# The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

November/December 2013



Member Profile: Dave Williams



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## The New York

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

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

### www.nyfoa.org



Dave Williams (right) and his brother Ron, are filling the woodshed with the Cover fruit of their labor from TSI work. This firewood is for the 2015-16 heating season. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Dave Williams.

## From President

We continue in our efforts to improve our web site, www. nyfoa.org. As of this writing we are focusing on improving our Education -> Publications page. We have now installed past issues of *The New York Forest Owner* going back 10 years, save for the ones of the last year (to continue to provide unique value to our paying members). We are now



in the process of indexing them and installing a search engine for that web page. Preliminary discussions are underway on how we might add and

organize additional content. We have hardcopies of the *Forest Owner* going back to 1976 which we plan to scan and make available on the web in the not too distant future.

On a related note, if you haven't checked out our Facebook page lately, you're encouraged to do so. It has become the go-to spot for many of you to keep abreast of new NYFOA events and related forestry news.

Thanks go out to **Bob Manning** for his work to keep the page up-to-date.

Thanks to the efforts of **Rich Taber** we've scheduled our annual meeting for March 22, 2014 once again in Marshall Hall on the ESF campus in Syracuse. The schedule for the days' events are being developed and will be presented in our January/February

2014 issue. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Once again we wish to thank the good folks at Finch Paper for the

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

donation of the paper we will be using in 2014 issues of this magazine. Not only is this a significant financial contribution, it is also most satisfying to know that the paper we're holding in our hands came from our New York State forests.

Notes from the field: One of the many things that challenge we woodlot owners regarding our property is how to go about engaging the interest of our children and grandchildren in the hope that they too will come to love it as we do. This is especially challenging to those of us who live some distance from our property. Youngsters have so many engaging distractions that sometimes it's hard to compete for their attention. One of the "hooks" I've recently discovered is trail-cams. I'd started using them myself only

continued on page 5

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 is a not-forprofit 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, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings. () I/We own acres of wood-() I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives. Address: City: State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Email: County of Residence: County of Woodlot: Referred by: **Regular Annual Dues:** () Student (Please provide copy of student ID) ( ) Individual \$35 () Family **Multi-Year Dues:** () Individual 2-yr \$55 3-yr \$80 () Family 2-yr \$65 3-yr \$95 **Additional Contribution:** () Supporter \$1-\$49 () Contributor \$50-\$99 \$100-\$249 () Sponsor \$250-\$499 () Benefactor \$500 or more () Steward ( ) Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues) NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) taxexempt organization and as such your contribution my be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Credit Card No. Expiration Date V-Code Signature: Make check payable to NYFOA. Send the completed form to: NYFOA

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## BOOK REVIEWS

JERRY MICHAEL

Here are two great books to keep you occupied this winter when weather prevents tending the woodlot. They would also be meaningful gifts for anyone who values our forests and is concerned for their future.

### American Canopy

by Eric Rutkow

This fascinating book tells the story of the relationship between Americans and their trees across the entire span of our nation's history. Here is a review by Pulitzer Prize winning author David Oshinsky:

"For those who see our history through the traditional categories of politics, economics and culture, a delightful feast awaits. In this remarkable, inventive book, Eric Rutkow looks at our national experience through the lens of our magnificent trees, showing their extraordinary importance in shaping how we lived, thrived and expanded as a people. A beautifully-written, devilishly original piece of work."

You can now purchase a new hardcopy of American Canopy from Amazon for as little as \$5.50.

### Deerland: America's Hunt for Ecological Balance and the Essence of Wildness

by Al Cambronne

America's hunt for ecological balance and the essence of wildness.

Here is a review by author Tovar Cerulli: "Deerland is an inquisitive and eye-opening tour through the history, science, politics, economics and cultural quirks of our uniquely-American relationship with the White tailed deer. From ecologists and foresters, to farmers, hunters, homeowners and business owners, Cambronne introduces us to a fascinating cast of characters whose lives, like yours and mine, are inextricably linked to whitetails".

Deerland was just published in 2013, and can be purchased on Amazon for about \$10 in soft cover.

Jerry Michael is a member of the Southern Tier chapter of NYFOA.

### From the President (continued)

about 4 years ago and have been very pleased with the results, discovering animal residents that heretofore I could only speculate existed on the property. Having 4 trailcams I told my 2 grandchildren that they could each use one at their discretion. They've responded enthusiastically, looking at my past pictures and deciding where best to place their cameras. In the process I'm beginning

to see a sense of ownership for their little section of the property. To further this engagement effort along, my oldest grandson, a voracious reader, will be getting Aldo Leopold's classic "A Sand County Almanac" for his birthday. Only time will tell if this effort will pay off but woodland owners know that this is true of so many of our efforts.

-Jim Minor NYFOA President

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## Ask A Professional

### **Brett Chedzoy**



Brett Chedzoy

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

### **Question:**

When we work in our woodlot, or even walk on trails, we continue to see more ticks on ourselves and our pets every year. What can we do to protect ourselves against Lyme Disease?

#### **Answer:**

A new survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that Lyme Disease is about ten times more prevalent than previously believed. An estimated 300,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year, mostly in the Northeast. The disease is named after Lyme, Connecticut where it was first identified in 1975. Lyme is caused by a bacterial spirochete that can be transmitted to people, dogs and some other animals when bit by an infected tick. Recent surveys of adult ticks in Schuyler County revealed that nearly half were carriers of Lyme. This is bad news considering that tick populations are also on the rise due in large part to milder winters and strong deer populations. But regardless of the causes, the new reality is that both ticks and tickborne illnesses are here to stay.

To date, there are five known tick-associate diseases in New York. Lyme is by-far the most prevalent disease, with 78 confirmed cases

reported in Tompkins County alone last year. The symptoms of Lyme include fever, headache, fatigue, malaise and body aches. A pronounced, round-shaped rash centered on the tick bite may also appear, but is an unreliable indicator of being bitten by infected ticks. The good news is that these tickborne illnesses can be readily treated with antibiotics when diagnosed soon after infection. The bad news is that tests for these diseases are unreliable in the early stages of infection, and each disease requires a specific test. If left untreated, Lyme can cause arthritis and more severe problems. Symptoms and complications vary between the tick-borne illnesses, but all are serious and require immediate medical attention.

Despite the increasing risks of ticks and their diseases, no one



Deer are a common component of our NY landscapes and also a host for ticks that transmit Lyme disease. Controlling the abundance of deer will reduce their impact on desired forest vegetation and may help reduce your exposure to Lyme and related tick-borne diseases. Photo: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org.

should be afraid of stepping off the back porch to enjoy their woods and nature. The first step to preventing tick illnesses is awareness. Suspect that ticks could be present anywhere, anytime (even in the winter) and take appropriate measures such as protective clothing, appropriate use of repellents (which should not be considered guaranteed protection from tick bites!), and diligent inspection during and after a trip to tick country. In the 1990's I worked several years as a consulting forester in southern New England, where our home was just five miles from Lyme. Contact with ticks was a daily part of life, but so was checking for them throughout the work day and upon returning home. Field clothing was left outside our house on the mud porch - not in the bedroom! The frequency and intensity of inspections increased during the cooler months of spring and fall when ticks were more active.

The second step to protecting yourself is to suspect Lyme disease sooner rather than later if suffering from unusual symptoms. Awareness and knowledge of tick-borne illnesses is on the rise in the medical community, but your doctor may need encouragement or insistence to test for tick diseases – especially when bite marks or rashes are not observed. Negative test results should be suspect, and retesting for both Lyme and other tick diseases is warranted if symptoms persist.

And finally, take a proactive vs. reactive approach to managing for ticks around your home and property. Studies done in Connecticut indicate that removing invasive shrubs along walking trails and the extended backyard significantly reduced tick habitat and thus contact with ticks. Another approach is to treat household pets with topical flea and tick products to reduce the chances





Photos above show Barberry, and presumably other invasive shrubs, can create habitat for deer mice and other rodents that carry ticks that can transmit Lyme and other diseases. Photo: Jeffry Ward, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

that they are bringing unwanted hitchhikers home.

A good resource for more information on ticks and tick diseases is: http://ahope4lyme.org

Response by Brett Chedzoy (bjc226@cornell. edu). Brett is a Natural Resources Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County.



For information related to the Restore New York Woodlands Initiative, visit the NYFOA webpage at www.nyfoa.org Also, visit and 'like' RNYW on Facebook

### New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL





A nother fall is upon us. The leaves are on the ground and the hunters will be donning their blaze orange and tracking their prey through the forest.

You may have turkeys on your property and whether you enjoy watching their mating rituals, leasing the game rights or hunting them yourself, improving their habitat is

important. They need the same basics all of your other wildlife need.

Food and water: They are omnivorous, which means that they eat food of both plant and animal origin, including grasses, fruits, nuts, seeds, berries, and insects. The younger and lusher the better! They will also eat fruits, nuts and berries,

and insects. You can see signs of this as you look for ground scratching throughout your woodlot. Farm fields are often a good source of grains and turkeys need water almost daily so the hens will rarely be far from a stream or pond.

Cover: Since they like to roost in large hardwood trees, yet forage for food in openings with plentiful new growth, a variety of harvesting practices creating a mix of open fields and forested stands is key to a healthy population.

Space: turkeys need plenty of space. We most often see them flocked so it's easy to forget that an ideal location supports only one bird on 30 acres. This means that one flock utilizes about 650 acres if it is allowed to spread out properly. A good quality habitat allows a lot of space per bird (up to 1000 acres per flock), plentiful food and clean water.

Talk to your forester about how to accomplish these things on your property if you'd like to see a greater population of turkeys on your wood lot. Growing mature oak trees along side regenerating stands and leaving appropriate stream-side management zones can provide all the things turkeys need to make your home, their home!

The Tree Farmer Bulletin this fall has a great article about wild turkeys if you'd like to learn more. To find out how to become a Tree Farmer 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.

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## Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



NYFOA member Larry Eddy of Gowanda submitted this photo of his grandson, Jack Lenihan of Brookeville, Md. Jack is shown watering a newly planted shrub which he was helping his father plant on Fathers day.

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!

### Make Your Own Paper

Paper is one of the many forest products we use every day. In fact, Americans use 749 pounds of paper every year for writing, wrapping gifts, packing our groceries and blowing our noses. Paper is made from pulp, which mainly comes from woodchips and recycled paper. Woodchips are ground, mixed with water (and sometimes chemicals) then heated to separate the fibrous pulp that will be made into paper.

Most of us don't have the ability to make paper from woodchips at home, but we can make paper from recycled paper. Handmade paper is a fun and practical project for kids of all ages. The project below was adapted from Cornell Waste Management Institute's "Trash Goes to School" resource.

### **Materials:**

- A pan big enough for the screen to lie flat
- A large jar, can or rolling pin
- A large spoon
- blender

For 2-3 pieces of paper:

- 3 pieces of stiff window screen 5" square (one for each piece)
- 2 cups of hot water
- 2 8½ x 11 pieces of paper (used paper is perfect)
- 2 Tbls. of liquid starch

- 6 pieces of blotting paper (ordinary paper) the same size as the screen (two for each piece)
- 6 sections of newspaper (two for each piece)

#### **Procedure:**

- 1. Tear paper into very small pieces in the pan (do not cut, it will shorten the fibers). Add 2 cups of hot water and stir for 3-5 minutes. Use a blender for best results in making pulp.
  - 2. Add starch and stir 3 more minutes.
  - 3. Pour the slurry out into a shallow pan.
- 4. Slide screen under the paper pulp and move pulp around until screen is completely covered.
- 5. Lift screen out, let it drain a few seconds, then place it on a piece of blotting paper on a section of newspaper. Place another sheet of blotting paper on top, and then the second section of newspaper.
- 6. Press the excess water out by rolling the jar, can or rolling pin over the newspaper. Take off the top newspaper, turn the blotting paper sandwich over and take off the top piece of blotting paper and the screen.
- 7. Let the recycled paper dry for 2 hours, then loosen it from the blotting paper and gently peel it off. Let the recycled paper dry overnight before writing on it.

Thinner paper is easier to work with, so don't pile too much on the screen when you're making it. For more colorful paper, add some torn colored paper to the blender, or add sparkles, flower petals or other small colorful objects. You can perfume the paper by adding scents to the water, or make the paper into a garden by adding seeds to the pan before screening.

Think about what you can do with your new paper; be creative. When the paper is still damp, you can fold or mold it into shapes that it will retain when dry.

Paper is essential to our everyday lives. On average it takes 17 trees to make a ton of paper. By recycling paper we use less new trees per ton, but during the recycling process some of the wood fibers are lost. Were you able to make the same amount of paper as you started with? Also, much of the woodchips that are used to make paper comes from waste wood and trees that are not otherwise valuable, so in many cases making paper is a way to fully take advantage of the trees we harvest.

The paper statistics came from TAPPI's Paper U: http://www.tappi.org/paperu.

This article is reprinted from a previous issue of The New York Forest Owner. The author, Rebecca Hargrave, at the time of the original writing was employed by CCE Chenango. She is now a professor at Morrisville State College.

## Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

### BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (POECILE ATRICAPILLA)



The black-capped chickadee is a small songbird with a short bill. Male and female chickadees look alike, with a black cap on the head, a black bib, and white cheeks. They are mostly grey on the wings, tail, and back, and they have buff colored sides.

As the weather grows colder and snow begins to fall, black-capped chickadees remain active symbols of nature, even on the coldest winter days. Common year-round residents in New York State, chickadees survive the winter by roosting in dense vegetation and tree cavities. On cold winter nights, these small birds sometimes enter a state of regulated hypothermia, dropping their body temperature 18 - 22° F below normal daytime temperature. By doing so, they conserve a great deal of energy.

Insects form a large part of the chickadee's diet, particularly in the summer. In the winter, they rely more on seeds and berries. As such, chickadees are one of our most common birds at feeders. Especially during the fall, chickadees will hide food under bark or dead leaves, or in knotholes. Later, when food is scarce, they return and retrieve the hidden food items. They are able to remember thousands of hiding places for up to a month! During fall and winter, chickadees often

flock together to feed, and may flock with other species including titmice, nuthatches, brown creepers, and kinglets.

Chickadees live in wooded habitats of all kinds, including deciduous and mixed deciduous/coniferous woodlands, open woods, old fields, parks, and neighborhoods. They are most abundant along forest edges. Chickadees will excavate nest cavities in dead trees or dead tree limbs by pecking away rotting wood. They will also use old woodpecker holes if available, and sometimes will use nesting boxes if natural cavities are not available. The male and female both work to excavate the nest cavity, though the female alone lines the nest cavity with moss, feathers, plant down, hair, and insect cocoons. Once the cavity is lined, the female lays 6-8 eggs, which she alone incubates. The male feeds the female while she is on the nest, and both parents feed the young after they hatch.

Forests with between 50 and 75

percent canopy closure, and a welldeveloped middle and lower canopy layer, are optimum habitat for chickadees. The abundance of leaves under these conditions attracts insects that provide food for these birds. Because black-capped chickadees nest in tree cavities and can only excavate a cavity in soft or rotten wood, landowners can create ideal breeding habitat by managing to provide two snags (trees that are dead or partially dead) per acre between 4 and 10 inches in diameter. Snags provide holes, or cavities, in which chickadees and many other species can roost or nest and will help keep your woods alive year-round with the sights and sounds of bird life.

Kristi Sullivan Co-Directs the Conservation Education and Research Program at Cornell's Department of Natural Resources. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, and upcoming educational programs can be found by visiting www.arnotconservation.info

### **NEWS& NOTES**

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) honored 10 foresters from 10 SAF voting districts with the *Presidential Field Forester Award* at the 2013 SAF National



Don Schaufler

Convention held on October 23-27 in Charleston, South Carolina. The award recipients were selected by SAF Council members, who were asked to identify an outstanding field forester from the voting districts they represent.

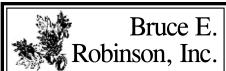
The award for SAF District VI, which includes New York and New England, was presented to Donald P. Schaufler, CF.

Schaufler has been involved with forestry and the forest products industry in central New York for almost 40 years beginning soon after he received a forestry degree from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He spent seven years as an employee of Gutchess Lumber, where he gained experience bucking logs, grading lumber, buying timber and land, and managing harvests on private and state forests. In the early 1980s, he began offering consultant forestry services to forest landowners in central New York and, a few years later, was hired to manage Cornell's Arnot Forest, where he put his knowledge to work for the university while continuing to consult on the side. During his time with Cornell, Schaufler improved many acres and, in the process, supported the local economy with a steady

stream of forest products. He has also provided educational expertise and opportunities, such as hosting maple syrup weekends at Arnot Forest for the general public, and writing articles for Cornell's Cooperative Extension and *The New York Forest Owner*.

Schaufler has been an SAF member since 1974, and is a longtime supporter of NYFOA. He presently serves as chair for New York SAF's Central Chapter and has regularly assisted as coordinator of sponsors and exhibits for the state society's annual meetings.

Our congratulations to Don for this well deserved honor!



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### A Count-down to Planning:

### Nine Reasons why you need a Forest Stewardship Plan

MEREDITH ODATO

ountless forest owners and their New York forest lands have already benefited from the development and implementation of stewardship plans. However, there is still a need for more forest landowners to develop a useful document for the management of their property. Although time and effort is needed to prepare a forest stewardship plan, the benefits of a well-written plan far outweigh the costs. Let me share several good reasons for you to contact the NYS Department of **Environmental Conservation for** assistance with forest stewardship planning.

**Reason 1):** A forest stewardship plan will help you get to know your forest. Plan development is an intensive process all the way from field data to finished document, and

includes a plethora of information. Even if you are not the person directly collecting field data, you will still be involved in the process of carefully examining resources you have for management. By the time your plan is complete, you will know, for example, if you have any unique habitats or perhaps uncommon plant or animal species dwelling on your land. As a result of the plan building, you will become more familiar with your property boundaries and general topography. And if you are really involved in the process of field data collection, you'll familiarize yourself with every nook and cranny of your land.

**Reason 2):** A detailed inventory of your property will provide you with valuable knowledge. An inventory records the resources available on

your property. This is a necessary step before writing a stewardship plan. For example, what if your land doesn't offer the resources you need to meet your landowner goals? What if your land does offer a unique resource about which you didn't already know? A detailed property inventory will answer these questions and more. By determining the species, sizes, and health of all your trees, for example, you will be able to determine if your woodland can be harvested in the near future. Perhaps

Are you interested in a particular topic and would like to see an article about it.

Please send your suggestions to: Mary Beth Malmsheimer Editor The New York Forest Owner at mmalmshe@syr.edu

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



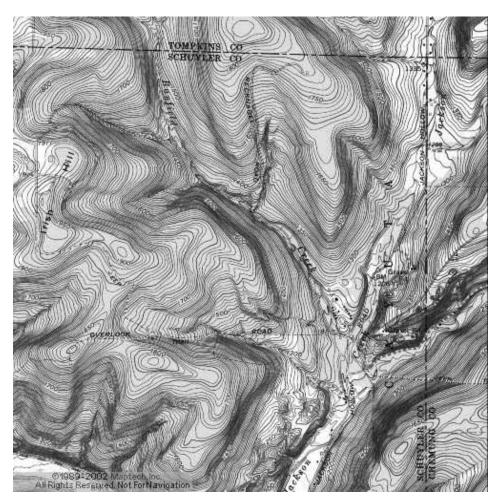
Participating in the inventory of your property will provide you with valuable knowledge.

you hope to manage your property to increase wild turkey habitat or cross-country ski trails; a forest inventory will reveal to you whether or not your land can support that goal. An inventory defines the capacity of the resources to meet your objectives.

**Reason 3):** A plan includes soils information. This is actually a required part of any forest stewardship plan, largely because soils information is critical for management decisions. A description of the soils on your property will offer how the soils may affect the ease with which your obtain your landowner goals. By defining the soils on your property, you are best able to accurately determine the feasibility of your management objectives, and the ease (or difficulty) with which they may be carried out. For example, you may had hoped to create a trail system at a specific location, but the general location you have chosen is susceptible to erosion because of characteristics in the soil surface.

**Reason 4):** Property maps are a fun and useful feature in a forest stewardship plan. Many landowners without an existing plan probably do not have aerial photos or detailed topographic maps of their property. Any map included in a stewardship plan should reveal property boundaries, management unit (also called stand) boundaries, management unit identification labels, physical features such as roads and ponds, and of course a north arrow. These requirements generate a useful property map, which helps a landowner become further acquainted with their property and the surrounding area.

**Reason 5):** A forest stewardship plan requires you to write down their ownership objectives. This is the most important component in any stewardship plan. All



An example of a detailed topographic map.

management decisions should be based on whether or not they meet the objectives established by you, the landowner. Constructing three or four main objectives you wish to accomplish on your property will force you to examine what is important to you. Whether your

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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

## An Exciting Twenty-First Century Agenda for the American Chestnut

By Jeffrey Wall

onsidering that the American chestnut tree, Castanea dentata, has lived in North America for nearly 40 million years<sup>1</sup>, the last 20,000 have been very eventful. The decade ahead promises to continue this trend. Beginning with the glacial retreat north, 16-18,000 years ago, the American chestnut enjoyed a rapid and successful expansion from its previous range below the 40th parallel north (South of Pennsylvania) into territories as far north as today's southern Maine. However, it was not until the advent of routine prescribed burning practiced by indigenous North Americans beginning around 3,000 years ago, that this fire tolerant and productive tree rose to remarkable prominence in the forest composition of Appalachia.<sup>2,3</sup> This tree would come to be observed and enjoyed by European settlers and has been heralded in American folklore and natural and economic history ever since. Tragically, the most recent and memorable event for folks today is the near extinction of our American chestnut due to the arrival and spread of the infectious chestnut blight fungus, Cryphonectria parasitica in the early 1900's, more than one hundred years ago. This was one of America's most famous and valuable hardwood trees. It grew from Georgia to Maine and was well-known for its nuts and its high quality lumber. The chestnut tree was reduced to a sprouting understory

shrub in a matter of decades. Landowners, forestry professionals, and agro-forestry enthusiasts of the twenty-first century are fortunate to live at the dawn of the next major events for the American chestnut. This is due to the results from the combined activities and advocacy of organizations like The American Chestnut Foundation, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the United States Forest Service, and countless other private enterprises and individuals. They have collectively

continued to propagate and maintain chestnut populations and to promote its role in the landscapes of our near future.

To begin, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will be hosting its 30th annual conference this year in Herndon, Virginia. In 2005, their breeding program, more than thirty years since its inception, produced a line of American chestnut with the blight resistance of east Asian chestnut varieties, but with 93% American genetics. Since then, the foundation



American Chestnut. Photo: USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station Archive, USDA Forest Service, SRS, Bugwood.org



Chestnut blooming over a road in Jar Village, Azerbaijan with chestnut populated hills in the background.

has maintained a rigorous screening process looking for and eliminating any blight susceptibility. Though TACF is practicing due diligence by continuing to verify the blight resistance of this line before its widespread release, they and the United Stated Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service are confident enough to be planting saplings from this line in a species-mix designed to reforest abandoned mine sites in Appalachia. Some of the initial results of this effort will be discussed at this year's conference. Soon, this tree variety will be available to

all and the American people can go about expanding the genetic base of this blight resistant line by planting it wherever they wish. How soon? This is the million dollar question. The sense from last year's conference is that we might be looking at a five-year time frame. Again, after more than 40 million years, what's another five!

Next, this year marks the 5th year of the Forest Health Initiative, an effort led in part by the United States Forest Service to incorporate modern molecular biological techniques into forest restoration efforts. The FHI's partner program at the State University

of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) has recently reached its own landmark after 23 years of effort to produce a transgenic blight resistant American chestnut. Their varieties each contain one of several inserted genes which they have correlated with blight resistance including a gene from the wheat plant. They have demonstrated intermediate blight resistance in canker tests for several years now. This project has also designed a technique to speed up the traditional blight resistance test by infecting chestnut leaves and observing the subsequent leaf discoloration. Using this technique the project is excited to announce that some of their latest generation trees show more blight resistance than the Chinese chestnut trees they use as controls! The project leader, William A. Powell, of SUNY-ESF, just delivered a public lecture on October 10 titled, "Return of the King: Restoring the American Chestnut Tree." This talk covered the project's most recent and exciting developments and elaborated on the project's implementation plan for cross breeding and wild release. Borrowing from Dr. Powell's presentation, this SUNY-ESF program would love for the words of the early Spanish explorers to be true again; "Where there be mountains, there be chestnuts."

Finally, judging from such events as Dr. Dennis Fulbright of University of Michigan's talk at TACF conference titled, "Chestnut as a Global Food Source," the coming decade promises to be appropriately exciting for the enthusiastic landowners and agroforestry practitioners interested in the cultivation of chestnuts for nut production and sale in mixed-forest and orchard landscapes. The decades of propagation and promotion by private operations such as Badgersett, Oikos, Chestnuthill Treefarm and others continue to propel interest in the chestnut as a wonderful candidate for incorporation into our nation's

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### Woodland Health (continued)

burgeoning local food and farm to table networks. The decades of propagation and promotion by private operations such as Badgersett, Oikos, Chestnuthill Treefarm and others continue to propel interest in the chestnuts as a wonderful candidate for incorporation into our nation's burgeoning local food and farm to table networks. Now this active segment of chestnut enthusiasts has some fantastic new options on the horizon due to the accomplishments of the ACF and those of SUNY ESF.

New York State forest and landowners may be interested in the return of the chestnut for many reasons. As Dr. Powell so emphatically stated in Syracuse on October 10, this tree was a powerful player in the overall ecology of Appalachia, it was an economic driver, and it ran through the veins of American culture through song and literature. Its straight grained wood is legendary for furniture, trim and framing. It burns well. Aesthetically this tree is a delight to find growing tall and straight in the woods or sprawled out in parks. The scenic value of chestnut trees in our forests, rural landscapes, and urban and suburban groves cannot be underestimated. I consider myself fortunate to have spent time in another part of the world where chestnut flowering panicles continue to light up the canopy and perfume the mountain air in the early spring. The above picture can only give a glimpse of the wonderful qualities this tree brings to its landscape.

So whether you are dying to see the American chestnut happy and thriving among your forested land, or whether you're waiting to incorporate this prolific tree into productive orchards, or both, there is every incentive to pay close attention to the American chestnut both now and, with luck, well into the future!

#### **Endnotes**

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Jeffrey Wall is currently a PhD student in Cornell's Department of Natural Resources. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Azerbaijan where he implemented a cooperative research project to 1.) characterize the recently arrived chestnut blight, Cryphonectria parasitica and 2.) evaluate the economic and cultural importance of chestnut production to chestnut producing communities.

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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## Restore New York's Woodlands: A NYFOA Initiative

KELLY SMALLIDGE AND JERRY MICHAEL

## A Wrap-up of 2013 and Plans for 2014



N YFOA Chapters held several additional woods walks with a Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) theme during the summer and fall. Together with the 32 events held during Woods Walk Weekend last May, this represents a huge effort by the hosts, organizers, MFOs and other leaders. Certainly there could not have been a more appropriate way to celebrate NYFOA's 50th Anniversary than to successfully kick off the RNYW initiative.

In addition to the statewide woods walks, the RNYW story was communicated through guest editorials in several leading newspapers, and on radio interviews, including the "Capitol Newsroom" show from Albany. NYFOA also reached out to other members of the Council of Forest Resource Organizations, Cornell

University and SUNY-ESF Syracuse, the DEC and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to request their support and assistance with various aspects of the RNYW initiative. RNYW will be a major focus for NYFOA in the foreseeable future. If RNYW is not successful, NYFOA will not be around in another 50 years; nor will the forests that sustain us.

The NYFOA Board approved the following RNYW plans for 2014 during their September meeting:

- 1. Consider organizing and hosting a statewide Symposium of forest stakeholders to present data on the regeneration crisis and solicit ideas and commitments for addressing the problem.
- 2. Encourage NYFOA Chapters to host at least one annual woods walk

- featuring an exclusive RNYW theme and public participation, and to include regeneration and highgrade harvesting issues in every woods walk they conduct.
- 3. Update and maintain the RNYW content on the NYFOA website, including the schedule of Chapter woods walks and map features.
- 4. Install a Directory on the NYFOA website, listing Consulting Foresters who have expertise and experience in establishing regeneration and restoring degraded forestland.
- 5. Provide guidance and financial assistance to Chapters for the construction of small demonstration deer exclosure fences in woodlands that enjoy heavy public usage.
- 6. Provide chapters and interested MFOs with a Power Point Presentation and script concerning the regeneration issue and the RNYW initiative. Encourage the use of the presentation at Chapter meetings, CCE programs, and with interested community groups.
- 7. Continue to encourage and assist county Cornell Cooperative Extension offices in workshops dealing with deer and invasive vegetation management, regeneration, and sustainable harvesting practices.

The RNYW Committee will continue to inform NYFOA membership about the status of these and other aspects of the RNYW initiative through periodic articles in The New York Forest Owner. Stay tuned.

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



Kelly Smallidge provided information and materials to NYFOA members prior to the 2013 event.

### Count-down to Planning (continued)

primary goal is high quality timber production or wildlife habitat management, you and people who help you manage your property will benefit from an explicit statement of your interests.

**Reason 6):** A plan helps you to build a relationship with your local professionals. If you choose to prepare a forest stewardship plan, you will likely not be the person actually preparing the plan. At some point you will need to contact a professional forester, possibly through your local NYS Department of Environmental Conservation or a private forester. Your forester will help you by offering their scientific knowledge about the resources on your property. They can help you to more clearly articulate your goals based on your available time, interest, money, and energy (TIME). In order for your forest stewardship plan to become an official legal document, it must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Reason 7): A carefully written forest stewardship plan is a legal document. With this legal document you may qualify for cost sharing programs and potentially to utilize the variety of benefits available through the Internal Revenue Service as an active forest landowner. Your land is your investment! Having a solid plan can also help you in the unfortunate event of a legal conflict. This is a good way to be prepared for anything that may come your way as you manage your land in the future.

**Reason 8):** Every plan includes a plan for future management activities. Another of the components for any plan is a ten-year schedule of work activities. The work schedule summarizes the recommended management activities and their priority for the next decade of

managing your property. Such an outline of events will help to keep you on task in meeting your objectives. A work schedule helps you to plan activities for optimum efficiency and in the best sequence to help you accomplish your objectives.

Reason 9): The plan is all about you! Every part of a forest stewardship plan relates to your landowner objectives, which is why these are the most critical part of any stewardship plan. So start today: think about your reasons for owning land. What you want to get from your land--firewood, hunting opportunities, or just the satisfaction that you are contributing to open-land conservation? Whatever your reasons are, make them count!

For additional information on forestland activities that will benefit your objectives, visit Cornell's forestry website at www. ForestConnect.info, or contact your local office of Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

This article was written by Meredith Odato, previously Forest Resources Extension Assistant; Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY.

### **NYFOA Awards**

At the annual membership meeting each year, NYFOA presents several awards:

The **Heiberg Memorial Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York.

The NYFOA Outstanding Service Award recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership and furtherance of NYFOA's mission.

NYFOA's Chapter Activity Award thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area. Each Chapter is urged to name one volunteer individual or couple each year for recognition by the state membership at the annual meeting in 2014.

Please send the name of your nominations for awardees, and any suggestions on individuals who might be interested in serving on the State Board to Ron Pedersen by February 1, 2014.

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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		
Charles & Priscilla Anderson SOT			
Mary L. Austin	NAC		
Doug Barclay	CNY		
Mike Blasko	SOT		
Blair Boone	NFC		
Peter Clappier	SFL		
James Costello	CNY		
Judith & Graham Cox	SAC		
Michael Dealy	SAC		
Neil Eberley	CNY		
Ron Feldman	WFL		
Charlie Greene	CNY		
Michael Gromet	CNY		
Thomas Guinan	NAC		
Hugo Herold	CNY		
Robert Hindman	NAC		
Bill Lasher	SAC		
Mailing Name	Chpt		
Julie Logan	AFC		
Joseph Mastandrea	SAC		
George McBride	NAC		
Brooks Mullahy	CNY		
Onteora Club	CDC		
Ralph K. Pitman	SOT		
Bob Quinn	NAC		
Filomena Riganti	CDC		
Eric Schramm	LHC		
Emily & Nat Selleck	NAC		
Dale Silvis	NAC		
Ed Strong	NAC		
Mandy & Jeff Trickey	WFL		
John W.Trickey	WFL		
George & Carol Vorhaue	r AFC		
Tusha Yakovleva	LHC		

### Magazine Deadline

Materials submitted for the January/February 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.





## Member Profile: Dave Williams

Maureen Mullen

Then Dave Williams retired in 2004 from being an industrial arts/technology instructor, he imagined himself spending most of his free time working in the woods. Instead, he spends his time volunteering with the many associations he joined — such as serving on the board of the New York Forest Owners Association and his credit union, joining the board-of-trustees in his church, and becoming a New York Master Forest Owner volunteer. Williams believes in being actively involved in his community and "giving back," but this also means he doesn't get out to his woodland properties nearly as often as he'd like.

The Williams family has owned land in Otsego County for nearly a hundred years. Dave's great-grandfather's property was used mostly as hay pasture. Dave and his father rented a 40-acre parcel of the family land and farmed it part time, first raising beef cattle, then dairy cattle, but running the operation became overwhelming as a part-time endeavor. Around 1980, Dave's great-uncle wanted to sell some of the property, so Dave and his father purchased the 40-acre parcel of the family land; they used it for firewood, lumber, and pasture. Now, about a third of the property is wooded and the remainder is pasture and regenerating forest/shrubland, with the exception of a swampy area. Also in the 1980s, Dave's uncle deeded a 7-acre forest property in Chenango County to him; this parcel is completely wooded.

When asked why he stills owns the properties, Dave said, "When the tax bill came in, my wife really quizzed me on that! Part of it is the 40-acre parcel; I

just kind of feel that it's my responsibility to carry that on even when not knowing what could happen next. That is important to me. And I really do enjoy being in the woods, out in the field — it's a nice quiet place and there's always something new to see." Dave and his family live within a few miles of these properties. They use the woods for firewood and hunting. Dave also runs a portable sawmill; so he uses some of the trees harvested from timber stand improvements for lumber.

The management activities conducted on each of the parcels differ, and as Dave said, "I do the best that I can with the time that I've got." Both parcels have management plans that were done with the help of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Forester. The 7-acre parcel is being treated with glyphosate to remove beech (cut stump treatment) and Dave is doing timber stand improvement work on the trees that the forester marked. The 40-acre parcel didn't require any immediate work according to the management plan, so Dave's focus has been on the 7-acre parcel. He's about a third of the way through completing the beech-stump treatment and timber stand improvement. He has purposely left an area of beech untouched to compare to the area where beech has been treated. As he says, "It's really interesting to bring people in and see how the beech treatment is done on one side and [then] see what it looks like on the other side of the line." He has shown this "demonstration plot" to other woodland owners on woods walks and he says it's a real eye-opener.

Dave gets a lot of advice about the parcels from fellow NYFOA member Jerry Michael. Jerry has experience with



Dave is shown here milling logs for a neighbor.

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deer exclosures on his own property and Dave would like to follow Jerry's footsteps: to begin putting small deer exclosures on the 7-acre parcel where the beech is under control and oak seedlings are starting to sprout. He's excited about replicating what Jerry has accomplished and hopefully getting some hardwood forest regeneration happening before later removing some of the more mature trees.

Dave's biggest success on his properties is "turning the corner on what I used to do." He said that when he first started working on the 7-acre parcel, he went in and cut down the diseased beech from the front of the parcel to the back. But by the time he had reached the back, the beech at the front of the parcel contained diseased beech again. "It was just a vicious cycle." It wasn't until he had received his Master Forest Owner (MFO) training in 2009 and Peter Smallidge of Cornell Cooperative Extension taught him about 'beech stump treatment' that Dave realized the mistake he had been making. He was "taking out big, diseased beech, but leaving behind a thicket of beech stems that weren't going to let anything else grow. So, I'm trying to undo that... And I think that's my big success at this point."



This is one of the crop trees that benefit from recent TSI work. Dave hopes to spark regeneration for a future harvest.



Dave Williams treating a freshly cut beech stump to prevent sprouting.

Dave has been a NYFOA board member for about 2 years. He enjoys the programs NYFOA offers — "you learn something new every time you go to a meeting" — and he values the associations he's developed with other members. The advice he would give to other forest landowners: "Get good, sound advice, have a management plan, and look at your problems one small area at a time... Stake out a small area, start with that, and then when you start to see some success, you won't get discouraged." And to anyone thinking about becoming a NYFOA member: "Join now. Don't wait. Have an MFO volunteer walk your property. Get involved!"

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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