

# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

*For people caring about New York's trees and forests*

May/June 2013



*Member Profile: Stuart Varney*

*Volume 51 Number 3*



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**The New York  
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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.

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**COVER:** Stuart Varney enjoys the retreat of his land that straddles Delaware and Broome Counties. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Stuart Varney.

# From The President

By all accounts our annual membership meeting, celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and returning to our roots at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse, was a grand success. Good speakers and, with the attendees, good company. Thanks go to NYFOA Board member **Rich Taber** and outgoing board member, and ESF Professor **René Germain**, for coordinating the



whole event. We also take this opportunity to thank René for his many years of service on our board.

René was also the lead-off speaker of the

day and his talk, *Family Forests: are they productive?, sustainable?, resilient?* (slides from which we expect to post on our web site) contained data, consistent with a fundamental issue your board is working to address: Membership focus.

The number of individuals/families that are counted as NY forest owners continues to grow, currently listed as 687,000. However, the growth is not due to more woodlands being created but rather through parcelization of larger woodlots into smaller ones and hence more owners. Today 456,000 of the 687,000 owners have 1-9 acres of wooded land... big (often second-) homes on "big backyards with trees." At the other end of the spectrum there are 105,000 NY woodlot owners with 30 or more acres (8.1 million acres total in this group). Another statistic - 4% of forest

owners (representing 11% of the land) have management plans.

This 30+ acre group has traditionally been the focus of our organization but your board is beginning to ask, in the spirit of fulfilling our mission of promoting good forest stewardship (without implicit restrictions on size and thereby broaden our impact), "Should we be finding ways to provide value to the smaller woodlot owner?" René's talk provides some additional clues related to this when he states that surveys show owners reasons for owning a woodlot are (in order of frequency cited by the owner):

1. To enjoy beauty and scenery;
2. For recreation other than hunting;
3. To protect nature and biological diversity;
4. To pass on to their heirs;
5. For firewood; and, finally,
6. For timber.

Not surprisingly owners of the larger parcels are more likely to harvest timber and to be aware of forest management issues.

Even prior to this presentation your board was asking the question, "Should we be more actively trying to engage the smaller woodlot owner (and possibly non-owners)?" This is closely followed by the question, "If we decided to do so, how do we make sure we maintain the essence of who we are and continue to serve our faithful membership as we have in the past?" We believe in preserving our 50-year heritage and have no intention of morphing into a different organization.

To address the latter question we

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## 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.

( ) I/We own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of woodland.

( ) I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives.

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County of Woodlot: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

# NYFOA ANNUAL MEETING 2013



The 51st Annual NYFOA meeting took place at SUNY-ESF on Saturday, March 23rd. *Above Left:* Attendees check in at the registration table. *Above Right:* Restore New York Woodlands Coordinator, Kelly Smallidge, had an information table at the event. She provided program t-shirts and materials to participants.



*Bottom Left:* Lunch provided attendees an opportunity to relax and catch up with old friends. *Bottom Right:* One of the presenters, SUNY ESF Professor, Ralph Nyland, answered questions after his talk.



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# 2012 NYFOA CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS

The following chapter awards were presented at the 2013 NYFOA Annual Meeting:

## Allegheny Foothills Chapter – Dick Patton

Dick Patton inherited the legacy of stewardship from his father. He continues that legacy in his woods, and for anyone who cares about natural resources. He and his wife Carol keep an open door for those seeking information about their property, needing advice about oil and gas leases, or just wanting to visit over a cup of coffee. Since 1964, the Patton's deer camp has been a mainstay for generations of hunters. Dick has been a fixture with AFC since 1993. He has served as our State Representative, Chair, Vice Chair, and has been a faithful presence on the Steering and Program Committees. Dick always makes time to participate in Chapter activities, representing AFC at the County Fairs and helping with our nut collection and tree and shrub distribution events. He's been an MFO since 1999 and has hosted and commonly participates on our woodswalks. Dick is the consummate forest steward, and an invaluable member of AFC. We are thankful for his many years of service and are proud to present him with our 2012 Chapter Service Award!

## Capital District Chapter – Jim and Betty Bulich

CDC's Chapter award this year goes to Jim and Betty Bulich for their leadership and support of NYFOA programming through the years, with particular thanks for the last three years. As vice chair and then chair of the chapter steering committee, his quiet leadership style has kept the chapter smoothly moving toward its targets. He is an excellent team leader

who knows and understands and excels in working with volunteers.

## Northern Adirondack Chapter – Steven Sherwood



This year, the Northern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA recognizes Steve Sherwood as the recipient of our 2012 Chapter Service Award. Steve's contributions to the success of the Association, the Chapter, and our membership are many. He is an involved, proactive partner whose advocacy for our region's forest landowners, both as a NYFOA NAC volunteer and in his capacity as NYS DEC Region 6 Service Forester, are exemplary.

For several years now, Steve has been an ongoing presence, representing NYFOA and our Chapter at local and regional events. His knowledge of sustainable forest management and timber stand improvement practices, his enthusiasm for serving the region's forest landowners to the best of his ability, and his unyielding commitment to NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter continue to be a great asset to our members and to the Association, as well.

Steve has helped many of our members utilize their valuable natural resources in ways that improve forest health, further individual landowner forest management goals, promote

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## NYFOA STORE

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Grey M, L, XL
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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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# Forest Science Becomes Forest Practice

Reviewing practical science to help forest owners sustainably manage their woodlands

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge



For more information  
on RNYW visit  
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## Selective Herbicide Stem Treatments to Control Interfering Tree Species

### Why Consider Chemical Stem Treatments?

Half of the forest land in New York is classified in the sawtimber size-class, which means that the average stem diameter is 12 inches. While many of these woodlands are too immature to warrant commercial harvesting, they have economic potential that might trigger some harvesting, and are developing in a way that an understory layer may become established. Recent USFS data indicate that the only species that is substantially increasing in the understory seedling/sapling layer (1 to 5" diameter) is American beech. In a recent Cornell University study, half of the forest stands that should be regenerating were thought to be inhibited by interfering vegetation. Beech, together with other native and non-native woody plants, can dominate the understory in ways that exclude desired species. In any given woodlot, the current species dominant in the understory is in the best position to respond following small or large openings in the canopy. If the understory plants are undesirable and of sufficient abundance, their presence can interfere with the regeneration of plants desired by the owner.

Methods to control interfering plants include mechanical and/or chemical

treatments. Mechanical and chemical methods each have their advantages, and can be used in tandem through an integrated strategy. The mode of mechanical and chemical treatments can be selectively applied to individual stems or broadcast application to an entire

area. Chemical methods for control of understory trees and shrubs, when applied following the label guidelines, often provide more thorough control in a single treatment than do mechanical treatments. Information about mechanical treatment methods is available through the publication and webinar links at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info)

This article reviews the content of recent publications by Kochenderfer et al. (2012b) and Jackson and Finley (2013) which describe controls of undesirable trees using stem treatments. Links to the original documents are provided below, and woodland owners should review the original publications and discuss options with a qualified professional before beginning treatments. Practitioners should use all appropriate personal protective equipment and read and follow pesticide labels.

### Stem Treatments Compared to Other Herbicide Options

Chemical methods use federally regulated herbicides, a category of pesticides, to interrupt one or more physiological processes of the plant.



American beech was controlled in a Pennsylvania study with a 5% Garlon 4 ultra solution during spring or summer, and a 1% or 2.5% solution during the summer. Results for these low concentration treatments on other species are described in the text.

Herbicides are applied to woody plants as either a foliar, stem, or cut-surface treatments. The reference list includes resources that describe herbicide application methods.

Stem treatments are only applied in a selective mode, meaning individual stems are identified and treated. Stem treatments would be optimal when the target species have an average stem dbh (diameter breast height) greater than 2 to 3 inches, and when those stems are not desired for harvesting. Stem treatments can often be applied throughout the year. Smaller diameter stems would be more efficiently controlled with foliar treatments, which are restricted to portions of the growing season. Larger diameter stems and those with desired products (e.g., firewood) might be more likely harvested and the cut-surface treated if necessary. Stem treatments become cost-prohibitive when there are more than approximately 400 stems per acre.

### Types of Stem Treatment

Stem treatments include “basal bark” and “stem injection.” Basal bark treatments use a chemical suspended in an oil-based carrier to penetrate the bark and chemically girdle the tree. Petroleum and vegetable based oil carriers are available. Basal bark treatments do not physically puncture the bark. These can be applied throughout the year, except during heavy rains or if the snow depth prevents application to the base of the tree. Basal bark treatments are an option for stems less than 6” in diameter, when the bark usually becomes too thick for the oil carrier to effectively penetrate the bark.

Stem injection treatments use a tool, such as a hatchet or cordless drill, to puncture the bark and apply a herbicide to the plant tissue inside the bark. Chemicals include water- and oil-based carriers. An attribute of stem injection versus basal bark is the potential for “flash” of the chemical to other stems connected to the treated tree. For species such as American beech, this may allow for a desirable control of untreated beech stems too small and



*Beech was controlled with either Arsenal (imazapyr) or Razor Pro (glyphosate), including flash into root suckers. Treatments made during September and resulted in 6 to 9 untreated stems controlled for each treated stem.*

numerous to warrant stem treatments. However, the flash may be undesirable if trees of the same species root graft and a non-target stem is impacted via root transfer.

### Chemicals and Application Rates

In the fact sheet by Dave Jackson and Jim Finley (2013), they describe application of basal bark treatments to control undesirable stems. The most common active ingredient used in basal bark treatments is triclopyr (*tri-chlo-peer*). Woodland owners would most likely find triclopyr in a product known as Pathfinder II, a premix of oil and triclopyr that is registered for use in NY, but is not restricted to certified applicators. (*Note: mention of trade names does not imply an endorsement.*) Certified applicators, private or commercial, could purchase triclopyr as Garlon 4 ultra and mix with the oil-based carrier of their choice. Traditionally, Garlon 4 has been mixed at a 20% solution for use in basal bark treatments. Some of the products mentioned in the PSU fact sheet are not registered (i.e., illegal) in NY; these would not be available for sale in NY.

Practitioners can review which herbicides are registered for use in NY at <http://pims.psur.cornell.edu/index.php>

Jackson and Finley conducted an experiment to test the effectiveness of basal bark treatments using triclopyr at low concentrations and different seasons for several common interfering tree species. Their study used Garlon 4 ultra mixed in a commercial basal oil at concentrations of 1%, 2.5% or 5% and applied in spring (April) vs. summer (July/August). They treated American beech, striped maple, red maple, black birch, and eastern hophornbeam. Each woodland owner would consider what is an “acceptable” level of control, but for discussion here 80% control will be the threshold of success. Beech and maple were successfully controlled in the summer treatments with all three concentrations. Spring treatments to beech required at least a 5% concentration. Spring treatments to maples were successful with either 2.5% or 5% concentrations. Black birch and hophornbeam, both in the birch family, were not well controlled in summer treatments, and in

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# New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



The familiar Tree Farm sign has four sides. These represent Wood, Wildlife, Water and Recreation. There is of course room in your woodlot planning for many other diverse uses and these are important to discuss with your forester and note in your Management Plan. Some of your other interests might include non-timber forest products. These vary from wild to cultivated, and may require special considerations when planning any type of harvest or recreational activities. All these things make up the overall woodlot legacy you, your family and your natural resources professional are trying to create.

Each spring, many things come to life on your property. Many of the carefully selected trees start to bud out and stand

tall and strong...but things are happening underneath that could be just as exciting!

The Maple trees are running sap like crazy! To produce one gallon of maple syrup, it often takes 43 gallons of sap, more or less depending on the sap's sugar concentration.

Moist flat hardwood forest floors come to life with bright green, sword-shaped leaves of wild leeks. These fragrant patches appear in early spring when the snow is gone but the forest canopy and underbrush aren't yet in bud. Wild leeks will most often grow in shady areas and near small streams and woodland creeks. Keep track of wild leek hunting grounds year after year by counting steps from a landmarked tree or bush. Take care to harvest wild leeks

conservatively, so to never harvest an entire patch and leave plenty of bulbs to multiply.

Mushrooms, which are not considered plants, but are fungi that exist to aid the decomposition of natural materials — especially wood — as part of the ecological cycle. They're growing on the down woody debris left from last year's firewood cutting. Mushrooms will grow year round after heavy rain falls, but can be found readily in the spring as well. Consider joining a mushroom club to help with species identification, and remember, do not eat a mushroom unless you are 100% sure it's not poisonous.

Ginseng is a valued plant both medicinally and monetarily. Ginseng grows in shady areas where it is not too hot. Mature forests, primarily of hardwood trees with undergrowth, are your best chances of finding a good ginseng area. You can contact your extension office for advice on harvesting. Be sure the plants are mature and that it's allowed in your area.

The list of possible goodies that might be growing on your property goes on and on! Red clover blossoms, Black Cherry bark and Witch Hazel; decorative vines, flowers and greenery; and so many more edibles like berries and fiddleheads might just be waiting for you to discover them. If you're interested in non-timber forest products, talk to your forester about putting it in your plan and if you're looking for a forester, a great place to start is always contacting a Tree Farm inspector. 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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# Kid's Corner

DEREK J. CONANT



This could be your photo here!

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!

## Ash Tree Identification

The temperature is getting warmer and the days are getting longer — spring is finally here! As a result trees are beginning to make their leaves for another year. This year, we want to give special attention to ash trees.

Ash trees have many commercial uses and have been economically important for centuries. Because ash wood is very strong and elastic it is used in making some sports equipment, automobile components, musical instruments, and in cooking. More specifically, items made from ash trees include bows, tool handles, and baseball bats. Some of the best ash wood is used to make expensive furniture and cabinetry, the best guitars, and sports car frames. Ash makes good fire wood or smoking wood for barbecues. In the early years of aviation it was used in building aircraft. Also, certain ash tree bark is used in making beautiful blue color dyes.

Unfortunately, New York State's ash trees are being threatened by a tiny green beetle called the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB lays its eggs on ash trees. When the larvae hatch they eat the living part of the tree under the bark and eventually kill it. This spring, as many of you take your hikes through the forest try to identify the ash trees around you. Here are a few tips to help you identify an ash tree from the rest of the trees in the forest.

To begin, look at the tree's branches. There are two types of branch structures in trees, opposite branching and alternate branching. There are only a few types of

trees that have opposite branching. Trees that have opposite branching are maple, ash, dogwood, and horse chestnut or MADHorse. Look at the pictures below to see the difference in opposite and alternate branching trees.



*In opposite branching trees, the branches come out directly across from each other.*



*In alternate branching trees, the branches are staggered one above the other on the main branch.*

The next step is to look at the leaf on the tree. Does the tree have a simple or compound leaf structure? A simple leaf structure is a single leaf attached to the leaf stem. A compound leaf structure has many leaves called leaflets attached to the stem. This is actually considered one leaf. Ash trees have a compound leaf structure! Compare the difference in leaf structures in the photos below.



*compound leaf*



*simple leaf*

Lastly look at the bark of the tree. Trees have five different bark types; ridged, smooth, shaggy, exfoliating, and platey. Ash trees have ridged bark! Please look at the pictures below to see the different types of bark.



*Platey*



*Ridged*



*Shaggy*



*Smooth*

So, if you find a tree that has opposite branching, compound leaves, and ridged bark, you have most likely found an ash tree!

For more information on EAB and fun games please visit this website: <http://stopthebeetle.info/kidscorner/>

*Derek J. Conant is a Program Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County.*

# Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)



*The chestnut-sided warbler is a small songbird, about 4-5 inches in size. Male chestnut-sided warblers have yellow crowns, a black eye-line and moustache, and chestnut-colored streaks along their sides. Females look similar, though they have less black on the face, and less pronounced chestnut streaking along the side.*

May is the month of return for many birds, like the chestnut-sided warbler, that make a summer home in New York's forests. Each year this easily recognizable bird spends its winters in mixed-species flocks in the moist, tropical forests of Central America. In the spring, the chestnut-sided warbler leaves its sunny paradise, making the long journey back to the eastern United States and Canada to breed and raise its young.

Once here, the chestnut-sided warbler prefers to nest in young, deciduous forests created as a result of timber harvesting or natural disturbances, overgrown pastures and fields, and other brushy areas. In the midst of dense vegetation, this active bird searches the underside of leaves for insects, hopping among the branches and repeatedly cocking its tail up above its back like a wren.

Once a rare bird in the northeastern United States, the number of chestnut-sided warblers increased dramatically in the 1900s. Following widespread deforestation and subsequent re-growth of new, young forests, suitable habitat became abundant. Today, it is one of the most common warblers breeding in New York State. However, its numbers are slowly declining as our forests mature and the availability of early successional habitats becomes limited.

The best way to create habitat for the chestnut-sided warbler is to provide young, brushy forest growth. Landowners can create optimal habitat through timber harvesting. Clearcuts, or even light to moderate thinning of the forest, can open up the canopy enough to allow light to reach the forest floor and encourage the necessary understory growth. Maintaining deer populations at low

enough levels to avoid overbrowsing of the understory also can prevent unfavorable effects on this bird's habitat. 🌲

*Kristi Sullivan Co-Directs the Conservation Education and Research Program in Cornell's Department of Natural Resources. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education and Research Program web site at [arnotconservation.info](http://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](mailto: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.

## Chapter Awards (continued)

sustainability, save money, and increase property values. He continues to provide NYFOA NAC members with education, as well as access to essential tools and resources. His efforts and dedication are admirable.

### Southeastern Adirondack Chapter – Ed and Donna Welch

Ed and Donna Welch were extremely important to the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA during a difficult period of an aging membership and volunteer burnout. This long-overdue Service Award is extended to them with heart-felt appreciation for their joint and highly successful work in the Chapter.

Ed had been an at-large board member for Warren County, and in January 2008 was elected SAC vice-chair. By November of 2008 he had been asked to represent the chair when needed, and by the next April had taken on a major part of the responsibilities. In addition Donna enthusiastically helped with whatever needs became evident. Examples included scheduling the woods walks, and working with the membership list. She recognized that a number of owners of land in the Adirondacks lived elsewhere, and may not have known of our organization.

Both Ed and Donna were involved in the organization of the county fairs, and held what was likely the first winter woodswalk at their property in Johnsbury. They also hosted an additional woodswalk for MFOs. Ed always kept us informed on the activities of the State NYFOA, from his attendance at their meetings, and in conference calls. He continues today with chairing a committee looking into the possibility of hiring a director.

Typical of Donna's contributions were imaginative ideas such as another woodswalk that included the detailed study of a 1-acre plot within the larger woodlot, her cheerful willingness to tackle evolving needs (the Click2Mail, for example), and her perceptive skills in recognizing and encouraging guests

at SAC programs to become members. As a result we gained new younger members.

For the year 2011, no candidates came forward to be Chair or Vice-Chair. Ed gamely continued on for another year. Throughout his tenure, Ed always supplied thoughtful written material concerning the Chapter's problems — and possible solutions.

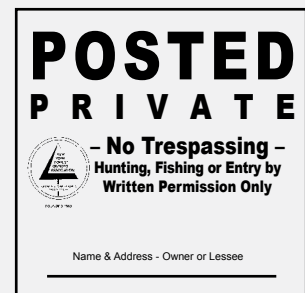
### Southern Tier Chapter – Jerry Michael



The Southern Tier Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association is very fortunate to have Jerry Michael as a member. He has worked tirelessly to promote forest stewardship. His involvement in the Master Forest Owners program has provided us with many new members. When he visits a woodlot for a MFO visit he brings a NYFOA membership packet to share with the woodlot owner. I think is safe to say that this is our main source of new members. Jerry serves as the Southern Tier Chapter's Co-Chair. He also serves as the SOT Newsletter editor. He has championed the Renew New York Woodlands program. He wrote an article called "The Forest's Future is Our Legacy" which appeared in the September/October 2012 issue of the *Forest Owner* magazine. Jerry gave a presentation at one of our SOT meetings called "Restoring Our Forests." The presentation focused on the reasons for poor forest regeneration in New York.

He was featured in the November/December issue of the *Forest Owner* magazine in the member profile  
*continued on page 19*

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# NYFOA AWARDS

## Ron Pedersen Honored with Heiberg Award



Ron Pedersen received the 2013 Heiberg Memorial Award. Left to right: Jim Minor, NYFOA President, Ron Pedersen and Peter Smallidge who presented the award.

The 2013 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recipient of the NY Forest Owners Heiberg award is a surprise. A surprise at two levels. First, it was a surprise to those of us on the nominations committee because when we realized the recipient had not been recognized, we were stunned. Our surprise is because, as you will see in the comments that follow, the merits of the man (and with great support and involvement of his wife), would suggest he was long since charted in the Heiberg Memorial Award history. Because the recipient serves as a current member of the nominations committee, it was no small effort, over several years, to divert his attention long enough to plug him into the queue. Second, this is a surprise to the recipient because I'm guessing he just figured we fooled him.

Ron Pedersen's foray into forest management began in the mid-1940's

when he joined his father and brothers on the recently purchased family farm and woodlot. During the early years Ron and his family spent countless hours planting a variety of conifers on numerous rainy cold spring days. That experience fostered a love of the stewardship of the land and forests that has persisted to this day. And like all true love, it has involved sacrifice but has also borne fruit.

As those tree seedlings grew taller, Ron's life took him into service to our country and service with the state. In NY, Ron's duties were several, and exposed him to the workings of government that have resulted in great benefits for NYFOA and forestry in NY. Through the years, Ron remained connected to the family woodlot, watching the trees grow and mature.

*continued on page 19*

### Heiberg Award Recipients

1966	Hardy L. Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatich
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil
2008	Gary Goff
2009	John Sullivan
2010	Carl Wiedemann
2011	Mike Birmingham
2012	Charlie Mowatt

# Outstanding Service Award Presented to Dick Starr



*Jim Minor presents Dick Starr with the Outstanding Service Award for 2013.*

The New York Forest Owners Association presented its Outstanding Service Award to Western Finger Lake Chapter member Dick Starr. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Association membership.

a quiet but outstanding model in volunteerism for all of us to emulate.

Dick Starr is chairman of the Western Finger Lakes chapter. A number of years ago WFL faced a dilemma most chapters face at some point – nobody wanted to step up to be the chair of the chapter. After a couple years with an interim chairman, Dick agreed to take on the chair’s role about six years ago.

As the chair, Dick oversees lots of activities – several woodswalks, workshops and seminars each year, outreach at various fairs and festivals, four general meetings each winter, a very popular quarterly newsletter, and an annual dinner that has become the chapter’s flagship event.

When he is not coordinating chapter events, Dick tinkers with projects of his own. Among many other things, he has built a cart for moving logs with an ATV, he put

together a solar charger to keep his trail cameras running for months on a single set of batteries, he has figured out how to start seedlings in paper pots that can be transplanted minimal root disturbance, and he has taught himself to graft fruit trees. As if all that were not enough, Dick also finds time to write articles for the chapter newsletter and the Forest Owner magazine describing many of these experiments so others can benefit from his work.

Dick spent a career as a science teacher, and perhaps dealing with eighth-graders for so long enables him to control chapter board meetings so well – things run on time (well, mostly), work gets done, and everybody gets along with one another.

In recognition for all he has done over many years to keep the Western Finger Lakes chapter one of the strongest in NYFOA, we are please to present Dick the Outstanding Service Award.

We salute Dick Starr, and thank NYFOA for awarding him this year’s Outstanding Service Award. 🌲

—Presented by Mike Seager

## Outstanding Service Award Recipients

- 1978 Emiel Palmer
- 1979 Ken Eberly
- 1980 Helen Varian
- 1981 J. Lewis Dumond
- 1982 Lloyd Strombeck
- 1983 Evelyn Stock
- 1984 Dorothy Wertheimer
- 1985 David H. Hanaburgh
- 1986 A. W. Roberts, Jr.
- 1987 Howard O. Ward
- 1988 Mary & Stuart McCarty
- 1989 Alan R. Knight
- 1990 Earl Pfarner
- 1991 Helen & John Marchant
- 1992 Richard J. Fox
- 1993 Wesley E. Suhr
- 1994 Alfred B. Signor
- 1995 Betty & Don Wagner
- 1996 Betty Densmore
- 1997 Norman Richards
- 1998 Charles P. Mowatt
- 1999 Eileen and Dale Schaefer
- 2000 Erwin and Polly Fullerton
- 2001 Billy Morris
- 2002 Donald G. Brown
- 2003 Henry S. Kernan
- 2004 Hugh & Janet Canham
- 2005 Jerry Michael
- 2006 John Druke
- 2007 Ron Pedersen
- 2009 Alan White
- 2010 Dick Patton
- 2011 Jamie Christensen
- 2012 Joan and Hans Kappel
- 2013 Dick Starr

# 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

## ARE NEW YORK'S FORESTS HEALTHY?

By JERRY CARLSON

It was George Washington I believe who declared, after we won independence from the British Monarchy, that New York is now the center of the Empire. I think that's when we got the nickname, the Empire State? Being the center of "everything" has created this amazing financial, manufacturing and knowledge brokering juggernaut of New York that transports us all forward to new and improved standards of living. One of the downsides is the many consequential impacts on the environment. We, New York residents, have played a leadership role in environmental awareness as well. We've learned how to clean up the industrial mess



*Asian Longhorn Beetle infested tree.*

of the past and found novel ways to regulate and fund the necessary best practices to ensure the conservation of our natural resources in the future. We've failed! We've been successful! and we've experienced constant change not the least of which is a doubling of our forested area in less than 100 years!

Many of the failures or "bad" things are linked to the high volume of trade which has consistently brought plants and animals that didn't belong here. This "problem" goes all the way back to the fur trades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The speed at which the trade happens has constantly increased and now we bring high volumes of people and "stuff" from literally all over the world, all the time. We get more "stuff" from the rest of the world than anywhere else does and it moves all over the state. New York's ports receive more exotic, non-native plants and animals than



*Asian Longhorn larva.*

all of the other ports on the continent combined! That, of course, creates a HUGE responsibility, not only for the protection and conservation of our resources but for those of the rest of the Continent as well.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to intervene effectively enough or fast enough to limit the devastating impacts of many of these "exotic invasives". It's a story similar to the ones we are all familiar with about river dikes keeping the water out during floods. If you find the leaks early, little more than a thumb is required to stop the damage...if you miss it though it becomes a disaster of life changing proportions where whole neighborhoods flood, thousands lose their homes, pollution is everywhere in the water and people lose their financial stability. Perhaps a bit too dramatic a comparison to invasive species impacts on our forests but in my job, I see many dramatic events first hand. It

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*Adult Emerald Ash Borer*

doesn't happen as fast as a flood but people in impacted neighborhoods still take HUGE losses in clean up, recovery, damage, maintenance and property value declines. Part of the problem too is the human nature to not be too concerned until it's in our own backyards.

The backyards impacted from the emerald ash borer today are fairly limited to small portions of about a dozen counties. The land owners in these impacted areas are pretty much all very aware of the insect, what it does to ash trees and who is doing anything to limit the damage. They



*Inspection of wood to determine potential transport of regulated insect pests.*

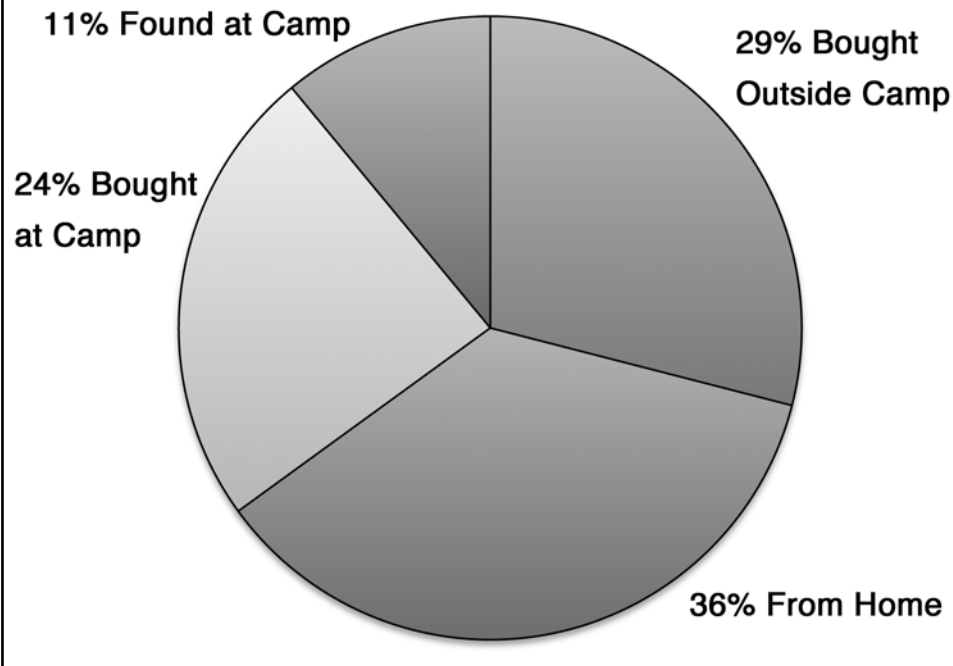
are aware of when the “bugs” fly and the differences between the beetles and the worms that kill the trees. They are also very aware of how quickly ash trees start to break up and fall down once they are killed and how much it costs to let one hit their or someone else's property or how expensive it is to “get someone in” to clean up the dead trees on their land. The public land tree managers are also painfully aware of these cleanup costs, which can quickly become millions of dollars. Yet, few of the people in the neighboring, not infested, towns and counties are paying much attention to the coming beetle epidemic in their ash trees or any of the many other forest health issues we have.

We have a few new arrivals that are causing dramatic changes in forest structure, but we also have many resident forest health problems. New York's forests are generally not very healthy from the “dead and dying” trees point of view. The trees are typically young and hence rapidly changing as competition for water, sunlight, soil and protection means decline and death for some tree types in many locations. Forests are undergoing a lot of changes without even considering the invasive or exotic problem. Remember I mentioned that we have doubled our forests in less than a hundred years? These young forests are still very much jostling for dominance and many less competitive species and overgrown trees are going to die as a consequence. This results in a relatively constant and high rate of change to our forests. As the forests change, the amount of stress the trees that remain have to live with increases. This stress makes the trees weak and hence attacked more often by the bugs and diseases.

There are several resident insect and disease threats that will increase the rate of change in our forests and it is our job to determine which changes

*continued on page 16*

## Firewood Sources at NY Campgrounds



*Firewood can be a major pathway for transport of invasive insects to new locations.*

are acceptable and which changes are not. When forests die quickly, or a particular tree type gets wiped out over a large area, we consider the change to be mostly unacceptable. There are some unhealthy stands and there are some stands that are changing in acceptable ways. Obviously there are many diverse views of acceptable change throughout the State and many of them are unstated. Historically,

the state's forests have "survived" many dramatic and far-reaching disturbances that often forced the landowners to abandon their intended goals. Introduced diseases like chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease and white pine blister rust along with huge, uncontrolled wildfires altered New York's forests in ways that could never be recovered. Indeed, those ecosystems as they were known then no longer

exist today! The insect invaders; Asian longhorn beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer seem bent on killing our maple, hemlock and ash trees in a similar way.

We still have a chance to halt the progress of some of these agents but it seems we can expect a continuing low level of general public concern and a constant barrage of new threats as international trade and transport volumes continue to rise. If we remain vigilant and increase our ability to seek out and recognize unwanted aliens we will promote and enhance a healthy forest structure in our state. If we continuously educate our general public on the consequences of forest losses we stand to have more and better resources for combating these risks. We seek the help of all New Yorkers to become more aware of the ecosystems they live in and to be able to recognize, in the earliest stages, the presence of an alien threat to our forest's health. ▲

*A forester and biologist, Jerry is a Research Scientist and Chief of the Forest Health and Protection Section of the New York State DEC Lands and Forests Division. The position is the department's chief expert on forest protection and the concern over loss of biological diversity and forest sustainability.*

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

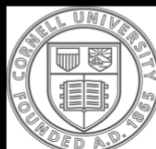


*Emerald Ash Borer trap checking.*

## Got Trees? Got Questions?

Visit the *Woodland Owners Forum* at:  
<http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com>

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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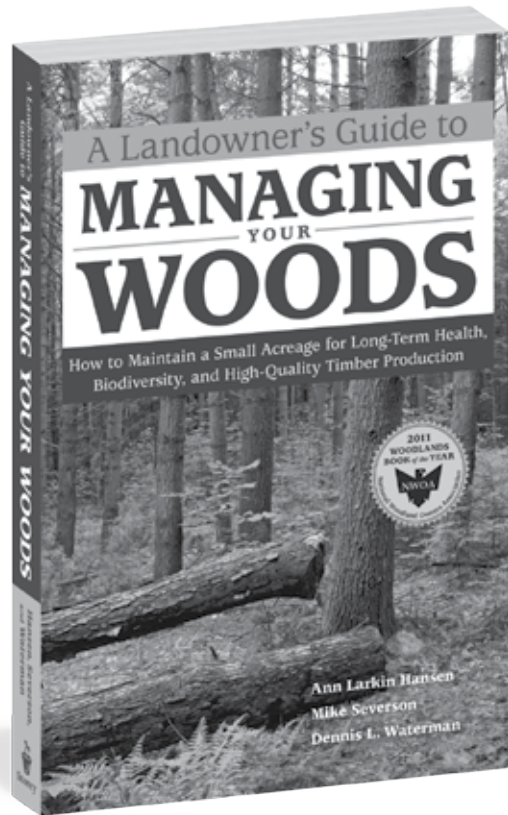
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## Forest Science (continued)

the spring with 2.5% or 5% concentrations. Also, black birch was controlled in the summer with a 5% concentration. For all species combined (their figure 1), there was slightly better control using spring treatments of 2.5% and 5% concentrations.

Kochenderfer et al. (2012b) considered management of American beech and compared the ability of two herbicides applied in September via stem injection (hack-n-squirt) to control untreated stems. They treated all stems between 1.0 and 9.9 inches dbh using one of two solutions. One solution was based on Arsenal. Arsenal has a 28.7% active ingredient (a.i.) of imazapyr (*em-aza-peer*) when purchased; a 6% solution was made by mixing 8 oz (227 ml) of the product with 120 oz (3558 ml) of water resulting in a mixture that had 1.91% a.i. of imazapyr (see Kochenderfer et al 2012a page 20 for additional details on mixing) The second solution was based on Razor Pro. Razor Pro has a 41% a.i. of glyphosate (*gli-fo-sate*) when purchased; a 50% solution was made by mixing equal parts Razor Pro and water resulting in a mixture that had a 20.5% a.i. of glyphosate.

Statistical differences between the Arsenal and Razor Pro treatments did not exist perhaps due to inherent variation associated with studies of translocation through root suckers. However, there was a trend for better control of untreated beech stems in the Arsenal treatment. Each stem treated with Arsenal controlled an average of 9 untreated beech stems less than 1" dbh compared to Razor Pro where 6 untreated beech stems less than 1" dbh were controlled per each treated stem. All stems that were treated died.

### Cautions and Other Considerations

Stem treatments also have attributes that warrant deliberation before a practitioner applies them. First, by their nature these treatments leave be-

hind standing dead trees. These snags might create a hazard if they occur in an area that is commonly used or if the stems are large in size. Second, some of these products have the potential for flash, a mixed blessing. Note though that imazapyr (Arsenal) is known to have also have soil activity and a greater potential for damage to crop trees by moving within soil water. Kochenderfer et al. (2012b) reduced the solution concentration to 6% of the product and did not observe any damage to crop trees. Caution, and perhaps spot testing on a given property, is warranted. Third, this article has only mentioned products that are currently listed and available for use in NY. As regulations change, product availability may change. Always read and follow the pesticide label. Finally, the estimated costs (Kochenderfer et al 2012a) for basal bark treatments are \$80 - \$120/acre for chemical and labor, and \$50 to \$75/acre for stem injection. These costs assume labor at \$10/hour. 🌲

### References and Resources

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Smallidge, P.J. (photographer). 2012. Hack-n-squirt video clip [www.youtube.com/ForestConnect](http://www.youtube.com/ForestConnect) (in the vegetation management playlist)

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## From the President (continued)

are starting the process of formalizing an organizational construct — Core Values. Our Office Administrator, **Liana Gooding** is pulling together examples of Core Values from other organizations and Board member and NYFOA Secretary, **Marilyn Wyman**, is crafting some thoughts on what these might look like as a basis for subsequent discussion and refinement at our next board meeting (June 15<sup>th</sup> at Cornell's Arnot Forest).

Marilyn's very preliminary, "starter set" (my term) includes the following points:

- We believe forests are a crucial part of New York State's economy and ecology.
- In order to ensure we have viable forests in the future, they must be managed in sustainable ways.
- Private forest landowners play a key role in sustaining both the economic and ecological values of forests.

\*

I'm told there is an ancient Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." We certainly are living in such times.

As always, please let us know how we are doing and how we may serve you better. 🌲

–Jim Minor  
NYFOA President

## Heiberg Award (continued)



*Peter Smallidge presents the award to a stunned Ron Pedersen.*

In 1963, Ron and Peggy Pedersen were charter members of the fledgling organization “The New York Forest Owners Association.” In the early years Peggy served on the board and in leadership roles, while Ron’s leadership involvement began in the 1990’s. I suspect that Ron’s increasing involvement in NYFOA began about the time he retired, which he duly noted with a 40HP 4WD tractor and Farmi winch... some people get a recliner when they retire.

For me personally, I can’t think of Ron and not think of NYFOA and vice versa. This extends more fully to private woodlands of NY and Ron’s involvement. Ron has and continues to serve in numerous roles in NYFOA and related organizations, all of which directly speak to his commitment to service and support for forestry in NY. Beyond serving in these roles, he has and continues to produce numerous pivotal products. Ron’s roles have included, (but please note this isn’t a comprehensive list): president and vice president of NYFOA, president and secretary of NY Woodland Stewards, NY Tree Farmer of the Year, NYFOA liaison to Tree Farm, a charter or nearly charter volunteer with the Master Forest Owner volunteer program, member of the ForestConnect advisory committee, member of the CU CALS Dean’s advisory council, a research cooperator for both SUNY ESF and Cornell University, and one of only five people in NY to be recognized as

an honorary member of the Society of American Foresters.

When Ron isn’t busy working in these various roles as a leader, he is busy getting things done...the list is long, but a few highlights include:

1. Ron worked with Hugh Canham of SUNY ESF to develop a slide show to raise awareness of the impacts associated with timber theft. This educational campaign

carried over to the Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources to inform their statewide hearings on the issue. Ultimately, NY passed laws that more fully protect the timber resources on private woodlands.

2. Ron was instrumental in the efforts to define and establish the first paid executive director for NYFOA, Dan Palm. The process took several years, but under Ron’s leadership as president NYFOA took the step that resulted in professional and capable staff that brought NYFOA to a new level.

3. In part because of the NYFOA executive director era that Ron shepherded, the organization was in a position to seize the opportunity created by Ron to work more closely with DEC in the implementation of the 2003 Farm Bill. In this capacity, NYFOA served as the financial partner to disburse cost-share payments to forest owners throughout NY.

4. Ron continues to work tirelessly as the VP, a member of the executive committee, the Farm Show committee, and on assorted other committees both formal and ad hoc for the benefit of NY’s private forest owners and to ensure the success of NYFOA and NY forestry.

Without any further delay, it is my extremely great pleasure to officially announce Ron Pedersen as the 2013 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recipient of the NYFOA Heiberg Award.

—Presented by Peter Smallidge

## Chapter Awards (continued)

section. We would like to present this service award to Jerry to show our appreciation for his efforts.

### **Western Finger Lakes- Ed and Wanda Piestrak**

Ed and Wanda Piestrak have gradually acquired about 900 acres of forest land near Lindley, N.Y. in Steuben County. The land has been a certified tree farm since 1997 and had a management plan since 2003. The Piestraks have consistently demonstrated on the ground impact and engage in public outreach. These include hosting regular woods walks, participation in the Master Forest Owner program and frequently writing articles for the WFL quarterly newsletter as well as *The Forest Owner* magazine. They were featured in the Member Profile section of the March/April 2010 issue.

With assistance from forester and NYFOA member Bruce Robinson their property is managed for wood, water, air, wildlife and recreation by the construction of ponds, vernal pools, deer exclosures, wildlife food plots, nest boxes, access roads, planting of trees and timber stand improvement. A woods walk on the property sets the gold standard for such activities and they encourage family participation.

Accompanied by son Jeffrey and grandson Joshua, Ed was honored at the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum in September 2012 in Shepherdstown, WV. This award honors forest owners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed who are demonstrating exemplary forest management practices. The Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA is pleased to have the Piestraks as members and wishes to recognize and honor their contributions by this Service Award. 🌲

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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
Dana Allison	WFL
John Briglin	SOT
Deborah & David Bruce	NFC
Michael Buil	AFC
Nancy & Arthur Carlson	CNY
Jim Craft	WFL
Darren Dodge	CNY
William Doolittle	WFL
Richard Hanss	WFL
Shirley & Richard Harding	AFC
David Newman	CNY
Valerie & John O'Donnell	SAC
Annette Pyszczyński	AFC
James Ramage	WFL
Steve Rucker	NAC
Phyllis & Jim Shoots	WFL
Zeb Strickland	SFL



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# Member Profile:

## *Stuart Varney*

MAUREEN MULLEN

Stuart Varney is a business news contributor on Fox News Channel and hosts Fox Business Network's "Varney & Co." He is also a proud owner of over 1,000 acres of land that straddles Delaware and Broome Counties. Originally from England, the land is reminiscent of where Stuart grew up. "It reminds me very much of rural England: rolling hills, deciduous forest, four very distinct seasons," says Stuart. The property was formerly a dairy-beef farm when Stuart and his wife bought it in 2002. However, the dairy had been shut down a generation ago and about 800 acres of the land has become almost

completely forested while the rest remains meadowland.

Stuart did not have prior forestry experience, so he hired a consulting forester, Rod Jones of Walton, New York, to help manage his property. Rod manages the land and is training Stuart in forestry practices: "Everything I know about trees and farming, he taught me." Together, they have cleared the land of the derelict dairy buildings and equipment and have established nine forest stands of varying size, comprised mainly of black cherry, red oak, and hard maple trees. The stands will be rotated for timber on



*Varney with his dog.*

an annual basis; this year will mark the first year of cutting!

Although Stuart is the sole owner of the property, his family and friends often join him on the land. Because of his job in New York City, the Varneys live in nearby New Jersey, but they travel two hours to their woods most weekends. They take advantage of the opportunities to enjoy the solace and beauty of the woods as often as possible. As Stuart said, "If you work in the city, a walk in your own woods is very attractive." They especially enjoy watching the changes in season that the trees display. And each November, Stuart and his friends organize deer hunts on the property.

Stuart's main concern, as well as a goal, is to pass the land on, intact, to his six children and seven grandchildren. He sees the land as a wonderful opportunity not only to manage a successful timber farm, but also to keep such a large parcel of preserved woodland available for solitude and enjoyment. The Varneys feel that the land is wonderful place for their grandchildren and future generations to spend their time, appreciating the fresh air and



*Stuart Varney enjoys working on his tractor.*

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Aerial view of Varney's property



Stuart Varney on Fox News.

expansive natural surroundings where the kids can grow up. He also has several management challenges: 1) compliance with regulatory requirements. "That means paperwork, which tree farmers are not naturally inclined to like;" 2) timing the timber harvest to both timber prices and tree maturity; and 3) ensuring his practices are sustainable so that the land remains productive for generations to come.

Stuart's advice to other forest owners: join NYFOA so that you have a voice in policy that affects tree farmers and read the literature that NYFOA publishes – it's always helpful! 🌲

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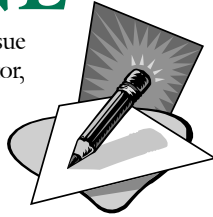
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Materials submitted for the July/August Issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are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



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