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 2016

Member Profile: Greg Lessord

Volume 54 Number 3

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

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In This Issue . . .

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Forest Owner

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Volume 54, 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 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 July/August issue is June 1, 2016.***

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: Greg Lessord in front of a load of firewood logs culled from one of their wildlife projects. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of Greg Lessord.

From The President

The Sustaining Family Forests Initiative has a website called Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (*http://www.engaginglandowners.org/about*) which includes detailed profiles of woodland owners, broken down by state and size of holdings. There are an estimated 197,000 of us in New York who own more than 10 acres. Within this group, 80% cited an interest in wildlife as an important reason for owning land, yet only 30% have done anything on their land to improve wildlife habitat. Furthermore, 50% of the landowners say they are likely or very likely to embark on activities to improve wildlife habitat in the next five years. A common barrier to management includes lack of knowledge or experience. Only16% of the landowners in this group have received advice or information about care, management or protection of their woodland in the past five years.

The newsletter of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA has included a series on pruning wild apple trees. To quote from the initial article, "Wild apple trees are a wonderful resource to have on your property….Stewarding apple trees is a worthwhile venture if you're interested in seeing more wildlife and looking for a fun activity that will offer gratifying results." These articles spurred me to give some overdue attention to the wild apple trees on our property. A number of the wild trees needed to be released by cutting overtopping trees and most needed rejuvenation pruning which will require additional treatments over a number of years. As apple trees were found and trimmed, I created an apple tree map using Google Earth. I was surprised to have found over 130 wild apple trees, and I am not done looking. This project took a lot more time than anticipated; however, the time spent was enjoyable, improved the wildlife habitat on our property, and included lots of healthy exercise in the fresh air.

Non-timber forest products such as maple syrup or mushrooms were listed by 10% of owners as a reason to own woodlands. I fall into this group as well and collected almost 140 gallons of maple sap in late winter and boiled it down to just over 3 gallons of syrup on a cheap homemade evaporator heated with wood cut on our property. After a speaker discussed mushroom cultivation on logs at a NYFOA chapter meeting, I ordered mushroom spawn, cut the logs, and plan shortly to inoculate them.

Other projects upon which I have worked in the past few months include trail work, some timber stand improvement, cutting firewood, attacking invasive plants and improving deer habitat.

Every one of these activities or projects has been either talked about or demonstrated on a NYFOA woods walk, written up in a NYFOA publication, or been the subject of a NYFOA talk or symposium. Folks, we have what they want. We need to figure out how to get it to them.

Enjoy your woods and I hope you are able to attend NYFOA woods walks and other events this summer.

–Charles Stackhouse
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: _____
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State/ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
County of Residence: _____
County of Woodlot: _____
Referred by: _____

Regular Annual Dues:
( ) Student $15
(Please provide copy of student ID)
( ) Individual/Family $45

Multi-Year Dues:
( ) 2-yr $80
( ) 3-yr $120

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New Member Snapshots

Ellene Phufas-Jousma and Thomas Jousma
Forest Land: 100 acres, Cattaraugus
Objectives: Forest Management, Hunting, Fishing, and Swimming

Ellene and Tom learned of NYFOA through their kind relationship with consulting forester Bruce Robinson. Their forestland is located in the town of Ischua, which is just north of Olean in Cattaraugus county. Their property consists of approximately 100 acres of oak, ash and hard maple and also about 25 acres of open fields and new forest. A key feature of the land is a wonderful two-acre spring-fed pond with a spectacular view. Ellene and Tom enjoy all forms of recreation at their property in all seasons.

Their short-term plans call for continued education on forest management to help them increase the beauty and productivity of their forestland. In the longer term, they plan to work to expand the amount of high quality timber on the property. Another key long-term goal for Ellene and Tom is to expand the trail network to provide for access to all corners of the lot, while increasing visual appeal.

Ellene is a professor at Erie Community College and Tom is a social worker and drug/alcohol counselor and teacher. They both love to travel and enjoy sharing their property with friends.

Karine Bouis-Towe and Charles Towe
Forest Land: 20 acres, Columbia
Objectives: Farming, Hiking, Wildlife, Maple

Karine and Charles came to NYFOA through the Challenge 360 Gift Member Program and the generosity of Mike Birmingham. Their property is 21.6 acres with a stream running through it. It consists of about 20 acres of new growth forest with the rest as open pasture and homestead. They are moving towards silvopasture for the woodland area, incorporating a variety of ruminants and their small group of pigs. They are expanding their farm slowly while maintaining a healthy balance with trees, pasture and animals.

Their family enjoys walking in the woods and observing the patterns of wildlife. They provide access to friends for hunting to help maintain the balance of deer relative to their kitchen garden and forest medicinals. They have found a variety of wild mushrooms in their woodland which they consume when clearly identifiable and edible.

Karine and Charles are both engaged in different aspects of their farm. Karine runs the farm full time and cares for their young children ages 12, 8 and 6 while Charles works at the University of Connecticut. He builds animal structures, manages their maple syrup production and helps with the larger projects. She handles the day-to-day and all matters of animal husbandry. Time has proven that their skills complement oneanother and that they are a good team for their growing farm (www.retrograssfarm.com).

NYFOA's Top Ten

Charles Stackhouse

Every year the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) asks their 42 state affiliates to rank the top ten family forestry issues. The results are used to guide forest policy advocacy in Washington, D.C. After polling the NYFOA board of directors, their answers were tabulated and submitted as NYFOA's top ten. Here is how they ranked, with #1 being the most important.

NYFOA Top Ten

1. Fair Taxes (Federal and state): Income including capital gains treatment of timber sales, inheritance and property taxes.

2. Invasives & Forest Health: Introduction and spread of damaging plants, insects and animals, quarantines and damage control.

3. Extension Education/Service Forestry: Federal/state funding for extension programs, support of state service forestry programs.

4. Markets: Timber, biomass, carbon and free trade.

5. Right to Practice Forestry & Property Rights: County and township restrictions on forestry, takings for fish and wildlife habitat, restrictive Federal and state legislation.

6. Stewardship Incentives: Cost sharing (Federal, state and private), tax credits for conservation easements.

7. Keeping Forests as Forests: Integrated landscape management planning is underway in many states.

8. Water Quality & Quantity: Continued debate on forest roads as a source of water pollution, educational and financial assistance for watershed management.

9. Certifications,Woodlands & Service Providers: Forest certification programs, certification and licensing of foresters, logger accreditation and training.

10. Wildfires: Funding, detection, fuels, prescribed fire: need for stable fire funding, lack of aggressive attack (let burn), need for reduction of fuel buildup on public as well as some private lands, liability to landowners starting fires, earlier detection leads to smaller fires.

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
Robert & Cheryll Berg	SFL	Peter Iannotta	CNY
Joan Costello	CNY	Josh Knecht	SFL
William DeSilva	SOT	Michael Lanning	SFL
Gary DeVries	WFL	Mike & Melissa Leonovich	CDC
Rolland Dodge	CNY	Rainer Lougstedt	SFL
Brian Dugan / Maurica Duett LLC	SOT	Byron Mesch	NFC
Brian Guy	SOT	Donna Pogroszewski	WFL
Chris Huxtable	NAC	Emma Safford	SOT

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
Green with Tan logo, one size

5. NYFOA Member Sign.....$ 3.00
12x12 Heavy Gauge Plastic
Yellow with green lettering

6. Cutting Boards.....$ 5.00
Wood, 5 ½ x7 inches

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

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Address:_____

City:_____

State / Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Form of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

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Ask A Professional

Peter Smallidge

Peter Smallidge

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will influence 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

Mixing Herbicides – Starting and Ending Concentrations

Question:

I have ferns in my woods that I would like to control, but I'm not certain how to mix the pesticide for the treatment. How much of the product do I add to my sprayer, and how do I prepare the mixture? (H.B., NAC)

Answer:

Ferns are common in many woodlands, and while attractive they can interfere with the regeneration of desirable woody species (Figure 1). Chemical control is often the most cost effective and efficient strategy. There are no mechanical methods that are documented to provide sustained effective control of ferns, especially on large areas. Herbicides, a type of pesticide used to control plants, are important tools for woodland management if they are used correctly. Correct herbicide mixing is one essential part of safe and effective use.

Correct mixing is a concern for all modes and methods of herbicide applications, whether foliar, basal bark or cut-stump. The basic process is that a concentrated product is diluted in a liquid such as water. The mixing process is the same for all carriers. The question becomes how much product and how much of the carrier are needed; the answer depends on the final volume of mixture, called the formulation and the amount of active ingredient (a.i.) in the concentrate that is recommended for the treatment. Some terms in this article may be unfamiliar to some readers; key terms are defined here, and more information about forest pesticides is available with a visit to the Penn State Forest Vegetation Management website at *http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests/vegetation-management*. There are also good background webinars on the correct use of herbicides in the forest at *www.youtube.com/ForestConnect*. Pesticides available for use in NY can be identified at *http://pims.psur.cornell.edu/*

A few definitions will help us come to terms with our terms:

Active ingredient – Abbreviated "a.i.", refers to the amount of the chemical components in the product that act on the target organism. The product may also include a carrier (if pre-mixed) and inert ingredients.

Carrier – the herbicide is often obtained as a "product" (see below) in concentrated form and diluted before use. The liquid that dilutes the product and carries the active ingredient into the plant is the carrier. Carriers are described on the label and might include water, vegetable oil and diesel fuel.

Formulation – the formulation is the combination of the product and the carrier. This is the material that is applied to the target plant.

Label – every pesticide has a label, written documentation, that describes the chemistry of the pesticide, safety equipment and protocols, target organisms that can be controlled, and how to mix

Figure 1. Ferns are native to our woodlands and can be attractive as a uniform ground cover. However, in efforts to regenerate desirable native species they can interfere because of their dense shade, thick roots, and attractive habitat for seed predators.

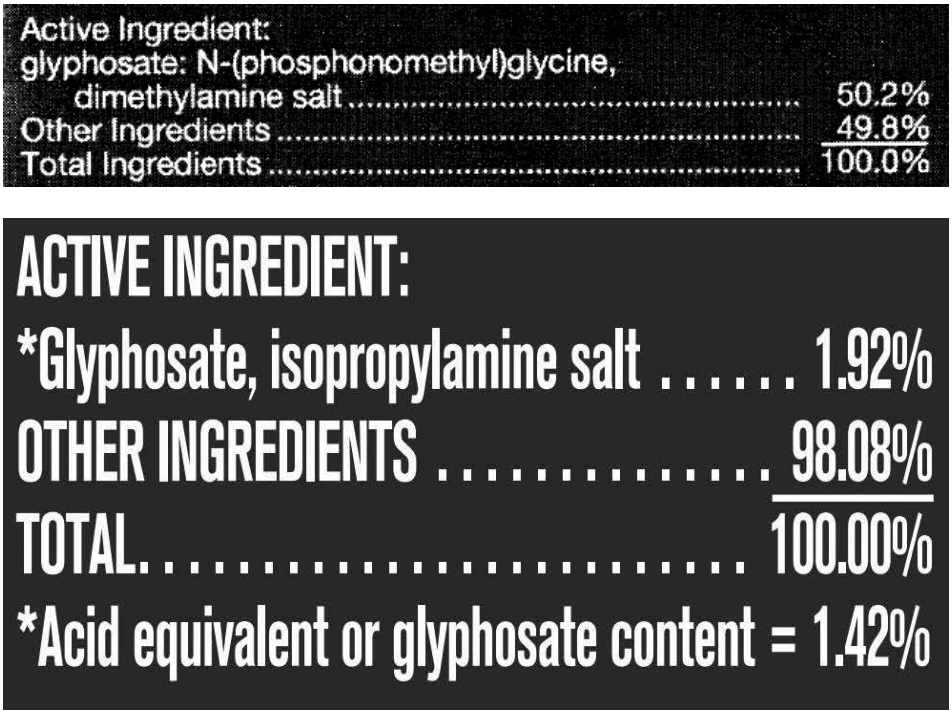

Figure 2. Each herbicide label will include the concentration of active ingredient (a.i.) within the product. These two labels illustrate the range of a.i. of glyphosate in two commonly available products. The label will describe how to make dilutions of the product, but discussion of treatment needs to include a statement of the amount of active ingredient in the formulation.

and apply the pesticide. The use of a pesticide contractually binds the user to the details of the label, so users are urged to read and follow the label.

Product – the chemical as it comes from the purchased container. Some people may call this the "concentrate." In some cases the product is pre-mixed to include the carrier and is formulated ready for use.

Treatment – any manner of applying the herbicide to vegetation. More generally, any manipulation of vegetation.

Using the correct concentration of a herbicide is an important part of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM), also sometimes called Forest Vegetation Management. The herbicide label specifies the maximum concentration, and exceeding that concentration may be illegal and a waste of the product. Similarly, a mixture that is too dilute may waste the product if the concentration is insufficient to control the target plant. Refer to the product label or fact sheets by Cooperative Extension or other reputable organizations to identify the best concentration for the season and the target. Note that in New York, it is legal for herbicide treatments in woodlands, a type of agricultural treatment, to use lesser concentrations than the amount specified on the label, but in no circumstance to use a higher concentration than specified.

The most effective concentration depends on the season and the target. For herbicide treatments to foliage, a formulation using a glyphosate-based product (e.g., Round-up) would typically contain 1% to 4% of the product mixed in water. For herbicide treatments with glyphosate to wood via hack-n-squirt, drill-n-fill, or cut-stump, the formulation likely would be full strength product or perhaps equal parts product and water.

In discussions of how to prepare a formulation and complete a treatment, it is important to clarify if the "percentage" refers to the dilution of the product or the dilution of the active ingredient in the formulation. For example, there are glyphosate products that can be purchased with concentrations of the active ingredient that range from less than 3% to more than 50% (Figure 2). Using products with a.i. concentrations of 3% and 50% as examples, a dilution of equal volumes of water and product (written 1:1) would be a 50% product dilution because there is 50% water and 50% product. However, this equal-volume formulation would be an a.i. dilution of 1.5% and 25%, respectively, because half of 3% is 1.5% and half of 50% is 25%. These details are important, and should be referenced as a product dilution or active ingredient dilution.

Unless premixed, all labels include a table that specifies the quantities of the product to mix with the carrier (Figure 3). The details of this table, or any table, are specific to that particular product and are not transferrable to the next product you use. Although the mixing table usually has options for all reasonable formulations, it is useful to know the simple math necessary to calculate the dilutions of product to formulation.

It is possible to calculate the dilutions using this formula:

Formula 1: $C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$

In this formula "C" is for concentration and "V" is for volume. The "1" and "2" are the starting and ending amounts. So, for example, C_1 is the initial concentration of product and C_2 is the final concentration that is applied to the target plant. The C_1, V_1 and so forth are the four variables of the formula. If we know three of the four, we can solve for the fourth variable. The concentrations will usually be a %, and the starting and final volumes will need to be in the same units. Volumes are sometimes a challenge because the final volume (V_2) will logically be in gallons and the initial volume (V_1) would logically be in ounces. Because we want to know the initial volume, V_1, it is best to convert the final volume into the units of the measuring device you will use. I use a Pyrex mixing cup dedicated for this task (don't borrow mixing utensils from the kitchen!), and thus convert the volume of my spray tank to either ounces or milliliters.

The typical goal when calculating a dilution is to determine V_1, or the amount of the product to add with the carrier into the sprayer. C_1 is the original concentration, C_2 is the final concentration as recommended by the label or a fact sheet, and V_2 is the volume in the sprayer or container. If we're making a product

continued on page 18

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Karen Ceballos

Northern Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*)

The Northern Slimy Salamander is a blackish-blue salamander with white, silver or yellow spots on its back and sides. The slimy salamander has a long, round tail that accounts about half of its body size. Slimy salamanders have 16 costal grooves (similar to rib grooves), useful for differentiating them from similar looking salamanders. Their undersides and feet are a dark to pale gray. They are relatively large for salamanders, reaching lengths of 4.5 to 6.75 inches, though the longest recorded slimy salamander was 8.1 inches! Adult females have a slightly larger snout to vent length, but otherwise are similar in appearance to males. While life expectancy in the wild is unknown, slimy salamanders in captivity usually live five and a half years.

While walking through the forest, it's easy to forget about the lungless, slime-producing, charismatic little amphibian sleeping under rocks and rotting logs. If you haven't been introduced yet, meet the Northern slimy salamander, a fairly abundant species in New York woodlands in the southern half of the state. Slimy salamanders are in a family of terrestrial salamanders that lack lungs, instead breathing through their skin and mouth lining.

Slimy salamanders inhabit damp wooded areas, especially mature second growth deciduous or hemlock forests. Their habitat also includes moist, rocky woodland ravines or hillsides, and shale banks along streams. You can often find them under rocks, rotting logs, leaf litter, or in shale bank crevices or the burrows of other animals. You'll most likely find slimy salamanders from April through September, when they are most active. They hibernate underground from November to March.

Slimy salamanders have an extensive range throughout the eastern and central United States, inhabiting most of the eastern seaboard from New York down to central Florida, with some disjunct populations in New Hampshire. Their range also extends westward to parts of east Texas and Oklahoma, and up to the southern tip of Wisconsin.
Because they require moisture to breathe, any hot or dry temperatures will drive slimy salamanders underground, deeper into the soil and leaf litter. They are primarily nocturnal, emerging from their burrow at dusk and retreating at dawn, though occasionally they will be active on rainy days. Slimy salamanders also move about underground using animal and insect burrows. Their home range is typically around 32.3 square feet for adults and 37.4 square feet for juveniles.

Slimy salamanders are carnivorous, feeding on ants, beetles, centipedes, earthworms, flies, snails and slugs. They are great climbers, and at night they will climb up boulders, small trees and shrubs where they'll await their next meal.

What makes a slimy salamander "slimy"? When disturbed or handled roughly, the slimy salamander secretes a gluey-white substance. This substance is very sticky and can be extremely difficult to remove from hands or clothing. The hope is that the slime startles a predator long enough to allow the salamander to slip away from the predator's grasp. If that doesn't work, the slime also tastes terrible. However, the slime is more than just an incredible defense against predation. Salamanders coat themselves in slime to keep their skin moist, which is critical for their breathing.

Slimy salamander breeding starts at the beginning of April, when male salamanders will begin to perform elaborate courtship dances. Prior to his debut, the male's chin, feet and white spots will turn pink, eventually flushing to a bright shade of red.

Eggs are deposited anytime from late spring (in northern part of range) to very late summer (in the range's southern tip). A female will lay 13 to 34 (average 16-17) creamy white eggs in moist areas, often rock crevices or under the bark of rotting trees. Unlike most salamanders, open water is not needed for slimy salamander egg laying, and all development, including metamorphosis, takes place within the eggs.

During incubation, the mother fiercely guards her clutch. At this time, mothers

will even neglect to forage for food, making them especially vulnerable to parasitism by nematode worms, due to poor nutrition. Interestingly, if an egg dies, the mother will usually eat it to prevent the fungus on the decaying egg from infecting the rest of the clutch.

After three months of incubation, the juveniles will hatch, appearing as smaller versions of adults and fully terrestrial. Juveniles may also have fewer white flecks on their bodies.

Slimy salamanders are relatively common in New York. However, small populations of this species still face threats from the loss of undisturbed mature forests to urban and suburban development. Slimy salamanders are most abundant in areas with plentiful rocks and fallen logs, so the preservation of these types of habitat are especially important. Like many amphibians, slimy salamanders require moisture to breathe. So while light timber harvests may have little effect on these animals, intense harvests that allow more wind and sunlight to penetrate the forest floor will cause their populations to decrease. However, you can help mitigate the effects of opening up the forest canopy by leaving woody material on the forest floor. Leaving the tops of 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, taking this additional step can help slimy salamander populations from completely disappearing and may help them recover to pre-harvest levels more quickly. Even in the absence of a timber harvest, increasing the amount of woody material on the forest floor can benefit this species.

Is there a certain animal that you would like to see featured in an upcoming "Wild Things" column? If so, email Kristi Sullivan at kls20@cornell.edu

Karen Ceballos is a sophomore majoring in Environmental Science and Sustainability at Cornell University. She is also the Program Assistant for the New York Master Naturalist volunteer program.

NYFOA POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM

Ordering signs at the reduced rate is one of the many benefits of NYFOA membership

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

SIGN MATERIAL	COST PER SIGN	NUMBER ORDERED*	COST
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Aluminum (.012 gauge)	$.90	_____	$_____
Add Name and Address to Sign Set up cost per address			$5.00
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NYS Sales Tax – add 8%			$_____
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* Minimum order is 25 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.

NYFOA AWARDS

Eric Rasmussen Honored with Heiberg Award

Marilyn Wyman presents the 2016 Heiberg Memorial Award to Eric Rasmussen.

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 50 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 51st Svend Heiberg award to a NYFOA member who has maintained a lifelong contribution to Forestry.

Eric Rasmussen's love of forests and forestry has been a lifelong passion. His formal education began with an Associate's degree in forestry from Paul Smith's College and a B.S. from the SUNY College of Forestry. His informal education continues to this very day fed by his unending curiosity and willingness to explore new knowledge as it relates to forests and forest management.

In 1959 he assumed ownership and management of Lange's Groveside Resort in Greene County NY. The resort's property included 142 acres of forest, field, ponds and streams which evolved into the Siuslaw Tree Farm. Siuslaw Tree Farm is named after the 630,000 acre Siuslaw National Forest on the Oregon Coast where Eric worked before coming to Lange's. Siuslaw has been available to numerous resort visitors and countless other guests to explore, hike, bird watch, hunt or just observe and learn from. In addition, Eric's Siuslaw Tree Farm has been visited by over 10,000 sixth grade students from Greene County through Environmental Awareness Days which has been held there every year since 1970. These thousands of mostly eleven, twelve and thirteen year old kids have learned about forests, wildlife, water quality and many other topics in a wonderful outdoor setting with the Catskill Mountains in the background. Some of these youths have gone on to enter various fields related to forestry and conservation as a result of this initial exposure. Some of them now chaperone their own children as this program enters its 31st year.

Additional activities Eric has hosted include the first NYS Envirothon in 1991, meetings and programs for the Society of American Foresters, the Capital District Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association, the Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council, the Catskill Forest Association, the Northeast Deer and Elk Breeder Association, and Project Learning Tree.

For his dedication to education through Siuslaw, Eric received the 1999 NYS Tree Farmer of the Year Award, which is presented to a forest landowner who practices sustainable forest management and one who goes above and beyond to educate others about good forestry practices. Eric was also named the 2012 Friends of Extension by Cornell Cooperative Extension and was named a "Hero of Conservation" by "Field & Stream" magazine in 2012.

Perhaps Eric's most generous act is his recent gift of his beloved Siuslaw Tree Farm to the Agroforestry Resource Center, an education and research facility run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County. It is his desire to ensure that Siuslaw will be forever available to those who wish to learn about the importance of forests and forest management and have a place to enjoy the tranquility and beauty that Siuslaw provides.

Eric's current memberships include the Society of American Foresters, New York Forest Owners Association, the Catskill Forest Association, and he is on the Advisory Committee for the Agroforestry Resource Center whose mission is to "sustain the ecological, aesthetic and economic values of forested lands through education." This is the exact same mission that Eric has always shared.

He has served the community in many roles as a board member of Cornell Cooperative Extension, as chair of the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District and as a formal and informal advisor to a whole generation of foresters and forest lovers whose lives and careers he has profoundly enhanced.

—Marilyn Wyman

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Rich Taber

Mike Seager presents Rich Taber with the Outstanding Service Award for 2015.

NYFOA's Outstanding Service Award is presented each year to a member who has devoted exceptional time, energy and talent to help advance NYFOA's mission of promoting forest health and sound management practices. This year's recipient is Rich Taber.

Rich joined NYFOA in the early 80's not too long after moving to NY State and purchasing his farm, moving up from Connecticut after having served in the Army and having achieved a couple degrees in Agriculture. In the 80's and 90's he attended SUNY-ESF and earned an M.S Degree in Forestry, concentrating in Multiple Use Forest Resource Management.

He has been active at the state level and in his home Central New York chapter for much of the 30+ years since then. As one of the core members of the CNY chapter, Rich was instrumental in planning and organizing chapter events. He also coordinated NYFOA's presence at events such as the New York Farm Show in Syracuse and Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville each year — reserving space, recruiting speakers, lining up volunteers, ensuring that display material arrived at the right place on time, and tending to the myriad details that go along with such events. Rich continues to chair the committee that organizes the annual meeting at SUNY-ESF each year. Rich was a member of the state board of directors for a number of years, including serving as NYFOA's secretary.

Several years ago NYFOA partnered with DEC and other organizations on the State Wildlife Grant, a project to identify species of greatest conservation need and develop plans to protect them on private lands. This was a multi-year effort that involved a lot of people. Rich was NYFOA's point person, and in that role he helped develop much of the educational material used to make landowners aware of their role in conservation and presented that material at many seminars and forums around the state.

Despite all that he does for NYFOA, Rich manages to find time for many other things. He is a retired High School Agriculture and Biology Teacher, having taught for 25 years. An Army veteran, he is also a retired career Army National Guardsman. Soon after retiring from teaching, he went to work for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Chenango County, where he works as a Grazing/ Forestry/Ag Economic Development Specialist. He and his wife also own about 165 acres, which includes 100 acres of woodlot. On the rest of their farm they raise beef cattle, sheep, and a variety of poultry for meat production They also raise and train dogs for hunting.

NYFOA is a volunteer organization, and many volunteers do work that is not highly visible but is essential to the health of the organization. Much of Rich's work falls into this category — setting up meetings and making sure lunch shows up on time are not glamorous jobs, and if they are done well it is easy not to notice the work that goes into them. We are proud of this opportunity to recognize Rich for taking on so many of these jobs for so many years.

—Mike Seager

2016 NYFOA Annual Meeting

Photos, left to right: NYFOA Office Administrator Liana Gooding greeted members at the registration desk. Sarah Stackhouse was selling NYFOA merchandise.

NYFOA Chapter Awards

AFC: Dick Vail

Dick Vail and his wife Sara live in Lakewood, New York and have 12 acres in the town of Busti where they have a very nice Amish built log cabin and a large two story pole barn. The property is used primarily for quiet get-a-ways, target shooting and family gatherings.

Dick joined NYFOA's Allegheny Foot Hills Chapter (NYFOA-AFC) in June of 2009 and ever since he has offered his help behind the scenes doing whatever is asked of him. He quietly offers his help wherever it is needed. He has helped with the set-up and tear-down of our display at the Chautauqua County fair and has helped keep the display manned throughout the duration of the fair. He eagerly engages attendees to talk about their woodlots.

Dick faithfully attends as many of our programs as he can fit into his schedule, he is an active participant at them, and has helped with the logistics of the programs.

Dick also helps transport fair materials to and from various fair venues and drives to take other members to workshops and NYFOA events. He has attended many Rural Land Owners Workshops, and has always brought other members to the event. He actively and eagerly helps with fund raising endeavors both at the fair and at the workshops. Dick and his wife are real assets to NYFOA-AFC.

CNY: Guy and Kathie Garnsey

Central New York Chapter of NYFOA is proud to present this year's Chapter Award to Guy and Kathie Garnsey from Scipio Center, NY.

Joining NYFOA in March 2004, the Garnsey's have participated in woodswalks, attended NYFOA seminars, and chapter Christmas parties at the Babcock's.

In August 2015 Guy and Kathie hosted our chapter woodswalk and summer picnic. The experience left us all spellbound, as the Garnseys manage their woods as we all dream of and shared it with our 30 members.

Katie and Guy had us start our walk at Brookside Lumber Company, owned by Bill Millier and wife Kathy Thode. The mill is closed on weekends, however Bill and Kathy had the mill in full operation of our log-to-lumber tour. We received explanations at every operation from the employees or Dan DeLuca, the company forester and log buyer. The pride taken by each operator at the mill was obvious to all.

We then visited the Garnsey's woods. The walk was lead by Dan DeLuca with Bill Millier and Kathy Thode also answering questions. Dan explained Guy and Kathie's management plan. Dan, with Guy, mark for harvest and improvement 2,000 to 4,000 board foot of timber each year. Trees for winter harvest were marked and explained why they were chosen.

Every woods has something unique, and the Garnsey's was no exception. Standing within a sugar maple stand is one (the only one in the woods) black maple, 18" DBH and two straight logs to the crown.

Each winter Dan DeLuca cuts the marked trees and bucks them into logs. Guy skids them to the roadside landing, Brookside picks them up and saws them into lumber. Guy then barters for credit and lumber that he may be looking for, then trailers the lumber home to his indoor and outdoor drying areas which we toured.

Guy's woodworking shop, which is indoors, is not missing a machine or tool. He then explained how everything works. Guy builds a variety of things including special wall protectors in Kathie's indoor horse riding arena, and fine furniture as we saw in their home. We then enjoyed the largest, most intricate outdoor train layout anyone has ever seen. Towns, mountains, bridges, roads all built by Guy.

Within the train layout and beautifully built was a gazebo were we enjoyed our summer picnic. Each member brought a dish to pass with Kathie and Guy providing hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks.

Thus ended a perfect day of friendship with Bill, Kathy and Dan from Brookside Lumber and Guy and Kathie , all showing us what could be done with our own woods. With great pride we present Kathie and Guy our chapter award.

–Ralph Meyer, Chair, CNY Chapter

SAC: Steve Warne

It is truly an honor to be able to present this award to our chapter recipient, Steve Warne. Steve has been an active participant in the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter for decades. He was a NYS Environmental Conservation Service Forester for 33 years and advised many land owners during that time. Over the years he has been an active member of the community. He was a volunteer advisor, chaperone and instructor with the 4-H Adirondack Guide Program sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County. He has also been a volunteer Tree Farm Inspector.

Steve maintains his own forest property utilizing many of the techniques he has shared with forest owners. Since his retirement from DEC, Steve continues to be very active in forestry related projects. Steve advises all forest owners to have their timber properly evaluated by experienced professionals before taking action. During our chapter woodswalks and events Steve shares his "words of wisdom" with regard to what may be the best options for the landowner based on their long term plans. His knowledge and experience in the woods has been a gift to many of our members during these woodswalks. A chapter event is not the same if Steve isn't there to field our barrage of questions. His long term service to our chapter has made this recognition long overdue.

Unfortunately Steve couldn't be here to receive this much deserved award, today his love of forestry took the back seat to his love for his grandson and spending a special day with him.

SFL: Jeff Joseph

Ed Neuhauser presents Jeff Joseph with the SFL chapter award

Jeff Joseph, a NYFOA member since 2005, has taken greater and greater responsibility in the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and NYFOA at the State level.

He has offered excellent ideas for the chapter and the state organization, in order to achieve greater outreach to members and prospective members. He has offered his property for weekend woodswalk opportunities, and he has steadfastly worked for the state organization. He has authored articles for the NYFOA magazine which are most interesting. Jeff embodies the youth and vigor our organization shall thrive on. Thanks, Jeff!

WFL: Jim Miller

Dale Shaefer presents Jim Miller the WFL chapter award

Jim Miller has been a volunteer in the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County Master Gardener Program since 2007 when, after attending training over a three month period, he became certified as a Master Gardener volunteer. Since then he has helped Wayne County consumers be more successful with their home gardens and landscapes, answering questions from our gardening hotline, during site visits and through community presentations.

As part of his volunteer efforts he helps maintain educational displays at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County that include the composting display and educational gardens. Jim also provided a "Heating with Wood" display for a CCE Energy Workshop and has helped youth learn about trees and the environment during the CCE Wayne County 4H Winter Walk event at Camp Beechwood over the past several years.

In 2011, to address the increasing need for information about the Emerald Ash Borer, Jim attended Master Gardener training from Cornell University staff and became part of the EAB team that was established to provide consumers with unbiased research based information about EAB management. In addition to the Master Gardener Program, Jim has been a Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer in Wayne County since 1995. He is one of three MFO volunteers in Wayne County responding to client calls to CCE for woodlot information.

Jim has worked at the MFO and NYFOA booth during Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls for several years. He has also worked with CCE staff to help facilitate woodlot workshops at CCE Wayne County since 2010. Jim has participated in the Game of Logging workshops.

Jim has managed to volunteer for all of these important tasks while maintaining three woodlots totaling 100 acres and with great support from his wife Martha!
Jim is an asset to the New York Forest Owners Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Master Forest Owners Program, actively promoting woodlot stewardship, the MFO program, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension mission - putting knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being; bringing local experience and research based solutions together to help New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA would like to thank Jim Miller for his dedication and present him with the 2015 Chapter Service Award.

Submitted by: Laurie VanNostrand
CCE Wayne County Master Gardener Program and Dale Schaefer, Master Forest Owner Volunteer Class of 1991.

2016 NYFOA Annual Meeting

2016 Annual Meeting Presenters:

Above Left: The Green Lie: Problem Plants in Forest Regeneration and a Process to Manage Them. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University.

Above: Keynote Speaker: America's Third Phase of Forest Conservation: Family Forests. Brett Butler, Research Forester, US Forest Service.

Left: Status of the Young Forest Initiative. Katherine Yard, Wildlife Biologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

David Newman, Chair of the Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management at SUNY ESF and NYFOA Board Member, welcomes members to the SUNY ESF campus.

2016 NYFOA Annual Meeting

Photo 1. NYFOA president Charlie Stackhouse presents David Kunsch with the Dolmar PS-5105 chainsaw. Photo 2. More than 95 members attended the meeting. Photo 3. Members enjoyed a delicious lunch. Photo 4. NYFOA President, Charlie Stackhouse picking names for the door prizes.

Winners of the Door Prizes

Ed Neuhauser - Gallon of Bar Oil
Stacey Kazacos - chaps
Tom Jivoff - chaps
Marilyn Wyman - helmet
Richard Pancoe- helmet
David Kunsch - chainsaw

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.

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

Please send your suggestions to:
Jeff Joseph
chair, NYFOA editorial committee at
jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

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

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The New York Forest Owners Association thanks the people and organizations that supported our programs and publications in 2015. Your help is essential to our work.

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Woodland Health

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

Coordinated by Mark Whitmore

Sugar Maple and its Pests

By Mark Whitmore

Since giving a talk at the New York State Maple Conference last January on insects that feed on sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*, I've been thinking more on the overall health and management of this iconic and economically important tree, and how different stressors influence the outcome of their interactions with pests. I've got to say right off the bat that in comparison to other forest trees like ash and hemlock, our sugar maples seem to be faring quite well. However, that could all change in an instant with the introduction of an exotic pest or over a more prolonged period of time with our changing climate. The biggest impacts to sugar maple at this time have been primarily in small, localized situations where factors have come together to cause tree mortality and I'd like to touch on these now.

There are a few important defoliators of sugar maple and all of them are native to North America. There are two basic types: those that eat early leaves in spring and those that feed later in the season. Those that feed in spring are the most damaging and include the forest tent caterpillar (*Malacasoma disstria*), Bruce spanworm (*Operophtera bruceata*), and fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*). Late season defoliators like saddled prominent (*Heterocampa guttivitta*), greenstriped mapleworm (*Dryocampa rubicunda*), orangehumped mapleworm (*Symmerista leucitys*), and maple leafcutter (*Paraclemensia acerifoliella*), can cause notable defoliation but it is after the leaves have matured and provided food, so damage is rarely significant.

The underlying theme with all of them is that stressed trees fare worse for damage when pest populations increase. For native insects this is a part of natural selection where weakened individuals are removed and the population of trees as a whole benefits, much as lions strengthen the populations of their prey by removing weakened individuals from breeding. For instance, native early season defoliators like forest tent caterpillar outbreak for a year or two in a stand and usually only a few individual trees may die, but mortality can be much higher on dry slopes. On the other hand, this paradigm shifts and damage can be more widespread when non-native pests like the early season feeding pear thrips (*Taeniothrips inconsequens*) are introduced and there is neither host tree resistance nor natural enemies. These control mechanisms take time to evolve between native trees and their pests. Stresses to trees will also increase their susceptibility to other organisms such as the ubiquitous shoestring root rot, (*Armillaria* spp.).

Perhaps the most important stressor in the northern sugar maple forests is the impact of drought and sharply drained soils. Many of you probably have witnessed early leaf drop by sugar maple during a drought. Although this can be fairly widespread, I've noticed it often confined to only the driest slopes where occasionally large trees will die as a result. Interestingly enough these are the same slopes where I noticed forest tent caterpillar (FTC) begin to develop outbreak populations in the mid 2000's. FTC subsequently spread to surrounding stands on more mesic sites and after a couple years populations of Bruce spanworm, and fall cankerworm also increased but then rapidly declined. FTC and the other defoliators are not only kept in check by a combination of predatory flies, parasitic wasps, viruses, and fungi, but are also impacted by the timing, or phenology, of budbreak. Early season defoliator populations flourish when their eggs hatch at the same time the buds and early leaves are at their height of food quality. While we are still uncertain what triggers these outbreaks, optimal phenology is likely influenced by microclimate and that may explain the effect of drier soils with defoliation.

For management it is important to understand that the photosynthetic reserves of a tree are gradually depleted with repeated defoliation and trees on better sites have more reserves to withstand the impact of defoliation. I've seen FTC outbreaks persist for years and cause significant mortality in only a few locations, invariably these were drier hilltop sites. The important thing for land managers is to pay attention to these droughty areas and consider aerial treatment with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a biological caterpillar toxin, to reduce the possibility of mortality. It would also be important to reduce the number of taps or even stop tapping trees for a year or more in drier areas. By continuing to tap the trees you would be basically mimicking the impact of continued defoliation, reducing the trees vigor and its chances for survival.

Reducing vigor can also allow other usually benign organisms like shoestring root rot (*Armillaria* spp.) to gain the upper hand and perhaps become pathogenic. Shoestring root rot is a fungus that is wide spread throughout the northern hemisphere and produces a delicious mushroom called the "honey" mushroom. A study in Minnesota looked at the genes of shoestring root rot over a huge area and declared one particular genotype, or "individual", to be the largest organism in the world, covering over 200 square miles. One of the things I try to do when finding a recently killed tree is to cut into the bole just above the root collar to look for the signs of shoestring root rot: a white felt-like matt of fungal mycelium covering the wood under the bark. When the tree dries the felt will gradually turn into long black

Figure 1. Armillaria *spp. Rhizomorphs. Fabio Stergulc, Università di Udine, Bugwood.org*

strings resembling shoestrings, a resting stage (Figure 1.). You can find these under the bark of many species of dead trees for years after they have died. Although we are not certain of the exact role this fungus plays in the impact of defoliators or other insects on sugar maple, it can't help to be aware of its presence so that at some future time we can understand it more fully.

So what about pear thrips? This is a tiny insect introduced from Europe into North America in the early 1900's and rapidly spread from coast to coast. Pear thrips was first found to impact fruit trees but then in the late 1970's was found causing spring leaf damage on sugar maples in Pennsylvania. The area of damage increased to a height of over 1.5 million acres in 1988 at which time it was considered to be a significant economic threat. Populations then collapsed with only sporadic and localized damage reported, primarily in Pennsylvania. So what happened? This is not in the invasive species playbook. This is an asexually reproducing insect that rapidly spread across the continent, they have not just gone away. The key may rest with phenology and perhaps soil pathogens. This is a tiny insect that spends nine months of the year living in the soil. They emerge in late March and early April just as the buds begin to swell. The adults will feed in buds on the developing leaves and lay eggs in the developing leaf tissues. The hatching larvae feed on the young leaves causing sometimes considerable defoliation that was at first considered to be frost damage. They can also transmit anthracnose disease. In mid-May to June they will drop to the soil and develop to adults for emergence in spring. Perhaps there was a perfect storm of events in the 1980's that led to its emergence as an important pest, but it has not gone away and it is important to watch for its reemergence and understand those circumstances.

No article on sugar maple pests would be complete without mention of the invasive non-native Asian long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*). The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is an insect that poses an immense threat to our maple forests and a huge effort is being waged to eradicate it where it has become established in Massachusetts, Ohio, Ontario, and Long Island. If eradication efforts fail it will move slowly across the landscape and the impacts will be huge. If you don't already know about this insect I encourage you to look it up online. Early detection is crucial and your eyes are needed.

I would like to thank my colleagues Jerry Carlson (NYS DEC), Margaret Skinner (UVM), Don Eggen (PA DCNR), and Tom Hall (PA DCNR) for their thoughts on sugar maple pests.

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

Mixing for Hand-held Sprayers

Prepare the desired volume of spray solution by mixing the amount of this product in water as shown in the following table:

Spray Solution

Spray Concentration	Amount of This Product for Desired Volume:		
(percent)	1 gal	25 gal	100 gal
0.5%	2/3 fl oz	1 pt	2 qt
0.75%	1 fl oz	24 fl oz	3 qt
1.0%	1 1/3 fl oz	1 qt	1 gal
1.5%	2 fl oz	1 1/2 qt	1 1/2 gal
2.0%	2 2/3 fl oz	2 qt	2 gal
3.75%	5 fl oz	3 3/4 qt	3 3/4 gal
5.0%	6 1/2 fl oz	5 qt	5 gal
10.0%	13 fl oz	10 qt	10 gal

2 tablespoons = 1 fluid ounce

Figure 3. This table is an example of a specific herbicide and the quantities of the product to mix with water to attain a desired concentration of the formulation to apply. Note the table provides the V1 to mix in the carrier, with the quantities as either teaspoons or ounces. Use the formulas in this article, or the table in your herbicide label to correctly mix your product.

Figure 4. Backpack sprayers are inexpensive and handy tools for applying foliar, basal bark, and cut-stump applications of herbicide. Knowing the correct mixing concentration will reduce waste and minimize unnecessary applications of herbicides. This sprayer holds approximately 3 gallons, the V2 used in Formula 2.

dilution, we start with the product at 100% (note, the a.i. will be less than 100%), and we may want a final formulation, for example, of 2% in a 3 gallon container. *Formula 2* illustrates the rearrangement of *Formula 1* to solve for V_1.

Formula 2: $$V_1 = \frac{C_2 V_2}{C_1}$$

To obtain *Formula 2*, both sides of the equation in *Formula 1* are divided by C_1. On the left side C_1 becomes C_1 divided by C_1, which equals 1, and is canceled to result in *Formula 2*. This rearrangement is an application of basic algebra, that you may remember from high school or that a family member has recently learned.

It helps to practice the formula with some simple numbers that make sense intuitively. Let's assume the formulation is 25% product with a volume of 1 gallon. We know that 1 gallon has 128 ounces. The initial or starting concentration is 100% and the initial volume, the ounces of product we need to add to the mixture, is unknown. Intuitively if the final volume is 4 quarts with 25% product, we would expect one quart (1 of 4) or 32 ounces as the initial volume. Use *Formula 2* to check our intuition and solve for V_1 in ounces. Remember, C_2 is 25%, V_2 is 128 ounces and C_1 is 100%.

Formula 2: $$V_1 = \frac{C_2 V_2}{C_1}$$

Solution 1:

$$V1(\text{ounces}) = \frac{25\% \text{ x } 128 \text{ ounces}}{100\%}$$

(the "%" cancels, leaving ounces on both sides of the equation)

V_1 (ounces) = 0.25 x 128 ounces
V_1 (ounces) = 32 ounces
V_1 = 1 quart

In solution 1, remember the final volume, 128 ounces, is the total volume and needs to include the volume of the product. You can check how you solve the equation by ensuring that the units are the same on both sides of the equation. If the units are not the same, you've made an error in the algebra.

Now, let's solve the earlier problem with initial concentration at 100%, the final concentration at 2%, and the final

volume at 3 gallons in the spray tank. For starters convert gallons of spray tank to ounces.

$$\frac{128 \text{ ounces}}{1 \text{ gallon}} \text{ x } 3 \text{ gallons} = 384 \text{ ounces}$$

(note, "gallons" cancel leaving ounces)

Solve for the initial volume using

Formula 2: $V_1 = \frac{C_2 V_2}{C_1}$

Solution 2:

$$V_1(\text{ounces}) = \frac{2\% \text{ x } 384 \text{ ounces}}{100\%}$$

(note "%" cancels from numerator and denominator)

V_1 (ounces) = 0.02 x 384

V_1 (ounces) = 7.68 ounces

Solution #2 is thus 7.68 ounces mixed into a total volume of 3 gallons (not 3 gallons plus 7.68 ounces). It is acceptable to round up or down to the nearest whole number, in this case round up to 8 ounces.

For solution #2, we are working with 2% of the product. We might want to know the concentration of the active ingredient. In this case, multiply the concentration of the active ingredient by the concentration of the product dilution in the formulation. Let's assume the a.i. for the product is 41% and the formulation is a 2% product dilution. Because we want to know the amount of active ingredient in the formulation, we convert the a.i. in the product to decimal notation and multiply with the product dilution of the formulation

Solution 3:

a.i. of the formulation = 0.41 x 2 %

a.i. of the formulation = 0.81%

Thus, the formulation has an active ingredient concentration of 0.81%.

Solution 3 illustrates why it is important to know if the treatment recommendation is for a product dilution or an a.i. dilution. A woodland owner may report success with a 2% product dilution in a backpack sprayer (Figure 4), but without knowing the amount of active ingredient, the treatment dose is unclear. If owners are discussing the same product, for example Accord XRT II which is available to NYFOA members at contractor cost through Arborchem, then the discussion can be about product dilutions. However, if owners are discussing a treatment using Accord XRT II (50.8% a.i.) and an off-brand (e.g., 41.0%) then they need to discuss the a.i. concentration in the formulation.

For most people these calculations require some practice. It is best to practice with the mixing ratios provided on the herbicide label (Figure 3), and then you can apply the formula to new mixing ratios.

Note: NYFOA has identified several benefits of membership, which are described at *www.nyfoa.org* as NYFOA member rewards." One of these rewards is the ability to purchase herbicides at contractor pricing (a significant savings) through *www.Arborchem.com*

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Member Profile:
Greg Lessord

Briana Binkerd-Dale

Greg Lessord grew up less than a mile away from the land he and his wife now live on, and spent his early years until age 19 working on beef and dairy farms on either side of his home. The youngest of four siblings, he married his high school sweetheart, Kathy, and bought his parents' house. After working 11 years as an automotive mechanic and 24 years selling and servicing fire equipment, he is now retired. His wife Kathy grew up in Riga, NY on a small parcel where she had a horse, dogs, chickens and ducks. She has one brother who was Greg's best friend; "I traded him for the pretty one," Greg chuckled. She worked for a bank after high school briefly and then moved to a large CPA firm where she works in the finance department. Greg and Kathy both love the outdoors and hunt, fish, and hike the Adirondacks extensively, with some canoeing, kayaking, snow-shoeing, and camping thrown in. Their black lab "Boo" is their constant companion and only child. Their one and only move was to their current land.

"I have the fortune to bear witness to this land's evolution for over 50 years," Greg said. The year he was born, the previous owners Dick and Thelma Leiston purchased the old farm. They were not farmers and did very little with the land, but Greg spent childhood through adulthood hunting and hiking on it. Approximately 12 years prior to their purchase he began caretaking the property for the Leistons, keeping fields from being completely taken back by forest and keeping tractor lanes open. He had asked for right of first refusal in the very beginning, and in the summer of 2003 Dick stopped over one day and simply said "I'm ready to sell". Greg responded with "We're ready to buy".

Kathy and Greg's parcel is in the town of Ogden in Monroe County, south of Northampton Park. It is 81 acres in total, with 64 wooded and 17 farmed. They also purchased 89 acres of forest land in Lyondale (Lewis County) in 2011, building a cabin in 2012 which they just got the interior finished on this past March. This article will be focusing on the 81 acres in Ogden, however.

Their Monroe County land is mostly flat with small sandy knolls and very stony, and has an 1865 two story farm house and a small barn on the property. There are old apple and pear orchards being overtaken with white oak, ash, black cherry, pin cherry, red maple and various hickories. The long established woods to the west is mostly swampy with a few knolls where sugar maple, beech, and basswood dominate. The low land contains spice bush, hornbeams, wildflowers, beech sprouts galore, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. The young forests arising from the old fields are around 45 years old and contain ash, black cherry, pin cherry, various hickories, sugar and red maple, butternut, white oak, elm, basswood, cottonwoods, and a number of young apple trees.

Home DBH calipers on a 16" sugar maple.

As a youngster Greg rode his dirt bike in the fallow fields of stands 7 & 8 which were full of grass, goldenrod and patches of dogwood. "Now we have tree stands in those immature woods on trees with DBH 14-16!" Greg exclaimed. Kathy didn't have experience with the land until around 1990 (when she got the hunting bug) yet the changes she's witnessed are no less remarkable: some of the 8-15" seedlings they planted in 2004 are now 15 footers. Greg comes up with most of the ideas for management, but he and Kathy collaborate on what, when, and how things are going to happen, working both independently and together on projects.

"NYFOA and the DEC have been our biggest assets for knowledge and guidance," Greg said. When they purchased the land, their first priority was to reclaim the three agricultural fields and put them back in production. However, they bought the land for hunting and wildlife, so in 2004 Greg called in to a forester at Trathen Logging

Kathy Lessord with the log grapples for the four wheel drive loader tractor.

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at the recommendation of one of his former coworkers who had studied forestry at Paul Smith's and spent some time working for the company. There was virtually no understory due to canopy closure in the mature hardwood stand, and the Lessords wanted to open the canopy up with an eye toward benefiting wildlife. They had a small timber sale in 2005 and have been happy with the results.

"We really had no experience as landowners on this scale," Greg said. "With my agricultural background, I attend several farm shows, and at one around 2006-07 I visited the NYFOA booth. I stocked up on literature, liked what I saw, and we joined." Greg and Kathy started attending meetings and woods walks, and soon had Master Forest Owners (MFOs) Dale Schaeffer and David Duell out for a look see. With their guidance, the Lessords contacted DEC forester Mark Gooding, who helped them develop their 10 year management plan and apply for several of the EQIP programs. "To date we haven't been selected for any, but we haven't sat idle," Greg commented.

In 2004, the Lessords cleared a small old pasture area of ½ acre and over several years planted more than 350 spruce, fir, pine and cedars interspersed with Chinese chestnut, Sergeant crabapple, and paw paws. They have been amazed by the wildlife that has been attracted to it, and spend a lot of time observing the diversity of species. They gear many management practices toward habitat improvement: using the tops of harvested trees to create brush piles for rabbits, building bird houses, and installing bat houses that they procured from the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District office. They have five food plots which are rotated with corn, clover, buckwheat, brassicas and oats; and trimming around the field edges has encouraged the growth of many blackberries, raspberries, and staghorn sumac.

This past fall the woodpeckers hit their ash trees in earnest. Their current DEC forester Gary Koplun suggested that they not wait to have a harvest there, and as their management plan calls for commercial thinning of that stand by 2017, Greg and Kathy are now starting to work with consulting forester Susan Keister to achieve these two goals together. "We have amassed quite a large selection of equipment to lessen the burden on our aging bodies," Greg noted. They have two log trailers, a tractor mounted chipper, trailer splitter with hydraulic log loading, loader attachments for handling logs and much more. They use wood chips for tractor paths and for mulch around young trees they planted in the evergreen plantations, and cut firewood for themselves and Kathy's parents with an eye toward timber stand improvement.

As with many forest owners these days, two of the biggest things they struggle with are deer pressure and invasive species. They have had a lot of success clearing out invasives in the spring and fall. Honeysuckle especially has shallow roots that they uproot by hand, or pop the root ball up out of the ground with their small tractor; they treat the larger stuff with Roundup and 2,4-D as necessary. Thousands of seedlings popped up in one two acre stand after they cleared the invasives out, only to be decimated by deer as soon as they reached appropriate height. "Last night we had 10 deer in the yard, and eight when we woke up this morning," Greg laughed. He and Kathy hunt with bow, rifle and muzzle and got 14 tags between the two of them last year. They also let friends hunt on the land. All told, they took 16 deer last year, and a neighboring farmer has a nuisance permit which he takes full advantage of, but it doesn't seem to make much of a difference. Greg thinks that may have something to do with the hunting-free zone of Northampton County Park to their north.

One of Greg and Kathy's numerous trails for work & recreation.

Greg's advice to other forest owners is simple and poignant. "Don't let your brain become overwhelmed by how much you think you must get done. Relax! The woods will be there tomorrow and the next day. Have fun! That's why you bought it. Keep a journal, take photos of what you do and focus on one or two things and you'll be surprised by how much you've accomplished". Being informed is also key: knowledge is power. Greg plans on attending a MFO training this September, and hopes to host some woods walks soon. He and Kathy have watched the land change over their lives and until they owned it, they couldn't do anything about it. Now, he says, "What we enjoy most is the freedom we feel out there, and seeing what a difference our efforts have made. There is a very spiritual connection to the woods and each other."

One of five food plots rotated with corn, clover, buckwheat, brassicas & oats.

Briana Binkerd-Dale is a student in Environmental Biology and Applied Ecology at Cornell University. If you are interested in being featured in a member profile, please email Jeff Joseph at jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

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