

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

March/April 2013



Member Profile: Jeff Joseph

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www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Jeff Joseph chainsaw-milling 24" American Elm harvested from his woodlot. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Jeff Joseph.

From The President

I hope many of you had the opportunity to visit our booth and see one or more of the NYFOA seminars at the Farm Show in Syracuse in February. In addition to NYFOAs **Ron Pedersen** and **Hugh Canham** whom I mentioned in my previous column, I'd also like to thank **David Skeval**, Executive Director of the Onondaga County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Dave's personal involvement in NYFOA's presence at the Farm Show



is yet another example of the myriad ways that CCE and NYFOA work together to mutual benefit. You will probably be receiving this issue about the time of our annual meeting

on the ESF (Environmental Science and Forestry) Syracuse campus on March 23. If you attend I hope you take the time to introduce yourself and tell me what's going on in your woodlot. In fact, I invite all of you to write me at president@nyfoa.org or to my home address (on the inside front cover) to tell me how NYFOA has influenced your relation to your property. What are we doing right and what opportunities do we have for becoming better?

There's still time to sign up properties to be part of our Restore New York Woodlands initiative May 11 - 19. If you go to our web site (www.nyfoa.org) there's a link to our RNYW page (www.nyfoa.org/education/rnyw.php) where you can see a map of sites that have already signed up and a link to a form for registering your own property as part of the initiative. There's much more material

on the RNYW initiative there as well. Any questions, please contact **Kelly Smallidge** (bowhunter_13835@yahoo.com or 607-589-7530) who'll be glad to answer them.

Speaking of our web site, we're working to make it much more dynamic and relevant to what's going on in the organization. Although there is still more work to be done, if you haven't visited it lately, we encourage you to do so. We'd also like to bring a little more life to our web site with member photos. We'd love to have you send us photos you've taken (ones you own the "rights" to) related to your property. Photos of: You and your family enjoying the property; Vistas of/from your woodlot; Projects before/during/after; Trail-Cam photos, etc. We would then post them on the site and might also use them in some of our publications. Photos can be sent to TechSupport@nyfoa.org.

We've also started a NYFOA FaceBook page and a separate RNYW FaceBook page. Some of us "oldsters" (i.e., me) are trying to bring ourselves up to speed in the world of social media. If you're already a FaceBook user I'd encourage you to visit these pages and "like" us. If we are to bring our message of good forest stewardship to as broad an audience as possible, having current members "like" us will also alert their FaceBook friends down the road about us and about our mission. Hopefully they will then join our ranks. Expanding our presence into a younger demographic is especially important.

Another, more direct, way to reach out to your neighbors is to invite them to accompany you to a chapter woodwalk, meeting or other event. Sometimes all it takes is a little extra effort to break

continued on page 8

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.

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Restoring New York's Woodlands: A NYFOA Initiative

KELLY SMALLIDGE

Restore New York Woodland (RNYW), NYFOA's statewide initiative, has been a focus of many articles in recent issues of the Forest Owner. Hopefully you have become familiar with the initiative, and have considered hosting and/or leading a woodswalk. If you still need to register your woodswalk, please see details below.

At this time, we are happy to report that more-detailed information about RNYW has been posted on NYFOA's website (www.nyfoa.org). The website contents includes topics such as:

- An explanation of RNYW
- Guides for woodswalk leaders (as well as supplemental information)
- Sample Guest Editorials and Press Releases
- Background information (NYFO articles, webinars, other publications)
- Forest Owner Member Profiles
- Webinars and other internet resources
- Information about liability

If you do not have a computer but would like a copy of the information packet; then please call Kelly at (607) 589-7530. She will send you a copy in the mail.

As a reminder, if you were not able to "attend" the February 28th RNYW webinar; it is archived and available



for viewing on the NYFOA website (www.nyfoa.org).

The webinar includes succinct overviews of the RNYW initiative and of the topic of regeneration in NYS; and the webinar helps woodswalk host/s and leaders get familiar with the RNYW documents (outlined above) available online. Most importantly, the webinar explains how to incorporate the ideas associated with woodland regeneration into any woodswalks, while the webinar also provides some insights into how to address questions about regeneration, deer impacts, managing interfering vegetation, and how to promote sustainable woodland management... all with a view to the future of NY's privately owned wooded landscape.

As a reminder, RNYW woodswalks can be registered at any time; however, the sooner they are registered the more exposure the woodswalk will get, in terms of publicity. Go to NYFOA's website (or call Kelly) if you need assistance; and don't forget to friend RNYW on Facebook at Restore New York Woodlands. 🌲

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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:

Our property was harvested shortly before we bought it. There is some tree regeneration, but it is scattered. What can we do to enhance the regeneration of trees?

Answer:

Many wooded properties are harvested prior to the sale of the land. Unfortunately, these harvests may not give adequate attention to the multi-year process that is necessary to ensure the woods are successfully regenerated following the removal of numerous canopy dominant trees. Some owners see green vegetation, and assume that all is well. However, previous research has shown that the regrowth is often a "green lie," and that much of the regrowth is undesirable or insufficient for the needs of the owner. Enhancing tree regeneration might include either favoring existing desired stems or planting seedlings into areas that lack desired stems. In this discussion, the term "desired stem" is used to indicate the plant is a desirable species and has a desirable stem form or quality.

The principles underlying natural regeneration are similar to those of plantation establishment, and described in the Northeastern Tree Planting Bulletin available in the publications

section at www.ForestConnect.info¹ Once there is a source of plants, either naturally established or from the seedling nursery, the three key variables related to regeneration success are protection from browsing and rodents, controlling interfering vegetation, and matching the physiological tolerances of the species with site conditions.



Beech root and stump sprouts, or other species already established, will respond quickly after a canopy dominant tree is removed. Unexpected events (such as severe insect defoliation) or poorly planned harvests can favor undesirable species that are dominant in understory.

Trees are a long-term venture. Thus, any efforts and investments directed at seedlings and saplings should first consider if the physiological tolerance of the tree species matches the conditions of the site. Species have different tolerances for soil moisture, soil fertility, soil depth, aspect, topographic position, and more. These tolerances are often described as silvical or life history traits; details for all common species are available here http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/table_of_contents.htm. Although seeds of a species may germinate and a seedling may develop, the site conditions may not support that species through all stages of growth and development to the maturity of the plant. Efforts to enhance naturally established seedlings should first consider if the species is matched with the site. Planting should favor only those species that match site conditions. The county Soil and Water Conservation District can assist with determining soil and site conditions, and make suggestions for appropriate species. Soil information is also

available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

If post-harvest enhancement will involve naturally established seedlings, focus on species that match the site conditions, species that also match the owner's objectives, and work to ensure the desired stems are protected from wildlife damage. Ensure also that seedlings have adequate sunlight and soil resources (see below). If post-harvest enhancements involves planting seedlings, aggressively cull seedlings before planting to use the most robust and vigorous of seedlings. In one study of artificial planting plus tree tubes (Ward et al. 2005), red oak seedlings that had more than 8 first order lateral roots were 55% taller after 7 years than red oak seedlings with 2 or fewer first order lateral roots. White pine seedlings protected by a tree shelter interestingly had better survival if they had smaller root collar diameters than larger diameters (4 mm vs. 8mm), but early height growth was significantly greater for unprotected large diameter pine seedlings.

The control of interfering vegetation is an effort to reduce the amount of competition experienced by the desired stem from undesired stems. A thorough inspection of the harvested area can allow the owner or a forester to flag or mark desired stems that warrant additional attention. Competition between plants is predominantly for sunlight, but soil resources can also be limiting. A US Forest Service study (Schuler et al., 2005) followed red oak seedlings planted into a harvest area following the salvage of mature oak that had been killed by the gypsy moth. In this study, areas with less than 20 sq. ft. of basal area per acre in sapling size and larger stems, survival of the planted red oak was almost 80% after 8 years. In areas where average basal area exceeded 30 sq. ft. per acre, seedling survival after 8 years was approximately 50%.² In both cases, undesired saplings were cut to improve the growth and survival of the planted red oak seedlings.

Either mechanical or chemical



Tree harvesting that only removes the biggest and best trees are "high grades." These harvests typically provide inadequate attention to forest regeneration, and stimulate the development of undesirable vegetation in the understory.

methods may be used to control interfering vegetation. The first step is to evaluate the plants that need to be controlled, the extent and duration of control, and the potential for damage to desired stems. Mechanical methods might involve the use of a brush saw to cut neighboring saplings or shrubs, or hand pruners to reduce the height of interfering woody plants proximate to the desired stem. Care should be taken with any power equipment, and users should always wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Chemical controls might include a cut-stump control of saplings or shrubs to prevent regrowth, or basal bark treatments to chemically girdle neighboring stems. With both mechanical and chemical treatments, caution is necessary to avoid injury to the desired stem or the operator. More detailed information about forest vegetation management is available through Penn State University <http://extension.psu.edu/fvm> or at the ForestConnect social media site <http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com>

Our final, but often most important task is to protect seedlings from damage

by deer and small rodents, such as voles. Deer will eat the terminal buds and distort the shape of the seedling resulting in a multi-branched sapling. Severe browsing by deer will kill seedlings. Voles and other small rodents may girdle the bark from the base of the seedling killing it in one year. Most forestry research on tree planting has emphasized control of deer impacts over rodent impacts, but in some circumstances rodent impact can be significant.

Rodent damage is most problematic on smaller and younger stems, and once trees are more than approximately 1 inch of diameter at ground level, the likelihood of rodent damage declines. Two strategies help limit the impact of rodents on smaller stems. First, control habitat conditions that attract and favor rodents by reducing the abundance of ground level vegetation near the desired stem. Second, bury a mesh or solid plastic tree tube at least two inches below ground level to prevent rodents from accessing the seedling. Annual maintenance is required to ensure that the tubes remain buried.

continued on page 18

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Oh boy! The dreaded tax season is upon us!!


Every year I get a lot of questions about taxes, timber and gains reporting. I never know all the answers but I thought I'd take a little space to give you a few tips and resources you may find helpful.

There are a couple things you can do year round to make things easier when it comes time to file. Of course the first thing Tree Farm always recommends is a written management plan. This is part of the process in determining exactly what type of property you are holding; personal, investment or business as well as what your intentions with the property and resources on it are. It's important to know what your goals are and how

you plan to achieve them. The next thing is record keeping. You'll want to keep all your records for all the investments you have made on your property and keep a copy of all contracts. I would also suggest keeping a copy of your tree Farm inspection checklist and the receipt for those bales of straw you used to help green up a trail. This way, when it comes time to look everything over and decide what, how and when to claim gains or losses from timber and investments, you'll have somewhere to start.

As far as resources, The Forest Service is a great place to turn (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>). There you can find a couple forest owners' guides for federal income

taxes and some other links to woodlot owners groups. Also, the National Timber Tax Website is designed to be used by woodland owners, accountants, attorneys & consulting foresters regarding the tax treatment of timber related activities (www.timbertax.org).

A great place to start is always contacting your local extension office or a consulting forester to set you off in the right direction! If you'd like more information about Tree Farm, or if you are interested in becoming a Tree Farm, just remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away. 

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

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

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From the President (continued)

down the barriers of unfamiliarity of an organization.

NYFOA now has the capability to e-mail all our members or subsets such as individual chapters. We have already sent out two "all member" e-mails (one on the Farm Show and one on our Annual Members' Meeting). If you have not received these, then we probably don't have a current e-mail address for you. To get on our list, send an e-mail to info@nyfoa.org with the name by which we know you as a member and our Office Administrator, Liana Gooding, will see that your name gets on the list. We're all sensitive to getting too much information in our in-baskets and we plan on using this capability judiciously. Our e-mail provider makes sure you can always unsubscribe from these but we hope you'll find the information useful.

In this as so many other things we do, please let us know how we might serve you better. 

-Jim Minor
NYFOA President

Kid's Corner

JESSI LYONS



Dave and Kim Benedict of Binghamton, NY submitted this photo. "Thought you might want to see three budding naturalists out for a trail walk on our woodlot in Triangle (Broome County) NY. Your recent 'member profile' featured the man, Jerry Michael, who got our family into NYFOA and forest management by going for a walk with me in 2001 on my ice-storm ravaged hilltop. Since Mr. Michael's visit we've had a successful salvage operation and a selected harvest orchestrated by local Forester Roy Hopke. Our kids, clockwise from the top, Roary, Sawyer, and Hudson will hopefully enjoy the fruits of our efforts when it comes to timber but for now they are just eager to learn about insects, birds, frogs, and where to find the best raspberries."

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!

What's all that noise?! Spring Peepers!

Winter is almost over and for animals that hibernate it's time to wake up! The spring peeper (*Pseudacris (Hyla) crucifer*) is one of these animals. A spring peeper is a small tree frog that lives in wooded areas and grasslands with water in them. They can be found from the east coast all the way to the midwest of the United States and Canada. During the winter they escape the

cold weather by hibernating under fallen trees, rotting logs, and hide in trees with loose bark.

For many people, the sound of spring peepers calling to their potential mates signals the first days of spring. Around the middle of March, as night begins to fall, you can hear a chorus of male spring peepers whistling to attract a female. Although they are very loud and easy to hear, they can be almost impossible to

find. They have excellent camouflage and are very small, only growing 1.5 inches long.

Can you find the spring peeper in the image shown here?

Spring peepers are brown or tan in color and have two lines on their back that forms the shape of an X. Like all tree frogs they have pads or small suction cups on their toes to help them climb. And like all frogs, spring peepers are

carnivores that eat insects and spiders. They are also nocturnal. To be nocturnal means they are only active at night, which is why they can be so hard to find. Can you see the X shaped lines on the spring peeper's back in the image below?

This spring see if you can hear and find a spring peeper, but remember to look near wooded areas and grasslands with water in them. If you don't know what a spring peeper sounds like ask a parent to go onto the internet and listen to them at <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians/spring-peeper/>.

Good Luck! 🍀

Jessi Lyons is a Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Onondaga County.



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Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

FLYING SQUIRRELS



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

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

of 100 feet, they can reach speeds of up to 20 mph, and glide as far as 50 yards (over half the length of a football field).

Two species of flying squirrels are common in New York State and their ranges overlap, though the northern flying squirrel is more common in the northern part of the state, and the southern flying squirrel is most prevalent south of the Mohawk River Valley. In regions where their ranges overlap, they usually separate by habitat. Both species require large areas of very mature, deciduous or mixed forest with large trees and cavities for nesting and escape cover. Flying squirrels usually occupy old woodpecker holes in the winter, but in warmer months often build or reuse existing leaf nests in the crotch of trees. They line their nests with

shredded bark, lichens, grasses, and moss. Forest stands inhabited by these animals need to be relatively open beneath the tree canopy to provide unobstructed gliding areas for movement from tree to tree, and from tree to ground.

In addition to providing adequate nesting sites, older forests support the lichens and fungi that the northern flying squirrel relies on for food, including truffles, the fruiting bodies of underground fungi that live in association with tree roots. These fungi are important to forest health because they increase the ability of trees to absorb nutrients and water from the forest soil. By feeding on the fungi and depositing the spores in the soil through their droppings, squirrels spread the spores throughout the forest, maintaining ecological

processes that are important to forest health. Other foods of the northern flying squirrel include seeds, buds, fruit, insects, and small animals. Similarly, the southern flying squirrel eats seeds, berries, fungi, bark, flowers, insects, and other animal matter. However, the southern flying squirrel prefers hickory nuts and acorns, and is found most often in oak/hickory forests.

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

In mature woodlands, landowners can enhance habitat for these wide-eyed creatures of the night by

retaining live and dead trees that contain holes, or cavities. An ideal den is an old woodpecker hole about 8 to 20 feet from the ground with an entrance hole of about 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. In New York, large beech trees often provide cavities for nesting wildlife, and produce seeds that serve as food. In forests without many cavity trees, landowners can install artificial nest boxes on trees to provide shelter for flying squirrels. Retaining or providing woody debris and rotten logs on the forest floor will provide additional sites for flying squirrels to take refuge from predators when foraging, and promote growth of fungi for food.

Landowners wishing to catch a glimpse of a flying squirrel can sometimes catch them feeding at bird feeders after dark. The best way to see a flying squirrel in the daylight is to tap or scratch on dead trees or

hollow limbs containing abandoned woodpecker holes. If a squirrel is inside, it will often stick its head out to see what is amiss! 🦨

Kristi Sullivan is Co-Director of the Conservation Education and Research Program in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, and Director of the New York Master Naturalist Program. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs, can be found by visiting ArnotConservation.info

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).

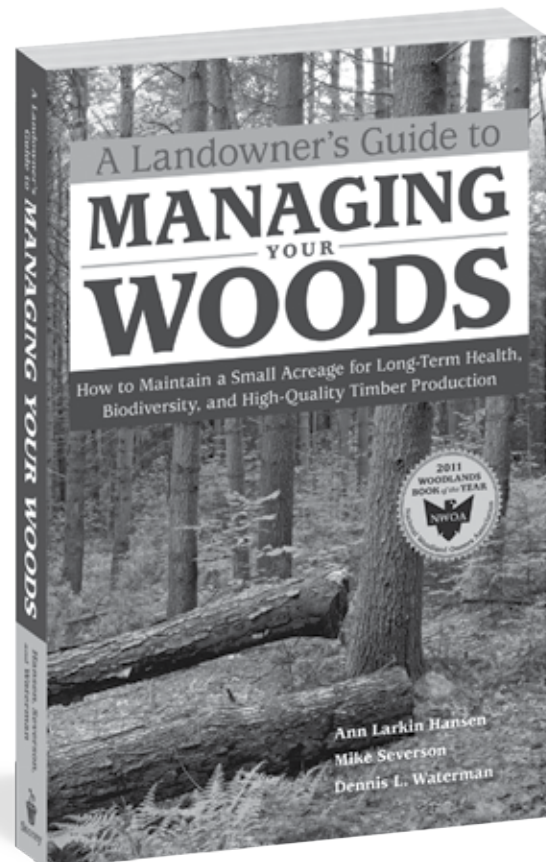
You will receive an email every two months that includes a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

THE ESSENTIAL REFERENCE

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The Northeast Timber Growing Contest

DEAN FAKLIS AND PETER SMALLIDGE

Engaging in friendly competition can be a fun way to focus the mind on an important challenge. Improving the long-term productivity and health of small private woodlands in the northeastern forest is vitally important to our ecosystem and economy. As a result, we have developed a set of guidelines for a friendly contest to help woodland owners grow high-quality trees.

The Timber Contest has been designed to foster strong relationships between landowners and forestry professionals in a process that includes mutual education, research, technology transfer, and fun for the entire family. Some of the objectives for the contest are:

- To educate and motivate landowners to improve the productivity and quality of their woodlands
- To develop and implement new technologies for growing and managing timber, which are appropriate for small woodlots
- To create a perpetual focal point for landowners that envisions involvement from multiple generations within their families, highlighting youth involvement
- To provide a new mechanism to strengthen peer-to-peer relationships between landowners
- To bring together forestry organizations and stakeholders, across the entire northeastern US, for a common purpose

in all four seasons is rewarding, and increasing the volume and quality of timber in your woodlands increases the value of your asset. Your forest is part of your legacy and you'll want to leave your heirs or future owners with healthy and productive timberland. In the bigger picture, private landowners play a crucial role in the overall health of the northeastern forest, since they dominate forest ownership.

Following the contest guidelines published at www.TimberContest.com, forest owners may team-up with forestry professionals to take an active role in growing timber and wood volume. Timber stand improvement, site enhancement, and the providing of water and nutrients are some of the tools that might be used to increase productivity and timber quality. Area

and volume measurements are taken at the beginning and at regular time intervals. Seedling counts are also taken for those interested in advanced forest regeneration. The contest has many winners over time consistent with the rules and has no end date; it is expected to continue in perpetuity.

There is no minimum acreage other than the acreage needed to install measurement plots. There are categories for hardwoods and conifers. For those that want to participate but do not own forest land, such as 4-H or school groups, they may join a team with an eligible landowner. It's important to remember, that in the big scheme of things, we're all amateurs with the same goals and love of the forest. There is assistance at every step and we'll all try to help each other produce great results.



Being in your woods with your family

Measurements are made periodically to gauge timber growth. Please see the contest rules at <http://www.timbercontest.com/> for more details on measurement methods.



Teamwork is an important component of the contest and strong relationships enhance learning opportunities. A forester and landowner can work together to grow timber and knowledge.

But what do the winners win? There will be awards, written articles, news stories, and numerous other forms of “bragging rights” conferred. Most importantly, all participants will “win” the fun and enjoyment of being with their families and friends in the outdoors doing something special for their woodlands. And increasing the quality and size of your timber will flow to the bottom line when your plans call for a timber harvest!

We would like to thank NYFOA and its Restore NY Woodlands

initiative and the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources for their kind support. Please visit www.TimberContest.com for more details. Initial measurements are needed by April 15, 2013 so get the team together, grab the snowshoes, and head into the woods! 🌲

Dean Faklis is a MFO and tree farmer in Springwater, NY. Peter Smallidge is the NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University Co-operative Extension, Department of Natural Resources.

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Woodland Health

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

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

PESTS OF FOREST TREE REGENERATION?

BY MARK WHITMORE

Over the past few months I've been speaking with a number of colleagues about the pests they've observed on forest tree regeneration. Without hesitation the unanimous number one choice, much to the chagrin of a forest entomologist, has only four legs, deer. I'm sure this comes as no surprise. The surprising thing to me and other forest entomologists and pathologists is that there does not even appear

to be a distant second choice that is either a bug or fungus. Now this just doesn't make any sense to us because one of the tenets of entomology and pathology is that if there's something to eat out there, especially if it's young and juicy, there certainly must be a bug or a fungus out there to eat it. So what's going on? Have we been spending too much of our time looking at the big trees and ignoring what's going on around our feet? I think we need more information on this topic and the more eyes out there taking a closer look at regeneration the better. So I'm going to cover some of the basics of detecting potential problems with forest tree regeneration and then cover a few of the potential problems that we know about in New York. However, this article is really a plea for more information from the NYFOA membership.

When investigating potential

problems with forest tree regeneration using a systematic approach will help you to be a better observer. A damaged plant will exhibit signs and symptoms that can lead you to the causative agent. Signs are direct evidence of the presence of the organism causing the problem such as the presence of an insect larva or the fruiting bodies of a fungus. Symptoms on the other hand are a physical expression of the presence of a damaging agent without seeing direct evidence of the agent itself. Symptoms can be divided into two basic categories: abiotic (damage by nonliving factors) and biotic (damage by living factors). Differentiating between the two is not always clear-cut but here are some rules that you can follow. Damage by abiotic factors tends to be uniform and may be seen on several different tree species in the same area. On the other hand, damage by biotic factors such as insects or pathogens, is usually not uniform in an area and will be limited to a single tree species. The damage may also be scattered amongst individuals with some being resistant and others showing severe symptoms. Damage by biotic factors also tends to be spread over time, appearing gradually and then spreading through an individual or amongst individuals in a stand. Abiotic damage tends to occur rapidly such as after an extreme frost event or perhaps over a few weeks

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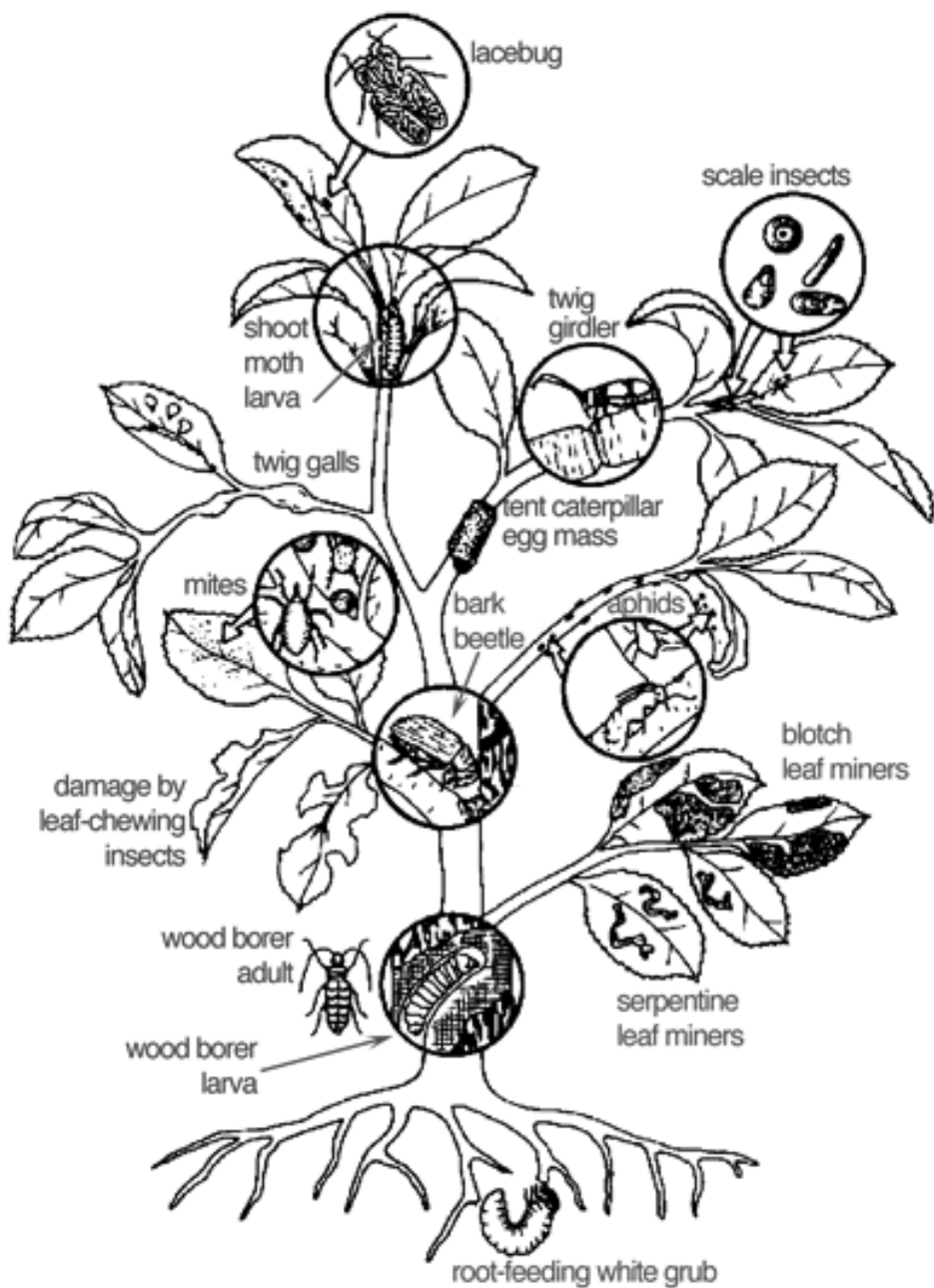


Image from "Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs," Johnson, Warren and Lyon, Howard. Cornell University press. 1976, 1988, 1991.

during a drought. Abiotic damage also tends to affect a single tissue types such as newly expanding shoots or buds.

Once you begin to suspect you're dealing with a biotic agent it's time to begin looking for signs. Signs are not always obvious and often demand careful observation. When you're dealing with a fungus the symptoms are often very similar so diagnostic

protocol is based primarily on the signs. These can be mushrooms or conks (a hard, shelflike, spore-bearing structure of certain wood-decaying fungi, found on stumps, logs, or trees.), tiny fruiting bodies like dots on the surface of a leaf or a stem, mold like growth, rusts, sclerotia (hard resistant structures), or bacterial ooze.

Signs of insect pests are often much

easier than fungi. Often you can see the insects themselves such as caterpillars, sawflies, leaf beetles, aphids, and scale insects. Feeding damage is also a good sign like defoliation patterns on leaves and the galleries left by bark and wood boring beetles. It gets trickier when looking for shoot borer caterpillars or beetles feeding on the fresh inner bark of a tree. The important thing is to look for the bugs themselves or the telltale signs that the insects are feeding.

I'm going to list some of the diseases and insects that you could run into when examining forest tree regeneration. This isn't an exhaustive list but rather those which could be most common in New York:

Armillaria root rot on Pines. This could be a problem mostly on Red pine in the sandy soils of the Adirondack foothills like around Warrensburg.

Eutypella canker on Maples. This canker is mostly a problem on Norway maple but may get into Sugar maple when the inoculum level is high on nearby Norway maple.

Verticicladiella and *Leptographium* disease of pines. These diseases have been found to be associated with bark beetle feeding primarily in Christmas tree plantations, but may be found on White pine regeneration in a forest situation.

White Pine blister rust. This disease is most commonly associated with larger trees but could become a problem with regeneration.

White pine weevil, *Pissodes strobi*. This native insect has been a significant problem causing structural defect in Eastern white pine in open-grown situations. It could become a problem with regeneration but its

continued on page 16



White-tailed deer browsing. Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

damage has been most notable in larger trees.


Pine shoot beetle, *Tomicus piniperda*. This bark beetle is native to Europe and Asia and has been spreading through the United States since the early 1990's. It prefers

pinus, Scots pine in particular, killing the shoots as it feeds on them when an adult. As with the white pine weevil this beetle is most damaging on younger trees but could become a problem with regeneration.

Red pine scale, *Matsucoccus resinosa*. Another insect imported into the United States in the 1930's, it has primarily been a pest in larger trees but could pose problems for regeneration as well.

Maple shoot borers, *Proteoteras aesculana*, *P. moffatiana*, and *P. willingana*. These native Tortricid

moths feed on the shoots of many different maples. They can cause stunted growth and have been noted as a problem in some nurseries.

This list is short and you may have noticed that it does not include many pests of hardwood trees. We need your help to develop our understanding of pests that attack forest tree regeneration. When you're out working in the woods pay attention to the regeneration and take notice if there appears to be a problem. I would appreciate it if you'd notify me if you see anything interesting. Please note the signs and symptoms and document them with pictures if you can. Notice things like how widespread the symptoms are and if there are any signs of fungi or insects. With more eyes out there we can quickly expand our knowledge of regeneration pests so don't hesitate to send me an email or a letter with your observations (please, no samples unless I request them): mcw42@cornell.edu; Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. 

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



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NYFOA 2012 Highlights

- Developed a statewide Restore New York's Woodlands initiative to address inadequate regeneration of much of NY's woodlands and restoration of NY's forests for the long term. The major outreach effort in this initiative will be a series of woodwalks across the state in May 2013 to raise awareness of the causes of and solutions to the forest regeneration challenge.

Educating the public:

- Provided free woodlands seminars to about five hundred attendees of the three-day NY Farm Show in February.
- With the collaboration of Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango and Cornell Department of Natural Resources, completed the State Wildlife Grant. Developed, published and distributed five hardcopy brochures about wildlife habitat and also posted them in the newly developed SWG section of our website.
- Continued sponsorship of Cornell's Master Forest Owner program which trains volunteers to help landowners identify and

achieve their ownership goals.

- Sponsored County Environthon – hands-on environmental education competitions for high school students studying forestry, wildlife, soils and land use.
- Continued annual scholarship support to a senior student in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Management at SUNY-ESF.
- Provided scholarships for children to attend a DEC summer camp to enjoy outdoor experiences and learn about natural resources.
- Created a marked trail with supporting brochure at Landis Arboretum, Esperance, NY, opening up for new audiences fundamental woodlot management concepts.

Serving our members:

- Published six issues of our flagship magazine, The New York Forest Owner, containing articles to help our members better understand and manage their woodlots.
- Over forty workshops and woodwalks

held across the state to help private landowners understand their options and opportunities.

- Constituent chapters published 18 newsletters to keep their members abreast of chapter activities.
- Inaugurated a new e-mail service to make communicating with our members more efficient and time saving for our volunteer chapter leaders.

Advocating for New York's woodlands and landowners:

- As a founding member of the Council of Forest Resource Organizations, NYFOA works with twelve like-minded organizations to help state legislators understand issues such as the impact of high property taxes, the need for incentives to practice sustainable timber management, and the dangers of invasive species.
- Joined the NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee to give landowners a voice as state agencies develop plans to slow, eliminate and contain invasive species.



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Ask a Professional (continued)



Ferns can be minimally present prior to a harvest, but respond quickly to small increases in sunlight and ground disturbance. Ferns can exclude many desired species through the combined impact of rodents, root competition, and shading.



Many of the species desired by owners for timber and other products are preferentially browsed by deer. Deer browsing alters the growth habit of the seedling, and severe browsing can kill seedlings. Because deer like some species more than others, they can shift the understory and shrub layer to species that may not serve the objectives of the owner.

Deer impacts on seedlings depend in part on the region of the state. In some northern counties with severe winter conditions, the impact of deer is less than in other parts of the state. Different methods have been used to protect seedlings from deer, and a full account is beyond the scope of this article. At the scale of several properties (hundreds of acres), controlling deer impacts on vegetation can occur through intensive hunting and reductions in the abundance of female deer. Most hunting in NY is sufficiently casual and limited in extent that deer populations are not appreciably reduced. At the scale of a large harvest (scores or dozens of acres), fencing might be considered. Both woven wire and high tensile fencing are feasible, and new technologies with high tensile fencing installation may create new economic and logistical options for owners. A Penn State University fact sheet on deer fencing is available here <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uh145.pdf>. For harvests at a scale of tens of acres, fencing or translucent plastic and mesh tree tubes can reduce the impacts of deer on naturally established or planted seedlings.


A few points are worth noting about individual protection of tree seedlings. First, for planted seedlings, solid translucent tubes cause the seedlings to prioritize height growth over diameter growth. This causes spindly, etiolated (faded), seedlings that lack stability once the tube is removed. Etiolation (a pathological condition of plants that grow in places that provide insufficient light, as under stones) is presumably less likely when tubes are used on naturally established seedlings, especially if seedlings are cut to stimulate resprouting. Second, solid tubes can prolong seedling growth into the fall, and inhibit the ability of the seedling to achieve dormancy (i.e., harden-off) before winter. In some circumstances, this leads to significant leader damage and reduction in seedling height following an early winter freeze. Third, as described above, tubes need to be buried and maintained

annually. Failure in this regard can result in frost damage and/or rodent damage. Fourth, for hardwood stump sprouts, alternatives to commercial tree tubes that show promise include motel-sized bar soap (Gillespie et al. 1996) and concrete mesh metal cages or deer repellants (Kochenderfer and Ford 2008). Finally, several hardwood species had their best growth in the translucent tubes that provide the highest amount of natural light, those most clear (Sharew and Hairston-Strong 2005). Further, most hardwood species had better diameter growth in the solid translucent tubes with holes that allowed air flow.

In summary, here is a general checklist to help you consider options and strategies for enhancing tree regeneration in a harvested area:

1. Assess soil and site conditions. Compare the physiological tolerances of the desired species with the environmental conditions of the site. If suitable species are not present in sufficient numbers, artificial planting may be required.
2. Locate and assess the condition of desired stems. If adequate numbers of

desired stems per acre are present, determine if stems are constrained by deer browsing or overhead shade.

3. Hardwood seedlings that have been heavily browsed by deer might be rejuvenated by coppicing (i.e., cutting at ground level) and then protecting the vigorous sprouts with tubes or shelters, or other protective strategies.
4. Seedlings with more than approximately 30% to 40% overhead shade, from the seedling's perspective, would likely benefit from control of interfering vegetation to reduce competition for sunlight. Similarly, heavy herbaceous cover can limit the survival and growth of hardwood seedlings. 

Suggested References

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Tree tubes can be used on seedling planted into forest openings to enhance the diversity and number of tree seedlings. If tree tubes are used, select a model that has high light transmission and holes to allow air flow. Maintain tubes annually to ensure they are installed correctly.

Endnotes

¹ This article includes numerous links to web resources. The article will be posted to the Restore NY Woodlands section of www.NYFOA.org and allow viewers to access linked resources directly without retyping.

² Basal area per acre is a difficult concept to visualize. Although basal area doesn't correspond well to the percentage of open sky or canopy closure, basal area above 80 square feet per acre would be mostly no open sky, 50 sq ft per acre would be about 50% open sky, and 20 to 30 sq ft would be roughly 30 to 40% open sky. The point is that seedlings need sunlight to survive and grow.

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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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
John Alling	SFL
Mark Ashcraft	SFL
Robert Balk	CNY
James Campopiano, Forester	SAC
Cathy & Larry Covert	NFC
David DeRose	NFC
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Member Profile:

Jeff Joseph

MAUREEN MULLEN

About ten years ago, Jeff Joseph, a carpenter and furniture maker, and his wife Suzanne, an herbalist, bought 33 acres of woodland in Willeysville in Tioga County. The acreage was formerly pastureland like much of the area. Now, their hillside property is forested with 33 tree species, dotted with small ponds and vernal pools, a creek and ravine, and a cleared acre where the Josephs have their home, barn, wood shop, and a small orchard and organic garden.

Jeff has been a wood-worker for about 25 years and always dreamed of owning his own woodland, but he didn't have prior experience managing a forest. One of the first steps he took was calling a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation service forester to come out to

his land and develop a management plan. Jeff wanted to use his trees to produce his furniture while also maintaining the land's integrity for wildlife and herbs.

In fact, one of the Josephs' main goals is to create a model woodland to inspire others who work off the land on a small scale and want to use a holistic, in-house approach to do so. Their management plan allows for sawtimber harvesting for Jeff's furniture business while improving his timber stands and managing for a diverse understory. The Josephs manage for wildlife, both for hunting and enjoyment of nature. They also manage their woodland for non-timber forest products such as the herbal medicines Suzanne uses, like ginseng. They also harvest shitake mushrooms. The



Red maple coffee table--lumber milled from tree harvested in 2010

Josephs participate in two Farm Bill programs: the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.

The Josephs also have some concerns about their land. Like many woodland owners, they are worried about invasive pests that will affect their trees, like Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The woods are also beginning to be over-run with beech trees and deer. Jeff has recently begun managing the beech trees through cut stump treatments and by also making it his main firewood source. He and his neighbors hunt the deer to try to keep their populations down. They are also concerned with the larger, long-term changes in the region, such as Jeff's comment about "climate change and how that is going to impact, over time, the ability of forest species to be able to continue to grow and be healthy."

Jeff became a member of NYFOA and trained as a Master Forest Owner volunteer in 2006. He joined the NYFOA Steering Committee in 2009 and recently joined the NYFOA Board of Directors last year. When Jeff was asked about the benefits to belonging to NYFOA, he replied, "It's just a wealth of information



Pile of Beech ready to be split and stacked in the woodshed.

continued on page 22



Buck harvested on opening day 2012.



Shiitake inoculation party Fall 2012 using low-grade Beech, Oak, Sugar maple, and Hophornbeam bolts.



Woodland pool dug as part of CSP funded wildlife enhancement project.

and experience – that’s tremendous because if you feel like you’re doing it by yourself, it’s so easy to just become overwhelmed and again, it’s being able to have first-hand contact with folks who have actually done this stuff for decades. And that was the other thing I wanted to highlight... is that I really enjoy the multigenerational aspect to the network and being able to garner... the benefits of the decades of experience that some folks in the organization have. That’s been very important to me.”

His advice to new members is to not be overwhelmed by your woodland – he recommends starting with small projects first and to seek advice from woodland owner peers as well as professionals. He also advises owners to develop a long-term management plan for their woodland and to not feel compelled to do everything all at once. Jeff recommends new forest owners become NYFOA members: “Our forests have a lot of challenges, as climate changes, as demographics change, as development continues, and it’s a great time for people who do have an interest in engaging in stewardship of their land to take advantage of the incredible learning opportunities and socializing opportunities that NYFOA offers.”

As Jeff and Suzanne continue stewarding their woodland, they plan to create apprenticeship opportunities in the wood shop and in the practice of holistic, homestead management. In the future, they want someone to be able to walk from an adjacent woodland into theirs and notice that something was different here, that this forest was healthy, well-maintained, and loved. 🌲

Maureen Mullen is an Extension Aide at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Human Dimensions Research Unit, Cornell University. Dr. Shorna Allred is the faculty advisor for the NYFOA Member Profile Series.

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the May/June Issue 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 April 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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