

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

July/August 2018



Member Profile: Bob and Shirley Barton

Volume 56 Number 4



**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
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The New York Forest Owner

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VOLUME 56, NUMBER 4

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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.



NYFOA

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www.nyfoa.org

COVER:

Bob and Shirley Barton and the entrance to what they call the “sawmill path.” The tractor actually does go into the woods through here. About 500’ in, the path opens into a lightly sunlit area where they have picked wild chanterelles for sale. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of the Bartons.

From The President

Preparing for my first column as president of NYFOA allowed me to once again realize the many services and educational opportunities NYFOA provides to both its members and the communities benefiting from sound forest management.



In 2017, NYFOA helped educate our members and the general public about sustainable forestry practices and good forest stewardship to promote the long term health, productivity, and

wildlife habitat of New York's privately-owned woodlands. Key elements of this educational effort over the past 12 months were:

- The bi-monthly *New York Forest Owner* magazine
- NYFOA's recently revamped web-site (www.nyfoa.org)
- 40+ woodswalks, workshops, talks organized by NYFOA's chapters
- Participation in 15 fairs/environmental events throughout the state
- Providing 14 free "Learn More, Earn More" seminars at the NY Farm Show

In addition, NYFOA continues to sponsor the Restore New York Woodlands Initiative (RNYW), the NYFOA Woodlands Mini-grant program, which provides funding for student groups for forest related activities, and through the Western Finger Lakes (WFL) chapter, the Chainsaws for Charity program. We also collaborate with Cornell Cooperative Extension and its Master Forest Owner program, SUNY-ESF, and other associations to educate and promote NYFOA's mission.

These efforts and accomplishments are a testament to the commitment and dedication of our members. In addition to thanking all for those efforts, I would like to give special thanks to Charles Stackhouse for serving three years as NYFOA's president. During his tenure NYFOA was able to up date and improve the website, utilize the TELE (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively) program to initiate standardization of our branding, marketing,

and communication programs, develop a NYFOA Facebook presence, enhance our advocacy efforts, and maintain a strong financial structure. Charlie will continue to serve on the board and remains a member of the Executive Committee.

Most recently, NYFOA's 56th Annual Spring Program was held on April 21, 2018 at SUNY-ESF Syracuse. This program was well attended. The participants enjoyed the educational presentations, silent auction, awards ceremony, and luncheon. Rich Taber, the conference Chair, did his usual great job organizing the event and his time and efforts are much appreciated. Further details about the program are covered later in this issue.

My involvement with NYFOA began about 20 years ago when the need for information and education about actively managing the family woodlot became a priority. Our woodlot has been in the family since 1958 and is now enjoyed by our family's fifth generation. In the mid-90's it was decided that we wanted to manage the land sustainably and develop a forest management plan. A forester was carefully chosen to develop the plan to include recreation, sustainability, timber harvesting, hunting, and wildlife habitat. It was in the late 90's that we became NYFOA members.

As with many members I have spoken with, the NYFOA magazine was one of the main reasons for becoming a member. Since joining, I believe I have read every issue cover to cover at least once (including The President's Column). The content, from the advice of professionals to member reports and member profiles, are full of useful information and also ideas that allow one to see things from a unique perspective.

The woodswalks and educational programs are icing on the cake.

I am looking forward to NYFOA's continued success and to working with all to accomplish the goals we have set for 2018 and beyond.

Finally, with the summer season upon us, it's a great time to be in your woodlot. With all the goings-on around us, at times it is well worth a few minutes to just stop and enjoy all that nature has to offer.

-Art Wagner
NYFOA President

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.

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Silent Auction 2018 Approaches Goal

GERRY McDONALD

A big thank you goes out to all who participated in the silent auction at the NYFOA annual meeting at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse on April 21st. We came very close to reaching our \$2,000 goal with a total of \$1,789 raised to date. I'm sure the new owners of the items displayed at the auction will be happy with their purchases, and we appreciate their willingness to participate as well as their generosity. A special thanks to the auction donors who donated cash, a purchased item, or one of the beautiful pieces of furniture, which included handcrafted walking sticks and other crafts. It is quite evident that those pieces took a lot of time and TLC to create. Thanks also to auction team volunteers Ken and Sharon Semanovich, Eileen Schaefer, Emily Anderson and Gary Sergio who sold raffle

tickets, set up the auction table displays, connected winners with their items, and accounted for all of the receipts. The auction was truly a team effort and was possible only through their able assistance.

Now on to the reasons for the auction—NYFOA Mini-grants for Educators and support for the NY Forestry Invitational Team. There has been a relative paucity of applicants for the \$100 mini-grants, with three approved and two in process. One step that was taken at the board meeting following the day's program was to increase the maximum grant amount from \$100 to \$250. Hopefully this will spark increased interest in the NYFOA Mini-grants for Educators in the upcoming year.

Do you know a teacher or group leader in New York State that has interest in trees and forests and could make use of

up to \$250 to help fund an educational youth program? If so, please have them take a look at the NYFOA Mini-grants for Educators information sheet and application that can be found on the NYFOA website at the bottom of the NYFOA 2018 Silent Auction page (<https://www.nyfoa.org/news/statewide-news/nyfoa-silent-auction-2017-1>).

Questions can be directed to Gerry McDonald aokmando@gmail.com or Dave Williams kdwillmill@gmail.com.

Were you unable to donate an item or purchase items but still want to help? It is not too late to help us close the gap for our goal by making a direct cash contribution. Simply send a check or make a credit card donation earmarked 2018 Silent Auction Donation to:

Liana Gooding, Office Administrator
PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485 🏠

RAFFLE WINNERS — All photos taken by Rich Taber



Chaps winner Carol McDonald.



Mike Burton, who not only won the chainsaw, but also won a pair of chaps.



Dave Newman, SUNY-ESF, won a helmet.



Raffle helmet winner Jeanne Kazacos.

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

Treatment of sprouted autumn olive and other interfering shrubs

Question:

I'm trying to create an area of young forest. I cut 2 acres of aspen and autumn olive. Both have resprouted over the last 2 growing seasons and are

intermixed. I don't want the autumn olive. What are my options? (Josh H., CNY, via email)

Answer:

Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is an introduced species and recognized as invasive because it can readily

colonize fields and open woodlands, and may even invade the interior of woodlands. It is characterized by simple, alternate, elliptical leaves with undulating margins and silver and rusty scales on the leaf and twig (Figure 1). Some twigs have a thorn. Flowers are light yellow and are borne in clusters on the stem. The fruit is a reddish berry. The lower leaf surface and the twig have silvery and rust-colored scales (Figure 2). A similar plant, Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) is differentiated by silvery scales on twigs and upper and lower leaf surfaces, plus a narrower leaf. Both species grow as a large shrub or multi-stemmed tree to approximately 20 to 25 feet.

Autumn olive was propagated and released in the early 1960's for use in wildlife habitat and to reclaim droughty infertile soils. It is able to fix nitrogen through its roots. The abundant production of fruits are eaten and spread by birds and other wildlife. It grows well on droughty soils, but survives well on mesic soils. It is uncommon on poorly drained or wet



Figure 1. Autumn olive foliage has undulating margins and a mixture of silvery and rust-colored scales. Flowers are pale yellow-white.



Figure 2. The twigs and buds have scales, and some branches terminate in a thorn, as seen in the lower right of the image.

soils.

Strategies to control undesirable or interfering plants, such as autumn olive, can be categorized into treatments that are a combination of broadcast vs. selective and mechanical vs. chemical (Figure 3). Treatments

can also be mixed, often for a more beneficial outcome, such as broadcast mowing followed by selective herbicide spraying.

The process to select the correct treatment depends on several factors. One consideration is whether the

owner is willing and able to use herbicides. Another consideration is the response of the species to certain mechanical methods (e.g., cutting) and its propensity to sprout. Additional factors to consider when selecting a treatment option include the following:

- Size of plant
- Number and extent of plants
- Abundance of desired species intermixed with the interfering plant
- Ability to repeatedly treat stems that sprout
- Cost of treatments for materials and labor
- Equipment available
- Season of treatment
- Safety to the person making the treatment
- Ecological cost of a failed or delayed treatment
- Environmental cost of the treatment to soil and surrounding plants

In this example with two year old autumn olive sprouts, presumably 3 to 5 feet tall, that are intermixed with a desired species, the recommended treatment would be a selective application of an herbicide. Cutting alone would stimulate additional sprouting. A broadcast treatment of mowing or spraying would negatively impact the desired species.

There are several good resources to help guide owners who are interested in managing interfering plants such as autumn olive. These resources include general publications about the characteristics of herbicides, how to apply herbicides in forests, and strategies of integrated/forest vegetation management. There are also several publications about the control of specific species that have application in New York. These are all available here <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccednrpublications/vegetation-management/>

In addition to written publications there are several webinars about vegetation management, and a variety

continued on page 18

Examples of Method and Mode Vegetation Management Treatments

		Method Mechanism of Control	
		Mechanical	Chemical
Mode Target Specificity	Selective	<i>Examples</i> Hand pulling, Flame weeding	Cut-stump, Basal bark
	Broadcast	Mowing, Mgmt Intensive Grazing	Mist blower, Cut stubble

Select a management option(s) that is compatible with owner objectives, efficient, effective, and minimizes negative impacts

Figure 3. Mode and method examples are illustrated to suggest different ways to control a variety of undesired plants. Not all examples are appropriate in all situations. Some examples illustrate the integration of multiple modes and methods (e.g., cut-stump).

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

EASTERN NEWT (*NOTOPHTHALMUS VIRIDESCENS*)



Red eft, the land stage of the Eastern Newt. Photo courtesy of Linda Haugen, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

The eastern newt is a small- to medium-sized salamander with two irregular rows of reddish spots bordered by black circles. Adults range in size from 2 ½ to 4 ½ inches. During the breeding season, the tail fin of the male gets very broad, and he often waves it around in the water, seemingly displaying his breeding status. Males also have a series of dark, hardened pads on the inside of their hind legs.

During the summer months, the eastern newt often can be spotted in water or on land. The appearance of the eastern newt is somewhat different in each of its three distinct life stages: larva, eft, and adult. As developing larvae in the water, newts are small, with faint red spots, bushy gills, and tail fins. As they grow, they lose their gills, their tail fins disappear, and they emerge from the water as brightly colored orange or red efts. During this stage, which can last from two to seven years, they are very visible, often seen walking out in the open woods during the day. The bright color is a warning to predators, meant to remind them that newts secrete toxic chemicals that make them distasteful or even harmful to eat.

After several years of living on land as immature efts, their color becomes greenish-brown, their skin becomes smoother, their tails flatten out, and they return to the water as adults. In many permanent ponds and lakes, they

spend the remainder of their adulthood in the water. However, in temporary ponds or in warmer regions, adults often go back on land during dry periods and throughout the winter. As adults, newts usually are a dull greenish brown in color, and have a yellow belly with numerous small black dots. Aquatic adults have flattened tails that are more ideal for swimming than the rounded tails of the efts.

The eastern newt lives throughout New York State from sea level to elevations above 3,300 ft. Aquatic adults are active throughout the summer and fall and in many areas can be seen swimming during the winter months. In early spring, as the ice is melting in lakes and ponds, adults begin to congregate along the shorelines and around vegetation in preparation for breeding. Females lay from 200-400 eggs, individually attaching each one to objects in the water. The eggs hatch in about four weeks. Larval newts are


aquatic throughout the summer until fall, when they transform into efts and move out of the water into the surrounding uplands. The bright orange terrestrial efts actively feed until late fall, after which they settle under logs, in crevices, or in burrows until early spring.

In both the adult and larval stages, eastern newts are aquatic animals that often live in great numbers in unpolluted, permanent bodies of water with plenty of aquatic plants. The species is extremely adaptable, however, and also inhabits temporary ponds, ditches, streams, and agricultural ponds. Efts are found in a variety of terrestrial habitats, but mainly in moist woodlands that border the ponds where they originated.

On land, efts eat insects, worms, and other ground-dwelling animals small enough to swallow. In the water, the newts' diet includes mosquito larvae, aquatic insects, leeches, clams,

snails, and the eggs and larvae of other amphibians. They are also a food source for some predators, such as reptiles, that apparently are not bothered by their toxins. The total life span of an eastern newt can be ten years or more.

The best way to create habitat for newts is to maintain good water quality in lakes, ponds, and other water bodies that provide habitat for the larval and adult newts. Maintaining forest habitat adjacent to, or surrounding, these aquatic habitats will ensure that habitat is provided for all three life stages of this animal. Leaving logs

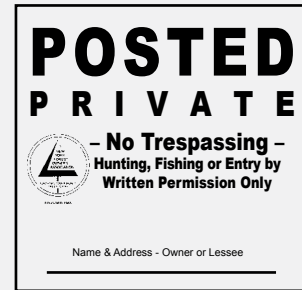
and treetops on the forest floor can provide protection for the efts during times of dry weather, and can provide over-wintering sites during the coldest months of the year. 

Adapted from "Hands-On Herpetology: Exploring Ecology and Conservation" by R. L. Schneider, M. E. Krasny, and S. J. Morreale.

Kristi Sullivan directs the New York Master Naturalist Volunteer Program and works in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University.

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News from New York Tree Farm Program

BY CHRISTOPHER PRENTIS, CF

The NY Tree Farm Program is especially grateful to be back in NYFOA's *New York Forest Owner* magazine after a four-year hiatus.

What have we been doing at Tree Farm in the meantime you ask? Well, after sorting through some organizational changes and voting to not remain a third party certified program, we have been slowly gaining traction and putting our efforts into some worthy programs and initiatives.

NY Tree Farm just hosted the first NY Tree Farm Field Day in over ten years on June 2 in Morrisville. We had a great turnout of over 70 Tree Farmers, sponsors,



presenters, and vendors. Topics covered included invasive species control, restoring American chestnut, ticks and lyme disease, and creating habitat for turkeys. It was a very educational and fun day. Plans are already underway for a 2019 Tree Farm Day and hopefully you all can attend.

We are also partnering with New York Audubon to apply for two grants that would fund landowner engagement projects in the Delaware River watershed and the Upper Hudson/Lake Champlain region. We were delighted that NYFOA was interested in partnering with NY Tree Farm in the Upper Hudson/Lake Champlain application. If our proposals are awarded, funds would enable our organization to work with forest owners in those regions in creating young forests for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife

that depend on early successional habitat to thrive.

Leadership of NY Tree Farm Program is looking at putting together some short, half-day programs and woodswalks around the State. We are targeting areas that have not had presentations/woods-walks in a long time. If you have ideas or would like to host one of these programs, please let us know. We are always looking for active participants who have a desire to share their experiences and show off their property.

Both NYFOA and Tree Farm share the same ideas and values when it comes to forests and landowners. We would like to forge a good working partnership with NYFOA going forward and to work together to educate landowners, lobby for legislation that is in the best interest of NY forestland owners, and collaborate on projects that benefit woods, water, wildlife and recreation across NYS. ▲

Christopher Prentis is a consulting forester and the owner of Lower Hudson Forestry Services, LLC., serving the southern Hudson Valley region. He can be reached at chris@lowerhudsonforestry.com

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Member Photos

A New Feature of the NYFOA Web Site

BY JIM MINOR

A new section of the NYFOA web site called "Member Photos" (distinct from the 3rd-party-written "Member Profiles") has been created on our web site. The purpose of this new section is to provide a venue where each member can create their own page to share their stories of what projects they have completed, have underway or plans for their land.

The section can be reached from the link on the Home page, www.nyfoa.org which leads you to the directory for the section. Here there's a list of each member who've made a submission with the latest submission listed at the top of the list, followed by the next most recent

and so on. Clicking on the member's name takes you to their dedicated page.

We've "primed" the section with a few early adopters and invite you, our loyal members, to add your story to the list. The contributions can take any form you wish, from a history of your property to a specific project you've undertaken, or just photos from your photo collection. Currently we're limiting contributions to no more than 12 photos per page due to potential storage restrictions but that limit may be raised in the future.

To make a submission, send your completed text and photos to techsupport@nyfoa.org (currently, the author) with the text indicating where

each photo should be placed within the text, e.g., "(photo of new chain saw here)" along with a caption, if any, you may wish to be associated with the photo. The submitter should have the reproduction rights of all photos submitted and, implicit with the submission, will give us permission to post them on the site.

We will do updates for you but we ask that you keep them to a minimum in the beginning as we're unsure of what the workload will be for maintaining this section.

We're looking forward to seeing your contributions! 🌲

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NYFOA AWARDS

Marilyn Wyman Honored with Heiberg Award



Marilyn receives the Heiberg Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State at the Annual Meeting of NYFOA on April 21 2018. Pictured from left to right includes Laura Pisarri, NYFOA Capital District Chapter Secretary, Jason Post, NYFOA Capital District Chapter Chair, Marilyn Wyman, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties and Peter Smalldige, Cornell Cooperative Extension Senior Extension Associate and State Extension Forester.

Marilyn Wyman is an environmental education visionary who nurtures relationships between woodland owners and their woodlands, loggers and their safety and well-being, funders and their contract deliverables, invasive species and their early detection and rapid response, youth and their stake in our future world....and that was just in the past week!

Marilyn's energy and commitment to the successful collaborations that are the Agroforestry Resource Center (ARC) and the Siuslaw Model Forest and to her environment and natural resource team is only out-done by her enthusiasm to facilitate successful outcomes to natural resource issues. Marilyn has been a leader in helping others to make this happen.

Under her stewardship at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Columbia Greene, the Agroforestry Resource Center became a reality in 2003 working with nine partner organizations. The 142-acre Siuslaw Model Forest was established four years later in 2007. Today, the ARC

partners with 53 organizations to fulfill their education and outreach mission. Program participants and education and outreach efforts have reached over 25,000 individuals since 2003. From 2010 to present, Marilyn's efforts to support natural resource program staff and the CCE Association through cutting edge grants and contracts has totaled over \$1.5 million.

Marilyn's program and career have been exemplary in the breadth and depth of the people, communities, and issues she has attended to. Some specific examples of her program that has touched people at all levels and in all sectors of forest and natural resource management include the following:

- Developed curriculum and coordinated programs focusing on environmental science and related topics for grades K-12 audience for the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve with funding through National Science Foundation;
- Co-authored chapter in Global Climate Change and Life on Earth;

- Developed and marketed a strategic plan for Cornell University, State Legislators, the Watershed Agricultural Council and regional colleges to secure funds to create the Agroforestry Resource Center (ARC), a facility that focuses on the multiple values of regional forests and rural landscapes;

- Assisted with the donation of a 142 acre Tree Farm, across from the ARC, that has been designated as a New York City "Model Forest" for education and research partnering with the Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program and helping to ensure a clean water supply to New York City;

- Worked with the Watershed Agricultural Council to create programs targeting New York City Watershed forest landowners, and Logger Training Certification programs;

- Worked with Cornell University as part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program statewide team;

- Worked with the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) as a director and member of her local NYFOA chapter;

- Supported the completion of a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture multi-state project on landowner legacy;

- Worked as a natural resource specialist for Cornell University's Climate Change Science, Communication, and Action online course.

According to Wyman, the thread that runs through many of these efforts is recognizing the value of mentors and mentoring. While one of CCE's signature roles is providing research based science to help our communities make informed, positive decisions, mentoring is a powerful way that CCE educators and partners grow and learn from others. "Two of my most significant mentors were past recipients of the NYFOA Heiberg Award, Mike Greason and Eric Rasmussen. Without their help and inspiration, I could not have accomplished all that has happened. I have always felt it was my responsibility to mentor those who will be taking the ARC, and the programs we support, into the future." ▲

Heiberg Award Recipients

1966	Hardy L. Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatic
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil
2008	Gary Goff
2009	John Sullivan
2010	Carl Wiedemann
2011	Mike Birmingham
2012	Charlie Mowatt
2013	Ron Pedersen
2014	Bruce Robinson
2015	Hugh Canham
2016	Eric Rasmussen
2017	Jerry Michael
2018	Marilyn Wyman

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Dean Faklis

The recipient of the NYFOA Outstanding Service Award for 2018 was Dean Faklis of Springwater, NY. An active Master Forest Owner volunteer and NYFOA member, in the last four years Dean has conceived, birthed and raised to maturity at least five successful initiatives. Dean has a fertile imagination and likes to think big. Shortly after being elected President of NYFOA, I had to add a folder to my email entitled “NYFOA – Dean’s ideas.”

Dean pushed for a gift membership program that was successful, not only in new members but in a high percentage of renewals among those new members. He dreamed of improved member benefits and signed a number of businesses up to give NYFOA members a discount, saving considerably on the price of membership.

At the Annual Meeting last year, a silent auction was held for the first time in many years that raised over \$5,000 for youth forestry programs like the NY 4-H Forestry Invitational Team and NYFOA

Woodlands Mini-grants for Educators. Can you guess who proposed and planned the auction and successfully led the auction team?

The Northeast Timber Growing Contest has generated a lot of enthusiasm and is beginning to be noticed far and wide. Dean proposed this and with Peter Smallidge’s collaboration has set up the contest with its own website, has helped a number of people get started in the contest, and has written several articles about the contest.

Dean is very active in the Western Finger Lakes chapter, and was the driving force behind their successful “c4c” or Chainsaws for Charity program.

NYFOA has greatly benefited from each of these initiatives. Dean cares about the health of New York’s forests and about NYFOA and he has made a difference.

This award is well-deserved. 🌲

—Charles L. Stackhouse

April 21, 2018

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

1978	Emiel Palmer	1999	Eileen and Dale Schaefer
1979	Ken Eberly	2000	Erwin and Polly Fullerton
1980	Helen Varian	2001	Billy Morris
1981	J. Lewis Dumond	2002	Donald G. Brown
1982	Lloyd Strombeck	2003	Henry S. Kernan
1983	Evelyn Stock	2004	Hugh & Janet Canham
1984	Dorothy Wertheimer	2005	Jerry Michael
1985	David H. Hanaburgh	2006	John Druke
1986	A. W. Roberts, Jr.	2007	Ron Pedersen
1987	Howard O. Ward	2009	Alan White
1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty	2010	Dick Patton
1989	Alan R. Knight	2011	Jamie Christensen
1990	Earl Pfarner	2012	Joan and Hans Kappel
1991	Helen & John Marchant	2013	Dick Starr
1992	Richard J. Fox	2014	Gary Goff
1993	Wesley E. Suhr	2015	Jim Minor
1994	Alfred B. Signor	2016	Rich Taber
1995	Betty & Don Wagner	2017	Phil Walton
1996	Betty Densmore	2018	Dean Faklis
1997	Norman Richards		
1998	Charles P. Mowatt		

NYFOA CHAPTER AWARDS

The following awards were presented at the NYFOA Annual Meeting on April 21st. All photos taken by Rich Taber.

AFC- Michael Jabot, Ph.D.,

Professor, Science Education, State University of New York at Fredonia
Director, Institute for Research in Science Teaching



The Allegany Foothills Chapter is pleased to recognize Michael Jabot for our Chapter's "NYFOA Service Award." He has done an extraordinary job with our newsletter, most recently including the integration of the new NYFOA logo. He also was the lead person for our membership survey, which received an excellent response. He then took the next step of analyzing the data which was provided by our members and presented it to the steering committee. This provided a demographics map of where our members reside by county in NYS, which provides an excellent base of information for planning future events/ woods walk programs. He is a past presenter at the annual Rural Land Owners Workshop and will be a special event speaker for us in mid-April on climate change and its impact on our woodlands. We thank Mike for these significant contributions.

CDC- Dick Gibbs

After a 35 year career in the NYSDEC, **Dick Gibbs** was recruited into NYFOA by everyone's mentor, Mike Greason. When Mike became Dick and (his wife) Shari's forester

for their 130 acre farm, with 70 acres of woodlot in Rensselaer county, Dick took on an active role in NYFOA- CDC. With Mike's untimely passing, Dick became chairman of the CDC steering committee, where he contributed a series of creative columns about his experiences as an amateur naturalist in our chapter newsletter, a contribution he continues today.

Dick has hosted many woodswalks, and has been an advocate for small woodlot owners to be able to learn about forest management practices. He is active as an MFO volunteer, has lectured to the local Boy Scouts on forest management, and represents NYFOA at the Schaghticoke Fair. For a number of years, he has been an especially active participant in Forestry Awareness Day at the state legislature. Every year, Dick and Shari hold a NYFOA maple syrup tour at their neighbor's sap house, which uses sap collected from Dick's own sugar bush. Dick introduced our chapter to the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA), a land conservation group in Rensselaer county. RPA has co-sponsored many of our events, such as maple syrup tours, Game of Logging (GOL), and woodswalks at their community forest.

Last, but not least, Dick was instrumental in bringing the Game of Logging to the CDC, and has hosted GOL classes in his own woodlot, thereby spreading chainsaw safety training to a wide range of land owners, as well as several organizations, such as Grafton Lakes State Park and the RPA.

Dick is certainly deserving of this award, and is way overdue to be recognized for his contributions to our chapter.

Submitted by Laura Pisarri

CNY- Carl Stearns

Carl can't remember when he joined NYFOA, but he has been a member



for many years with indispensable help and support from his wife of 50 years, Susan B. Stearns. His family, starting with his father, has taken timber on the sawmill for use on the farm and made maple syrup since the 1950s. They are working with their fifth DEC forester.

For some years, Stearns Farm near Erieville (southeast of Cazenovia) put on a NYFOA breakfast in the 1967 sap house, which isn't big enough for that use. The weather seemed to cooperate, however, so that at least one of the two picnic tables could be outside. Sometimes the sap and the evaporator were running, sometimes not. The breakfast meant that it could still be a worthy event, including a walk up into the sugar bush to see the tubing system and the maturing grove of maples. Ever since Donald Stearns (Carl Stearns' father) died in 1989, Carl's been making syrup, with the help of three friends, some longer than others, including John Piston, Jamie Christensen and Dan Jackson. They made the breakfasts and the NYFOA open house events possible and now Donald Bigelow also helped with this year's event in March.

It seems that Carl is or at least should be known in the Central chapter for his interest in the historic uses of wood, as an almost retired preservation architect. On at least one woods walk at Stearns Farm he showed the collection of 19th century buildings (he has relocated to save from destruction) with beech, hemlock, and elm framing timbers. On another tour of the east forty, including a tributary to the Chittenango creek watershed, the group saw the biggest snapping turtle most folks had ever seen. Another NYFOA event that Carl organized was the saw mill tour at Oran

Milling, where an elm tree that Carl had grown up with had expired and was sawn. After that the group toured settlement period barns in the Town of Pompey.

Carl has shared his knowledge of historic uses of hewn and sawn timber with members whenever possible. He has always welcomed NYFOA visits to his wood-fired evaporator and sugarbush.

SAC- Lou Inzinna

The quality of leadership plays a major role in the success of any organization. The Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA is no exception. Over the years since its creation, SAC has had numerous effective, hard-working, and creative leaders who have spent their two years as Chair helping to make this a successful chapter, and contributing to the efficacy of our statewide organization. Several of us here know first-hand, or from watching spouses and friends, that those two years as Chair are really demanding, as well as rewarding. We also know that chapters in the state that have not had leaders have disbanded or seriously diminished.

We would like to present to our most recent SAC Chairman and full-time Adirondacker, Lou Inzinna, the Chapter Service Award for his continuing efforts over and above what is expected of a chapter chair to keep SAC alive and well. Lou served as chair from 2014 to 2015, and was really effective at providing structure to our meeting and work activities, at engaging other chapter members to actively work on chapter projects, and at encouraging people to host and participate in woodswalks. When his term was finished, Lou, like former chairs, was ready to step back from the leadership responsibilities. However, when there were no candidates for chair or vice chair, Lou continued to do the chair's work, without the title, to ensure that SAC could continue to effectively serve its members and remain a viable chapter. Without his

ongoing efforts, there would be no annual meeting today for us to attend. Without his work, during his term as Chair and after, there would be no deer enclosure, no storage vehicle for chapter materials, no logging videos for the county fair exhibits. Without Lou's leadership, we would not have had the woodswalk to see the regeneration after Kurt and Kristie Edwards seed tree regeneration cut, we would not have shared our time together on Oven Mountain at Bob and Tomoko Manning's woodlot and appreciated the gorgeous views. Without Lou's ongoing leadership, we would not have continued to have the learning and camaraderie that makes us better stewards of our own woodlots.

It is with great appreciation that we give him this year's Chapter Service Award, and thank him for all he has done to keep the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter alive and well for all of us.

SOT- Gary Sergio



Gary Sergio has been a member of NYFOA since October 2010 and according to our newsletter archive has been on the steering committee beginning in 2014. Gary participates in the MFO program. He has had a woodswalk on his property. He organized the Unalam tour, helped with the mushroom class and the training for the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. Gary regularly attends chapter and steering committee meetings.

The NYFOA SOT Chapter would like to thank Gary Sergio by presenting him with the 2018 Chapter Service Award.

WFL- Cathy Corby Gardner

Cathy was born and raised on a small family dairy farm in Pittsford and is the oldest of three children.

Cathy graduated from the University of Rochester and spent her early career working in the family commodity bean and grain business. She later became interested in banking, eventually rising to Vice President Regional Manager of Goldome. Cathy's passion for managing and developing others and for sales led her to the position of advertising manager for Wolfe, which became Messenger Wolfe Newspapers.

In 1991 Cathy and her husband Marty purchased a farm home in Lima, New York where they currently reside. The farm house from the early 1900's era was modernized; but sits on the original foundation from 1786. They own approximately 250 acres of agriculture land and about 50 acres of forested land.

Cathy has always been very involved in the community. She is currently an elected member of the Lima Town Board and serves as Chairperson of the Livingston County Community Initiatives Council. Cathy is also an active board member of the Genesee Valley Conservancy

Her many interests include agriculture, nature, wildlife, habitat maintenance, and restoration including plantings of native species. These interests led her to the path of NYFOA in 2010. She has been secretary of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter for the past six years. Cathy has always gone above and beyond to keep things running smoothly for the chapter.

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA would like to thank Cathy for her contributions and her excellent job as secretary. 🏡

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

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

AMBROSIA BEETLES: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY!

BY MARK C. WHITMORE

On a recent trip back to my native Pacific Northwest I was reminded of one of my favorite bugs as I stood on the recently fallen stem of a once mighty Douglas-fir. I was on the Olympic Peninsula, across the valley from the world's largest Doug fir on a stem of about 8 ft. in diameter and at my feet were thousands of little piles of white sawdust... Ambrosia beetles. I've always been fascinated with these beetles and

their amazing biology, the good (if you're an entomologist), but as I became aware over time they can cause significant economic loss, the bad, and now some invasive species threaten a significant amount of southern California's forest trees, the ugly.

First the good, if you're a bug geek. Ambrosia beetles are basically weevils from two families, the Scolytidae and Platypodidae. There are over 3,500



Figure 1. Boring dust of Redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*. James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org

species described to date, mostly tropical, and likely many thousands more yet to be described, as with most insect groups. The really cool thing about these beetles is that they are farmers. While most insects directly consume a plant, ambrosia beetles carefully create an environment conducive to their farming very specific fungi which they then consume as larvae and adults. This behavior is quite unusual, the only other insects to do so are the highly social ants and termites.

So how do they actually farm the fungi? First of all, most ambrosia beetles are in the same family as bark beetles and are quite adept at boring into trees. The way you can tell bark beetle attack from that of ambrosia beetles is the color of the boring dust that accumulates on the bark of the tree: Bark beetles bore in bark and their dust is brown, whereas ambrosia beetles bore into the wood and their dust is very lightly colored, almost white. As they bore into the wood they push the dust out making little piles or sometimes compacting the dust into strings that stick straight out from the stem a couple inches, like a pencil lead (Figure 1). I often see this on beech trees in our forests. As they are constructing their tunnels in wood the beetles will inoculate the surrounding wood with fungi that they carry with them in body declivities called mycangia. These cavities are specially

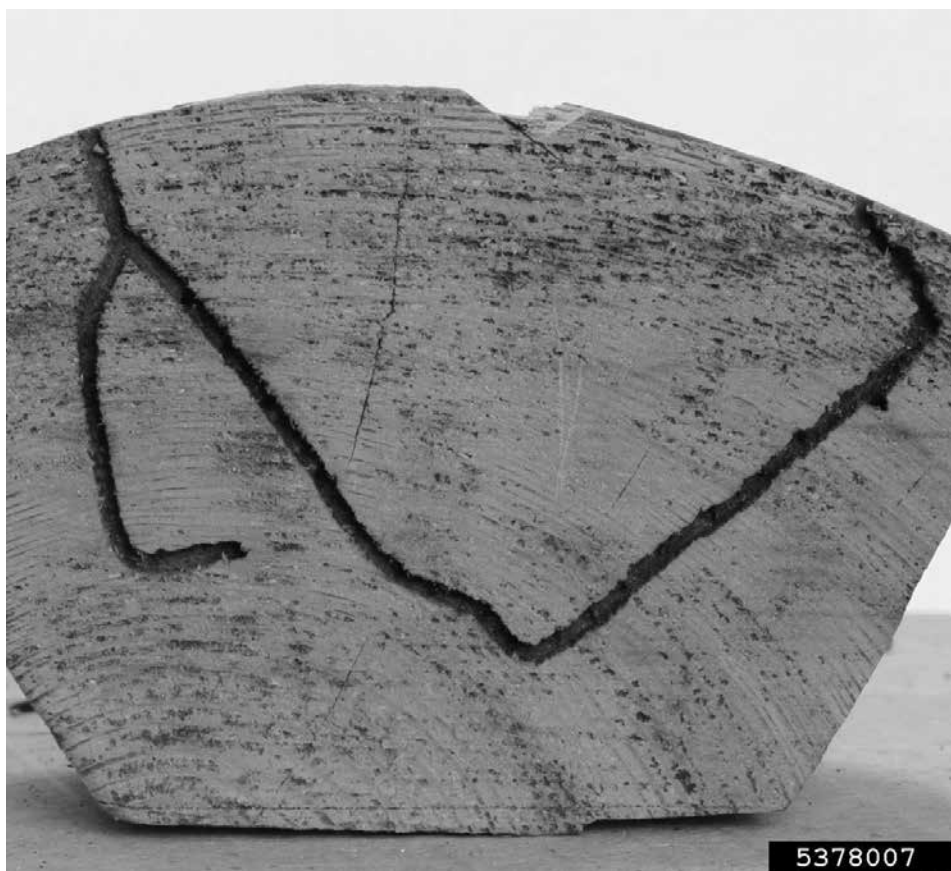


Figure 2. Tunnel of the Striped ambrosia beetle, *Trypodendron lineatum*. Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org



Figure 3. Ambrosia beetle attacks on Live oak. M. Whitmore photo

designed to provide the proper habitat to protect the fungal inoculum they gather from the tunnel they were raised in and transport it to a new tree. The fungi associated with ambrosia beetles are all highly specialized to live with the beetles and grow in their tunnels (Figure 2).

One of the most important tricks for the beetles is to select the appropriate tree to colonize so the fungi flourish to feed their young. This requires the wood to be moist for the duration of their inhabitation, but not too moist and certainly not too dry. I've always been fascinated by their ability to choose appropriately. For instance, I recall coming upon a spruce tree someone had felled and snagged in a neighboring tree. They then cut the butt log off in the hopes that the crown would become dislodged (not the smartest move). The interesting thing was that the stem with the branches and foliage on it had no beetles at all whereas the stem without branches was densely attacked. Somehow the beetles knew the stem without branches would retain enough moisture to grow the fungus so they could complete development.

shown that at least one species is adapted to grow optimally within a narrow range of ethanol, about 1 to 2 percent, indicating a high degree of specialization for this very specific habitat.

The bad part about native ambrosia beetles is the damage fungal staining does to the value of the wood and that they can kill large and cherished trees during extreme drought conditions. The damage to timber can be significant in spring but can be averted with rapid milling or treatment with water, either submerging the logs or keeping logs wet with sprinklers. One of my favorite memories as a youth was traveling with my uncle who was a forester with a local timber company. Uncle How was king of the forest in my book. I remember one day marveling at the huge sprinklers on top of a massive log deck at his mill and never forgot that the reason they were there was to protect the logs from beetles. The destructive force of these beetles on stressed trees was made very real when I visited the Houston area during a severe drought. In one park there were a large number of dead mature live oaks, all with

Just like other native insects, our native ambrosia beetles select downed, dying, or severely stressed trees to attack. I think one of the big questions I've always had is what is it about these trees that attracts them? One of the cues discovered with bark beetle work has been the presence of ethyl alcohol, or ethanol. Ethanol baited traps definitely catch more scolytid beetles and when trees die they begin to "ferment" as it were. The fascinating thing about the ambrosia fungus is that recent research has

the typical oozing of sap characteristic of ambrosia beetle attack (Figure 3). In New York there are historic reports of Ambrosia beetles attacking Sugar maple regeneration, but I've not seen that myself.

Then there is the ugly, the recent invasion of non-native ambrosia beetles into the southeastern states and southern California which pose ever increasing economic and ecological damage as the infestations spread. The redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*, a native of Asia, was first discovered near Savanna, Georgia in 2002. The mortality of redbay infested trees has been rapid and extensive as the beetles have spread now from coastal North Carolina to northern Florida where they are attacking another member of the Laurel family, Avocado.

There are two invasive ambrosia beetles in southern California that are now causing extensive mortality with huge economic and ecological implications. The Polypagous shot hole borer and Kuroshio shot hole borer are two very similar *euwallacea* species that have now become collectively known as the Invasive shothole borer (ISHB). First detected in 2003, they became recognized as the cause of massive mortality of boxelder in 2010 and have been recorded attacking over 350 species of trees and successfully breeding in 62 species. The US Forest Service estimates there are over 23 million vulnerable trees in the area, representing about 33% of the urban canopy. ISHB have also been killing native sycamores and willows that provide valuable habitat for many species of native animals and plants that disappear when the trees are killed and replaced by invasive plants.

The impact of ambrosia beetles in New York for now seems limited to lumber degradation from fungal staining. However, in this time of increased international commerce and changing climate it pays to not move firewood and to keep your eyes open; ambrosia beetles are one of those pests to watch for. 🌲

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



Figure 4. Basal bark treatments work by a chemical girdling of the stem, so the product must be applied to fully coat the entire circumference of each stem. Pathfinder II is the most common unrestricted basal bark product.

of other species and related topics. Webinars cover chemical and organic options and are archived at www.youtube.com/ForestConnect

The previously mentioned publications and webinars make reference to the importance of reading and following the label on herbicides. I strongly encourage a high level of familiarity with and adherence to the label. Notably, the target plant species must be listed on the label for the treatment to be compliant with NYS law. All products registered for use in NY have their label posted here <http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products?0>


The treatment requiring the least time and effort would be to apply Pathfinder II as a basal spray (Figure 4). A basal spray is an herbicide mixed in oil. Pathfinder II is a premix of Garlon 4 (triclopyr) mixed in vegetable oil. It is unrestricted so can be purchased without a pesticide applicators license. The basal spray is applied to the full circumference of all stems. As sprouts, there may be multiple stems. Spraying can happen throughout the year as long as spray can be applied from ground level to about 16 inches up the stem. The product is absorbed through the bark and chemically girdles the plant. Additional information about basal bark treatments, including a recent fact sheet from PSU Cooperative Extension is available at <http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com/> and search for “basal bark treatments”.

Another treatment option would be to use a brush saw (Figure 5) to sever the autumn olive stem at ground level and then apply Pathfinder II to the freshly cut surface. This treatment would use less herbicide, so lower cost, but would have the added cost of labor and more equipment to cut and handle the stems. There is also a slight risk of personal injury from the saw, but properly equipped and maintained brush saws are quite safe.

A final option would be a selective herbicide treatment to foliage. During



Figure 5. Brush saws are effective tools for vegetation management. The shoulder strap provides a barrier for kickback that would injure the operator. Safety equipment is still necessary.

the growing season the desired species are also leafed out, and treatment is not recommended. However, many of the introduced species leaf-out before and remain in leaf longer than native species (Figure 6). This phenological pattern provides an option, though the window of treatment is often only a couple weeks. One example of an unrestricted herbicide labeled for foliar treatment of autumn olive is Stalker, which has the active ingredient imazapyr. There are relatively few unrestricted herbicides in New York that are labeled for autumn olive, and many are formulated for control and exclusion of all vegetation. 

The column is coordinated by Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY 14853. Contact Peter at pjs23@cornell.edu, or (607) 592 – 3640. Visit his website www.ForestConnect.info, and webinar archives at www.youtube.com/ForestConnect Support for ForestConnect is provided by the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and USDA NIFA.



Figure 6. Like autumn olive, multiflora rose (pictured) leafs out before other species. This early leaf display provides a management option for foliar treatments which avoid contact with those desired species that haven't yet broken bud.



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Bob and Shirley Barton

BOB BARTON AND BRETT CHEDZOY

Our 100 acre farm is in the town of Hector, the second largest town in New York State. It is entwined with the early history of Massachusetts which extended into the Finger Lakes region. The farm was originally inhabited by the local Indian populations, before it was taken by settlers and the several wars leading to the American Revolution. The land was used as payment to the soldiers of the war for their service. These were called the Military Tracts, and there is a great connection to the Greek Civil war that was passionately a part of the history of upstate New York. Towns like Hector, Ulysses, Utica, Rome, and others had names connected to this civil

war, and this region had its own special architecture called Greek revival.

The farm is now owned and managed by Bob and Shirley Barton. The original farmhouse was built in 1842 and is a classic Greek revival architecture. Shirley's family was able to buy the land in 1942 as a sad part of the Great Depression from a farm foreclosure. Her father began farming the property. Interestingly, we met a member of the family whose farm was foreclosed during the depression. She talked about the orchard and the arrowheads she found in the fields. The whole farm was in fields that we guess were mostly hay fields. There were no forests, so it is easy to

conclude the age of our current 40+ acres of woods!

There is one generation on the farm, since Shirley, Sharon and Carl's folks died. Bob and Shirley have retired here, but Carl always lived on the property. Sharon and her husband are now also in the 1942 farmhouse, now restored to close to its original splendor. Bob and Shirley built a small house next to the forest, hoping to gain weather protection from the tall trees. It didn't work.

They have a classic mixture of oaks, hickories, ash, ironwood, basswood, and of course aspens. There are more, but the self-seeding of these trees is a classic succession forest. There is a several acre plantation of aging Scotch pine, mistakenly planted in the wrong place in the 1950's. This section is now falling down and mixed with some oak and aspen edges that started relatively early. The Scotch pines were a fashionable planting in the 50's era. They are rapid growing, so they cover quickly. Some were harvested by Shirley's dad for building sheds and other lightweight projects. Today, we learn that the wood is a prime home for carpenter bees, so there is rebuilding coming!

A sidelight to using local lumber, Shirley's dad ran a sawmill in Sawmill Creek in Hector in the 50's. Carl remembers riding in the truck pulling out of the creek with sawn lumber on it. To continue that fine tradition, his father decided to build a sawmill on the farm. Being a transmission mechanic in Ithaca (no longer able to take farming in the sun) their father took a Thunderbird engine, found a sawmill trolley, modified the engine and transmission to drive the trolley, and proceeded to saw lumber from the woodlot and built a complete shed over the mill. That's what a woodlot is for! He cut the trees for a small cabin, sawed the lumber, and built it. Sadly, both are now "taken" by the forest.

Carl and his dad enjoyed the sugarbush in the winter. Small farmers do that with materials on hand. They built a fire underneath the 55 gallon drum and used buckets in the trailer behind the Ford 9N

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In the Finger Lakes, on 6 May, growing in our woods, this is Carolina spring beauty. It is a spring ephemeral – perennial woodland plants that sprout from the ground early each spring. Spring ephemerals quickly bloom and seed before the canopy trees overhead leaf out. Once the leaves of the canopy trees have leafed out and the forest floor is deep in shade, the leaves of spring ephemerals wither away leaving just the roots, rhizomes, and bulbs underground.



This image shows how forests keep changing. Bob notes that this looks like one of the high-graded trees. It also has a nice crop of mushrooms, indicating a return of nutrients to the soil.

to carry the sap from the sugar maples to the drum for heating. Sugar maples were fairly plentiful in the succession forest, and emptying the tap barrels was the pleasure of sunny days in February. Wood from the forest heated the drum,

and the solitude of the burn was good for the soul. Today, the sugar maples are difficult to find and grow. Seems that the forest environment has changed and the sugar maples don't grow so well. There's a lot of discussion about



Bob explained that he had never really "seen" these small butterflies and that Shirley told him they were "fritillaries." On dry days, when there are spots of moisture, they are seen to congregate. They are pollinators of the buckwheat.

this, especially from the folks watching closely the "changing" of the forests.

Bob joined NYFOA in 2006, not fully understanding the scope of the mission. He was a research scientist in underwater acoustics for the Navy, and all his training was in software engineering, and other electronics engineering topics, and underwater acoustics. Shirley was trained in microbiology, but she ended up working to develop aquaculture of lobsters at University of Rhode Island (URI). Shirley worked at URI Cooperative Extension after her experience as a youth in 4H, so she was well prepared to return to the soil and the farm. Upon retirement in 2004, and the return to Shirley's family farm, for both of them the view-shed really changed. It was totally engaging, refreshing and appealing.

Bob really got hooked by the tremendous woodswalks he attended. They were eye-opening. There were so many forestry connected concepts, and they were so different from...acoustics. The world was opening up.

Not so long after joining, Bob trained as a Master Forest Owner/Volunteer. This was a great experience, because it extended the regional woodwalk topics into more broad-based topics. This was needed because of the diversity of small- and medium-sized wood lot owners. They too have the wonder of "what should I do with these areas on my property." This is a well-crafted program of training, for a wide range of woods owners. Bob recognizes the idea of varying interests of the owners of these woods. No one size fits all. It's really the job of NYFOA and its members to shepherd these interests.

The family's woods are multidimensional joys. Every day, they walk either in the woods or on the periphery. The dogs benefit and they benefit from the joy of everyday changes. In the summer there are changing plant situations in the forest. They walk the snowmobile trail both winter and summer. The snowmobile trail is a benefit for all. It is a snowshoe trail in winter and cooling walk in the summer. The vegetation changes as they walk. Mayapples and trillium and trout lilies in spring, and tree blossoms in summer, and cherries in fall, and...



Shirley had never seen chanterelles while growing up on the farm. Just 3 years ago, there were acres of these.

The fairways and “rough patches” are now of interest because of the Xerxes Society. This group is focused on the invertebrates, such as bees. The Bartons now have bees and are encouraging different bee type habitats based on their unique interests. Some bees are specialized, living in specific forest areas and some are focused on fields. It’s more than just “honeybees.”

They have hive honeybees for the buckwheat crop, at the request of the owner of the hives. It is interesting that bees also use forests as pollen sources for honey. This is a mutually beneficial case where the field crops are beneficial to the honey crop. Interestingly, the honey crop does depend upon tree pollen as well! Also some recent research at Cornell discovered that most of the region’s apple orchards are predominantly pollinated by wild bees, obviating the need to bring in hives for apple tree pollination.

The Bartons also run a certified organic farm for buckwheat, vegetables, and mushrooms; the last crop became available over the last three years as a certified organic “wild harvest” from a shady forest spot. Shirley and her brother and sister grew up on the farm and never once saw the chanterelles in the forest. The weather cooperated over the past

several years to allow this crop to be taken. Warmth and rain seemed to cause the flush in late July. The chanterelles grow best in moderate shade with lightly filtered sunlight peeking through.

The forest was high-graded in the 90’s and evidence of the stumps is still visible when walking through. There was heavy emphasis on the oaks and hard maple, although stumps of the oaks seem to last longer. When the Bartons retired in 2004, they needed to claim firewood from the woods to heat the farm house. The coal burner had long been taken out and the whole farm house was heated with a wood stove. All the kids remember dressing in front of the stove on the cold mornings. So Bob’s retirement began with buying a tractor to go into the woods to cut firewood for a wood-fired boiler out in the barn. The boiler was installed and now keeps the whole house quite pleasant. It is an efficient gasification system built by

a local business in the area. Bob said that there was still slash from the high-grading that went into the stove from the woods. He usually harvested the hornbeam trees because they were usually the right size to go in the fire after cutting to length, they were plentiful, and they burned hot.

Bob joined the steering committee of the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owner’s Association around 2010. He really enjoyed the forestry related ideas that kept flowing from committee members. Brett Chedzoy and Peter Smallidge were patient with him, too!

One thing Bob mentioned frequently was the relationships that exist among the elements of a forestry *system*. It wasn’t just the trees. There were connections too: animals large and small, mycorrhizae in the soil, hydrology, soils and nutrients, vernal pools. He said there were so many research topics. He mentioned an example of recent research in garlic mustard growth patterns. Garlic mustard is a common invasive that has engendered “garlic mustard pulls” to get rid of it. Research seems to indicate that the soil may be adapting and reducing the biological mass of this invasive.

Bob and Shirley Barton enjoy the 44 acres of woodlands on the farm, and they don’t manage it for timber or money. A snowmobile trail goes through the woods and the family enjoys walking that trail in the heat of summer or the blowing cold winds of winter when it is quiet and peaceful.

They also see the connection to the New York Nut Growers Association and other forest related organizations such as NYS DEC. There really is a community of forestry related organizations and people, and a lot of uses for your woods! 🌲

Bob Barton is owner and resident with his wife Shirley of their farm in Hector. Brett Chedzoy is Regional Extension Forester with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schuyler County, NY.

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.

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