The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

March/April 2014

Member Profile: Bill Dorman

Volume 52 Number 2

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
FOUNDED 1963
www.nyfoa.org

In This Issue . . .

The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

Volume 52, Number 2

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the May/June issue is April 1, 2014.***

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

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

www.nyfoa.org

Cover: Bill Dorman at his property. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Bill Dorman.

From The President

Our *Restore New York Woodlands* (RNYW) initiative for 2014 has now been launched. **Kelly Smallidge** and **Jerry Michael**, NYFOA Board members who are driving this effort, outlined the steps being taken in our November/December 2013 issue and most of these steps are completed or well underway. Please see the RNYW section of our web site, accessible by clicking on the RNYW logo on our home page, *www.NYFOA.org*.

Parties interested in hosting an RNYW woodswalk are encouraged to contact their respective chapter chairs to arrange registraion.

We are encouraged to see increasing media coverage about the devastating impact white tailed deer are having on the environment in general, and on forest regeneration in particular. Our published letters on the subject in the *Wall Street Journal* and other major state newspapers kicked off our Restore New York Woodlands initiative last spring. Since then, the message has been echoed in Al Cambronne's book "Deerland," reviewed in the November/December *NY Forest Owner*, and as the cover story for the December 9 issue of *Time* magazine (America's Pest Problem"). Professor Jeffrey Corbin (Union College Department of Biological Sciences) wrote an opinion piece for the December 3 issue of the *Albany Times Union* which we have received permission to reprint in this issue. Professor Corbin's suggestion to legalize the sale of venison is sure to be controversial, but may prove to be an essential element of the solution. Here is the bottom line: Unless we are willing to reintroduce the wolf into our suburban and rural neighborhoods, we have a moral obligation to the environment to maintain the balance that nature created the wolf to do.

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

It has come to our attention that Cornell University's **ForestConnect** program (www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/) was named co-winner, along with the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health, of the 2013 Family Forest Education Award. The annual award is sponsored by the National Woodland Owners Association and National Associations of University Forest Resources Programs. The award is presented to educational institutions that deliver effective education programs that benefit nonindustrial forestland owners in the United States. The ForestConnect program was singled out for having the best comprehensive family forest education program. While I am sure that there are many parties associated with this honor, our ex-officio Board Member and long-time supporter/contributor, **Peter Smallidge** has been intimately involved with this program. Congratulations to all involved.

–Jim Minor
NYFOA President

The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of ***The New York Forest Owner***, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
County of Residence: _____
County of Woodlot: _____
Referred by: _____

Regular Annual Dues:
( ) Student $15
(Please provide copy of student ID)
( ) Individual $30
( ) Family $35

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
( ) Sponsor $100-$249
( ) Benefactor $250-$499
( ) Steward $500 or more

( ) Subscription to Northern Woodlands $15 (4 issues)

NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and as such your contribution my be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Form of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card
Credit Card No. _____
Expiration Date _____V-Code_____
Signature: _____

Make check payable to **NYFOA.** Send the completed form to:

NYFOA
P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485
1-800-836-3566
www.nyfoa.org

Saving the Future Forest

JEFFREY D. CORBIN, COMMENTARY

New York's forests generate billions of dollars in economic value each year, from timber to tourism. They also generate billions more by providing clean drinking water, preventing flooding and erosion, and removing carbon from the atmosphere. Finally, they host more than 1,000 species of plants and animals, some of which are found in our region and nowhere else.

Unfortunately, our forests are in a state of crisis. The explosive growth in the number of white-tailed deer in recent decades threatens trees' ability to regenerate and provide these economic, recreational and ecological benefits.

The forests of the future can be seen in the carpet of tree seedlings growing slowly in the understory shade of their parents. However, that carpet is a thin one through much of our state, thanks to hungry deer who consume nearly every tree seedling save the few species they find unpalatable. Where there should be many young trees ready to replace adults as they die, instead there is little of the species variation that should form the raw material for successful resilience in the face of climate change and other environmental stresses.

Today, deer overpopulation poses a greater threat to New York's forests than anything except bulldozers. There are more than 1 million deer in New York, an average of more than 30 deer per square mile of forest. In some areas, particularly in the southeast including Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley and the southern Catskills, you can find more than twice that density. Yet, studies tell us that forest damage is evident above 20 deer per square mile.

Scientists with The Nature Conservancy have found that in nearly one-third of the state, deer have stunted tree regeneration so much that our forests may not be able to replace themselves. Deer also depress forest growth, reduce plant biodiversity and contribute to the decline of songbird populations and forest wildflowers.

In order to save our forests and all the benefits that they provide, the State Department of Environmental Conservation should sharply reduce deer densities. With few natural predators, hunting is the primary control on deer populations, and it should be a key component of strategies to reduce deer herds to appropriate levels. Hunters can maximize their effect by focusing on does, which drive deer population growth to a greater extent than the "trophy" bucks.

Recreational hunting alone, however, is not likely to solve the problem. Regulated, commercial hunting should be permitted in rural areas of the state. Such hunting could be encouraged by, for example, loosening restrictions on the sale of venison to the public.

Smaller deer populations make for a healthier forest. A healthier forest benefits all of the other components of the ecosystem — from the red-spotted newt to the cerulean warbler to the red trillium to the myriad of benefits that New York's forests provide to people.

Additionally, a healthier forest benefits deer. Deer can so completely denude a forest that they run out of food. Deer have suffered spasms of starvation in the past, for example in the Alleghany Plateau of northwestern Pennsylvania in the 1930's. After witnessing this tragedy, along with the extreme damage the desperate herds did to the forest, no less a conservation icon than Aldo Leopold argued that managed culling was necessary to control deer populations.

A forest is more than a collection of the trees that make up its canopy. It is a community of plants and animals that interact in complex ways. Elevating any one species above the rest, as we have done with deer, is misguided and doomed to fail. Deer populations need to be managed properly — for the sake of our forests and the benefits they provides to people, and for sake of the health of deer populations themselves.

Jeffrey D. Corbin is an associate professor at Union College's Department of Biological Sciences. This article originally appeared in the Albany Times Union on December 3, 2013 and is reprinted with Professor Corbin's permission.

Ask A Professional

Peter Smallidge

Peter Smallidge

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

Growing Volume and Value on the Best Trees

Question:
I want to manage my woods for the future production of high quality timber. What do I need to do to make sure I'm growing the most value and volume on my best trees?

Answer:
Sawtimber from private woodlands can provide significant opportunity for income to the owner. As with most endeavors, there is a right and wrong way to approach sawtimber production. Growing and harvesting your sawtimber needs to be coupled, ultimately, with appropriate efforts to ensure the successful regeneration of the next forest of equally high value trees. A number of additional resources are listed at the end of this article.

Volume and value have a connection. Volume is the amount of wood in the tree, and for sawtimber is measured as the number of board feet. Value is how much each tree is worth, and is influenced by numerous factors including the volume per acre, species, distance from road, accessibility, and more. Hardwoods tend to have more value per tree than conifers, but a well-managed conifer stand can have significantly more volume per acre. On average, hardwood management will typically produce more value than softwood management. On an average acre, most of the value of hardwood sawtimber will occur in 50 to 75 of the best trees.

An assessment of your woodlot will identify the areas to initiate management activities. Contact a state agency forester or hire a consulting forester to help identify those areas (called stands), and to delineate them on a map. If you already have a stewardship plan, a stand map is likely included. A stand is a management unit that might be a few to many acres in size. Within a stand, rather than among stands, there is greater similarity in terms of the mixture of species, soil characteristics, tree ages and tree size structure. Tree size structure is determined from measuring tree diameter 4.5' above ground, known as diameter at breast height or dbh. Some stands may be mature, and you could work with your forester to begin the regeneration process. The regeneration process is a separate discussion, but note that sustainable management requires more than cutting the large valuable trees and hoping that other trees of good future value will dominate the site.

There are at least four characteristics of stands you should prioritize as you begin managing for high value sawtimber. First, align your stand map with a soils map and consider which stands occur on soils that have high, medium or low productivity. The most productive soils will produce the best results from management. Second, select stands where the dominant tree species are suited to the soil, and the species are of high value. Most species grow well on productive soils, but not all species grow well on less productive soils. When a species grows on an appropriate soil the tree will attain its best growth and be less vulnerable to the effects of insects and disease. Third, select stands that have enough trees per acre, foresters call this "stocking", to force the trees to compete for sunlight. Competition for sunlight in trees less than 5 to 8 inches dbh will help train the trees for straight stems and will promote self-pruning of side

This picture shows a two-stem fork (top and bottom lobes) and the callus tissue overgrowth (left and right lobes) trying to compensate for a splitting stem. Trees with weak forks, such as shown here, should not be favored for future sawtimber growth. These will eventually split, leaving behind a low-value stem and potentially damaging a nearby higher value stem in the process.

Chainsaw girdling of trees, such as was almost completed in the picture, needs to completely connect the cuts. Girdling allows for quick control of competing unfavorable trees, but leaves behind trees that will eventually fall. Be judicious about if, when and where you girdle.

branches. Manual pruning is costly and often not profitable on larger trees or when lower branches exceed 1 inch in diameter. Finally, stands that have the largest average dbh of desired trees will more quickly reach maturity, and thus provide the fastest return on your management investment.

Once you have assigned a priority of order to each stand, you can begin to improve tree volume and value. Value per acre is optimized by concentrating growth (i.e., volume) on the best trees. In most woodlots, growth is limited because trees compete with adjacent trees for sunlight. Increasing growth, and thus value, may require you to cut or kill (e.g., girdle) less favorable trees so that the best trees can thrive. Work with your forester to determine which stands are overstocked and thus have trees competing for sunlight.

Favorable trees, those onto which you want to concentrate growth, include those species that have good local markets and value, are matched to the soil, have a limited numbers of stem defects, and have a good crown. Stem defects include branch knots, seams, rotten spots, damage from past equipment injuries, etc. Stems with fewer external defects will typically have fewer internal defects. This grading of standing trees as timber will require considerable practice, but will help ensure you concentrate growth on the best trees. Favorable trees should have a large and healthy crown of foliage to respond to the increase in sunlight.

Once you have determined which stands are over-stocked, you can begin to thin the stand for improved tree growth. Thinning is a process which emphasizes the growth of the current trees, and is not a process to regenerate the forest. Forest regeneration is a separate and distinct activity. There are two strategies that might be used to spatially arrange the cutting of trees in a stand. First, if you have a fairly large number of favorable trees per acre you may want to thin to a residual stocking level. With this strategy the cutting is distributed more or less uniformly throughout the stand. Alternatively, if you have few favorable trees per acre you can be more efficient by using a tree-centered strategy known as crop tree management. With crop tree management the cutting occurs only to release the favored (i.e., retained) crop trees from competition. The specifics of these two options are more involved than can be covered here, but are discussed in a webinar listed below in the *Resources* section.

Whether you use the residual stocking or crop tree strategy to thin, focus your efforts on trees with crowns that occur in the upper canopy. Upper canopy trees are as tall as or taller than neighboring trees. Lower canopy trees have limited access to sunlight, have small and often flat-topped crowns, and have proven themselves as runts and losers. The growth response of upper canopy trees will be 3 to 8 times greater than the growth response of lower canopy trees.

As mentioned previously, thinning involves reducing the competition for sunlight between favored and unfavored adjacent trees. The unfavored trees can be cut or killed standing. Cutting trees requires special skills that are best learned through an educational program known as the *Game of Logging*. Killing standing trees can be completed by girdling. Girdling disconnects the foliage of the crown from the roots. Girdling is either mechanical or chemical, but in all situations leaves a dead standing tree in the woods that might be a hazard to you, family members or loggers. Be judicious in your decision to girdle trees. The cutting and killing part of the sawtimber management process is where you have the greatest opportunity to improve or degrade the value and quality of your stand.

Although specifics will vary with soil

continued on page 19

Growing your best high quality timber often involves cutting or killing unfavorable trees that compete with favorable trees for sunlight. The black cherry with blue paint is a desirable species, but has stem qualities making it inferior to its unmarked adjacent black cherry. Photo: Jerry Michael).

New York State Tree Farm News

Erin O'Neill

Congratulations to the Hartwood Club, 2013 NY Tree Farmer of the Year!

We are so pleased to celebrate the excellent forestry happening on one of our Tree Farms in Sullivan County, NY! Each year, The American Tree Farm System recognizes the superior stewardship of its members through the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program. These landowners are recognized for their remarkable efforts to enhance and sustain their forests and for spreading the practice of sustainable forestry. Our inspecting foresters nominate Tree Farmers whose conservation efforts, outreach in the community, and advocacy for sustainable forest management are exceptional.

The Hartwood Club was founded in 1893 and is a 28 year Tree Farm with an active management plan dating back to 1979. All aspects of Tree Farm's multiple use management philosophy are represented by the club membership and owners who enjoy outdoor recreation, which is compatible with both wildlife and timber management. In addition to hunting, fishing and nature observation, the members logged over 3000 working hours on the woodlot last year.

In his nomination, TF Inspector & the Hartwood Club's consulting forester Paul Kowalczyk said, "The members of the forestry committee of the Hartwood Club, with the full support of the membership, are outstanding ambassadors of cutting edge sustainable forest and wildlife management." He writes that they encourage DEC foresters to use their property as a demonstration forest and host woods walks through completed projects.

He also goes on to say, "The members enjoy all forms of outdoor recreation while developing a land ethic of good stewardship for the timber and wildlife resources." Congratulations, and thank you to the Hartwood Club!

If you'd like to learn more or find out how to become a Tree Farmer a great place to start is always contacting a Tree Farmer or an inspector like Paul, 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.

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

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

Kid's Corner

Derek J. Conant

John Rembold submitted this photo of himself, sons Jon, Chris and Jeff and grandson Sam, taken while they were harvesting firewood from their 35 acre woodlot. "Three generations working together is one of the advantages of forest ownership. I must add that my wife, Gayle, would have been in the photo too, but she was running the splitter. And it is too bad that she isn't in it as Gayle usually dresses better than the men folk of the family," stated John.

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!

Spring Birds

As we eagerly await spring, a robin sighting is a very welcomed sign. For many people the sighting of the first robin marks the beginning of spring and the end of winter. Although not all robins and birds move to warmer climates during the winter, many do, and then return north during the spring and summer to raise their young. On their return, trees and forests become highly important to bird survival and population stability. "Why?" you might ask. Because trees serve many functions for returning and resident birds in the spring.

Trees provide birds and their young with food, shelter, and protection. Birds nest in a variety of different locations on trees and select nesting locations based on specific needs. Some birds build their nests out of twigs and leaves while others find cavities or holes in trees to nest in. Some birds like to make their home at the top of the tree canopy while others might prefer a location closer to the bottom.

Birds use different materials to build their nests. The lower left photo is a picture of an American Robin that built its nest out of twigs and grasses. Like the robin, the red-tailed hawk makes its nest out of twigs (see the lower right photo). Red-tailed hawks build their large nests high in the tree canopy. Rather than building a nest, the owl pictured to the right found a hole in a tree to call home.

Raising young in an elevated home has its benefits. In particular it helps protect from predators. A nest can be out of reach for ground predators like snakes and the canopy offers a good hiding place from predators above. The canopy also provides protection against bad weather (rain and wind).

Trees also provide food for nesting birds. They provide food not only in the form of nuts and berries but also insects and rodents living in the tree.

Typically songbirds eat mostly insects and invertebrates in the spring and raptors like hawks will prey on rodents scurrying across the forest floor.

On your next adventure in the woods see how many kinds of birds have come back north for spring and are nesting in the trees around you.

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

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

Spotted Salamander *(Ambystoma maculatum)*

The spotted salamander is large and stout, with a broad, blunt head. It is easy to recognize by the round yellow spots on its back, arranged in two irregular rows running down the length of its black body. There can be as many as 50 spots, and these usually extend from the head to the tip of the tail. The belly tends to be a slate-gray color with gray flecks along the sides. Adults generally measure from 4 - 7 inches and can be as long as 10 inches. Males typically reach maturity when they are 2 to 3 years old, whereas females usually take 1 to 2 years longer until they breed. A spotted salamander can live for more than 20 years!

The spotted salamander is relatively common and widespread in New York State. Spotted salamanders are most noticeable in the early spring for a short period of time when they congregate in large numbers to breed. During this explosive breeding period, which usually occurs in March or early April, spotted salamanders may be seen at night making mass migrations toward nearby pools and ponds. The breeding migration generally is triggered by the first warm, steady spring rains, even if there is snow remaining on the ground. The males, who often arrive first, begin swimming about in a highly active state that becomes nearly a frenzy when females arrive in the pond to mate.

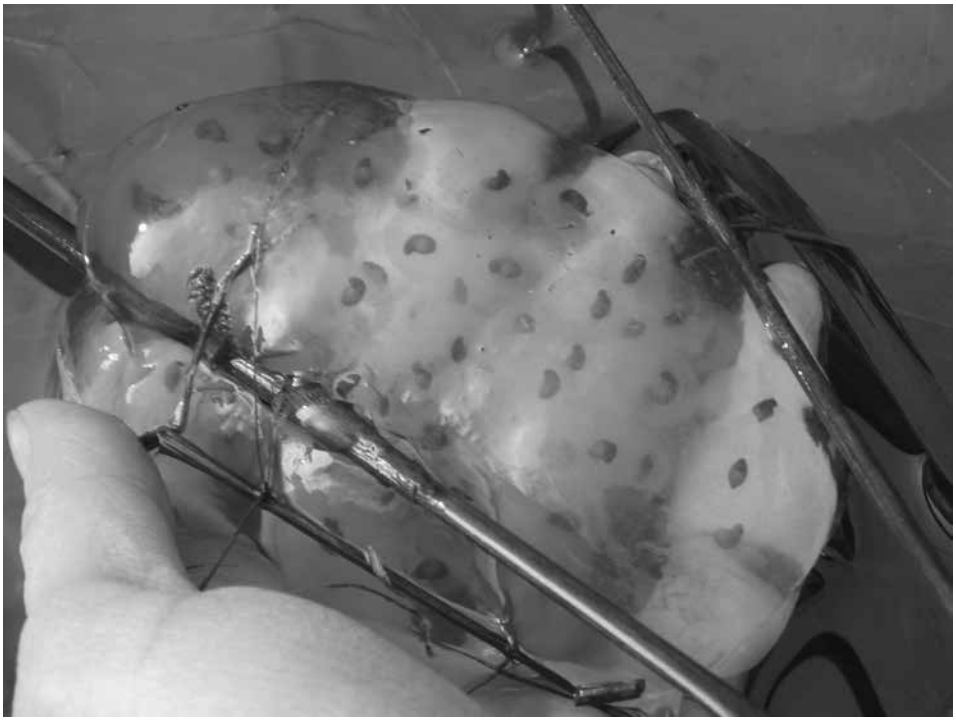
During courtship and mating, adult male spotted salamanders deposit gelatinous white sperm packets on sticks or on the bottom of the pond. These packets are very easy to spot and serve as the first clue that spotted salamanders are present in a pool or pond. A female will swim over the packet and take up the sperm into her cloaca. Within one to a few days, the female lays eggs in gelatinous masses of usually 100 to 200 eggs, attaching the egg clusters to aquatic vegetation or sticks. Eggs usually take from 30 to 50 days to hatch, depending on the temperature of the water. The new hatchling starts out as an elongate tadpole, with external gills near the neck region, and short buds in place of front limbs. As the tadpole develops, toes form on the front feet, rear legs sprout near the base of the tail, and it ultimately loses its gills and tail fin, all in preparation for life on land.

Temperature, water level, and food availability combine to influence the length of the tadpole stage. The minimum time it takes for a spotted salamander to metamorphose into its terrestrial form is two months; usually newly transformed animals begin leaving the water in late summer and early fall. In the water, the larvae eat small crustaceans, mollusks, and insect larvae. On land, spotted salamanders eat beetles, earthworms, snails, slugs, insects, and spiders. Once transformed, they will remain on land for the rest of their lives, except briefly during spring breeding periods.

While congregated together in their breeding pools, spotted salamanders can be seen readily, even by a casual observer. During the rest of the year, however, the spotted salamander is largely fossorial, retreating to underground burrows. In moist environments or damp weather, individuals occasionally can be encountered under logs, stones, or boards during the day, or out foraging at night. In winter, they hibernate underground in burrows sometimes more than three feet deep.

The spotted salamander is an important component in both aquatic and terrestrial communities. Eggs and larvae provide food for a wide variety of aquatic animals, and predatory fish, birds, snakes, and turtles eat adults. Because of their complex habitat requirements, spotted salamanders are sensitive to the loss of both wooded and aquatic habitats. Furthermore, their tendency to migrate between these habitats during the breeding season makes them highly vulnerable to mass mortality. Cars crush a substantial numbers of adults each spring, on roads that separate upland sites from breeding ponds.

Spotted salamanders may move more than 1/2 mile from bodies of water where they breed, but will return to the same pond to breed year after year, often using the same exact path each year to travel from upland to aquatic sites. To provide habitat for spotted salamanders, landowners can enhance and protect both their aquatic breeding sites and the



The spotted salamander lays eggs in gelatinous masses of 100 to 200 eggs, which take 30 to 50 days to hatch, depending on temperature.

surrounding woods. Shallow woodland pools that dry up during late summer or fall (and do not support predatory fish) provide particularly valuable breeding habitat. Protecting these and other breeding sites from pollution (chemicals, sediments from erosion) and disturbance is essential for these animals. By marking the boundaries of breeding pools during the wet season, landowners can help prevent disturbances within the boundaries of the pools during drier times.

In surrounding woodlands, maintaining a mostly closed forest canopy (> 75 percent within 100 feet, and > 50 percent within 400 feet of the pool or pond) will provide optimum habitat for the spotted salamander and many other amphibians. A closed canopy shades the forest floor, keeping soils moist and leaf litter abundant. Coarse woody debris (logs, tree tops, etc.) can also be left on, or added to, the forest floor to provide safe havens for the spotted salamander throughout much of the year. Maintaining minimal disturbance between breeding pools and adjacent woodlands allows spotted salamanders to move freely between the two. Disturbances such as road construction, skid trails, or large ruts can create barriers to travel if they occur close to breeding pools and ponds. Locating skid trails away from (400 feet) breeding pools, and harvesting timber when the ground is either frozen or completely dry, provides extra consideration for the spotted salamander.

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

Portions of this article were adapted from Stephen J. Morreale's Spotted Salamander Species Account in "Hands-On Herpetology: Exploring Ecology and Conservation" by R. L. Schneider, M. E. Krasny, and S. J. Morreale.

For more information on timber harvesting guidelines for vernal pool animals, ordering information for Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife can be found at http://www.umaine.edu/vernalpools/PDFs/Forestry%20Habitat%20Management%20Guidelines%20for%20Vernal%20Pool%20Wildl.pdf

NYFOA POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM

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

SIGN MATERIAL	COST PER SIGN	NUMBER ORDERED*	COST
Plastic (.024 gauge)	$.60	_____	$_____
Aluminum (.012 gauge)	$.90	_____	$_____
Add Name and Address to Sign Set up cost per address			$5.00
Plus $.05 per sign		_____	_____
Shipping and Handling Cost $10.00 per order			$10.00
SUBTOTAL			$_____
NYS Sales Tax – add 8%			$_____
TOTAL COST OF ORDER			$_____

Please specify Name and Address to be printed on signs:

Name:_____

Address: _____

Limited to two lines of type (abbreviate where possible). Type is about 5/16 inches high.

Mailing Address
(UPS Shipping Address if different from mailing address)

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Make checks payable to ***NYFOA***.

Mail form to NYFOA at:
PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485
For more information
Call 1-800-836-3566

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

Trailblazing in Upstate NY

Stacey G. Kazacos

My wife, Jeannine, and I have a home on a 96 acre forest property in Mt. Vision, Otsego County, NY. When we bought the place six years ago, we decided to expand and improve the trail system to support our recreational needs, which include hiking, wildlife viewing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and 4-wheeling. We had no experience in building trails. I am a serial "10-thumbs" kind of guy when it comes to being handy — but pretty persistent. I found that there is lots of information about trail building online, in books, and in articles. That said, many of the resources out there are designed more for building trails on a bigger scale with a larger budget, lots of machines, and an army of trail builders. We did not have any of that. So, our trailblazing model started out as "two guys and a tractor."

With extensive help from our neighbor and NY Master Forest Owner Tom Matteson, and using modest resources, we have developed an excellent trail system which is still a work in progress. Where possible, we used materials available on the property. My goal in writing this article is to provide practical guidelines and lessons learned to NY landowners interested in building and maintaining forest trails.

The starting assumptions are that landowners have a limited trail building budget and are interested in doing much of the work themselves with locally available materials. Make no mistake, there is a lot of sweat equity involved here — but the process and results are satisfying and definitely worth the effort. At the end of the article, I have included additional sources that may be helpful.

Trail Layout

Take your time here. We wanted to have a perimeter trail, a separate trail around a large pond, and a few others. Try to work with bite size chunks in mind (i.e., take on manageable sections). Initially, you should mark your property lines then the course of the trail. We used orange ribbons tied to trees along the proposed trail. On another day, go back and walk the marked trail and make adjustments as necessary. In an ideal world, build your trails after experiencing the four seasons to determine if there are conditions that will impact their construction and use (e.g. seasonally wet areas, heavy foliage, natural drainage, etc). Some common sense tips include:

- Minimize the number of big trees you will need to remove and major slopes you need to scale. All well and good, but occasionally nature and property boundaries can be inflexible. However, you may have no choice but to take on these obstacles. That's when you realize the meaning of sweat equity.
- Include gentle curves in the course of the trail that will take advantage of the natural beauty of the property. Avoid any semblance of a grid layout. Where loggers seek to minimize the distance from point A to point B, a nice trail in the woods should open up the natural features of your land without a rigid layout. The unpredictability of what is beyond the next curve in the trail can add charm and beauty to your property. Avoid sharp turns that will make it difficult to maneuver a tractor, 4-wheeler, or snow machine. I learned this one the hard way when a tree brutally attacked our 4-wheeler on a sharp turn. We had to reroute a few sections of this pilot trail to facilitate moving about more easily with various machines.
- Build the trail two or more feet wider than the biggest "thing" you plan to take on it. So if you have a tractor that will

be used on the trail that is six feet wide, make your trail at least eight feet wide. If you are making a walking only trail, go two feet wider than the biggest person you expect to trot out.

Tools of the Trade:
This can be as extensive and expensive as you want it to be. We found the following to be the most useful:

- Tractor with front end loader if possible.
- Chains, working in concert with the tractor/loader, to remove smaller trees and brush.
- Chainsaw.
- Ax, mattock, loppers, and shovel.
- Tape measure.
- Stone or gravel to fill in lower, wet areas of the trail.
- Geotextile fabric, if you can spring for it, to ensure the gravel or stone you place in low areas is not lost forever in the mud.
- Four inch perforated, plastic drainage pipe and geotextile fabric to wrap around it.

Note: In some applications you may need to install a drainage culvert or a bridge. There are good sources with detailed information on how to build bridge and drainage applications — but it goes beyond the scope here.

Building the Trail

Let the fun begin. Clear the course of the trail by pulling out smaller trees; by the roots if possible to eliminate a tripping hazard. A good way to do this is by using the tractor and chains or a strong canvas strap. Wrap the chain around the trunk of the small tree a couple of times and then attach this chain to the front end loader or drag bar of the tractor. Extract and repeat on the next tree. If the tree is too big, you will need to use a chainsaw to cut it. Go as close to the ground as possible. Expect to dull some chainsaw chains doing this process as you will invariably hit uneven ground. Also, be mindful of any rocks as you saw — it could ruin your day if you hit one. If you leave a stump too high, it remains a potential tripping hazard, so go low and slow. Of course, you should always use your chainsaw with safety in mind: wear the right gear (Kevlar chaps, helmet, eye and ear protection, gloves, and steel toe boots) and take a chainsaw safety course like the Game of Logging. For more on this course, see *http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/GOL%20with%20I,%20II,%20III.html*

Put stone or gravel on low wet spots in the trail to avoid rutting. In our case, we have a large amount of shale on the property. I paid a guy with an excavator about $300 to knock down a mountain of shale which I can now ferry to the low spots of the trail with the front end loader. This can be tedious on a large property where the shale pit is far from the ruts — but definitely worth the effort.

Try to keep the trail bed dry by building "water bars" on slopes to divert water off the trail. A water bar is a diagonal channel across the trail that diverts surface water that would otherwise flow down the whole length of the trail. The goal here is to keep water off your trail surface and away from low spots. There are lots of online sources that explain where and how to build a simple water bar.

You will need to use loppers, a mattock, or an ax to remove any exposed roots on the trail. In some cases, you will be unable to remove a network of roots on the surface. In this situation, cover the roots with gravel. Tripping over roots is equal opportunity — small ones will get you just as often as the larger ones. So remove or cover up roots on the surface of your trail.

Also, with the loppers cut away branches overhead and from the side of the trail that could hit any part of a person. I recommend going 3' to 4' higher than your tallest profile (e.g. when riding on a tractor). Tree branches are heavier with leaves and tend to hang down more in the summer. Snow on evergreens will cause the branches to hang lower in the winter. So consider these height factors when you are lopping. For higher branches, a pole saw comes in handy. Of course, a bucket truck is even better — remember you can spend as much or as little as you want.

For aesthetics, you may want to clear the brush and branches right next to the trail that you accumulate during construction. We have a number of brush piles on the property that serve as excellent "rabbitat" — homes for birds and smaller critters. We hauled debris that was closest to the trails to these 'regional brush piles.' I will confess that as a former weed whacking, lawn watering, sidewalk sweeping suburbanite, my initial inclination was to clean up the whole forest of debris. This is not the way to go. The trees and brush you leave on the ground make for a healthier forest as the materials eventually decompose, while serving as rabbitat in the interim. The debris from trail construction also provides a measure of protection for desirable seedlings in the understory of the forest, affording these young trees a better chance to escape deer browsing. My advice here is to find a balance of how much you want the trail areas to look like a park vs. creating natural habitat and humus — and how much sweat equity you are willing to expend to clear debris to

continued on page 16

The Bridge to Nowhere two years after construction

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

Will This Cold Winter Cause the Demise of Invasive Forest Pests?

By Mark Whitmore

Everyone can probably agree that we've had an unusually cold winter. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center here on the Cornell campus this winter is amongst the top 5 coldest on record in Ithaca if you count the number of days when the temperatures dipped below zero Fahrenheit. However, by this standard the last time we had a winter as harsh as this was 2003, only 10 years ago. When thinking about the impacts on insects we often reference extreme low temperatures. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Ithaca was -35°F in 1934. Since then the coldest was -24°F in 1994. The problem with using individual weather sites to get an idea of area-wide impact is that as everyone knows there are cold spots and warm spots on the landscape. Here in Ithaca the coldest reported temperature this winter was -13°F at the Game Farm Road weather station but the director of the Northeast Regional Climate Center reported that he had -22°F at his house, just 10 miles away.

Before going any further it's important to understand how insects deal with cold. Insects basically have two strategies for surviving extreme cold; they can avoid it by finding a warmer location to hide in, and they can physiologically tolerate the cold down to a certain lethal temperature. Cold temperatures kill insects by forming of ice crystals which then puncture cell walls. Ice crystal formation at subfreezing temperatures is inhibited by the buildup of glycerol, basically antifreeze, in an insect's blood. The accumulation of glycerol is usually gradual in response to environmental triggers but can sometimes be rapid. The temperature at which ice crystals form in an insect is called its supercooling point and is determined by lab studies. Supercooling points vary between insect species and according to the season of the year. For example, the supercooling point will typically be highest in summer and decrease through fall and early winter to its lowest point in January and February, and then gradually increase again in spring. Thus, the same low temperature that would not harm an insect in the depths of winter might kill a substantial portion of the population in fall or spring when the concentration of glycerol in the blood is lower and the supercooling point is higher.

Let's consider what we know about two of the most important forest pests currently in New York, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Emerald Ash Borer, and how this winter may impact their populations.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae*, has been spreading through the state since the late 1980's, starting in the lower Hudson Valley (Figure 1). Its spread has increased in the past few years, perhaps aided by some mild winters. Cold temperatures have been documented as responsible for killing significant numbers of HWA and have been thought to be regulating its march northward in New England. HWA cannot avoid cold because once they settle on a twig and begin feeding they will not move for the rest of their life. However, they are protected somewhat from wind-chill by the woolly wax they produce that surrounds their body. A recent laboratory study demonstrated that HWA from the Berkshire Mountains suffered 97% mortality at -22°F (-30°C) and none survived -31°F (-35°C). These lowest temperatures are not common in most of New York (Figure 2), but lab studies don't always tell the whole story when you get out in the woods. To get an idea what is going on outside the lab I recently sampled two sites that have

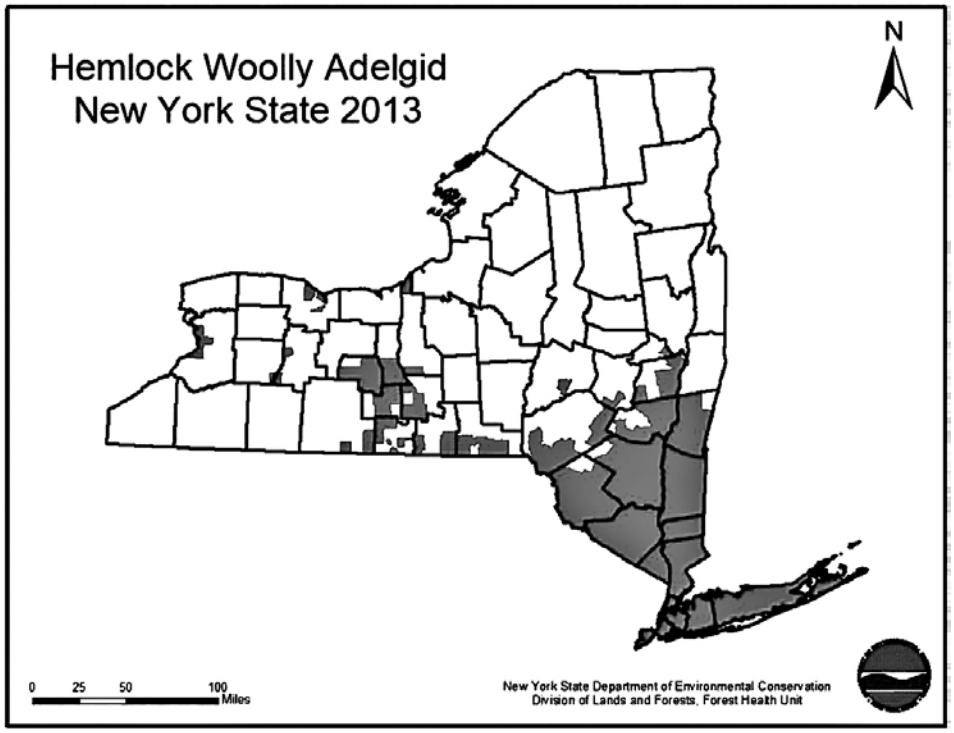


Figure 1. Current distribution of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in New York State towns. Scott McDonnell, NYSDEC, Forest Health Unit.

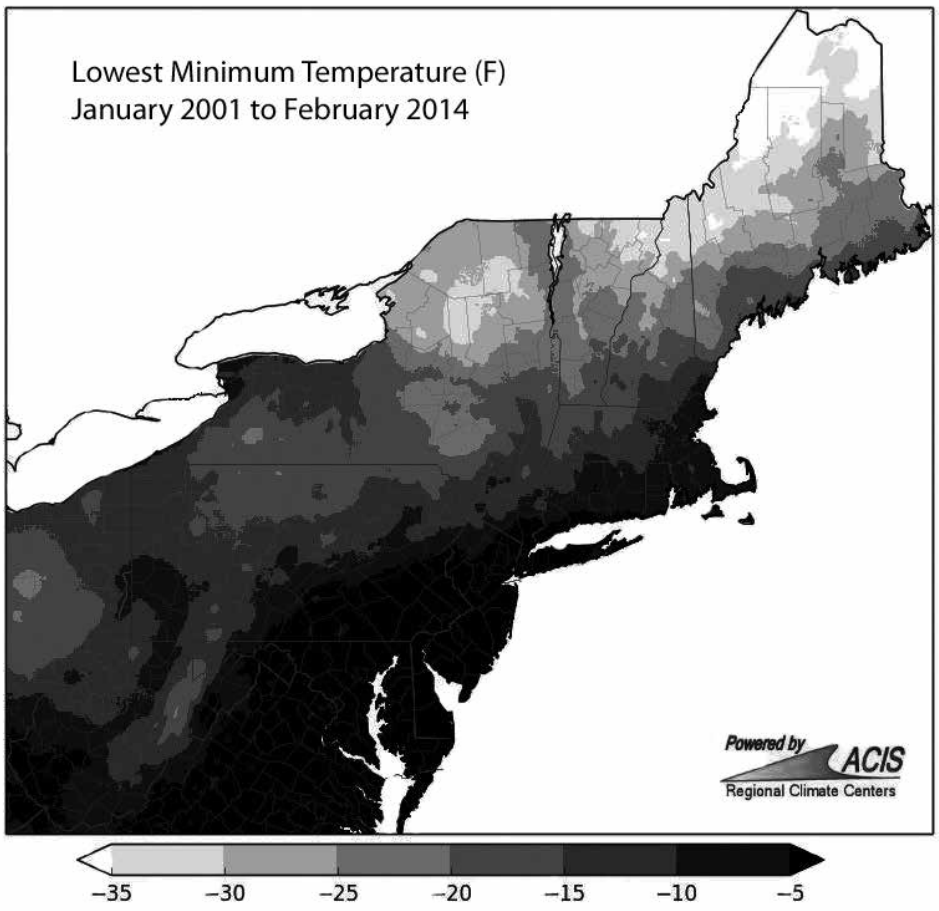


Figure 2. Lowest temperatures recorded in the Northeast from January 2001 to February 2014 in degrees Fahrenheit. Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University, Feb 2014.

been harboring HWA for a few years. At Taughannock State Park near Cayuga Lake, according to my instruments the temperature never got below -8°F (-22°C) yet we found HWA mortality to be about 88%. On the other hand, at Mine Kill State Park in the northern Catskills temperatures got to -24°F (-31°C) and we found only about 77% mortality. Wait a minute, there is more mortality where it is warmer? There are two things going on here: 1) HWA reproduce asexually and have a very high reproductive rate so all you need is a few to survive the cold and the population is off and growing; and 2) perhaps more troubling is that research indicates cold tolerance is a genetically linked trait so progeny of the survivors will also be cold tolerant. The Mine Kill SP data suggests HWA populations in colder areas are indeed becoming more cold tolerant than those in warmer locations like Taughannock SP. However, getting a high percentage kill will knock back the HWA population in an area for a couple years but they will rebound rapidly. Reduced density of HWA means there is less competition and the food quality of hemlock twigs will be degraded more slowly, basically giving the surviving HWA a fertile field for reproduction, and they can do that rapidly.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is established in a number of locations across New York and populations continue to build, although less than 5% of our forests are currently infested. The difference with EAB is that it is protected under the bark during the winter and they are found around the base of the trunk and even in upper roots, areas that are usually protected by snow. The important thing about this habitat is that the trunk of the tree acts like a large thermal mass that moderates temperature extremes. The few hours of extreme cold experienced in the early hours of a morning won't be felt under the bark of a tree. The trunk of the tree will also be heated by sunlight in even the coldest weather. So, even though your thermometer might indicate a temperature you think is extreme, EAB are experiencing something entirely different.

Work on cold tolerance of EAB has been conducted in Minnesota and Ontario. Lab research in Ontario indicated the supercooling point of EAB was between -9.4°F and -15.5°F (-23°C and -26°C) whereas in Minnesota another lab study found 5% mortality at 0°F (-18°C), 34% at -10°F (-23°C), 79% at -20°F (-29°C) and 98% at -30°F (-34°C). It might seem that -20°F was fairly common this winter but think about the warm periods between the cold snaps and how much time it would take to cool down a log to that temperature. Even if there was 80% mortality competition would be reduced and EAB populations would rebound quickly. EAB may even be developing cold tolerant populations but we don't have the research to clearly demonstrate this is happening. The researchers in Minnesota also evaluated mortality in logs placed outside and found

continued on page 16

Woodland Health (continued)

that there were still a few survivors where temperatures measured in the logs where EAB are found reached -33°F (-36°C) in Grand Rapids, MN. Looking at the map of cold temperatures in NY (Figure 2), it appears the only place there might be an impact would be in the high Adirondacks where there is not much ash. Remember, EAB is successfully killing untold numbers of trees near Moscow, Russia and it's much colder there!

The take home message is that cold temperatures are not a "silver bullet" for controlling our invasive forest pests. We might have bought another year or two of relief with HWA but due to their reproductive prowess they will be back soon and maybe even stronger than before. EAB will be hardly fazed by low temperatures in NY this year and very likely at no time in the future. We must prepare for the arrival of these insects in order to mitigate their impacts and lay plans to preserve the genome of our threatened native ash and hemlock through seed collection and treatment of seed trees to keep them alive. We need to use this time wisely to conserve what we can of our native forests.

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

Trailblazing (continued)

Tom Matteson working on a stretch of the corduroy.

achieve what realtors like to call a "park like setting."

The Bridge to Nowhere and Corduroy

We have a low, wet zone on our property at the bottom of a big hill that cut off some very scenic areas from the rest of the trail system. With unbridled enthusiasm we decided the only way to tie things together was to build a bridge through the muck. The project became known affectionately as "The Bridge to Nowhere." The materials for this 40' x 8' bridge cost about $500. It took two of us about two days to build the bridge. We used pressure treated lumber for the surface of the bridge and vertical bridge supports. It was a tough slog through deep mud and past tree blow downs. The mud often sucked of our rubber boots. Refer to the sources at the end of this article for more information on how to build a good bridge and understand that it is very difficult to do everything by the book.

A **corduroy road** is built by placing logs next to each other across the trail bed, then covering the logs with gravel or stone. This is one method that can be used to go through a wet area. The logs provide a more solid base thereby increasing the surface area over the mud. Corduroy roads have a long history. One of the first corduroy projects in Upstate NY linked the City of Oswego with Rome, NY in the mid-nineteenth century. In WWII, the U.S. military used corduroy methods to build so-called "expedient roads" to move vehicles and soldiers. Have some fun and watch this interesting WWII military video about expedient road construction which includes a segment about corduroy: *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-FDY8uMlsI*

Anyway, we decided to try building a section of corduroy through a particularly rutted and wet area of our property. Black locust is the gold standard for building

continued on page 18

Save money on your heating bills with **Econoburn™** - the best-built, most efficient, wood-fired boiler on the market and proudly manufactured right here in **New York State!**

The **Econoburn™** wood gasification boiler installs indoors or in an out-building, seamlessly integrating with your existing heating system with these features:

- **Advanced 2-stage gasification for maximum efficiency**. (Uses 1/2 the wood vs. conventional wood boilers)
- **Pressurized closed-system boiler vessel.** (Maximized service life vs. traditional open-systems)
- **Safety Certified to UL/CSA standards.**
- **Domestically manufactured controls.**
- **25-year warranty.**

Call for a Free information packet!

Econoburn
High-Efficiency Wood-Fired Boilers
www.econoburn.com 1-866-818-5162

corduroy roadbeds due to its legendary resistance to decay. We have a stand of black locust on our property and were able to take enough six inch diameter, eight foot long locust logs for the project. This is a work in progress and I will report how we fared once it is done and tested over time.

Maintenance
A trailblazer's work is never done. No surprises here. We have had to keep up with trimming exposed roots that tend to crop up, lopping overhead branches, and adding shale to low, wet or rutted areas as needed. You will too.

The Dozer: Very Helpful if a Bit Pricey
In Fall 2013, we decided to expand our trail system onto an adjacent 16 acre forested parcel we had recently bought. This land was wholly undeveloped and had significant blowdown of big trees from the 1998 storm. In short, it was an inaccessible mess. We decided to hire a bull dozer and skilled operator for a day. So for about $800 (cost was $100/hour) we opened up trails we had previously marked and linked them with our established trail network. After the dust settled and the dozer left, we still had lots to do to finish the trails — in particular, clearing and covering exposed roots, dragging with a box blade, filling in low spots with shale, building a section of corduroy road, and lopping overhead branches. But the heavy artillery had moved big and small trees and did not leave the stumps behind. The dozer effortlessly went through the tree blow down area — a place that would have otherwise taken ages to clear. If you can afford it, consider using a dozer to make the *first cut* of your trails once you have a satisfactory layout. The whole process with the dozer actually went much faster than I expected. I actually have a list of additional dozer tasks you could levy if you are committed to pay for a full day. I strongly recommend you stay with the operator the entire time to ensure there is no miscommunication about the course of the trail. If not, you risk souring relations with your neighbors or worse.

Final Word
Trailblazing is a wonderful way to open up your property to expanded recreational opportunities, while getting some serious exercise in the process. We have derived great satisfaction — starting with nothing but dense forest and brush areas and constructing functional trails that opened up previously little used parts of the property. Please have a look at the resources below that offer some solid and detailed guidance on how best to approach many aspects of trail building. At the same time, keep an open mind and adapt the established methods you read about to address your own conditions. Good luck, be safe, and happy trails!

Sources:

Lightly on the Land: The Student Conservation Association (SCA) Trail Building and Maintenance Manual. Second edition. By Robert Birkby. This is an excellent how-to book. There is a great chapter on the various trail building tools.

"Trail Design for Small Properties by Mel Baughman and Terry Serres. See: *http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/dd8425.html*

"A Landowner's Guide to Building Forest Access Roads," by Richard L. Wiest. See: *http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/stewardship/accessroads/accessroads.htm*

Stacey Kazacos is a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, who had several tours in Africa, Europe, and the U.S. He and his wife, Jeannine, plan to retire full time in Mt. Vision, NY to build more trails on their forest property. In September 2013, Stacey completed the New York Master Forest Owner program offered through the Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

conditions, you will want to delay harvesting your best trees until the average stand dbh of the dominant trees is about 18 inches. Your forester can help initiate the regeneration process as the stand grows and matures to its optimal, average dbh.

Some stands will have large numbers of unfavored trees that do not compete with favored trees for sunlight. It is not necessary to cut or kill all unfavored trees. In fact, if you cut too many trees, you will allow too much sunlight to the forest floor and trigger an understory response. The species in the understory may be desirable or undesirable. There may be value in cutting or killing some additional non-competitive unfavored trees to limit seed sources, but talk through the options with your forester.

If the trees you plan to cut have sufficient size and value in local markets, the thinning treatment could be commercial. Commercial thinning involves a logger who buys the marked trees from the owner, cuts the marked trees, and extracts them from the woods with no or minimal damage to the residual trees. Work with a forester and have a contract if you undertake a commercial thinning. The financial return to the owner might be quite small per acre, but the gain is in having someone else do the work to your standards. If the unfavored trees don't have value, you will either need to hire someone to do the work, or complete the work yourself. Be cautious about allowing a well-intentioned neighbor or relative "help" you thin as they collect firewood. Someone who lacks adequate skill, equipment, training, or awareness can cause numerous problems and do significant damage to what would have been your future sawtimber trees.

Once you have identified stand boundaries, prioritized stands for treatment, selected trees to favor, and thinned stands to concentrate growth on the best trees you can wait for the wood to accumulate. You might consider entering the NYFOA/ForestConnect *Timber Growing Contest* where owners mark, measure and follow the growth of trees as a way to better understand volume and value growth of trees.

Thinning to release favored stems, such as this 14 inch dbh red oak will result in slash or debris from the crowns of the cut trees. This slash can be left in the woods to slowly decompose for nutrients and as habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Resources

Publications at *www.ForestConnect.info*

- Glossary of woodlot terms
- How to scale and grade hardwood standing timber (Univ. Arkansas)
- Tree Value: A Basis for Woodland Management (1981 Conservation Circular)

Webinars recorded and stored at www.Youtube.com/ForestConnect

- July 2008, Jim Finley, Growing Quality Hardwoods
- February 2012, Dave Jackson, Forest Vegetation Management Using Herbicides
- March 2013, Peter Smallidge, Thinning to Improve Forest Growth and Health
- February 2014, Peter Smallidge, Are You Growing Your Best Timber (see also rules for the timber contest at *www.timbercontest.com*).

Educational events calendar at *www.CornellForestConnect.ning.com*

Response by: Peter J Smallidge, NY Extension Forester, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY. Pjs23@cornell.edu, 607/592-3640

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
Joe Coccho	NFC
Great Lot Sportsman's Club	NAC
Shelley Johnson	LHC
Steve Kinne	CNY
Steve Marcus	WFL
Michael Marzec	NFC
Josie Moshier	SFL
Michael O'Lena	WFL
Jason Pieklik	CNY
James Smith	WFL
Gary Vroman	CDC

Restore New York WOODLANDS

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

Magazine Deadline

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

Deadline for material is April 1, 2014

Member Profile:
Bill Dorman

Maureen Mullen

Bill Dorman lives in and grew up on the hilly lands of Chautauqua County. The land is definitely family land. He's the third generation of his family to own and work the land; generations four and five — Bill's son and his family — now live on and work the land.

Bill is employed as a Quality Engineer Consultant and Auditor. He enjoys the work and is not quite ready to retire yet, but he knows his retirement years will be spent working on his land. The family property he owns is 48 acres, 32 of which are wooded. The dominant tree species are Maple, Black Cherry, Hickory, and Hemlock. Several acres of the property are devoted to farming and hay production — Bill's grandchildren raise sheep, goats, and chickens as part of the 4-H program.

When he was a young child, Bill started working on the land with his father. He would help pull brush as they cut wood to heat the farmhouse; he fondly remembers using a two-man saw to cut the trees. He would also help his father in the maple sugar house, which is now only a foundation, but Bill would like to rebuild the sugarhouse and make syrup once again. "My dad was a very strong advocate of stewardship of the woods and we were very protective of it. For these reasons, I had a strong attachment to the property and a desire to own it." So in 1998, Bill bought the shares of property from his mother and sisters. Now, not only does his son live on the property, Bill and his extended family use the woods for deer and turkey hunting and they spend family time at an A-frame structure where they hold picnics and sleepovers during the hunts.

Recently, Bill worked with a Master Forest Owner Volunteer and a Department of Environmental Conservation Forester to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. He was prompted to do this after bidding out a timber sale as part of a timber stand improvement project and realized that he probably could have saved and earned more money if he had had a formal stewardship plan and was better aware of the inventory and value of his trees. However, even before the Forest Stewardship plan was in place, Bill spent much of his time in the woods doing improvement projects, including maintaining the roadways, bridges, and drainage. He uses most of the wood he cuts for firewood for the antique woodstove he restored.

The 1896 wood & coal antique stove that Bill restored. Firewood cut from the property supplies the stove which is used for supplemental heat.

Bill has some concerns for his land. In the short term, he's worried about finding the time to work on the many projects he has lined up related to timber stand improvement. He also worries about invasive species like ferns and American beech. In the long term, Bill is concerned about the continued stewardship of the land. In thinking about this, Bill has decided that it's finally time to become a Master Forest Owner (MFO) and to eventually encourage his son and grandchildren to also become MFOs. He has also started thinking about starting a legacy plan for the land.

In joining the Allegheny Foothills

Bill's son, Chris, and grandson, Jared, heading into the woods during archery season.

continued on page 22

Chapter of NYFOA about eight years ago, and then becoming a chairman several years later, Bill has gained valuable information and friends that have helped him to better manage his land and think about stewardship. His advice for other forest landowners: "Trust an MFO and a professional forester to guide you." And his advice to anyone thinking about becoming a NYFOA member: "Do it and become active."

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.

Bill working on one of his timber stand improvement projects.

The Dorman family snowmobiling this winter.

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!

Follow us on Facebook

The New York
Forest Owner
A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Syracuse, N.Y.
Permit No. 999

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests