

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

May/June 2015



Member Profile: Bruce Bennett

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FOREST OWNERS
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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 3

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 Malmshemer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmsh@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the July/August issue is June 1, 2015.

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 \$45.

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.

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COVER: Windmill on Bruce's tree farm which provides a revenue stream. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Bruce Bennett.

From The President

As I begin my term as president of NYFOA, I first would like to welcome our new members, 153 of whom joined through the gift membership program. We welcome you into NYFOA and hope you will get much benefit from our peer to peer educational programs and enjoy fine camaraderie with fellow forest owners and forestry professionals. We want you to get more enjoyment and benefit out of your woodlands and want to help you by providing the tools needed



for “thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Our outgoing officers deserve our thanks. During his 4 years as

president, Jim Minor has devoted countless hours to our association. He has most ably served as president by organizing monthly executive committee conference calls, chairing board meetings, and performing innumerable tasks to keep the organization running smoothly. He has been managing our website and scanned almost 50 years worth of *Forest Owner* magazines into digital form and archived them on our website. Ron Pedersen, as vice president, took on many behind the scenes tasks and ensured a successful Farm Show presence. My wife, Sarah, steps down as NYFOA’s treasurer/secretary. She not only kept clear and concise financial records but also was constantly looking for ways to reduce spending and save NYFOA money. I look forward to working with our new slate of officers: Ed Neuhauser, vice president; Jerry

Michael, secretary; and Phil Walton, treasurer.

Through its Restore New York Woodlands initiative, NYFOA is working to educate woodland owners about long-term woodland viability and sustainability and the regeneration crisis facing our Northeastern hardwood forests. But NYFOA is not just reaching out to woodland owners —we are seeking alliances with other stakeholder organizations and are prepared to engage the general public. NYFOA co-sponsored a symposium with several other forest organizations on April 25, 2015 entitled “The Future of New York Forests at Risk — Working Toward a Comprehensive Solution.” We will be hearing much more about this symposium and what techniques and policies are necessary to assure the regeneration of native New York forests.

Sarah’s and my involvement in forestry is relatively recent. We bought property in 2003 which included 127 acres of woodland; however, we were disappointed to learn that all was not well in our forest due to a heavy burden of invasive and interfering plants and prior high-graded timber harvests. After our DEC service forester walked our land and prepared a Forest Stewardship Plan, we began working in our woodlands. Boundaries were marked, a few access roads were cut, and we began Timber Stand Improvement by cutting out undesirable trees for firewood. A consulting forester was hired. We attended the Master Forest Owner Volunteer training and there first heard about NYFOA. After attending NYFOA woods walks, state meetings, seminars and chapter meetings, we started to volunteer in the NYFOA booth at the NY Farm

continued on page 5

Join! NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private

forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York’s forests.

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

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: _____

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

New Member Snapshots

NYFOA welcomes its new members and will periodically profile them to show the range of interests among our members.

Don and Judy Schlafer

Forest Land: 116 acres, Schuyler and Chenango

Objectives: Recreation, Hunting, Sawtimber, Wildlife



Having retired from the Cornell faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine last fall, Don has more time to spend on the farm and in the woods. He's opened up some walking trails, spends time hunting, and is implementing a program of timber stand improvement. Don also continues to manage a fine 5-acre locust and pine plantation that he installed in the early 1980's. Don and his wife, Judy, attended and greatly enjoyed, the recent NYFOA workshop in East Guilford to learn about the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. They have already purchased tree tags, bought a forestry measurement tape, and are ready to enter the contest this spring.

Eric and Stacy Fisher, Tukker (7), Lev (6)

Forest Land: 60 acres, Yates

Objectives: Recreation, Hunting, Wildlife



Eric operates Fisher Tree Service in Bluff Point, NY and Stacy works in management at Silgan Plastics in Penn Yan. Fisher Tree Service is a family-owned business, which has helped the community manage its trees for over 25 years, including emergency arborist service. They plan to continue to enhance their woodlands with timber stand improvement while tackling the problem of managing invasive species.

Bill and Ellen Crain

Forest Land: 30 acres, Dutchess

Objectives: Farm Animal Sanctuary, Wildlife Refuge



Ellen Crain has owned forest land for nine years. She and her husband Bill were attracted to a 40 acre property as a place where they could restore a 100-year-old barn, create a wildlife refuge and develop a sanctuary for abused farm animals. As they worked to implement their dream, they were struck by the beauty of the woods that encircled the 10 acres of pasture land and pond along with the wildlife that lived there. One can make out some very old paths through the woods where a century ago, people used to bring timber for charcoal production. NYFOA Board member, Art Wagner, and Ellen worked together for many years at a Bronx hospital. Art is assisting the Crains to realize their woodland objectives.

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Final Results: NYFOA Gift Membership Challenge 2014-2015

DEAN FAKLIS

Welcome new NYFOA members, all 153! And a BIG thanks to all of the generous gift givers! The kindness of NYFOA members is simply amazing. The NYFOA family has grown by about 10% and we're all looking forward to working together to build strong relationships and make our forests even better.

I'd like to use this opportunity to offer some special thanks to our leading gift

giver, Dick Starr, and our leading gifting chapter, Western Finger Lakes. Dick had some keen competition, but hit the finish line in first place with 13 gift memberships! Western Finger Lakes members powered home with a whopping 74 gift memberships. On a per capita basis, the Southern Tier chapter came within a couple of percentage points of WFL, with 31 gift memberships. Congratulations and thanks to the gift givers listed below!

Birmingham, Mike
 Bucher, Greg
 Bulich, Jim
 Coccho, Joe
 Curtis, Jim & Sue
 Curtis, Paul
 Dobbins, Jim
 Faklis, Dean & Julie
 Follett, Richard
 Fox, David & Rosa
 Gaines, Ken
 Glidden, Bob & Patricia
 Gregory, Peter
 Groet, Stephen
 Hastings, John
 Holden, Claron & Carol
 Holmes, Ned
 Holtz, John
 Inzinna, Lou

Jacobs, Paul
 Jones, Nigel
 Kazacos, Stacey
 Koplun, Garrett
 Lasher, Bill
 Maracle, William
 McShane, Joe
 Messier, Bob
 Michael, Jerry
 Minor, Jim
 Moeller, Donald
 Molyneaux, Richard
 Moore, Roger
 Morabito Jr, David
 Morabito, David
 Mowatt, Charlie
 Neuhauser, Ed
 Paul, David
 Pedersen, Ron

Peterson, William
 Piestrak, Ed
 Revette, Bruce & Char
 Robinson, Robert
 Ross, Tony & Anne
 Schaefer, Dale
 Schaus, Gary C.
 Seager, Maurice
 Sheedy, Bob
 Stackhouse, Charles & Sarah
 Starr, Dick
 Sturges, David
 Summers, Carolyn
 Tennant, Gary
 Wagner, Arthur
 Walton, Phil
 WFL Chapter
 Williams, Dave

If you're a new member and have questions or need assistance, send me an email (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) and I'll help right away. Welcome to the NYFOA Family! 🏡

Dean Faklis is a tree farmer and MFO living in Springwater, NY.

From the President (continued)

Show and Empire Farm Days. We have both served on the NYFOA board of directors, and through NYFOA have met a number of people that we now consider to be good friends. We have greatly benefited from NYFOA and so have our woods.

NYFOA is run by volunteers on behalf of its members. We encourage all members to participate in NYFOA events at the state and local chapter level. Send us your ideas and concerns, and convince your friends and neighbors to

join NYFOA to get more enjoyment from their woods.

After a cold winter, the firewood supply is dwindling fast. The snow that has kept us out of the woods for so long is melting. Every day brings an eagerness to get back out into the woods to start refilling the woodshed, get some much needed exercise, and enjoy the sights and sounds of spring.

—Charles Stackhouse
 NYFOA President

NYFOA STORE

Show your support for the Association!
 All items display the NYFOA logo.

1. Sweatshirt.....\$20.00
 Green M, L, XL
 Grey M, L, XL
 2. Long Sleeve T-Shirt.....\$14.00
 Green M, L, XL
 Grey M, L, XL
 3. Short Sleeve T-Shirt.....\$10.00
 Green M, L, XL
 Grey M, L, XL
- All shirts are heavy weight cotton with white lettering on the green and green lettering on the grey.*
4. Baseball Style Cap.....\$14.00
 Tan with Green logo, one size
 5. NYFOA Member Sign.....\$ 3.00
 12x12 Heavy Gauge Plastic
 Yellow with green lettering
 6. Cutting Boards.....\$ 5.00
 Wood, 5 1/2 x7 inches

Item#	Description	Size	Qty	Price	Total
Shipping and handling: \$6.00					
NYS Sales Tax – add 8%					
Total:					

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State / Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 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. Questions? Call 800-836-3566

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

Understanding the pesticide label.

Questions: I plan to use a pesticide this year to control plants in my woods that are interfering with the desired regeneration of hardwoods. I have some pesticides, but I don't know if they will work. How can I understand what is in the container and how to use it? (Bill S. Northern Adirondack Chapter)

Response:

Pesticides refer to a chemical, regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency, that will prevent, destroy, or otherwise damage pests such as insects, plants, fungi, rodents, etc. Used correctly and judiciously, pesticides are an effective and safe tool. Specific types of pesticides include, for example, herbicides that control plants, insecticides that control insects, or fungicides that control fungi. Depending on the chemicals in the pesticide, the product might be selective to specific types of pests, such as grasses vs. broad leaf plants. The product might also be general or broad-spectrum and control most species of its category. Woodlot owners can learn more about pesticides through tutorials available on the Cornell Cooperative Extension website <http://pscp.cce.cornell.edu/>.

Every pesticide has a "label", which is a written or graphic instruction attached to the container. "The label is the law,"

and the label has essential information for the user of the pesticide. For example, the label will indicate the types of pests – often the individual species – for which the product is intended to control. Federal law requires that the manufacturer test each active ingredient and submit the findings to the EPA who assesses whether the product is safe for use. The conditions of use are then part of the label. The process of labeling a pesticide so that it is registered for use can take 8 to 10 years and cost \$35 to \$50 million.

The US EPA initially registers a pesticide when they approve a label. A state will subsequently register a pesticide before it can be sold, distributed or used in that state. The conditions of use in a state may be more restrictive than the conditions of use stipulated by the EPA. The label of every pesticide registered for use in New York can be viewed at <http://pims.psur.cornell.edu/> (Figure 1). This site, known as the Product, Ingredient, and Manufacturer System (PIMS) website, helps users evaluate different pesticides, obtain free copies of the label, and understand if a pesticide is appropriate for their needs before the pesticide is purchased or used. New York woodlot owners should refer to labels on the PIMS site, not those obtained by a general search of the Internet or a manufacturer's website.

Most labels, and those described below, are considered primary labels. However, a special type of label is the 2(ee) label for "emergency exemption." These labels are provided in response to special needs, often to allow the use of a specific pesticide on a new or invasive species. The PIMS website has a searchable list of 2(ee) labels.

By federal law, pesticide labels have a standardized format and information to allow users to easily find the information needed for use. Below are several of the types of information that a woodlot



The NYS Pesticide Product, Ingredient and Manufacturer System (PIMS) databases are designed to aid the user in searching for pesticide product information as supplied to the Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) by the New York State Pesticide Product Registration Section within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

On This Page

- [NYS PIMS Products Database](#)
- [NYS PIMS – Public \(Site and Pest Searches\)](#)
- [Download NYS PIMS Data](#)
- [Background Information](#)

NYS PIMS Products Database

The PIMS Products Database contains information for pesticide products currently or previously registered in New York State with NYSDEC. (See also Special/Pending Registrations below for additional products.) Select a report:

EPA Registration Number

Find products by their EPA Registration Number.

Product/Label Name

Find products by their label name, trade name, brand name, or a portion thereof. There are often many different names and name variations for the same product.

Active Ingredient

There are two searches on this page. The first returns active ingredient codes based on (partial) ingredient name or ingredient synonyms for a given code. The second returns products containing an active ingredient specified by code number, and optionally restricted by product use or type.

Company / Distributor / Payor

Searching by Company Number (the first component of the EPA Registration Number) provides a list of those products that are registered or were previously registered with the EPA and New York State and manufactured by a particular company. Searching by Distributor Number (the third component, if present, of the EPA Registration Number) provides a list of those products distributed by a company. Searching by Payor Number provides a list of all products for which a company has paid the NYS registration fee.

Custom Search

Search the product database using a variety of criteria.

Special Registrations

"Special Registrations" include:

Figure 1: The Product, Ingredient, and Manufacturer System (PIMS) is a website that includes the label for every pesticide registered for use in NY. The labels include essential information. PIMS allows users to learn about a specific product before purchasing.

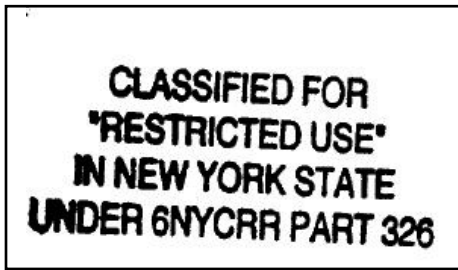


Figure 2: Although the US EPA may classify a pesticide as “general use” and available to everyone, NYS DEC can be more restrictive and re-classify a pesticide as “restricted use.” Restricted use pesticides can only be used by a certified applicator. For example, Garlon 4 is general use in Pennsylvania, but is restricted use in New York.

owner should review on a pesticide, often a herbicide, before buying or using the product.

1. Pesticides are classified as “restricted” or “general use.” “Restricted use” products can only be used by a private or commercial certified applicator, whereas general use products can be used by anyone. NYSDEC designates some products as restricted if they deem there are special needs related to the safe application of the product. (Figure 2). This classification will only be visible on labels sold or distributed in NY. Therefore, a product such as Garlon 4 might be “General Use” in Pennsylvania, but is “Restricted Use” in New York. By viewing labels on the PIMS website, users can determine the classification of a product.

2. The label will indicate the type of pesticide (e.g., herbicide, fungicide, etc.) and the brand name or trademark label. This information is used to communicate with others the product that is being used, and can be searched for via the PIMS website

3. All pesticides have a product registration number issued by the EPA. This is a unique number, similar to the Latin name of a plant, used to identify the product. The product registration number can be searched for on the PIMS website.

4. The label lists the active ingredients and their percentage in the product. (Figure 3). The concentration of the active ingredient is important to know because it determines if the product is ready to use from the container or if it needs to be diluted. Glyphosate, an example of a common active ingredient

in some herbicides, might be 2% in one product and suitable for use as a foliar spray, or might be 50% in a different product and diluted 1 to 1 in water for use in cut-stump treatments.

5. The label will list a signal word to indicate the relative toxicity. The signal words are “Danger/Poison”, “Warning”, or “Caution.”

6. Precautionary statements will indicate actions the applicator should take to protect themselves, fish and wildlife, or the environment. The relative toxicity will correspond to the types of personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to protect the applicator. The label will list the minimum required PPE, but applicators can always wear extra PPE. For example, it is always a good practice to wear eye protection and protective gloves even if not required by the label. The statement will indicate whether the product has toxicity by way of inhalation, ingestion, or to the eyes or skin.

7. A first aid statement indicates how to treat a person exposed to the pesticide.

8. Agricultural use requirements indicate actions necessary to protect agricultural workers. Agricultural workers, those paid to work on the property, are considered at greater risk than the general public because of the potential for frequent exposure. The protections are delineated on the label and include the “Restricted Entry Interval” (REI) which is the number of hours before an agricultural worker can enter the site without specific protective clothing. The label specifies the protective clothing required for entry during the REI.

9. At some place on the label, there will be statements that should be common sense to applicators. These include statement such as: avoid contamination of food or feed, wash contaminated clothing before reuse, wash hands before eating or smoking, etc. These generally recognize the need to reduce exposure, and especially to protect vulnerable individuals, such as children, from exposure.

10. The final section, often several pages long, includes directions for use of the product. This information will specify the appropriate target species; in NY a pesticide is considered appropriate only if the target species is listed by

name on the label, or the label describes target species and uses a general term such as “and other woody species.” The directions for use will indicate the mode of treatment, for example foliar spray, cut stump, basal bark, or injection. This section will also provide dilution formulas to allow mixing of the product to achieve a specific concentration. If a pesticide can be mixed with other pesticides or fertilizers, those will be listed. Finally, the dose that is permissible will be listed as a quantity per acre that should not be exceeded. In agricultural applications, which include woodlots, the applicator can legally apply less than the specified dose rate to reduce the costs and reduce the amount of the pesticide released into the environment.

The label on a pesticide is carefully prepared. It contains information that will aid the applicator in a safe and effective application. The label is considered a legal document, and failure to follow the label may put the applicator in jeopardy. Before purchasing, and certainly before applying a pesticide, the user should read and understand all parts of the label. Personally, I use a limited number of pesticides, yet I read the label every time I make an application.

continued on page 18

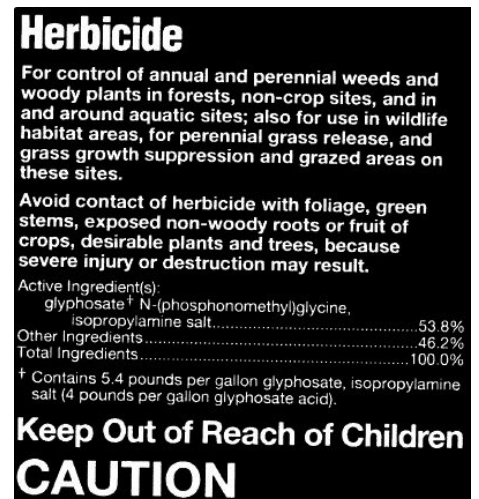


Figure 3: The label lists the active ingredients and their concentration. The concentration is important to know because some formulations can be used directly from the container, but other formulations need to be diluted. The label will give guidance on how to make dilutions. Pesticide labels will indicate the relative toxicity, known as the “signal word,” which include Danger, Warning, and Caution.

Homestead Woodlot

Hands-on, low-tech approaches to working with your woodland

JEFF JOSEPH

MAKING THE BEST OF BEECH

Most of our woodlots are less than ideal. Due to past mismanagement, poor soils, inadequate drainage, insect or disease problems, or maybe just the luck of the draw in regard to species mix, we likely all wish that things were a little (or maybe a lot) different than they are. In my case, when I first purchased my acreage I was so excited just to finally have my own land that I was only marginally concerned with the actual inventory of timber on the property. It was wall to wall trees, and that was good enough for me.

It didn't take long for that initial bliss to fade, however, as the unique shortcomings of my woodlot have since made themselves abundantly clear. Foremost among my challenges is a situation that will be familiar to many New York woodland owners: a pesky predominance of *Fagus grandifolia*—more commonly known as American beech.

Beech has a suite of characteristics that give it an extreme advantage over other northeastern timber species in competing for growing space in a forest setting. According to a recent study¹, beech accounts for approximately 23% of total successful forest regeneration in New York, outcompeting all other species by a wide margin (sugar maple was second at 14%). The following are primary factors in beech's reproductive success:

- It is our most shade tolerant hardwood, allowing it to survive in a shaded understory until it can take advantage of any gaps opening in the upper canopy. As our mostly even-aged forests head toward maturity, tolerant species gain competitive advantage in growth and reproduction, so an undisturbed, maturing forest with a beech component will naturally grow toward an ever higher concentration of beech over time.

- It has an astounding ability to propagate itself via cloning, both in the

form of stump sprouting when cut, and especially through its ability to 'sucker' or sprout from its roots when harvested, or when otherwise disturbed or stressed. These root suckers are often so prolific (in extreme cases 10,000 or more/acre) as to be nearly impenetrable, forming large swaths of beech 'thicket.'

- Despite its abundance, beech is highly unpalatable to deer, and so will remain untouched while adjacent tree seedlings of competing species are repeatedly browsed, stunting their growth if not killing them outright.

- It has negligible commercial timber value. Most stands of beech are heavily infected with *nectria fungus*², which degrades its lumber before eventually



killing the trees. With so little market value, it is commonly left behind during timber harvests—especially during high-grades or other non-silvicultural types of cuts—to form the foundation of the next forest.

Together, these factors synergize to give beech an astounding competitive advantage over other, more desirable regeneration.

So what are the options when your woodlot is being overrun by beech? Get mad? Give up? I tried each of those briefly, and can guarantee that neither is particularly satisfying. To the contrary, I'm going to recommend that you only briefly bemoan your fate, before moving on to some positive, deliberate actions

that will begin to help level the playing field. Here's how I went about doing it.

When I first came to realize that beech was a problem, I was several years into felling it for firewood and could plainly see prolific sprouting and the expansion of thickets around the perimeter of each stump. It was clear that without supplemental action on my part, continuing to cut beech would only *encourage* its further proliferation. Prior to this point, I had never before even considered the option of using any kind of chemical treatment, as my wife and I had always managed our garden and orchard organically, and so felt it to be a violation of our principles. But the stark reality was that to stick with my guns regarding chemical control—while continuing to harvest beech—would slowly but surely turn my entire woodlot into one giant beech thicket. Allowing for this would severely degrade the economic value of our woodlot, and its ecological values, while degrading the legacy that we hope to leave behind after a lifetime of woodlot stewardship.

After much deliberation (and some wasted time in retrospect), I decided to address my dilemma with a multi-faceted approach. First, after some research, I began to utilize the technique of 'high-stumping,' or 'shearing' of small beech stems, which basically involves cutting small stems in mid- to late summer at a few feet off the ground, and below the first branches. The cuts are made *almost* all the way through, while leaving some limited cambium contact on one side to draw resources from the root system in the attempt to 'starve' it out of the ability to sprout. This has showed some promise, but alone is not nearly sufficient for my situation, as it is labor intensive, and only targets stems up to about 3" in diameter.

Second, I very reluctantly began to use glyphosate to control resprouting after the cutting of large stems. In my case I decided to limit my use of the chemical to a 'cut-stump' treatment immediately after felling, which felt 'surgical' enough to satisfy my desire to keep herbicide use to an absolute minimum. There are a variety of other ways to use herbicides to control beech³, and ultimately every landowner will have to make his/her decisions based on the circumstances at hand; the point to emphasize here is that I had to weigh the



Treated beech stump.

likely consequences of action vs. inaction, and thereafter my degree of willingness to accept the necessity of herbicide treatment in my circumstance, and this was where I decided to draw the line.

Third, and coinciding with these methods aimed at controlling sprouting, I decided to make all efforts to make use of all of this newly felled material--to make lemonade out of all the lemons I now had at my disposal, so to speak.

Despite all of its challenging aspects, beech has many uses. At 43 lbs./cubic foot and up to 27 million Btu per cord, beech is an excellent choice for firewood. As previously mentioned, I had been cutting it for this purpose all along, but now I could target it for firewood as a means of controlling it and for opening space for other species without fear of being overrun by sprouts and suckers. In order to do this successfully, I shifted my annual firewood cutting schedule to early October in order to maximize the effectiveness of the glyphosate treatment on the freshly cut stumps.

While beech has limited commercial value, beech lumber actually has substantial value for personal use. While it has no rot resistance and so should not be used in exterior applications, beech can be used for all kinds of indoor/protected woodwork and furniture. The wood itself is hard and dense, generally tan in color, surrounding a band of dark brown heartwood. Similar to oak, beech is ring-porous, open-grained, and shows

very distinct (and attractive) gray flecks on both its flatsawn and quartersawn faces. Fellow NYFOA member Ed Neuhauser has successfully milled and utilized it for interior trim as well as for long-wearing strip flooring. I have used the lumber for furniture, woodwork, and cutting boards, and have also used small-diameter limbwood (with its smooth gray bark intact) for rustic furniture legs and railing spindles.

For those interested in forest farming, either for market or simply for personal use, beech bolts (+/-40" long x 4" diameter) make an excellent substrate for growing shiitake mushrooms, which is a fun, relatively easy, and potentially lucrative way to put smaller diameter stems and large limbwood to practical use⁴. Shiitake are both nutritious and very delicious, and possess significant medicinal properties. I cut and inoculate the bolts in the fall, to coincide with firewood felling and treatment of the stumps. While shiitake bolts are most commonly cut in the winter or early spring, I have found this method to be equally effective.

From a wildlife standpoint, felling small, medium, and/or large beech stems and leaving them on the forest floor to decay, or alternatively, girdling stems (and using chemical treatment around them standing, are both excellent ways to create and enhance wildlife habitat on your property.

So while I am now gaining some control over the beech in my woodlot, I am also gaining significant benefit in the process. It remains somewhat of an uphill battle, especially in areas of thicket where I cut in the past without treating the stumps, but each spring I can now walk through stands where beech once predominated and see a diversity of seedlings of other hardwood species--maple, oak, ash, birch, etc.--poking up through the leaf litter. Unfortunately the deer eat most of those, but that's a story for another day, as ensuring successful regeneration is a multi-faceted process, and in my case it's a work in progress. For now, I consider it a victory regardless. ▲

Notes:

¹"Forest Regeneration in New York State," The Nature Conservancy, 2010.

²The New York Forest Owner, November/December 2011, "Woodland Health: Beech Bark Disease: Hope in Beech Hell?," pp.14-16.

³The New York Forest Owner, March/April 2012, "Ask a Professional: Tools to Manage Interfering Plants," pp.6-7, 17.

⁴"Best Management Practices for Log Based Shiitake Cultivation in the Northeastern United States," UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 2013.

Jeff Joseph is a woodworker and NYFOA board member.

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Wild Things in Your Woodlands

BY KRISTI SULLIVAN AND STEVE MORREALE

EASTERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDER (*PLETHODON CINEREUS*)



The eastern red-backed salamander is a small, slender salamander with a red stripe that runs down the middle of the back from the nape of the neck down onto the tail. The stripe is bordered by black, and the belly is mottled black and white, giving it a salt-and-pepper appearance.

Occasionally, the stripe may be beige, cream or grey instead of red. Another color morph, the lead-back phase, has a dark grayish black body with no stripe and the characteristic salt-and-pepper belly.

The body of the red-backed salamander is rounded and the head is only slightly wider than the body. The snout is short and the tail is about the same length as the body. Females are slightly larger than males.

The eastern red-backed salamander is a primarily woodland species that inhabits deciduous, mixed hardwood-conifer, and coniferous forests, though it may be found in disturbed areas at the borders of forests, and along rocky road cuts or railroad rights-of-way. Red-backed salamanders require habitat that is not too dry or exposed, and will avoid areas of low soil pH. In the winter, red-backed salamanders hibernate in underground shelters such as cracks and crevices, abandoned ant mounds and root channels. In early summer, females lay 3-11 eggs in cracks and crevices in or under logs, under flat rocks, and in burrows of other animals. While brooding eggs, the female is inactive and spends her time guarding the eggs. Development of the young is completed in the egg, so there is no larval stage and the young are fully developed upon hatching. Red-backed salamanders feed on small soil and leaf litter invertebrates including mites, springtails, millipedes, fly and beetle larvae, worms, flies, ants and beetles. They feed actively when the ground is moist and rainfall and humidity are high.

During periods of drought, salamander move to retreats that offer protection from desiccation and food intake decreases. In New York, the red-backed salamander is the most abundant and widely distributed salamander in the state. Indeed, red-backed salamanders are likely the most abundant vertebrate in forests throughout the Northeast. In a New Hampshire study, researchers found that the biomass of red-backed salamanders equaled that of mice and shrews and was twice that of forest birds (excluding raptors). Because of their sheer abundance, their ability to feed on small prey not consumed by other predators and their ability to convert a high percentage (60%) of the energy they consume into salamander biomass, the red-backed salamander is a very important component of woodland ecosystems.

The red-backed salamander reaches its greatest abundance in forests with a closed canopy and abundant cover items, such as logs and rocks. Light timber harvests may have little effect on these animals. However, as the intensity of the harvest increases, allowing more wind and sunlight

to penetrate to the forest floor, salamander populations will decrease. In clearcuts, red-backed salamander populations may be eliminated and can take decades to recover. However, through research at Cornell's Arnot Forest, we have discovered that leaving a significant amount of woody material on the forest floor following heavy partial harvests can help mitigate the effects of opening up the forest canopy. Retaining treetops and unmarketable logs on the forest floor creates moist refuges for these woodland animals and can buffer the effects of canopy removal. While populations may still decline, they do not disappear completely and may recover to pre-harvest levels more quickly. ▲

Kristi Sullivan is Co-Director of the Conservation Education and Research Program and Director of the New York State Master Naturalist Program at Cornell. More information on managing habitat for wildlife can be found at arnotconservation.info

Timber Contest Workshop A Huge Success!

DAVID WILLIAMS AND DEAN FAKLIS

It was a mild but dreary morning on March 14 and steady rain was in the forecast. The birds were singing by 6:30 am despite the delayed spring weather and the foot of snow still covering the ground. Like the songbirds, some 50 forest landowners with children and grandchildren in tow, were undaunted and full of anticipation. From distant regions of our state, some of these folks were already on the road headed to a church in the hamlet of East Guilford, where NYFOA bakers were busy making donuts.

The reason? Woodland owners were attending a workshop to learn how to participate in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest (NETGC) and improve the productivity and health of their trees.

By 9:00 am, early arrivals were greeted with the aroma and taste of fresh coffee and donuts as they met and greeted each other, some for the first time. By 10:00, the space was filled to capacity with participants from the SOT, CNY, SFL, WFL and CDC chapters including numerous MFO's and NYFOA board members. Dean Faklis, co-founder of the NETGC, began the workshop with a presentation on all aspects of the contest including the key benefits and direct advantages to landowners and our forests. By 11:00, participants moved to a nearby woodlot owned by the Gordon Spreutels family for hands-on forest measurements, which are critical for growing valuable timber.

Two groups formed behind trail blazers with snowshoes and walked into the woods where they marked the ¼ acre plots required for the Basal Area Increment category, and tagged, measured and recorded data for all trees greater than 6" dbh. Each group included a volunteer SAF forester as a consultant to answer questions and to help with tree selection. Most trees in each plot were chosen to be on the "team" while those that were determined by the forester to be unfit will be cut from the team, literally and permanently, in the first round of timber stand improvement (TSI). TSI puts growth on the valuable trees while providing an intermedi-

ate harvest of the lesser trees. Using annual forest measurements and deterministic TSI, the contest removes guesswork and gives purpose and understanding to the process of growing high quality saw timber.

Two additional topics were introduced to round out the fieldwork portion of the workshop. NYFOA Board Member, Ed Neuhauer, handed out basal area angle gauges to all participants and explained how to use them to estimate stocking. Everyone had an opportunity to practice using them. Dean and our forester volunteers, Mark Mowrey and Karl VonBerg, worked together to introduce the board foot volume increment category, including how to choose and measure the "crop trees."

At 12:45 (still no rain!) we returned to the church for a lunch that included five soup choices, hot dogs and dessert. The event concluded with an explanation of how to enter the forest measurement data into the submission form, debriefing, question and answer time and door prizes—lots of them, provided by the Southern Tier chapter and Baillie Lumber.

As attendees returned home, we can be sure that some great conversations ensued. That was one of the workshop's goals—to spark conversations and action in the woods.

The "contest" is really about cooperation among families and teamwork with professionals in a friendly competition where the forest and the trees are the real winners.

If you are ready to learn more about the NETGC, check out www.timbercontest.com. In addition, be sure to view Peter Smallidge's February 2014 webinar entitled, *Are you Growing your Best Timber?*

If you would like to host a workshop like this one, contact Dave, kdwillmill@gmail.com, or Dean, dfaklis@frontiernet.net. We'd love to help out! 🌲

Comments From The Timber Growing Contest Workshop

We really enjoyed the training session. Thank you for getting us involved in the contest. Thanks to Kathy and the crew that fed us. —Don & Judy Schlafer, SFL

What a great learning experience with lots of knowledgeable stewards of our forests. Matt & I are very excited to begin the contest! —Ann & Matt Neary, SOT

Thanks for organizing this event! Measuring and tagging trees with experts guiding us was just plain fun for us folks of all ages! And that delicious food and the loads of door prizes topped off the day perfectly. —Ted & Kathleen Hayek, SOT

Thank you for your efforts on the Timber Contest. It's a great idea for me to encourage others to get out and be more involved in their forest. I guess I'll have to enter so that I can show others how well it works. The day was wonderful with good folks and lots of food. The weather never would have been a factor with everything else going so well. —John Murdock, SOT



Woodland owners, ready to participate in the contest, were awarded custom measuring sticks. L to R: David Williams, Oscar Williams (in front), Judy Appleton, Don Schlafer, Ann Nealy, Matt Nealy, Sharon Semanovich, Baily Anderson (in front), Tom Dewey, Jason Dewey, Charlie Stackhouse, John Murdock, Frank Winkler, Steve Kutney, and Jerry Michael.

NYFOA AWARDS

Hugh Canham Honored with Heiberg Award



Ron Pedersen presents the 2015 Heiberg Memorial Award to Hugh Canham. All award photos from the annual meeting were taken by Rich Taber.

When the New York Forest Owners Association was three years old, it established a memorial award to honor ESF's Professor Svend O. Heiberg. It was Heiberg, a silviculturalist from Denmark, internationally recognized leader in forestry and soils, and an outstanding contributor to forestry and conservation in New York, who suggested an organization of forest landowners — which became NYFOA.

Each year for the last 49 years, NYFOA has recognized an individual who has followed Professor Heiberg's pattern of leadership in outreach and education to further sustainable resource management.

Today, we present our 50th Svend Heiberg award to a long time NYFOA member whose entire career, and continuing in retirement, has focused on guiding others in forestry and natural resources — from students to CEOs, and, from those in policy to production at all levels.

This year, we honor Dr. Hugh O. Canham, Emeritus Professor, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

We couldn't find an area of private or public, individual or corporate, profit or non-profit, governmental or private sector, local or statewide to which Hugh

Canham has not made solid and practical contributions to all those involved.

As a field forester for the NY Conservation Department he is remembered by his colleagues as a very enthusiastic Forest Practice Act agent, encouraging and guiding wood lot owners to do right. One of his co-workers reported that his desk was always vacant — he spent his time in the field working with woodlot owners.

He returned to the College of Environmental Science and Forestry and earned his masters and doctoral degrees in forest management and economics, adding classroom teaching to his other outreach interests and skills. All of which have earned high marks in each of the many fields in which he has contributed.

He has served as a Director of NYFOA, on numerous committees, written many articles for the *Forest Owner*, and led a variety of workshops. In recent years, he has taken on the responsibility of recruiting the guest speakers and hosting the seminars that NYFOA provides for visitors over the three-day NY Farm Show each February.

Repeatedly, he has served New Yorkers and their natural resources interests. Just a small sampling includes the Governor's

Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, the New York Forest Resources Development Council, storm damage assessment with DEC, and, the Tug Hill Commission, Boonville's Woodmen's Field Days; the list goes on.

He has published reports and articles ranging from the use of consulting foresters to forest taxation, and from marking boundary lines to forest inventories for the long term. In every case he has demonstrated a deep understanding of the role of the individual land owner, as well as the long term picture of our woodland inventory and the implications for us all.

His contributions to forestry reach far beyond New York. He has served on the Board of the Northeastern Loggers Association which represents and serves loggers throughout the Northeast and Lake states and beyond. Hugh has worked with the US Forest Service, other US Department of Agriculture agencies, with other states and with the Argonne National Laboratory. Hugh has presented professional papers in Finland, Germany, and taught in Spain.

He has worked with the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) and many of its member companies. He produced "Just the Facts" which analyzed census and other data to provide county-by-county information on New York's forest resources and ownership. He also prepared a hundred year anniversary report for ESFPA.

A long time member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), he has served as State president and has made innumerable presentations on a wide variety of subjects, always earning the full respect from his fellow professionals. At the national level, he was named a SAF Fellow, based on his outstanding contributions and service to the Society and the profession, through exemplary actions and sustained leadership and advancement of the forestry profession.

Hugh has not shied away from public policy. Mixing economics and management with public policy discussions on state policies, sales and production data, or taxation and law enforcement can be a

delicate undertaking. The tug and pull of facts and desired outcomes can be troublesome and taking a position is not always the way to make or keep friends.

Never-the-less, he played a major role over several years in the meetings and public hearings that resulted in significant improvements to New York's timber theft laws in 2002.

And, he continues to work closely with the Council of Forest Resource Organizations. Originally formed upon NYFOA's suggestion, this group of natural resource agencies works cooperatively on common legislative and public policy issues in Albany.

Whether one-on-one with landowners, working with other professional foresters at an SAF program, stimulating and guiding students in resource economics and management, or face to face with the owner of a small sawmill, or a chief executive of a major corporation, Hugh has demonstrated an incredible range of teaching and communications skills, and in the process has earned the respect and gratitude of all.

A distinguished national leader in forestry put it this way:

Hugh Canham has been a tremendous behind-the-scenes resource for the forest products industry. He always let the numbers do the talking, and stayed away from the emotions sometimes tied to various proposals. A simple question such as, "what is the economic impact company ABC makes to the local economy?" can be fraught with political and spin doctoring intentions. Industry could always count on Hugh to give just the facts that the numbers provided without bias or lean.

That may seem like a small thing, but when you have to tell the company you are working for that their impact isn't as substantial as they might think, it takes guts. That is exactly why Hugh was always trusted and was asked by industry to answer the hard economic questions. It speaks to his character and integrity which are above reproach. He doesn't only deliver the easy answers, he also delivers the hard ones!

Hugh: All of us in the wood products industry, from seed to saw mill to polished dining room table, and from backyard tree-hugger to corporate leadership, extend our thanks and congratulations.

—Presented by Ron Pedersen

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Jim Minor



Mike Seager presents Jim Minor with the Outstanding Service Award for 2015.

Each year we select an individual to receive the Outstanding Service Award in recognition and appreciation of exceptional service to NYFOA. NYFOA is run by volunteers, and so there is no shortage of people giving their time and energy to the organization. While there are usually a few people who stand out even among this dedicated group for the passion and dedication they show, this year's selection required very little discussion. The 2014 Outstanding Service Award recipient is Jim Minor.

Jim has a long history with NYFOA at the personal, chapter and state levels. He first got involved with NYFOA when he wanted to learn more about managing his 200 acre property in the Finger Lakes. The property is a mixture of open space, tillable fields and woodlands, so there is ample opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities to promote wildlife and timber growth.

Only a few years after he joined NYFOA, Jim became active in the leadership of the Western Finger Lakes chapter and served for several years as newsletter editor. He then was elected to the statewide board of directors, and his six-year tenure culminated in 2001 when he served as vice president.

Jim rejoined both the WFL chapter board and the state board of directors again in 2009, and took on the job of president of the state board in 2011. NYFOA was in a transition at that point, shifting from having an executive director who handled the

day-to-day operations to a model where the president and the other board members had to assume much of that responsibility. Jim brought his professional management experience to bear on the NYFOA board, cajoling, convincing and coercing the rest of the board members and others to step up and get more involved than they had been in the past. He also put a lot of work into developing stronger chapter leadership to build a better foundation for the organization.

As if that wasn't enough, he turned himself into the de facto webmaster for *nyfoa.com* and also took on the job of publishing the WFL chapter newsletter each quarter.

After a second tenure of six years on the state board, including the past four years as president, Jim has again reached his term limit and is stepping down from the state board. While he expects to continue his involvement with NYFOA at both the state and chapter levels, we thought this was the appropriate time to recognize Jim with the Outstanding Service award to highlight the many contributions he has made through the past 20 years, but especially for his leadership of the organization for the past four years.

NYFOA's members, the board of directors, and I personally thank Jim for all his hard work and congratulate him on receiving this award. NYFOA is a stronger organization for Jim's involvement and we look forward to seeing him at many events in the future.

—Presented by Mike Seager

NYFOA CHAPTER AWARDS

The following chapters presented Chapter Service Awards at the annual NYFOA meeting:

CDC: Ron Bernhard

CDC awards Ron Bernhard this year's Chapter Service Award in recognition of his important contributions and years of service to NYFOA and the CDC, with gratitude and appreciation from fellow members and friends.

CNY: Randi Starmer

NAC: Richard Gast

NFC: Rita Hammond

The Niagara Frontier chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association nominates Rita Hammond as recipient of our 2014 Chapter



Service Award. Rita has been a member of NYFOA for over 20 years, and very dedicated to conservation and environmental issues that affect rural land owners. Rita always had enlightening comments on the subject at hand. She always gave you food for thought. For the last 6 years Rita had been chairperson of the Niagara Frontier chapter arranging for speakers and getting members to host woods walks. Her hard work and dedication has been instrumental in maintaining the success of the Niagara Frontier chapter of NYFOA.

SFL: Ed Neuhauser

Our chapter would like to nominate Ed Neuhauser for this award. He has over several years hosted exemplary woods walks, demonstrating careful manage-



ment of his woods consistent with his objectives. He has used TSI methods, as guided by his forester and the local DEC forester. Finally, he has served the chapter as a NYFOA board member. Ed's award is well-deserved.

SOT: Dave Williams

Dave Williams has been an active Master Forest Owner volunteer and member of the Southern Tier chapter Steering Committee



for several years. He frequently brings neighbors and friends to chapter events and has recruited many new members for NYFOA and new volunteers for the MFO program. David has led several woodwalks for the chapter and has demonstrated his skills with his Woodmizer portable bandsaw on several occasions. Dave has served as chapter-designated member of the NYFOA Board of Directors since 2013 and is a member of the "Restore New York Woodlands" committee. Most recently, Dave planned and organized a Timber Growing Contest Workshop that attracted more than fifty participants from throughout New York State. David richly deserves the SOT Chapter Service Award for 2014.

WFL: Ron Reitz
Ron Reitz has been

a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA since approximately 1997 after taking a tour of his woods with MFO Dale Schaefer. Ron lives with his wife Linda on 63 acres in Canadice where he has completed TSI projects over the years; they have two children and three grandchildren. He is an avid snowmobiler, a long-time volunteer at the Walnut Hill Farm Driving Competition and loves spending time with his grandchildren.

Ron graciously accepted the WFL treasurer's position in 1998 and has kept meticulous records for the chapter since then. In 2002 he took over the WFL tree tube ordering and storage from Harry Dieter and has hosted the Game of Logging for the chapter. Congratulations and thank you Ron for all of your hard work and dedication to the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA! 🏆

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NYSERDA

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

PREPARING YOUR FOREST FOR LIFE AFTER EAB

By JIM ENGEL

Wandering through the local fields and forests as a youth I unknowingly passed by the aged remains of American chestnut trees. Once a dominant tree that filled the local forests, it is now evidenced only by their rot resistant stumps and a few scattered root sprouts. I had read about the loss of the American chestnut, and countless American elms that lined town and city streets, but at that time the significance of their disappearance from our forests was lost to me. I had never experienced the elegant beauty of a mature American elm in leaf or the blossoming of an entire forest of American chestnut. But now we are faced with another loss of historic proportions, the loss of the ash tree due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). It's hard for me to mentally and emotionally grasp what this will mean for the landscapes I've come to know on an intimate level and harder

yet to envision what my woodlot will look like in a couple of decades after EAB has wreaked its havoc. I am not emotionally prepared for the significance of this change and a large part of me is in denial.

My pragmatic side wonders what will happen to all of the young, early successional forests with a predominance of ash. What will the maple-ash swamps look like without ash? I try to envision what the future holds for this area, where ash is so abundant. What species will replace the dead ash? Will the forests become brushy thickets of exotic invaders?

If you're lucky enough to own a mixed species forest, where ash is just a minor component, it can be safe to assume that the remaining species will fill the gaps created by dying ash. In this case there should be minimal impact by EAB on forest health, appearance, and future forest succession. But what about those forests

where there are few other tree species but ash? What will the successional trajectory look like? Is there anything you can, or should do, to help shape the future forest?

If there are currently other native tree species present on site, the best potential seed trees should be preserved and managed to disperse their seed, providing a source for natural regeneration. But what if you want to encourage other species not currently found on site or if there are no other valuable species present? One option would be to plant seedlings of the desired species, but this has limitations. Seedlings can be expensive to purchase at the scale of planting a forest and you need to add to this the cost and labor of planting, weeding, and protection from animal herbivory. In addition, mortality of bare root seedlings can be quite high for many tree species even with the best of care. Add up all of these costs and the number of acres that can be reasonably planted is limited.

The other option that may help with forest establishment is to plant seed. Armed with a little knowledge and a small investment in time, you can collect large quantities of seed from local native trees and plant that seed to establish tree species that may help replace the ash in your forest and enhance species diversity, all at a fraction of the cost of planting seedlings.

Most plants produce abundant and easy to collect seed that can be used for establishing new plants in the wild. Plants have no direct mechanism to plant their own seeds or to safeguard their progeny, instead they compensate by producing huge quantities of seed, inundating an area to increase the probability that a few seeds will survive. Each seed is a concentrated energy packet, highly nutritious and a very desirable food source for all kind of organisms including deer, birds, rodents, insects, bacteria, and fungi. Seed can remain dormant for months and sometimes years until conditions are right for germination.

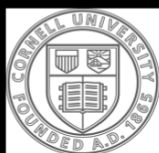
There are three basic steps to establishing tree seedlings with seed: collect the seed, clean or store the seed, and plant the seed. Most seed matures in the fall but you should scout for trees that have an abundance of seed early in the season and monitor the tree over the summer. Collect seed in early September to October

Got Trees? Got Questions?

Visit the *Woodland Owners Forum* at:

<http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com>

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



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Cooperative Extension

when the seed is mature but before it is dispersed from the tree. Open grown trees in hedgerows, parks and cemeteries with low branches are good places to collect. Strip seed from branches by hand or lay a sheet on the ground and knock the seed onto it. Thousands of seeds can be collected in just a couple hours.

Cleaning is necessary to reduce bulk or remove a seed covering that may contain chemical inhibitors or contribute to decay. Separate the seed from any hulls or chaff, like the husks of hickory nuts and acorn caps. You can remove the wings from sugar maple samaras to reduce bulk. Remove the pulp and skins from black cherry pits by hand macerating in water and straining through a screen to prevent mold and bacteria from growing. You can read how to treat and handle each species at the website printed at the end of this article. Most seed can be stored for future planting only until germination begins, usually the first spring after collecting; but a few may be kept for two or more years.

Once cleaned, the seed of some species needs to be stratified. This involves mixing the seed with an artificial potting mix, peat moss, or other potting media moistened slightly, damp but not wet. This helps the seed retain moisture and mimics what occurs under natural conditions outdoors. Allow the seed to be exposed to cold outdoor temperatures (vernalization) by storing in an unheated garage or storage space but protected from rodents.

The last and very important step is planting seed in the ground which does three things: when the root emerges from the seed it can supply the seedling with water and nutrients; it is less likely to be exposed to environmental extremes such as desiccation, freezing and heaving; and the seed is less likely to be discovered and consumed by seed eating animals. The shorter the time between planting and germination the higher the survival rate of the seed. Seed can be planted anytime in the fall or over the winter with excellent survival but spring planted seed will have less time exposed to predation. Seed predation by rodents can be a significant factor and limit success. The trade-off is that people often have more free time and there is a longer window of time for planting in the fall than in spring.

When choosing what species to plant it is wise to consider what species will be able to compete and grow within the existing plant community and what species are adapted to your soil type, drainage conditions, and sun exposure. Focus on what will do best. Look to neighboring properties to get a sense of what species are doing well.


When planting, place the seed only ½ to 1" deep. The rule of thumb is twice the diameter of the seed, not too deep! I use a short handled square ended spade to loosen the soil surface, drop a few seeds onto the loosened soil and then compress the seed and soil with my foot. I try to cover a large area while planting a lot of seed. The more seed planted the larger the number of surviving seedlings. You can also make smart choices while planting like planting seed where there are gaps in the canopy that provide more sunlight, or where there is less competing vegetation. Good site selection will increase seedling survival.

Oak and hickory are the easiest species to establish from seed. They have large seeds that are easy to collect, have a high percentage of sound seed, and produce large seedlings. Cherry, maple, tulip and basswood are also fairly easy. Species with tiny seed like birch, sycamore, hornbeam, and pine are more challenging but still well worth the effort. Don't limit your introductions to just the canopy tree species. All of the native understory tree, shrub, and herbaceous species can be

introduced just as easily by collecting and planting their seeds.

Unlike planting a seedling where you have a high monetary investment in each plant, with seed you don't expect them all to germinate, but you can take steps to increase the likelihood they will survive by planting a lot of seed of many species, covering a large area, and repeating the seed planting over multiple years.

By introducing desirable species into your woods before your ash trees begin to die from EAB, you are working to set the stage for natural succession to occur with a more desirable outcome than would occur if you do nothing. Your efforts will ensure that your forest will be able to weather the devastating effects of EAB and will have a pathway into the future.

You can learn more about the whole process of collecting seed and growing native tree, shrub and herbaceous species at. <http://whiteoaknursery.biz/restore/index.shtml> 

Jim Engel is owner of White Oak Nursery specializing in growing native trees and shrubs in Canandaigua, NY.

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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Ask a Professional (continued)

Some people will suggest you use an unlabeled product to control pests. This is illegal in New York. The conversation will often go something like... "my cousin told me that if you take yesterday's coffee, mix in the ears of your neighbor's cat, add a tablespoon of spicy mustard, a quart of diesel fuel, and let this steep in your closet until the next full moon, it will 'work on' such and such a plant." People often encourage these home remedies to (1) avoid costs or (2) avoid putting chemicals into the environment. Because home remedies are not tested their efficacy is unknown and direct or opportunity costs can escalate. Also, the home remedy is a mixture of chemicals, but unlike a registered pesticide the chemicals and their action in the environment is unknown.

Woodlot owners and foresters should be informed about all aspects of pesticides if they intend to use these products. Specific strategies for the safe use of herbicides are presented in one or more webinars available at www.youtube.com/ForestConnect. Also, a handbook about forest vegetation control and multiple methods is provided at www.extension.psu.edu/fvm

Information used in this article was obtained from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Pesticide Management Education Program. 

Response by: Peter J Smallidge, NY Extension Forester, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY. Pjs23@cornell.edu, 607/592-3640. Support for ForestConnect is provided by USDA NIFA and the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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	Name	Chapter
Frank & Lucy Atkinson	WFL	Mark Mowrey	CNY
Seth Carsten	CNY	Ann and Matt Necry	SOT
Daniel Clapper	SOT	Otsego Land Trust	SOT
Ed Downey	CDC	Angela & Nick Peitti	CDC
Joyce & Mike Ermer	AFC	George Pinkham	LHC
Matthew Ganster	CDC	Kendra & Paul Porter	WFL
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Member Profile:

Bruce Bennett

EMILY WAFLER

In 1988, Massachusetts native, Bruce Bennett, began his ownership of 1,100 acres of forested land in Springfield, New York. While new to New York, Bennett wasn't new to the practice of resource management. After spending a career as a conservation officer, Bruce was well prepared to begin working towards his goal of managing his woods, starting with a plan based on his objectives. As an avid hunter, he saw the area as prime land to develop for fishing and hunting.

Over the years Bruce has worked to manage his aspens, maples, apples and conifers into early successional ecosystems prime for bird habitats. Bruce also manages some sections of his property for timber sales. Mostly his management involves clear cutting to develop early successional habitats. At first, he only cut every five years but has since made these regeneration cuts a yearly habit in certain parcels in addition to selection cutting and thinning.

Bruce readily credits others with support for his success, especially his good loggers and foresters. The quality loggers that he's worked with have been a big help in managing his land and doing business. Bruce has worked with several foresters over the years noting that those at a state level have been essential in helping him establish forestry practices and programs. "Look for a forester that will help and wants to achieve your goals and knows how," says Bruce.

Bruce encourages woodlot owners and their foresters to seek assistance from agencies. Bruce and his forester have worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and he praises their assistance with funding and wildlife habitat creation.

In addition to NYFOA, Bruce is an active member of the Ruffed Grouse Society, an organization that encourages woodlot owners to favor early successional forest management because of its use by several



Hunters taking a break at "On The Wing Grouse Camp."

wildlife species. Bruce takes his experiences as a landowner and applies them on a larger scale. Eight years ago, with the help of the Ruffed Grouse Society and NYFOA, Bruce hosted an Early Successional Habitat workshop. Then, last year, again putting his talents to use he hosted a similar event on habitat development. Bruce has also contributed to the Ruffed Grouse Society by hosting multiple benefits in support of the organization. Each year Bruce organizes groups to come hunt on his land, all to raise money in support of the society and the idea of early successional habitats.

As for the future, Bruce hopes to continue his current management practices and contributing to other forest owners. A unique feature of his property, and hopefully maintained into the future, Bruce has two wind turbines that followed from a relationship with Noble Environmental. Next on the horizon, Bruce wants to construct several ponds to allow for fishing and as habitat for other wildlife.

Yet, for now Bruce hopes to continue to enjoy the land the way he always has. For years, his forest has been a vacation spot for him, his wife, and two daughters all who enjoy a camp they built on the property. Today, the camp is still put to good use with frequent hunting trips with Bruce and his friends. However, as he looks towards the future, Bruce one day hopes to pass along the land, wildlife, and good times the forest has brought him to the next generation.

If you would like to be profiled for a future issue visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ownerprofile> or send an email to jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com 🏠



This is Bruce's camp on his tree farm.

*Emily Wafler, Cornell University Coop Extension, ForestConnect Program Assistant
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