



New York Forest Owners Association

Central New York Chapter

COVERING CAYUGA, HERKIMER, MADISON, ONEIDA,
ONONDAGA & OSWEGO COUNTIES

MAY 2017

CNY- NYFOA events

Please hold these tentative dates open for the CNY-NYFOA
Annual Picnic and/or Woods Walks :

August 19th and September 16th

PLANNING for these and other future programs and events would benefit from a team effort! This would be a great opportunity for members to offer their advice, expertise, help, and suggestions for activities for our chapter.

Please contact any of the CNY-NYFOA officers listed to the left of this space with your ideas. Or, perhaps you would like to contribute by volunteering for the Vice Chairman position - only 1 or 2 meetings per year and a chance to help guide our chapter in ways you think valuable.

Exact date and details of the Annual Picnic and Woods Walks, will be announced in future emails

RECENT EVENTS

The well-deserved CNY-NYFOA Chapter Service award was presented in absentia to Ralph Meyer at the state NYFOA meeting in February, for all his work for the chapter during his term as chairman. CONGRATULATIONS, Ralph.

Our March 25 potluck luncheon at the Great Swamp Conservancy was a well-attended, congenial gathering and feast. We were entertained and educated by member Rich Pancoe who has been raising Christmas trees with his wife and children for many years. The trials and tribulations, lessons learned, amusing tales, and rewards (including college tuition and life-long lessons for those children) were well described and provided us with lots of good advice on such an enterprise. Thanks, Rick

Chairman

Dan Zimmerman
315-404-7069,
danielzimmerman57@yahoo.
com

Vice Chairman
VACANT

Treasurer
Sandy Babcock
315-662-7707
aplstone@dreamscape.com

Secretary & Newsletter
Randi Starmer
315-637-5213
randi.starmer@gmail.com

Chapter NYFOA Board
Member
Bruce Revette
315-852-9670
315-447-2741
revettbm@morrisville.edu

Alternate Chapter
Designated NYFOA Board
member
Rich Pancoe
315-691-9101
rpancoe@twcny.rr.com

The Forest Management: Wildlife, Ecology, and Timber Harvesting program on April 27th that Dan organized included many interesting presentations:

Stephen R. Heerkins, Wildlife biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, NYS DEC, discussed how the moose population has been doing in New York (especially the Adirondacks). Having been essentially extirpated from the area in the late 19th century, moose have made a slow comeback in this southern-most part of their range. He talked about other areas of the Northeast and challenges that still face moose as well as different protocols for counting them that have been developed which should help with future management strategies for these very large, but vulnerable animals.

Andy Weik, the regional wildlife biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society described the ecology and habitat needs of grouse and woodcock, and forest management strategies that can be employed to sustain habitat for these two popular upland game birds. Young, scrubby forest that is within close proximity of older woodlands and water sources are important.

Allen Nichols, President of the NY chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, discussed the history of the American chestnut, the value chestnuts had in the 19th century and developments for breeding a resistant tree. He advised us on the emerging protocol for introducing blight-resistant trees into the landscape once all the procedures have been deemed safe. The idea is that by growing natural, blight-susceptible, American chestnuts more widely, when the blight-resistant varieties become available, there will be a better chance of cross-breeding the "cloned, genetically identical blight resistant" chestnuts with American stock to get a more diverse pool of blight resistant trees in the future. So many of us went away with seeds or seedlings of blight-susceptible chestnuts to plant in our environment with the hopes that eventually they will breed with a blight-resistant chestnut and contribute their "American" gene diversity to the gene pool of blight-resistant trees.

Scott Crocoll, Wildlife biologist from NYS DEC discussed his field work on Forest Raptor Biology and his adventures in studying these powerful and sometimes aggressive birds. Protecting the habitat for these raptors especially during nesting is a large part of his job and should be considered before any timber harvest. These birds often nest high in the forest, so looking up into your treetops before leaf-out is the best time to see if you have any raptor nests --- and wearing protective clothing and a hard hat is important if you suspect they are there!

John K. Bartow, Jr., Executive Director, Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) spoke about NY logger training and logger certification and how ESFPA is working to improve it. He also discussed the Governor's proposed "Empire Forest for the Future Initiative" (which is on pages 238-241 of the State of the State Book") at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2017StateoftheStateBook.pdf> and also about the American Forest Foundation's recent report "Hidden in Plain Sight" (http://www.northeasternforests.org/news/view/hidden_in_plain_sight_aff_report)



The Power of Critical Thinking

By Daniel Zimmerman

Most people are exposed to critical thinking somewhere on the path of life, most often in academia. The concept is broadly defined and has varied meanings to different people. One way to look at it is that it is essentially a reasoning or rationalizing process centering on examining, synthesizing, and assessing information as a guide to conduct and beliefs. Additionally, the process also calls for the determination of evidence, methodologies, context, and ideas. Its use, and the skills it generates, is an invaluable aid in problem solving. How often to employ the concepts and in which situations? The answer can mean success or failure for many people in forestry leadership, management, business, and practice. In coalescing critical thinking and problem solving, I've found it very helpful to limit emotion and prejudice, consider a broad range of view-points and perceptions, avoid snap decisions, have an open mind to other possibilities, consider all reasonable alternatives, eliminate bias, reassess and evaluate information, and accept new information, explanations, and discoveries.

Perhaps the single most important step in the critical thinking/problem solving process is the problem statement. A problem has to be stated in a manner that will lead to a solution; if it isn't, a solution may not be found. And if the correct problem is not identified, a good or accurate solution will not be rendered. I've seen many "problems" that were actually symptoms of other problems. Symptoms can be hard to ferret out and have led many a leader, manager, or professional down the wrong road, causing considerable money, time, and effort to be wasted.

Whatever the organizational, leadership, management, or professional role one finds oneself in, examining the internal and external environments imparts an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed. This understanding can add value to a possible solution and is an important step in problem solving utilizing critical thinking.

A significant challenge to the critical thinker and problem solver is turning a problem into an opportunity. In my opinion, this may be both the most difficult and most rewarding aspect of problem solving. Albert Einstein said: "In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." Often, taking a broad approach that utilizes the understanding gained in scanning the internal and external environments leads to a more comprehensive solution and, hence, opportunity. Opportunity is what you make it, and many times, it can lead to competitive advantage, unique solutions, and added value to the organization, client, and professional practice

To develop a problem statement, focus on enabling several solutions or prospects/opportunities. Having substantial and significant alternatives generated through a proper statement benefits management, leadership, and professionals by allowing them to think "out of the box" clearly and concisely and can ultimately lead to one or more noteworthy solutions/accomplishments. Defining the problem and not the solution leads to opportunity and, hopefully, more than one prospect.

Inspiration and ease of understanding should be integral to the process of establishing a problem/opportunity statement. Often, this statement is utilized by everyone involved. If the statement is concise and easily understood, it lends itself to the end goals of solution and opportunity generation, and motivation can prevail with little additional encouragement needed.

The following scenario illustrates how to apply the above steps: A re-view of monthly and annual records for a hardwood lumber mill reveals that recent production tallies include a higher amount of shorter lumber and poorer grade lumber than in the past. Initially, this may appear to be the problem. Further investigation, however, reveals that the actual problem is that new logging contractors are not properly trained in log grading and scaling.

The symptom might be treated by placing sole responsibility for this issue on the lumber graders both at the mill and at the purchaser, resulting in poorer business relationships among all involved. The alternative is to turn this situation into a problem statement: Hardwood log production is not meeting mill quality standards. As an opportunity declaration, this becomes: Train logging contractors on log grading and scaling procedures in the yard and in the field, monitor the origin of timber logged, and evaluate each contractor's production. The results: better professional relationships and better grade lumber and scale recovery, which benefits the contractor and mill with greater monetary return.

As demonstrated here, the use of critical thinking in problem solving centers on the problem statement and development: defining the problem, not just the symptom(s) correctly; examining the internal and external environments for clues; transforming the problem and solution(s) into opportunity; encouraging simplicity wherever possible; and boosting motivation

Such critical thinking and problem resolution can be successfully applied to business processes, as well as many other forestry endeavors, such as forest stewardship plans, timber harvesting, and forest restoration activities. Forestry leaders and business managers can benefit from problem resolution through the application of the concepts of critical thinking. Often, a forest professional has to define a problem correctly and define a solution in many areas, such as identifying ownership goals and objectives, estate planning, taxation, cultural factors, and landowner investment and time limitations.

When a problem is viewed as an opportunity, the process of critical thinking and problem statement delineation have served to add value. Defining the problem correctly, examining the internal and remote environments for clues, and applying motivation and simplicity to the process can serve to multiply the effectiveness of the effort.





May is for Morels!

Have you found any in your woods?

They love this cool and wet weather, so maybe you will find some this spring if you look very carefully.

We find them associated with white ash trees but they can be found around various other trees as well.....Delicious cooked when fresh, or dried, and cooked later in soups or sauces. Do not eat raw!

Please welcome new members
Michael Burton, Sam Doubleday, Mark Glauser, Larry Ripley



Reading Corner

For the most recent timber stumpage report in New York, go to
http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/spr2017w.pdf

Forests fight global warming in ways more important than previously understood:
Trees' role extends beyond carbon consumption, study finds <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/03/170328120234.htm>

Tree growth model assists breeding for more wood: Biologist and mathematician
join forces for thicker, faster growing trees
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/03/170306144601.htm>

How nature creates forest diversity
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/03/170306151725.htm>

When old growth beats old school: New forestry technique imitates old growth to
capture more carbon and profit
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170406102630.htm>

Mighty American chestnut poised for return to America's forests
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/03/170306092247.htm>

c/o Randi Starmer
7022 Bush Road
Jamesville, NY 13078



CNY-NYFOA

If you have announcements, photos, articles, etc. of general interest to share, please send them to danielzimmerman57.yahoo.com or to randi.starmer@gmail.com