked, the composition of the forest

continued on page 16

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



The Four Sided Sign Side Three: Recreation

Or as we like to joke, Wrecreation! It just fits better with the other W's on the sign. We've been talking about the Tree Farm sign and the Tree Farm System's focus on the idea of whole ecosystem management and we've reached the fourth side of the sign. Let's take a quick look back at the other three before continuing: WOOD, defined as the legacy of the forest and trees on your woodlot and your biggest opportunity to see a return on the investment of time and money you've made; WILDLIFE, being the creatures completely dependent on the entire habitat and food chain intact on your property; and WATER, perhaps the most crucial aspect of good ecosystem management and equally as important to the trees and animals as to humans.

All this comes together in the fourth side of the sign, RECREATION. Time to strap on the snowshoes and fire up the snowmobile. Stop for a

minute to imagine how different the scene would look as you step out the back door having not thought at all about the aspects of good ecosystem management during your last harvest entry. That brook may be smelly, or there may not be nice clear trails for you to follow. There could be only small scraggly trees to look at instead of that nice maple grove your neighbor has been tapping for years.

Hunting season is just completed; all those game species like deer and bear you've been providing habitat for through management of the other elements have come and gone through the forest. It's just as important to manage the wildlife and help to cull the lame or unproductive ones from the herd, keep predator and prey populations balanced where possible, and maintain the integrity of the food chain.

All these aspects of ecosystem management are silently active on your woodlot. Ask your forester what types of management could help you protect and enhance the atmosphere

of your forest. As I have mentioned many times before, each part is just one piece of the puzzle. Proper planning and a written management plan are keys to developing your goals and working toward them with your forestry professional.

There are currently over 1,800 certified tree farms in NY State. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, 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.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The New York Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org).

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

DEREK CONANT



Tony Ross of Rochester, NY submitted this photo. It shows Tony and his Granddaughter, Kate Whitbeck, taking a stroll through their 15 acre woodlot south of Conesus Lake. They were on a field trip searching out things in the woods; like mushrooms, leaves, bugs and tree identification.

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!

The Important Hemlock Tree

As winter approaches many wintering forest animals are gathering food and building their homes in preparation for hibernation. Hibernation is when an animal sleeps for long periods of time in the winter. That way they don't need to eat as much food. But some animals don't hibernate. So what do they do in the winter for food and shelter?

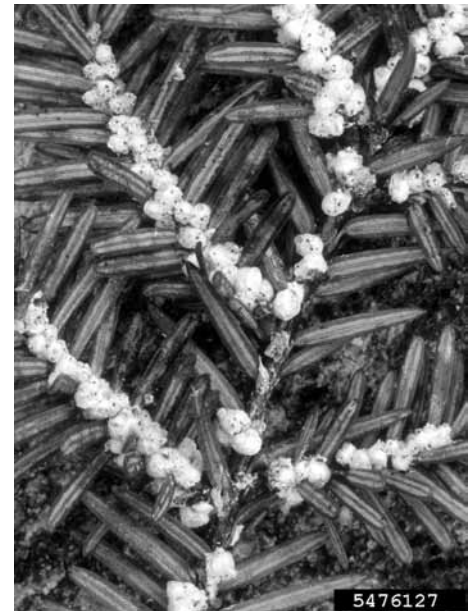
Animals like deer and rabbits need the forest to survive through the snowy months. Hemlock trees are important for animals to keep warm and find food. Hemlock trees can grow very close together in areas with very little sunlight, where other trees can't grow. In the winter, the hemlock forests help many animals. Hemlock trees provide excellent

shelter because their branches hug tightly together and hold much of the snow fall, and their trunks and lower limbs block the cold wind. Clumps of hemlock trees also trap heat, helping animals stay warm. When other food is hard to find, some animals will eat the bark and ends of limbs while others eat the seeds and cones.

Hemlock trees are a type of evergreen tree. To identify a hemlock tree from other evergreen trees look at the needles on the tree. First look to see if the needles are flat or round like a tube. Hemlock trees have flat needles. Then look at where the needles are on the branch. Hemlock trees and a few other evergreen trees have needles that sit on the branch in two flat rows across from each other. Next, look to see if there are stripes on the bottom of the needle. Hemlock and fir trees have two creamy white stripes on their needles. But at the end of a hemlock needle there is a small thin stem. Other evergreen trees don't have this stem at the end of the needle!

Sadly, eastern hemlocks are being hurt by an insect called the Hemlock woolly adelgid. The insect kills the needles of the tree, making it hard for the tree to make new food. The trees often die after a few years. These tiny insects are often carried to a new tree by the wind, bird's feet and feathers, or animal fur.

You can help save hemlock trees and the animals that use hemlock trees for shelter and food in the winter! On your



Hemlock tree infested with Hemlock woolly adelgid. USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station Archive, USDA Forest Service, SRS, Bugwood.org

next trip to the woods, take some time to check for Hemlock woolly adelgid in your area. Check the underside of branches for tiny white balls and bring a pair of binoculars to look at the upper limbs. If you find Hemlock woolly adelgid you can email a photo to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at lflands@gw.dec.state.ny.us. You can be a citizen scientist too! 🐛

Derek Conant is a Natural Resources Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County



Hemlock Tree. David Stephens, Bugwood.org

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

BOBCAT (*Lynx rufus*)



The bobcat, a small wild cat, can be found across much of New York State, except on Long Island and parts of central and western New York. About twice the size of the domestic cat, adult males weigh about 28 pounds and are 22 inches high at the shoulder. Females are usually much smaller, reaching an average of 20 pounds.

Bobcats are tawny to grey in color, with black spots, and very soft, dense, short fur. They have a stout body, pointed ears, and short, “bobbed” tails that are black-spotted with a white-tip.

The bobcat is an elusive and solitary creature, and catching a glimpse or seeing signs of this animal is a rare treat. They are mainly nocturnal, but sometimes venture out in the daytime. When visiting suitable habitat in the winter, you may be able to find bobcat tracks in the snow. Follow the tracks to experience life from a bobcat’s point of view, walking from vantage point to vantage point in search of food. You may walk across a log to cross a stream, climb to the top of a rock formation, or stop and visit a brush pile. Be prepared – these cats are excellent climbers and strong swimmers!

Bobcats are efficient, wary predators equipped with sharp senses of sight, smell and hearing. They have four large canine teeth to pierce deeply into prey and retractable, hooked claws on both the front and hind feet. Bobcats are opportunistic and will prey on anything that is available. Small animals such as mice, voles, shrews, squirrels, chipmunks, birds, rabbits and hares, form the bulk of the bobcat’s diet.

They will also feed on porcupines, minks, muskrats, skunks, fish, frogs, and insects. Bobcats will even occasionally take sick, weak, or crippled deer, and will store carcasses for later use by covering them with leaves.

The bobcat primarily inhabits extensive forests, wooded swamps, rocky outcrops, and occasionally agricultural areas. The most critical features of bobcat habitat are places for refuge and protection, such as rocky ledges. Bobcat often use rocky ledges and rock piles for shelter, breeding, and raising young. Brush piles, hollow trees, and logs also provide good cover for resting and dens. Bobcats are not present in heavily developed areas. However, they can use patches of wooded habitat.

Bobcats breed from late February to early March, and young are born in April or May following a 50- to 60-day gestation period. Bobcats give birth in dens--rock crevices, caves and hollow logs insulated with dry leaves and mosses. Average litter size is two kittens, but can range from one to five. Kittens stay with their mothers for

several months, learning to hunt and kill prey.

Foxes, owls, and adult male bobcats may kill bobcat kittens. However, the most common cause of mortality for kittens and juveniles is starvation due to low food supply. During severe winters, adult bobcats may die of starvation too. In addition, adults may be injured or killed by their prey. Several diseases carried by raccoons and feral cats including rabies, feline distemper, and feline leukemia may infect adults. Bobcats may live up to 14 years in the wild.

Bobcats will be attracted to areas where they can find suitable shelter and food. Habitat features that attract and benefit small mammals such as clearcuts, brush piles, and large logs left on the forest floor, will in turn enhance habitat for bobcats. Hollow logs provide dens, and bobcats often prefer to walk across logs in the winter rather than forge through deep snow. You can take further steps to benefit bobcats by protecting rocky outcrops and crevices from disturbance, and providing good hunting habitat nearby.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation would like to learn more about the occurrence and distribution of bobcats in New York, particularly in areas where hunting and trapping of bobcat is not permitted, including most of Central and Western New York. In these areas, landowners like you, who spend a considerable amount of time outdoors, can be an essential resource for information on bobcats. If you have information, and would like to report a bobcat sighting, visit the NYSDEC web site at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/30770.html>

Kristi Sullivan is Co-Director of the Conservation Education and Research Program and Director of the NY Master Naturalist Program. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the arnotconservation.info

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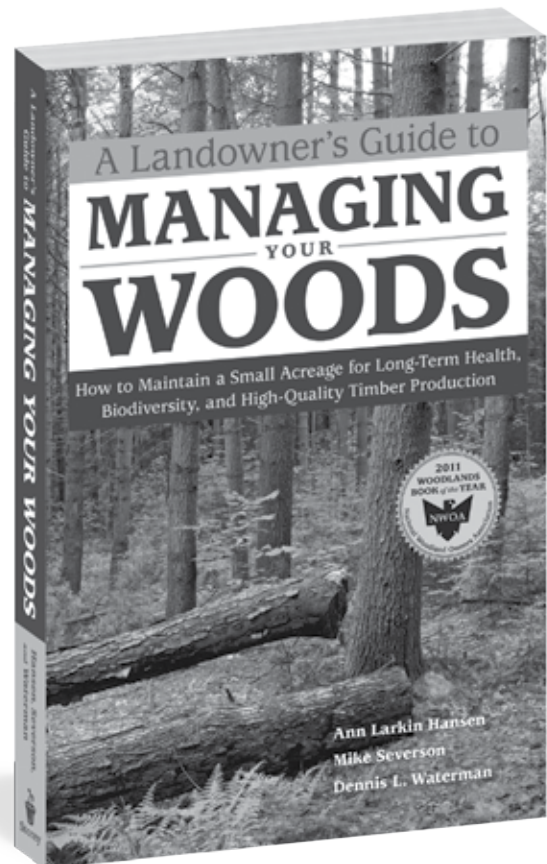
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NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by March 1, 2013 or vote in person at the Annual Meeting on March 23, 2013.

Renee Bouplon - Cambridge, NY

Renee J. Bouplon is the Associate Director of the Agricultural Stewardship Association, a nonprofit land trust that conserves working farm and forest lands in Washington and Rensselaer counties. She is active with the Capital District Chapter and previously served as a NYFOA state director from 2004-2010. Renee is a volunteer with the Master Forest Owner program and is currently President of the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. She holds a B.A. in geology from Hamilton College and a Master's in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. Renee resides in Cambridge, NY and can usually be found on her family farm walking in the woods or checking on the beef cattle.

Jerry Michael - Binghamton, NY

Jerry joined NYFOA in 1989 and has served as Program Chair and newsletter Editor for the Southern Tier Chapter since joining. He has been a Master Forest Owner Volunteer since 1995 and serves as MFO Coordinator for the Southern Tier. Jerry served two terms as an at-large Director on the NYFOA State Board, and as Treasurer, from 2000 - 2006. He currently is a member of the Restore New York Woodlands and the Policy and Legislative Affairs Committees.

David H. Newman, Manlius, NY

Dr. Newman is the Chair of the Department of Forest and Natural Resource Management at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, NY. He was previously the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Forest Resource Economics and Policy at the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. His primary research areas have been the economics of public policy related to timber supply, land use change, landowner decision making, and forest taxation. He and his wife are currently absentee timberland owners, having owned 100 acres in Georgia for more than 20 years. Since coming to New York, he has been the ESF representative to the CFRO at Forestry Awareness Day at the Capitol.

Ronald W. Pedersen - Latham, NY

The Pedersens' own 200 acres in Deposit NY - a hill dairy farm which began its transformation into a Tree Farm when purchased by his parents in 1944. Following degrees in Agricultural and Land Economics at Cornell, he was employed by NYS government in areas of policy and program development. Ron is active with the Capital District Chapter and is a Master Forest Owner Volunteer. He believes outreach to woodland owners on needs and opportunities beyond what chapters are able to do on their own is essential, including partnering with other organizations with related objectives. Prior to his current term, he previously served as a director in 1996-2002.

DETACH AND COMPLETE MAIL BEFORE MARCH 1, 2013

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Renee Bouplon ()

Jerry Michael ()

David H. Newman ()

Ronald W. Pedersen ()

Write-in candidate _____ ()

_____ ()

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter / Affiliation _____

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



NY Forest Owners Association



51st Annual Spring Program, Saturday, March 23, 2013

Marshall Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

- 8:15 **Registration** and Coffee/Tea/Juice/Donuts. *Check out the displays from NYFOA chapters and forestry oriented exhibits in Nifkin Lounge*
- 9:00 **Welcome: Jim Minor, President, NYFOA**
- 9:10-10:00 **Family Forests: are they Productive, Sustainable, and Resilient?** Dr. Rene' Germain, SUNY-ESF/ NYFOA Board member.
- 10:00-10:10 **Restoring New York's Woodlands Initiative.** Peter Smallidge, PhD, New York State Extension Forester, Cornell University.
- 10:10-11:00 **Rehabilitating Cutover Stands in New York: Perspectives for Landowners.** Dr. Ralph Nyland, Distinguished Service Professor, SUNY- ESF.
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15-12:00 **What's happening at DEC Lands & Forests Private Forestry Bureau, and the US Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Program (State & Private Forestry)** Sloane Crawford, NYSDEC, Albany, NY.
- 12:00-1:30 **Luncheon and NYFOA Annual Awards Banquet.** Nifkin Lounge.
Keynote Speaker: SUNY ESF Professor Emeritus Hugh Canham, *The History of NYFOA.*
- 1:30-2:20 **Agroforestry and Silvopasture Opportunities for Landowners** Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University.
- 2:30-3:15 **NYFOA Annual Meeting**
- 3:30-5:00 **NYFOA Board of Directors Meeting/SUNY ESF campus tour**

Prepared by Conference Chairperson Rich Taber, CNY Chapter

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 11TH BY RETURNING THIS FORM TO ADDRESS BELOW

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

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Registration Fee: \$20 per person \$15 for students. *Please make checks payable to NYFOA or pay by credit card.*

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Map, Directions and Parking information are on page 18

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

AN UPDATE ON THE EMERALD ASH BORER IN NEW YORK

BY MARK WHITMORE

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been spreading in New York and it is important for anyone with ash trees to be aware of recent developments in order to formulate effective management decisions. Although first detected in New York in 2009, EAB has been established in most locations much longer than that and now populations are building to the point that they are beginning to spread

across the landscape. Although less than 2% of New York's forests are infested, this will be changing and knowing the location of the closest infestation will help you plan for management activities. Currently there are 8 infested areas in New York and two locations where there have been trap catches but no detection of infested trees (Figure 1). The following discussion will focus on the different infestations in order of their size. As you read I encourage you to reference maps of these infestations that can be found on the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/82847.html>

The largest EAB infestation in the state is in Ulster, Greene, and Dutchess Counties where infested trees have been found over an area of more than 250 sq. miles, extending from Catskill to south of Kingston, west beyond Woodstock and just east of the Hudson River into Dutchess County. The infestation appears to be spreading quickly to the west, north, and south. The most dramatic effects are seen to the west in the relatively contiguous forest around Woodstock and north of the Ashokan Reservoir. In this area woodpecker foraging is evident now and mortality will be easily detected next spring. The front of mortality has moved about 5 miles to the west over the past 2 years but EAB has been detected an additional 5 miles to the west in a DEC campground where infestation is still light and hard to detect. Mortality has also been found about 8 miles west of Kingston on the south side of the Ashokan Reservoir. EAB populations

and mortality are building in the ash forests along the river north of Cementon and detection has been made as far north as Catskill. EAB has been detected about 7 miles south of Kingston but mortality is sporadic. No tree mortality from EAB has yet been detected across the Hudson River in Dutchess County. However, a few EAB were found in girdled trap trees located next to the river in the vicinity of Rhinebeck. There was also one EAB caught in a purple trap in the northern part of the county about 2 miles east of Tivoli, but infested trees have yet to be found in this location.

The Chili infestation is located in the southern part of Monroe County centered near to where I-90 passes over the Genesee River. The majority of mortality is still confined to an area about 3/4 mile radius around this center. However, there is sporadic mortality appearing about 3.5 miles to the northwest of the center towards Chili and 3.5 miles southwest to the south of Scottsville. One of the big problems in this area is a high concentration of ash in the woodlands which will foster a large population buildup. As with all EAB infestations, it takes a couple years for trees to die and in the meantime EAB is moving further away. In this case EAB have been caught in purple traps 6 miles to the NW and almost 8 miles to the west but infested trees have yet to be found. On the other hand 9 miles to the SW in Livingston County, just south of Caledonia, a small number of infested trees were detected a couple years ago and EAB is gradually spreading from this point. Another satellite population was detected a couple years ago in a small park in downtown Rochester about 10 mile NE of the center. Infested trees were either destroyed or treated and no others have been found since. The face of the Chili infestation will be changing rapidly in the next couple years as populations build and mortality becomes more apparent.

The Erie County infestation is the most urban of our infestations. The center of mortality appears to be in Lancaster, less than a mile SE of the Buffalo Airport. Ash is abundant in the forests of the region and the EAB population has built

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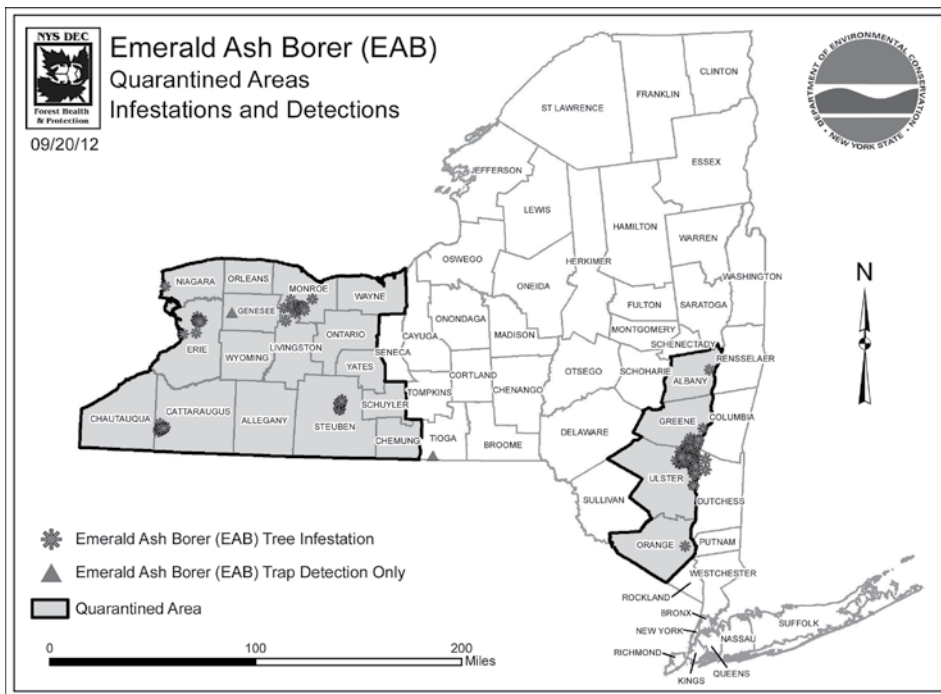
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up in small woodlots, along streets, and in backyards. To the north mortality has just begun to show up north of I-90 but has not reached Williamsville. To the west there has not been mortality detected beyond the airport but to the south mortality has just been found in Depew about 2.5 miles from the center in the DEC's Reinstein Woods. The story is different to the east where mortality is beginning to show up in a 700 acre ash and red maple swamp about 2.5 miles from the center. EAB populations will build in this area and movement in this direction could become rapid in the coming years. There is a satellite population in West Seneca just west of the intersection of Transit Road and Hwy 400. Mortality is largely limited to about 1 sq. mile area between Lein and Bullis Roads but there are woodlots in the area that will begin showing symptoms soon. South Park is another satellite infestation that is just beginning to show mortality within the park and Detections have been made up to a mile south in Lackawanna. EAB has likely dispersed in between these infestations but mortality is as yet not apparent.

The Randolph infestation in western Cattaraugus County was the first discovered in the state and much effort has been invested to slow the spread

here. This seems to have paid off since mortality is still largely confined to an area about 1/2 mile from the infestation center around exit 16 on I-86. However, detections have been made more than 3 miles from the center and mortality is beginning to appear up to 1.5 miles away, primarily to the west, south, and southeast. The infestation could begin moving quickly once populations build in the large contiguous forest tracts south and north of Randolph.

The Bethlehem infestation in Albany County covers an area of about 4 sq. miles located between South Bethlehem and the railroad yard to the north. Right now mortality is scattered through the area and detections have been made at the periphery near South Bethlehem. Populations are building in the many woodlots in this area and we expect it to be moving north into the more urban areas as well as SW where there is more contiguous forest.

EAB mortality at the Bath infestation (Steuben County) is centered on a woodlot about 3 miles north of the village. Mortality is greatest in a small area within about half a mile from the origin but it appears to be moving primarily to the north and northeast with detections at Urbana State Forest and mortality just beginning to show up in the small DEC

Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the valley just SW of Hammondspport.

The Lewiston infestation in Niagara County is still very small with very little mortality appearing. The infestation seems to be localized near the Niagara Falls Country Club; however ash are common in nearby woodlots where populations will soon be building. The West Point infestation in Orange County is also very small but ash is a very minor forest component. The few infested trees that were detected have been destroyed and survey continues.

There are two locations where a single EAB was caught in a purple trap and no infested trees have been found despite a considerable survey effort. Three years ago an EAB was caught in a trap in Pembroke, Genesee County, about 2 miles SE of exit 48A on I-90 and no infested trees have been found. In the summer of 2012 an EAB was caught on a trap about 1/4 mile from Tioga Downs in Tioga County and despite intensive surveying no infested trees were detected.

As woodlot owners and land managers you need to be developing plans for when EAB gets near to your property. Speak with a forester about your long-term management goals before logging because the real value on your property may not be in the ash but in other species that may not be ready for harvest. In addition, you need to be aware of your liabilities when the ash die such as trees near buildings, power lines, and roads. Remember that less than 2% of New York's forests are infested but this will be changing and everyone needs to use this time to plan ahead. Movement of infested materials may spread EAB and shorten the time we all have to plan. 🌲

Detailed information on EAB and resources for woodlot owners can be found at: www.nyis.info/eab

Maps of the infestations and much more can be found on the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/82847.html>

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

Ask a Professional (continued)



The typical desired end result when owners manage their woods is to ensure that the next forest is as healthy and productive as the current forest. Abundant desirable seedlings, as illustrated by the sugar maple in this photo, are an example of a landowner's successful efforts.

will move towards a precipice from which it won't easily recover.

Understory plants create for many people a "green lie." The forest appears green, which forests should be, but because of inattention or an inability to identify species, the green color is equated with a healthy and diverse forest. Without recognizing the individual positive and negative contributions of each species, the future of the forest may be misunderstood.

Develop a plan to solve the problem

Implicit in this discussion is that harvesting need not occur for a problem

with interfering plants to develop.

Common events, such as deer browsing and the growth of invasive or undesired native plants, can predispose a forest to future shortcomings following any type of disturbance in the canopy.

Woodlot owners will need to work with a forester to determine if a potential problem exists and to discuss different strategies. A first step will be to identify the plants that occur in the midstory and understory. Those plants can be categorized as to their ability to create problems. It takes surprisingly few undesirable plants in the understory to overwhelm desirable species following

the creation of canopy openings. A second step is to assess the impacts of deer. Assessments of browsing on plants and abundance of deer droppings can be used to estimate the impacts that deer are having. By knowing some index of abundance for deer and undesirable species, and their interaction with desired species, a plan of action can follow.

Similar to a forest stewardship plan, a plan to control interfering plants should start with the owner's objectives, such as to regenerate the forest, to improve the diversity in the understory, to reduce the abundance of invasive species, or to improve access. The plan of action will identify the best treatment, and should describe the extent and duration of control. Will the control of undesirable plants be over entire areas or in local areas? Will the control be for a few years or many years? Will deer impacts be managed through increased regional hunting pressure, fencing, or a combination?



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Treatments of the undesirable plants will be considered as to their method and mode of action. The method is the mechanism of control and is either mechanical or chemical. The mode refers to the specificity of the target and is either selective or broadcast. The best combination depends on the circumstances. In many cases, the plan may integrate multiple treatments to optimize control of the interfering plants and to minimize impacts on other desirable attributes of the forest.

Finally, but before taking action, consider other aspects of the plan. Work to minimize damage to desirable species, but know that most treatments will have some collateral damage. Be specific about how the timing of the treatment will correspond to the anticipated establishment of desired species. Simply controlling the undesirable species won't assure the success of the desired species. For natural establishment of desired species, control of the undesirable

species may need to be sustained until an adequate seed crop is produced and the seeds germinate.

Controlling vegetation is a challenge. When an interfering plant problem exists, failing to accept and overcome the challenge will result in the loss of benefits and increased costs of management. For success, owners will need to commit to the effort, and seek qualified assistance. 🏠

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- George, L.O. and F.A. Bazzaz. 1999b. The fern understory as an ecological filter: growth and survival of canopy-tree seedlings. *Ecology* 80(3):846-856. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/177022>

Relevant Webinars

- Forest herbicide, D. Jackson, 2012 <http://breeze.cce.cornell.edu/p8rh8e83p8k/>
- Beech management, P. Smallidge 2010 <http://breeze.cce.cornell.edu/p35316678/>
- Barberry management, J. Ward, 2011 <http://breeze.cce.cornell.edu/p21062777/>

Response by: Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853. 607 592 3640. pjs23@cornell.edu



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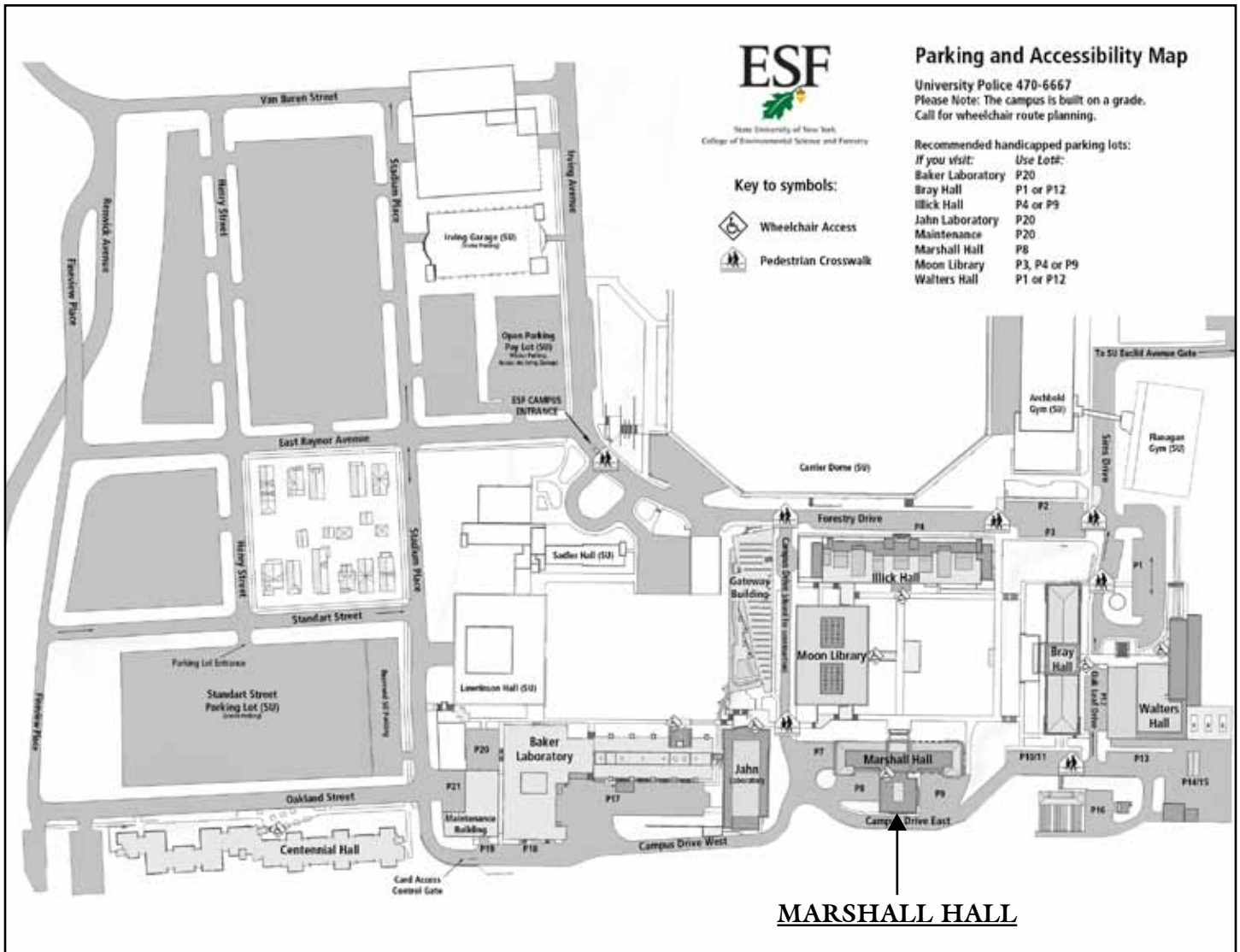
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- New York State Thruway (I-90) west to exit 36 for I-81 south.
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- Turn left onto East Adams Street; proceed two blocks to Irving Avenue.
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Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members (who joined since the publishing of the last issue) to NYFOA and thank them for their interest in, and support of, the organization:

Name	Chapter
Roger D. and Sharon Allen	WFL
Solon Barnard	WFL
Jack Butler	WFL
Laurel Nelson & Rock Castou	WFL
Sharon & David Ciciriello	CNY
Jamie Cooney	WFL
Dansville Public Library	WFL
Dennis Easley	NAC
Linda & Robert Edwards	SAC
Ron Frisbee	SOT
Sheryl & Frank Galinski	CDC
James A. Gould	AFC
Sheridan Goutermout	NAC
Don Greenmun	SOT
Robert W. Jensen	SOT
Nancy Kirby Kurjakonic	WFL
Travis Lint	
Gavin MacKellar	NAC
Davies Nagel	WFL
Tom Reagan	WFL
John Schouten	WFL
Richard Schulman	LHC
Gary Sergio	SOT
Robert Slavicek	SOT
Joe Stahl	CNY
Jen Stengle	LHC
Leroy & Susan Stoycon	AFC
Gary Tennant	SOT
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Member Profile:

Jim Karl

CARLY NEUMANN

Jim Karl, a retired pipefitter from Local 112 in Binghamton, NY, and his wife Linda have owned their woodlands in East Guilford, NY for 40 years. His father initially purchased the land and used it as a way to escape from his work in business. Jim and Linda also enjoyed the property and ultimately decided to buy it from him. About half of the 200-acre property was previously farmed and the other half is in woodland.

The property's has about 50 acres of the land in open fields. Jim worked with his neighbor, a dairy farmer, to restore a 20-acre hay field, which his neighbor harvests. Jim has also created many areas of open brush land to encourage wildlife especially grouse, rabbits and deer. He has been working to thin the woodlands to encourage the regeneration of trees. He was involved in a DEC program which taught him the importance of releasing wild apple

trees. He enjoys seeing these trees flourish and bear fruit.

Most of the woodlands consist of red maple, red oak, some cherry and, as Jim describes it, "too much beech." Jim had timber stand improvement work done on the woodlands and also sold some saw timber. The wind and rain of September 2011 knocked down many of the trees and required extensive clean up so the Karl's do not anticipate removing any more trees in the near future. Jim would like to encourage regeneration through his management practices. Now that both Linda and Jim are retired they enjoy working in the woods together to improve their property.

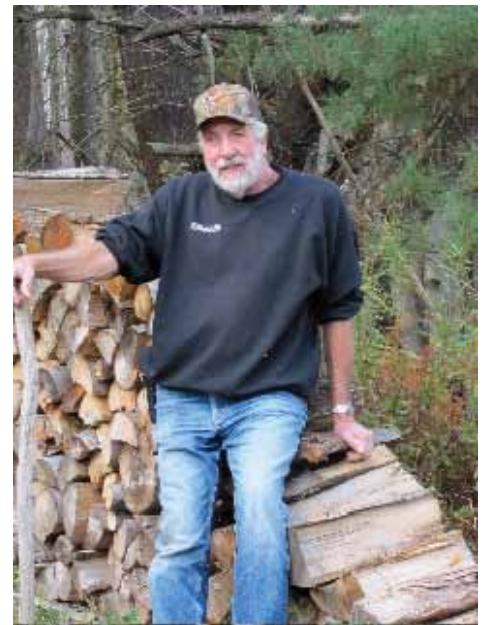
Jim and Linda live on their property in a house they built overlooking Guilford Creek, which runs through their land. This is actually the second house they built on the property, the



Jim and his dogs enjoying the winter weather on their property.




Karl Grandchildren playing by the pond on their property.



Jim in front of the firewood he uses to heat their home.

first they sold to their son, also Jim, who now lives there with his family. Father and son enjoy working in the woods and cut firewood, which they use to heat their homes. The family enjoys hiking and hunting on the property as well as snowshoeing and cross country skiing, when there is snow. About fifteen years ago they planted Christmas trees, which they harvest for their own use. Jim hopes his son and grandchildren will carry on his legacy of caring for and improving the land.

Jim is a Master Forest Owner volunteer and it was at that training where he learned about using herbicides on beech stumps after cutting them. He has experimented with the technique on a large beech tree near a cabin on the property and is pleased with the result. Jim is also a member of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and enjoys learning from the articles in the magazine and attending the seminars hosted by the organization. He recommends that all forest owners join NYFOA, a much-needed organization in New York. He also uses Cornell Cooperative Extension as a resource for information and expertise. 

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

SYRACUSE FARM SHOW FEBRUARY 2013

Woodlot Seminar Presentations as of December 6, 2012

Please Note: The postcard you received in early January with tickets to the Syracuse Farm Show stated that the NYFOA annual meeting was taking place at the Farm Show. That is incorrect! *The Annual meeting will be on March 23 at SUNY ESF as stated on page 13.*

Thursday, February 21

10:00 am Legislators Need To Know Your Needs

Jeff Williams – Manager of Government Relations, New York Farm Bureau, Albany

11:00 am Protecting your Timber from Fraud and Theft

David Skeval – Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Onondaga County

1:00 pm Smart Timber Management Creates Good Bird Habitat

Mike Burger – Conservation & Science Director, Audubon New York

2:00 pm Fostering Bird Habitat in Open Fields

Andrew Hinickle – Conservation Biologist, Audubon New York

3:00 pm Getting Financial Help to Improve Your Woods

Mike Fournier – Resource Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA

Friday, February 22

10:00 am Conservation Easements Can Protect Your Woodlot Legacy

Donald Fisher – President, Pomeroy Associates, Syracuse

11:00 am Coping with Insects That Destroy your Valuable Trees

Kim Adams – Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY ESF

1:00 pm Bringing Your Woodlot Back to Growing Valuable Timber

Peter Smallidge – NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University

2:00 pm Managing Your Woodlot for Timber and Deer

Gary Goff – Sr. Extension Associate, Dep't of Natural Resources, Cornell University

3:00 pm A Woodlot as an Investment: Experiences and Lessons

Carl Wiedemann – Retired Forester, NYS Dep't of Environmental Conservation

Saturday, February 23

10:00 am Property Taxes and Your Woodlot

Sloane Crawford – Forest Stewardship Coordinator, NYS Dep't of Environmental Conservation

11:00 am Successful and Profitable Tree Planting

Brett Chedzoy – Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schuyler County

1:00 pm Consulting Foresters Can Help You and Your Woods in Many Ways

Susan Kiester – Consulting Forester, Wayland, NY

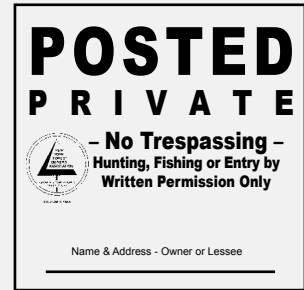
2:00 pm Portable Sawmills for the Woodlot Owner

David Williams – Experienced Mill Owner-Operator, Bainbridge, NY

3:00 pm Legislators Need to Know Your Needs

Hugh Canham – Emeritus Professor, SUNY ESF

NYFOA POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM



Use this form to order the sign shown above. The signs are orange with black printing.

SIGN MATERIAL	COST PER SIGN	NUMBER ORDERED*	COST
Plastic (.024 gauge)	\$.50	_____	\$_____
Aluminum (.012 gauge)	\$.77	_____	\$_____
Add Name and Address to Sign			
Set up cost per address			\$5.00
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Shipping and Handling Cost \$9.50 per order			\$9.50
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Please specify Name and Address to be printed on signs:

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Make checks payable to **NYFOA**.

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For more information
Call 1-800-836-3566

* Minimum order is 50 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.

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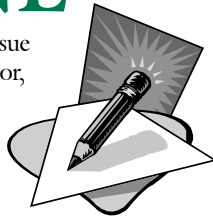
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\$240 (15 column inch)
Quarter Page:
\$120 (7.5 column inch)
Eighth Page:
\$60 (3.75 column inch)

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

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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



Deadline for material is February 1, 2013

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CFRO's
Forestry Awareness Day

March 19, 2013

Registration is FREE to members of Host and Sponsor Groups!

The business and economic climate in New York State is difficult. So many different groups and organizations are being affected by budget cuts, including the forestry community. The time has come to ensure we make the Administration know just how crucial our forests and our community are to the vitality of New York State. We cannot leave it up to anyone else. It's our responsibility – and the planning is already taking place. The Council of Forest Resource Organization's (CFRO) Forestry Awareness Day (FAD) will be held in Albany on Tuesday, March 19, 2012. Participants will come to Albany and attend planned visits to legislative offices to discuss forestry issues in New York State. These visits are essential to ensuring a good and informed relationship with the leaders in New York. All members of hosting and sponsoring organizations can attend the day's events free of charge! These visits will provide participants the opportunity to convey to legislative leaders those issues of importance to the forestry community in New York State.

If your organization is not yet a host or sponsor, contact Muriel Church at 518-330-7684 or mchurch@esfpa.org!

NYFOA is a sponsoring organization.
For further information contact NYFOA member Frank Winkler at winkler@catskill.net or 845-676-4825.

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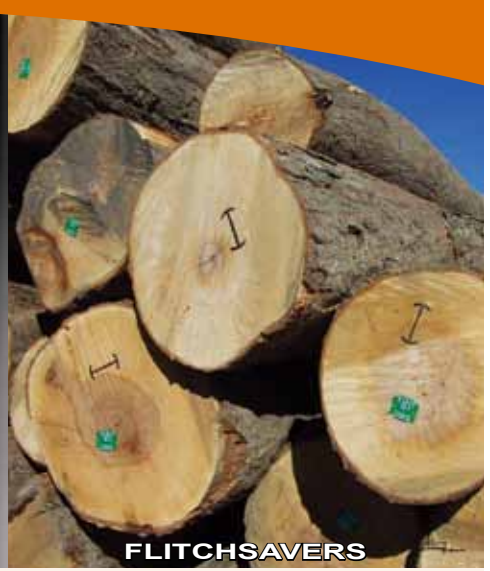
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