



Capital District Chapter Newsletter

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Chair's Message



The logging industry is in a boom! Prices are very good for standing timber and gate-wood logs. Demand is extremely strong, domestically and abroad. The Chinese market is still leading the field in volume and pricing. "According to Joe", China is consuming

55% of all hardwood logs and lumber being exported from the U.S. That is a scary number if the economy starts to falter.

Ash log demand increased this quarter, along with pricing. Red Oak saw logs are moving up, as well. However, the 4 side clear veneer and the low grade flooring log demand has softened. White Oak and Cherry are still doing well. Hickory demand has dropped considerably though, and the prices along with it. Black Walnut is baffling right now. Export log demand and pricing is strong, but the lumber prices are lagging considerably. For example, if a sawmill buys a Walnut 3 side clear prime saw log for \$1500/m, they will lose money sawing that log into lumber. However, Brokers can pay as much as \$3500/m for that same log, and still make a 10% profit. I am not sure why the lumber prices are so far behind the times, but I will be watching it closely.

All in all, the industry is strong, the weather is cooperating, logs are being harvested, and log trucks are to be seen everywhere. I expect a very good season ahead.

Don't miss our upcoming Winter Gathering on January 20th, our Woods-walks, or our Maple Syrup Tours. We have a busy Winter ahead for our CDC and LHC members.

Jason

Join Our Email List

The chapter maintains an electronic mailing list of members. This helps to keep you up to date about new events, event reminders, schedule changes, etc. If you are not receiving messages but would like to receive updates from us this way, please go to the following address: <http://npogroups.org/lists/info/nyfoa-cdc-news> and click on SUBSCRIBE to be added to the list. Your information will never be used for any other reason than to try to keep you informed of NYFOA related business and events. Will you help us his way?

Noteworthy & Newsworthy

Oak Wilt Threatens Local Woodlands

Oak wilt is a deadly fungal disease of oak trees. In 2008 it was found for the first time in the Capital District Chapter Area (Schenectady County). Although all infected trees were removed at the time in hopes of containing the disease, new outbreaks were recently reported at two different locations in Schenectady County. DEC staff conducting aerial surveys found one infection site. The other was reported by a homeowner.

DEC will be establishing a protective zone encompassing the two new locations. Removal of oak wood or firewood of any species from the protective zone will be prohibited. Since no effective chemical treatment for oak wilt currently exists, DEC will use other treatment methods, depending on site characteristics. These can include:

- Removing and destroying infected trees,
- Cutting down a buffer of adjacent trees, and
- Digging trenches to prevent spread from one oak to another through roots.

The following recommendations are offered to landowners for protecting oak trees:

- Prune oaks between October and February – NOT during the growing season when insects are active. Oak wilt can be spread by beetles attracted to freshly cut or injured trees.
- Learn to identify oak wilt's symptoms which are discoloration around the entire leaf edge and sudden loss of a substantial portion of leaves during the summer.
- Use local firewood. Firewood can transport oak wilt and other deadly pests and diseases to new areas.

For more information contact DEC's Forest Health toll-free information line at 1-866-640-0652 with questions, or email photos of tree symptoms to foresthealth@dec.ny.gov. Also visit DEC's oak wilt webpage for more information:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html>

NYFOA Silent Auction



Hi all, Gerry McDonald here. I recently volunteered to be the statewide board member for CDC and am now co-chair of the Silent Auction committee which raises money to help promote youth in forestry programs. The silent auction started last year at the annual

statewide meeting and was a huge success raising over \$5,000. The statewide meeting has been scheduled for April 21, 2018. We set a goal of raising \$2,000 to maintain an adequate amount of funding for the youth forestry programs. The silent auction can be a fun way to share some of our talents and engage with others as we raise money for a good cause. Please consider donating some craft or forest related item for this year's auction.

Much of that money remains available. If you have time check out the information on the NYFOA website - NYFOA Silent Auction 2017. If you know of any educators or others who might be interested, please encourage them to apply for one of the \$100 mini grants. Or, if you have an idea for some other program that might benefit, encourage them to apply.

Thanks, Gerry

You and Your Forest

You and Your Forest is a FREE informational letter series starting this February for woodland owners offered through Cooperative Extension. Your participation does not require any previous knowledge of forests or forestry. Topics include forest protection, wildlife, invasive species, and crop tree management. If you sign up, you will receive seven self-study installments beginning February 2018 and sent via email every two weeks. Call CCE's Agroforestry Resource Center 518-622-9820 x0 to enroll.

Annual Winter Gathering Will be Held in Menands

The Capital District Chapter will hold its Annual Winter Gathering dinner/meeting on Saturday January 20th starting around 4 pm, at the Bethany Presbyterian Church, 20 Lyons Avenue in Menands, NY. This is both an enjoyable and informative evening. If you have never participated before, here are a few things to expect:

You'll have a chance to meet and talk to others who all share a common interest in forest conservation. Many own some woodland acreage, although that's not a requirement to be a member. Chapter members are a diverse and friendly group of people. Chances are that you'll share some interesting conversations with others who share your interests.

It's a pot luck type of dinner so you'll need to bring a dish to share. Since everybody brings something, dinner turns into a smorgasbord of delicious food – a variety of hot and cold meats, salads, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. One thing is for sure - nobody leaves hungry!



Tim Russell

This year we have a special guest, Tim Russell from the Quality Deer Management Association. Tim earned his forest resources management degree from SUNY-ESF and previously worked as a forest technician where he marked and scaled timber, inspected logging operations and conducted forest inventories.

He and his wife, Amy, reside in Cortland, N.Y. Tim will give a presentation on the need for and benefits of young forests in New York State and how woodland owners can manage for them.

Please join us for this event. It is FREE, except for the 'dish to share'. For planning purposes, we ask you reserve your place by contacting our Secretary, Laura, at mslphf@hotmail.com, and let her know what type of dish you plan to share.

Maple Weekend Announced

March 17-18 & 24-25, 2018

Maple Weekend is an opportunity to visit a local "sugar bush" to see maple syrup in production. This event is sponsored by the NYS Maple Producers Association with many participating maple farms. The following is a partial list of maple producers in the Capital District Chapter. It's advisable to call first to confirm visiting hours. For more information: <https://mapleweekend.nysmaple.com/>

Albany County

Mountain Winds Farm
Address: 12 Williamson Rd, Berne, NY
Phone: (518) 872-0513
Website: mountainwindsfarm.com

Columbia County

Maple Leaf Sugaring
93 Dupier Road, Ghent, New York
Phone: (518) 929-0484
Contact: @MapleLeafSugaring

Greene County

Spruceton Valley Maple Products
595 Spruceton Rd, West Kill, NY
Phone: (518) 989-6721
Website: buyingreene.com

Rensselaer County

Kent's sugar house
2529 Plank Rd, Berlin, NY
Phone: (518) 658-3224

Schoharie County

Buck Hill Farm
185 Fuller Rd, Jefferson, NY
Phone: (607) 652-7980
Website: buckhillfarm.com

Two Saps Syrup

Address: 303 Cripplebush Road, Central
Bridge, New York 12035
Phone: (518) 868-9328

Maple Hill Farms

107 Crapser Rd # C, Cobleskill, NY
Phone: (518) 234-4858
Website: maplehillfarms.biz

Schenectady County

Riverside Maple Farms

Address: 7152 Amsterdam Rd, Glenville, NY

Phone: (518) 214-4014

Website: riversidemaple.com

Backyard Maple Syrup

Date: Saturday, January 13

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Registration deadline: January 10

Register online:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/MapleOsmosis_210 or call 518-622-9820 x0

Location: Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra

Presented by: Steve Childs, NYS Maple Specialist

Do you want to learn how to tap your trees for syrup? Tapping maple trees and making maple syrup is one of the most time honored rural winter traditions, resulting in a delicious product. This program will cover a variety of areas relevant to anyone fairly new to maple production, either the small commercial producer or back yard producer. Topics include: why make maple syrup, tree identification, tapping, sap collection, boiling, finishing and storing maple syrup, regulations and other resources for maple producers. The first half of this program will focus on these basics of maple production. The second half of the program will focus on little reverse osmosis units for syrup production, which is a way to remove more of the water content of the sap before it is boiled down.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop

Date: Saturday, January 13

Time: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Registration deadline: January 10

Register online:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/hwadelgid_210 or call 518-622-9820 x 0

Location: Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra

Learn about the threat this forest pest poses for New York's forests and how to identify the hemlock woolly adelgid in the field, management techniques for landowners and land managers, biocontrol opportunities, and how to volunteer with us to conserve hemlocks in your area.



Chain Saw Safely

Date: Friday, February 9

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Registration deadline: February 2

Register online:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/chainsawsafe_210 or call (518) 622-9820 x0

Location: Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra

Presented by: Mike Burns from Professional Forestry Services

Chainsaws are among the most useful and dangerous outdoor power tools owned and operated by landowners. While all danger cannot be eliminated, training and instruction have proven to be an effective way to mitigate the risk of harm to a chain saw user. This is an instructional program for the occasional chain saw user on safe operation and risk mitigation.

Reports on Recent Chapter Events and Activities

Hudson River Hardwood Exports' Log Yard Tour...



was once again well attended this year. It was a cool October morning, that warmed up nicely, as the day went by.

Everyone seemed to be very interested in what happens to their trees, once they are harvested. Jason demonstrated how and why each tree length log is bucked up (cut to shorter lengths), for quality and value. Jason does a good job explaining log grades and scale, in a way that is easy to understand. He informed us which grades of log are used for which products, whether it be for veneers, furniture, cabinets, flooring, etc. When buying and selling timber/logs, Jason immediately knows who he will sell them to and what they will be used for. His knowledge is vast, and his integrity is a comfort to his vendors, customers, and landowners alike.

Everyone, including me, learns something new each time we hold our Log Yard Tours here at Hudson River Hardwood Exports. Jason is a real teacher at heart, and has over 30 years of experience and knowledge to share. If you have never attended one of our Log Yard Tours, do yourself a favor and treat yourself to an informational and fun day, along with some apple cider donuts, hot beverages and great conversations. We look forward to seeing some more new faces next year. Watch the Newsletter and Website for future upcoming Log Yard Tours and events!

Submitted by Laura Pisarri
Office Manager/Co-Owner of HRHE



Jason explains grading and scaling to the interested crowd.



Jason displays the "tools of the trade" and explains how they are used.



Jason demonstrates "bucking up" logs.

Game of Logging (GOL)

Held December 14, 2017 - By Tracy Lamanec

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to add 80 acres to my 64 acre woodlot in Rotterdam. At that time I offered to host the GOL class on my new property. On December 14, it happened. GOL is a program that teaches chainsaw and tree felling technique, emphasizing safety and productivity. Participation fulfills the requirement to be certified to use a chainsaw for hire or as part of your job, but would be of value to even the most casual user. Each participant gets to cut down a tree and is scored on how they do.

A couple weeks earlier, Jason Post went out for a ride with me in my Argo to select trees to be cut and flagged them with lime green ribbon. The first victim was a big white pine that I had planned to take down to get more sunlight on one of the several wild apple trees that I am nurturing. The remainder were red oaks and a couple of hickories that I had decided to take down as part of my plan to establish a perimeter trail to access the boundary of my new property. Though the trail is on my side of the boundary, my neighbor and his wife who are avid cross country skiers will also be using the trail.

As the time got close we started to worry about what we would do in the event of bad weather. I hadn't given it much thought but it would have been very cramped in my house. I arranged for us to meet at Iroquois Rod and Gun Club at 8 a.m. Instructor Bill Lindloff started off by describing how the program evolved and went on to the basics of safety equipment; chaps, helmet, face shield and hearing protection, safely starting and handling a chainsaw. Next was saw maintenance concentrating on chain filing, tooth design and the mechanics of how the tooth actually cuts.

After a brief lunch break we left the comfort of the gun club and made a slow procession, so as to not lose anybody, to my house. The Argo was a little balky about starting and then I discovered the tracks were frozen to the ground. I had planned to use it to carry the equipment the quarter mile out to the trees. No problem, we'll take the tractor. Click, click, the tractor battery didn't have enough juice to turn it over. After walking out with the crew to get them started, I walked

back and managed to get the Yukon XL to the back yard to jump start the tractor. By the time I got back to the crew, they had the big pine tree cut but hung up on some other trees. I gave them a demonstration of pushing it down with the front end loader. Bill cut a couple big chunks from the butt log and stood them up for each participant to make a practice series of felling cuts. A target was set up in the field. The students sited along the marking lines on their saws and were asked to demonstrate their understanding of the reactive forces on the chain; pull on the bottom of the bar, push on the top, kickback at the top of the tip and attack for plunge cuts at the bottom of the tip.



It was the coldest day so far this season. I didn't turn the tractor off to give the battery a chance to charge and several people took advantage of the exhaust to warm their fingers. Bill showed us his trick of standing with a stick under the balls of your feet for a little relief for cold toes. He also suggested using antiperspirant on your feet to prevent sweating and dish detergent to keep glasses from fogging.

We then moved on to the trees along the boundary trail. As we approached each tree, we discussed hazards, the natural lean of the tree and whether it had a heavy side. A target spot was selected and marked with a stick with some of the green flagging ribbon. Each participant got to cut a tree and, with some guidance, pretty well hit the target.

My neighbor came out to watch for a while and Phil Walton caught up with us with some NYFOA recruiting material. The sun had already set when we finished. Most of the guys were eager to get to the warmth of their vehicles. It had been a long day and a very cold afternoon but I think it was very well received. As an observer with 50+ years of using chainsaws, I have some bad habits that will be hard to break but I will say I learned quite a bit.

Tibbits State Forest Woods Walk – October 28th

Our woods-walk through the state forest was led by state forester Mike Mulligan and forestry technician Alex Ashby. We saw two timber sales, one that had been cut last year and another that had been marked for cutting. It was an opportunity to see “before” and “after”. The state sells mature trees by competitive bid which are harvested by the successful bidder. Timber harvesting generates income and can improve the health and diversity of the residual forest if done following silvicultural principles. Although most of the timber that is harvested in New York State comes from privately owned woodlots, state forests also make a contribution.



Woods-walk leaders Mike Mulligan and Alex Ashby

Steering Committee Members

Jim Beil, Member jbeil.tr7@gmail.com	ph 355-4471
Ron Bernhard, Member rgb138@msn.com	ph 765-4600
Fred Bockis, Member fbockis@ymail.com	ph 253-9856
Dick Gibbs, Member rgibbs@nycap.rr.com	ph 283-0155
Jeff Kehoe, Vice Chair halfacreforestry@gmail.com	ph 596 9040
Tracy Lamanec, Member tlamanec@msn.com	ph 864-5068
Gerry McDonald, St. Board Director oakmando@gmail.com	ph 756-2232
Ron Pedersen, Member rwp1131@gmail.com	ph 785-6061
Laura Pisarri, Secretary mslphf@hotmail.com	ph 965-9182
Jason Post, Chapter Chairman jpostnyfoa@gmail.com	ph 965-9183
Dave Schmidt, Member	ph 237-8327
Bob Sheedy, Member rms47@aol.com	ph 482-1288
Phil Walton, State Board Director pwalton518@gmail.com	ph 895-5346
Carl Wiedemann, Member wiedeman@nycap.rr.com	ph 707-6350
Marilyn Wyman, Member mfw10@cornell.edu	ph 622-9820

Your Membership

Helps Support Sustainable Forestry

Forests cover more than 60% of the state providing important benefits including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, wood products, recreational opportunities, clean air, and beauty. The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests.

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