

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 2019



Member Profile: Darryl Wood and Toby Wollin

Volume 57 Number 4



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

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VOLUME 57, 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
New York Forest Owners Association

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Front cover. Darryl Wood and Toby Wollin on their property. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of Darryl and Toby.

From The President

NYFOA's 57th Annual Spring Program was held on Saturday May 4, 2019 at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY. The program "New York State Woodlands: Past, Present, & Future Opportunities and Challenges" was both pertinent and timely given the



current concerns of family forest owners to sustainably manage their woodlots.

Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor at SUNY ESF,

began the program with a history of New York State woodlands. The financial, social, and environmental impact of our forests throughout the centuries shaped the way New York State developed and continues to impact our way of life. The economic impact of forestry is much more significant than most people would imagine. In addition, NYS has been and continues to be a leader in conservation initiatives to protect our forests and the environmental benefits they provide.

Peter Smallidge, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University presented the most current strategies for successful woodlot regeneration. Deer impacts on natural regeneration are significant in many areas of NYS. Various means to minimize these impacts and improve the ability for successful regeneration were identified. The advantages and disadvantages of each technique presented will allow for

individual forest owners to identify the best opportunity for their woodlot.

Kristine Ferrare, CCE Onondaga County, and Gregg Sargis, director of Ecologic Management, The Nature Conservancy, discussed opportunities to prepare woodlots for more frequent disturbances. Given the fact that hundreds of invasive species of insects, diseases, plants, and other organisms are established in the United States, plans to combat their impact should be considered in forest management plans. Also discussed were similar considerations for extreme weather events (e.g. ice, wind, rain, and storms).

As a participant in the program, I once again realized that learning about current practices and strategies (in any endeavor) should be a life-long pursuit. In addition, the opportunity to have peer-to-peer discussions at the program with other landowners with similar concerns, helps formulate potential action plans. For on-going learning and sharing, participating in a local woodswalk or program is recommended for all forest owners. Please view these local opportunities on the NYFOA website and plan to attend a local event.

NYFOA's success is due to the commitment of our members who volunteer their time and effort. Several members were recognized for extraordinary service to NYFOA, both state-wide and at the local chapter level. Their stories and contributions are featured on page 14 in this issue.

Have fun in the woods this summer and stay safe!

—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.

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

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

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Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members (who joined since the publishing of the last issue) to NYFOA and thank them for their interest in, and support of, the organization:

Name	Chapter
David Baker	WFL
Brielle Dailey	CNY
Andy Galler	LHC
Cathy & Bill Garrett	WFL
Pat Gorham	CNY
Kim Hourigan and Barbara Morse	WFL
Martha Link	CNY
Bob Mosich	WFL
Mark Obbie	WFL
George Petrella	AFC
WJ Rodenhouse	WFL
Andrew Rowles	CDC
Sheppard Salon	LHC

Please share this magazine with
a neighbor and urge them to join
NYFOA.

By gaining more members,
NYFOA's voice will become
stronger!

Firewood 4 Charity

DAVE KEEBLER

Firewood 4 Charity (F4C) has been an initiative of the NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Chapter since 2016. Originally named Chainsaws 4 Charity (C4C), it was rechristened this past winter in order to eliminate a conflict with an out of state organization of the same name. F4C operates in conjunction with Wagner Hardwood and the Rotary Clubs of Walworth/Ontario and Canandigua. Property, facilities, and heavy equipment for F4C are provided through the courtesy of David and Celia Deuel of Caledonia.

The high level overview of F4C is that Wagner donates and delivers logs to the yard in Caledonia, F4C volunteers split them into firewood and the rotary clubs sell and deliver the wood to residences in their club areas. Proceeds from the sale are donated to Rotary Camp Onsewaya on the shores of Seneca Lake. The camp is open the last two weeks of August for disabled campers aged 8-16. The rest of the year the camp is known as Boy Scout Camp Babcock-Hovey. The web site for Camp Onsewaya can be viewed at this link <https://www.onseyawa.org/>.

The name is derived from the first two letters of the four countries that have rotary clubs supporting the camp; Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates. I would describe the

architecture of the camp as rustic and the facilities as state-of-art in all areas.

Today F4C runs on three main areas of responsibility. First, David Deuel is the yard master. He coordinates log deliveries with Wagner, monitors the face cords on hand, and calls for workdays when needed. He is retired from the field of agriculture so he knows how to balance workdays against the weather, competing calendar events, maintenance of the equipment, and other sundry considerations. David is also on hand to monitor when rotary clubs come to the yard and pick up wood. David and Celia both help split wood on workdays. They also set up refreshments in the quonset hut break area for volunteers to enjoy. There is always liberal time to socialize prior to beginning work, during breaks, and at meal time.


Eileen Schaefer manages the second area of the operation. David notifies Eileen when to set up workdays and she orchestrates the process from that point onward. Eileen maintains a directory of people who regularly volunteer or who have expressed an interest in volunteering. Typically the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month are slotted for workdays, as is the last Saturday. On Wednesdays work starts at 9:00 am and goes until 11:30 am followed

by lunch. Sometimes more work is done in the afternoon, depending on the energy level when lunch is over. Saturday work begins at 10:00 am and ends about 1:00 pm with a lunch break starting at 11:30. Eileen passes along reminders and advice as the work days draw close. Such things as dress warm, have extra gloves, bring a sandwich, remember your sunscreen, etc. Like the Deuels, Eileen and Dale Schaefer both help split wood on workdays.

The third area of the operation is managed by yours truly Dave Keebler. My role is to contact the two rotary clubs toward the end of summer and find out how much wood they anticipate they will need. It is that simple. No amount of flowery adjectives or other grammar gimmicks can make it seem any more complex, difficult, or challenging than what it is — simply make two phone calls.

F4C would be remiss if the contributions of Dean and Julie Faklis were not included in this article. They were the driving force behind organizing the original C4C initiative and, working with other charter volunteers, seeing it through to implementation, operation, and continuation. The success of their family business increased the demand on their time so this past winter they made a decision to end their work at F4C. Their contributions will be greatly missed.

NYFOA members are by nature good stewards of the land. This is what draws us to the organization. Would you like to get a wee bit more out of your membership than a magazine, a chapter newsletter, and an occasional group meeting? If you do, then make the drive to Caledonia and join in a workday at F4C, thereby extending your stewardship to help Camp Onsewaya. The countryside is beautiful, the towns and villages along the way are quaint, the thruway can quickly get you east and west, and if you are fatigued at the end of the day it will be a good fatigue not an exhaustive one!

It is not necessary to be there at the start of the workday or to stay until the end. Come when you can and stay as long as you want. It is easy to expand your enjoyment of being a NYFOA member by volunteering at F4C. Simply send an E-mail to Eileen at dschaefer1@frontiernet.net and request to be included in workday announcements. 

Dave Keebler is a member of the Western Finger Lakes chapter. He has been a NYFOA member since moving to NYS from Michigan about sixteen years ago.



From L-R the crew de jour for April 25, 2019 are; Nick Steo, Dave Deuel, Greg Lessard, Dale Schaefer, and Keith Laurier. Bill Doolittle and Dave Keebler are not shown.

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 Single Stems of Undesired Woody Plants

Question: Colleagues and I were discussing hack-and-squirt for control of beech, but weren't sure of the specifics for how to apply this treatment or other treatment options. What should we know? (Collin, Lower-Hudson Chapter)

Answer: There are many circumstances and species of woody shrubs, subcanopy, and canopy trees for which treatment of individual stems might be the optimal strategy (Figure 1). These treatments might be mechanical or chemical, but because it is applied to a specific, individual stem the mode of treatment is known as "selective." The alternative is a "broadcast" treatment mode, where all stems within an area are treated. Broadcast treatments are the more efficient option if there are more than approximately 400 stems per acre or if the majority of the stems in an area are of undesired form or species. Broadcast treatments might be infeasible if there is a high proportion of desired stems, if stems are large (e.g., mature trees) or if treatment requires large but unavailable equipment.

In all forest vegetation management situations the project should start with a plan that details the interfering species, the desired plant species, the costs, how the interfering vegetation will be treated, and how the site will be re-vegetated. The word "treatment" is used here to describe the manner in which the vegetation is

manipulated, often with the goal of killing the stems causing the interference. The treatment has two attributes — the method and the mode. Method is either mechanical or chemical and mode is either broadcast or selective. Each treatment can be described by a method and a mode.

Individual stem treatments, known as selective treatments, involve selecting a specific stem and applying some manipulation to that stem to reduce its ability to function and survive. The goal is to control, or kill, individually selected stems based on species, form or spacing.

The manipulation of the stem disrupts the vascular system, interferes with a physiological function such as photosynthesis, or alters the structure of the plant's growth mechanisms or cell structure. Individual stems can be manipulated with either mechanical or chemical treatments. Mechanical and chemical treatment methods can vary in their efficiency, and both can have undesirable and/or unintended consequences. Owners and managers should understand all possible consequences and select a manner of treatment that satisfies their objectives.

The choice for mechanical versus chemical selective treatments depends on several factors. It is necessary for the owner to clarify their objectives for the property and the objectives of the treatment to resolve whether to use a mechanical or chemical treatment. There are several specific additional considerations. First, chemical treatments rely on the application of herbicides, a type of pesticide designed to impact plants. All pesticides are evaluated and approved for use by the US EPA, and regulated for their safety and effectiveness assuming the applicator follows the specifications of the label. Some people are reluctant to use herbicides, or the geo-political area (e.g., some municipal watersheds) restricts the use of herbicides. Second, most mechanical



Figure 1. The crop tree on the right will grow faster if the poorly formed stem on the left is removed. A variety of individual stem treatments are available to favor the crop tree.



Figure 2. Mechanical cutting of mid- and upper-canopy beech trees resulted in a proliferation of understory beech seedlings and saplings. This type of cutting benefitted taller trees, but disfavored seedlings and limited access. (photo credit: L. Merle)

treatments do not immediately kill the plant, and plants may sprout from the stump or roots (Figure 2). If the desired outcome of the treatment is for a prolonged reduction in the abundance or vigor of the target plant, mechanical treatments may need to be applied multiple times. The lesser efficiency of mechanical treatments

may be inconsequential for small-scale or noncommercial projects. Third, treatments may result in unacceptable collateral damage such as a large tree falling on smaller desirable trees or over-spray that extends beyond the target plant. Limiting collateral damage may be possible by gaining skill in applying the treatment, or



Figure 4. Selective foliar spraying can isolate individual plants. In the instance illustrated, because of excessive deer impact there were no desirable species among the multiflora rose, so collateral damage was not a concern (photo credit: L. Merle)



Figure 3. Mechanical girdling, in this instance with a chainsaw to a wolf white pine, is an organic method that increases growing space and light in the canopy. The tree can slowly drop branches, rather than trying to fell the tree among smaller desirable stems.

changing the timing or equipment of the treatment. Fourth, the rapidity and duration of the effect of the treatment may vary between some mechanical and chemical treatments. For example, cutting gives an immediate effect, but with the potential for sprouting; also, injection can provide a fast response often within 3 to 4 weeks and death of the treated stem. Finally, some owners have skills, tools and equipment that facilitate either chemical or mechanical treatment options.

Selective Mechanical Treatments

Selective mechanical treatments include cutting, girdling with axe, saw or flame, or pulling. These treatments are effective because they physically disconnect the roots from the shoots, or remove the plant from the soil.

Cutting the stem is a common option for individual stem control. Stem cutting can be applied to small or large diameter stems using a variety of tools such as brush saws for stems up to approximately 3 inches diameter or chainsaws for larger stems. The advantage of cutting is that many owners

continued on page 18

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE (*Chelydra serpentina*)



The common snapping turtle is our largest and most widely distributed freshwater turtle. It has a long stegosaurus-like tail with a jagged upper surface, a stout head with a sharp hooked beak, an olive-green to black carapace that is jagged toward the tail end, and prominent claws on all four feet. These turtles can be fairly large, exceeding 14 inches straight-line carapace (upper shell) length and weighing up to 45 pounds. On the underside, the plastron is yellow or grayish, and quite narrow relative to other turtles, frequently giving the appearance that the turtle has outgrown its shell. Although adult males tend to be slightly larger than females, they can be difficult to distinguish. Male snapping turtles can reach sexual maturity at the age of 4 or 5 years, while females may take several years longer. Average adult life spans of 20 to 30 years have been recorded in several studies, with some females living as long as 40 years.

During the summer months, common snapping turtles often can be seen moving from their freshwater habitats to upland areas in search of nesting sites. When egg laying is complete, these turtles move back into water, at which time they can be difficult to spot. Snapping turtles often remain partially submerged in the mud with only their eyes and nostrils protruding above the surface. In this position, their head resembles the head of a basking frog, except darker and more pointed. Unlike other aquatic turtles, snappers are seldom seen basking out of the water. Instead, they usually are only seen with their head and sometimes upper carapace visible at the surface.

Similar to most turtles, snappers usually do not bite if stepped on underwater, nor do they bother swimmers. In fact, if you do not actually see a snapper, the chances are good that you will never know it's there. The reason for their name is obvious, however, when they are encountered on land. Unlike all other turtles in our region, they can be very aggressive, lunging their heads forward and biting with the slightest provocation (or sometimes just

as a warning). With their sharp claws and fierce jaws, large individuals can do much damage, and are best left alone.

Common snapping turtles can be found in any body of freshwater, small to large, from sea level to altitudes up to 1600 feet in the Northeast. They occur throughout New York State, even in Central Park. Although some individuals enter coastal brackish waters, snapping turtles prefer slow moving freshwater areas, with muddy bottoms and emergent vegetation that provide good foraging and escape cover. The common snapping turtle is omnivorous, and will eat just about anything, live or dead. Its most frequent food items are aquatic plants and non-game fish, but it also eats insects, small mammals, young waterfowl, amphibians, and other reptiles. Snappers feed throughout the warmer months, but fast during the winter, remaining dormant and burrowed in the pond bottom or in the banks.


Breeding begins soon after snapping turtles emerge from dormancy in the spring, and mating may take place from April to November. The nesting period for females lasts around 3 weeks, from May through June, with a peak at the beginning of June.

Females prefer to lay their eggs on rainy afternoons and evenings (heavy rains may help wash away scents that lead predators to the nests). They generally choose open sites near wetlands, with well-drained sandy or loamy soils. They also are seen nesting in forest clearings or agricultural fields, and on bare soil banks or road embankments. The nesting female first digs a nest chamber with her rear feet and claws, then fills the underground chamber with eggs. Eggs are spherical and pliable, like soft ping-pong balls that bounce around in the nest chamber. A single nest may contain from 20 to 40 eggs, exceptionally as many as 83. Successful eggs hatch from September through October. As with many other turtles, the length of incubation can vary by several weeks, depending on location and temperature.

Like many other reptiles, the sex of the hatchlings is determined by temperature of the eggs while they are in the nest. Under warmer conditions (above 85° F) only female turtles are produced; at intermediate temperatures (from 75° to 85° F) males are produced; and in nests colder than that, females are produced. Interestingly, in

some nests, the heat of the sun from above causes eggs in the upper nest to be warmer than eggs down deeper. This differential heating creates females near the top of the nest and males near the bottom. So, for sex determination, there is an element of luck involved in whether an egg was dropped into the nest early or late, or in some cases the way in which the egg bounced as it fell. This environmentally controlled mechanism is called temperature-dependent sex determination.

Common snapping turtles generally are abundant throughout their range, but in some areas are very sparse due to several pressures. As in many other reptile species, snappers are highly vulnerable to predation at early life stages. Predation of nests in many areas is high, ranging from 30% to 100% of the nests in some studies. Main predators of the eggs such as raccoons, crows, and dogs, are frequently associated with high human populations. Also, with increased development often comes loss of wetland and nesting habitat, which are both essential for snapping turtles. Some local populations have been severely depleted by over-harvesting for their meat, and this decline is a major concern. Because of the diet and the habits of snapping turtles, they may accumulate high concentrations of contaminants, such as PCB and mercury, in their tissues. This could pose a health hazard to people who eat snapping turtle meat.

Landowners can enhance habitat for snapping turtles by maintaining the natural hydrology of wetlands and preventing unnatural drainage. Because snapping turtles frequent emergent vegetation for feeding and resting cover, maintaining native vegetation in and throughout shallow wetlands and around the margins of large, deep ponds will benefit this species (and other turtles as well). Provide a buffer zone of natural vegetation of 100 feet or more surrounding ponds and wetlands. Turtles, as well as other animals such as frogs and salamanders, require both wetland habitats and surrounding upland habitat to remain healthy. By maintaining open areas with loose soil near aquatic habitats, landowners can also ensure that these turtles have adequate nesting sites. Old log landings, maintained as open habitat, can make suitable nesting sites. By focusing on both upland and wetland habitat, landowners can attract and provide for snapping turtles and a wide diversity of other wildlife. 

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. More information about wildlife and their habitats can be found at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/nymasternaturalist/>. Image by Wolfgang Wander. Licensed under CC-BY-SA-2.5



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News from New York Tree Farm Program

MARY JEANNE PACKER



Family forest owners can make a difference: Habitat management for declining forest birds

The keynote message from Audubon New York bird biologist Suzanne Treyger at NY Tree Farm's 2019 Field

Day in June was encouraging — “family forest owners can make a difference” in reversing the decline of certain forest birds. And, Audubon New York and its partners in the new upper Delaware River watershed-based Harvests for Habitat project are prepared to help by providing

technical assistance to forest owners, outreach and education for foresters and loggers, and financial incentives for loggers to offset losses due to removing low grade material. Treyger announced that a new NY Audubon publication will be available shortly — “Managing Forests for Birds: A Landowner’s Guide.”

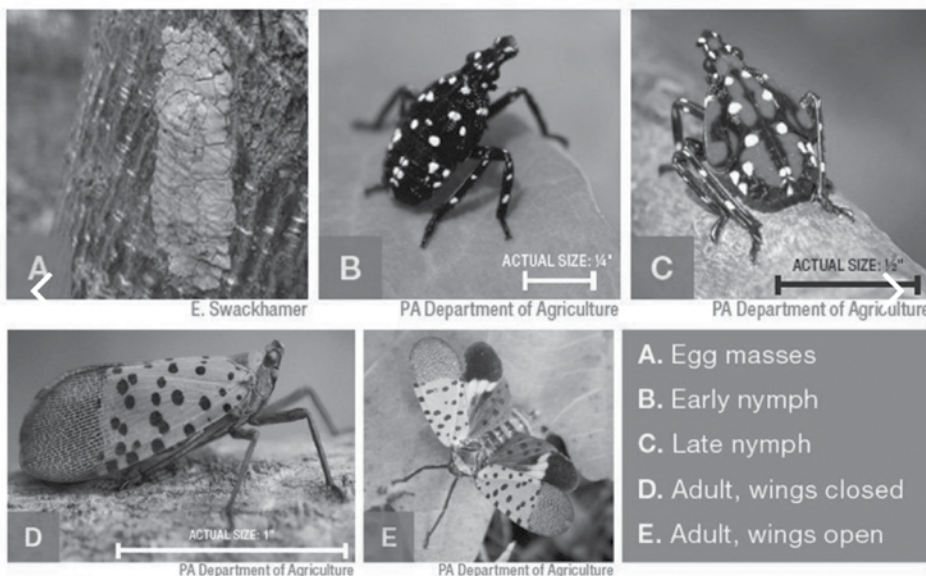
About 50 tree farmers and other forest owners — including many NYFOA members, foresters, and agency representatives — attended the annual Tree Farm Field Day held at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County’s 4-H Camp Shankitunk located in Delhi, NY. Following morning workshops, the group toured the John A. Lennox Memorial Forest which is co-located at the camp. Rod Jones, from Northeast Timber Services, led the woodswalk. Jones, a Tree Farm inspector, is also Lennox Forest’s forester.

During her presentation, and in an afternoon woodswalk, Treyger provided guidance to the group about forest habitat features that can be created or improved through management at the stand level. Many practices are applicable even to small woodlots. These include managing for:

- Vertical structural diversity by providing multiple canopy layers and canopy gaps.
- Species diversity, including native and non-native plants of varying shade tolerance; and controlling interfering vegetation.
- Maintaining large diameter (at least 24” DBH) trees as nests trees for canopy nesting songbirds.
- Retaining or promoting softwood inclusions in predominantly hardwood stands. These small clusters of softwood trees are desired breeding habitat for some forest birds.



Tree Farm inspector Rod Jones, from Northeast Timber Services, provides an overview of the woodswalk in Lennox Forest at NY Tree Farm’s 2019 Field Day in June.



Life stages of spotted lanternfly (SFL) from egg masses to adult.

Continued on next page

- Providing coarse woody material of different sizes and stages of decay, including poor quality logs and cull material, tree tops, and other slash.
- The “big picture” – considering how the lands around yours are managed, and how your woods can provide what others don’t or compliment other management strategies.

In addition to a presentation on the Harvests for Habitat program and opportunities for family forest owners to get involved, the Field Day program also included an update on the potential threat to NYS’s forests from the invasive spotted lanternfly presented by Sarah Wurzbacher from Penn State University. The group learned that the invasive spotted lanternfly, or SLF as it is referred to by foresters and entomologists, is currently found in the 13 eastern-most counties of Pennsylvania, just south of the NYS border. It is a threat to agriculture, timber, and ornamental industries, but doesn’t bite or sting people.

According to Wurzbacher, the most important thing that people can do is to stop the spread of SLF by checking for SLF egg masses, nymphs or adults, depending on the time of year, whenever you travel through the infestation area. She suggests keeping your car windows rolled up when you park, not parking under infested trees, and not moving firewood or outdoor equipment such as grills and mowers from the area. The preferred host for SLF is tree-of-heaven, an invasive plant that is popular in landscape plantings and along the sides of roads. Wurzbacher suggests removing this tree, if you have any, from your property. ♻️

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NYFOA AWARDS

Sloane Crawford Honored with Heiberg Award



Sloane received the Heiberg Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State at the Annual Meeting of NYFOA on May 4, 2019. Pictured from left to right: Sloane Crawford and Art Wagner, NYFOA president. Photo by Rich Taber.

Each year, NYFOA presents the Heiberg Memorial Award to honor outstanding forestry and conservation contributions in New York State.

A little background on the namesake of the Heiberg Award. Dr. Svend Heiberg received advanced degrees in forestry in his home country of Denmark and from Yale University in the U.S. He became a professor at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University and in 1959, Dr. Heiberg was appointed Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. Part of Dr. Heiberg's legacy is a 3,900 acre forest, named in his honor, and located in Cortland and Onondaga Counties. This forest serves as a field laboratory for education, research, and demonstration activities. Dr. Heiberg developed the initial proposal to establish an association of forest landowners in NYS. As a result, NYFOA was formally organized on April 27, 1963 with 212 members.

Through his work, the remarkable Dr. Heiberg touched the lives of thousands of students, professors, professional foresters, and private landowners.

This year's recipient was Sloane Crawford. Sloane graduated from Paul Smiths College and started his forestry career with the NYS Office of Real Property Services, in Saranac Lake in 1989. He spent several years with them appraising forest lands and traipsing about the Adirondacks. Sloane transferred to NYSDEC's Division of Lands and Forests in 1998 to work in the Forest Products Utilization and Marketing Program. As program manager, he helped promote and expand forest based businesses across the state. He participated in numerous trade missions and shows with and for NY forest industries, worked closely with the US Forest Service on its periodic forest inventories of NYS, produced the annual Timber Products Output reports, prepared the semi-annual Stumpage Price Reports, and helped

develop the NYS Timber Harvesting Best Management Practices and accompanying Field Guide. In 2019 he produced a prospectus publication on the "Softwood Timber Utilization Opportunity" in NYS, to promote this resource and help attract new investments in NY.

After the retirement of Jerry Andritz, Sloane took over management of the Private Forestry Program. He provided statewide leadership to field staff providing forest landowner management assistance, worked closely with the USFS on the Forest Stewardship Program, helped prepare the federally-mandated Statewide Forest Action Plan, worked with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on the EQIP Forestry cost sharing program, managed the Cooperating Forester Program and, of course, managed the Forest Tax Law program, RPTL-480a. In recent years, Sloane was directly involved in developing and promoting the Empire Forests for the Future initiative and continuing efforts to improve the forest tax law, and advocate for an expanded cost sharing program and funding for private forest management practices.

Sloane has spent his career working on behalf of NY's private forest owners and forest industries. He has made significant contributions to sustaining private forests, and improving the management of those forests, and his efforts are certainly worthy of recognition.

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

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
2019	Sloane Crawford

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Jeff Joseph

The basis for the NYFOA Outstanding Service Award is unmatched contributions to NYFOA throughout the years. This year's awardee, Jeff Joseph, has provided such service for many years and NYFOA is proud to present him this award.

Jeff, who is a carpenter and furniture maker, and his wife Suzanne who is an herbalist joined NYFOA about 15 years ago. They manage their woodlot not only for their furniture business, but also to maintain it for wildlife, forest products (e.g. ginseng, herbs, mushrooms), and all the other benefits our forests provide. Jeff's many contributions to NYFOA include the following:

- became an MFO in 2006 (with approximately 25 visits to date);
- served on the state board from April 2012 until April 2018;
- served on numerous committees, including marketing, website, policy and legislative affairs, communications and outreach, editorial, and the executive committee;

- served as at-large member of executive committee from March 2015 until April 2018

- has been the editorial committee chair since 2013;

- written numerous articles and member profiles for the Forest Owner, in addition to soliciting and editing content;

- assisted with developing and editing several NYFOA brochures and publications, as well as the development of the new website;

- hosted two woodwalks for the SFL chapter;

- manned the NYFOA table at numerous events; and

- given a number of public talks on tree ecology and identification, woodlot management, and emerald ash borer.

NYFOA has greatly benefited from each of these contributions and we greatly appreciate Jeff's commitment to the organization.

—Art Wagner

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	2019	Jeff Joseph
1998	Charles P. Mowatt		

NYFOA CHAPTER AWARDS

The following awards were presented at the NYFOA Annual Meeting on May 4th.

AFC: Bob Wood

Bob Wood has over a 30-year history of involvement with woodlands and forestry. He currently resides on, and manages, 105 acres in Cattaraugus county. In June he will be stepping down from his fourth consecutive term as chairperson of the AFC steering committee. In the early 2000s, after taking the Master Forest Owner volunteer training, Bob connected with NYFOA as a resource to use as an MFO volunteer and saw how NYFOA assisted forest owners in responsibly managing their property. After becoming a member, he became an active participant and has sponsored two woodwalks on his property, hosted an MFO refresher, and participates annually as a volunteer at the NYFOA display at the Cattaraugus county fair. During the last four years as chairperson of the AFC steering committee he has successfully guided the chapter with an even-handed approach, a calm demeanor, and a respect for each member. The membership is grateful for his many contributions.

CDC: Laura Pisarri and Jason Post

Jason Post was introduced to NYFOA by Mike Greason, and shared Mike's passion for sustainable forestry practices. After Mike's passing, Dick Gibbs had been thrust into the role of Chapter Chair, and Jason then mentored under Dick Gibbs and Jim Bulich. Jason filled a key role during that time of transition, in working with Dick to bring Game of Logging (GOL) chainsaw safety training to a great many landowners in the CDC region.

Laura came to NYFOA just a few years ago, but she came with a passion and a drive to help us succeed in our mission, and to educate and promote NYFOA's cause to the multitudes. As our chapter secretary, she guides and complements our chapter chair, and brings order and fresh ideas to the table. She has, along with Jason by her side, attended and volunteered many hours at our chapter's booth display during fairs, woodwalks, and other events. Laura has been solely instrumental in achieving a more uniform and professional appearance for all of NYFOA chapters' booth displays, through the purchasing of our beautiful NYFOA tablecloths. She also does a remarkable job as editor of our chapter newsletters.

Laura and Jason are a driving force in promoting the activities of our NYFOA chapter. They make the events and meetings look easy. Their gift of time is precious, and both dedicate a good deal of their personal time so generously. We have, in the past, referred to them fondly as the "Dynamic Duo!" This recognition is but a small way to express our appreciation for the efforts they make every day, and for the dedication they exhibit for NYFOA.

CNY: Steve Kinne

In his first year as a member of the CNY chapter Steve landed an NRCS EQIP grant where he created nine acres of shrubland from his 19-acre overgrown and unmanaged woodlot. His primary goal was to create early successional habitat for particular NYS bird species whose populations are in decline due to habitat loss. He worked closely with a USDA biologist, a local contractor, and fellow NYFOA member/forester Dan Zimmerman, to selectively log and clear the property to achieve the stated goals. He also engaged with a Partners for Fish & Wildlife biologist to enhance and create a network of seasonal woodland pools to further improve some unique habitat. As part of this project, he identified and removed the bulk of the many invasive plant species and planted hundreds of native, wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs. He also utilized and/or constructed multiple styles of protective barriers from individual tree tubes to larger deer enclosures. He has led an informative woods walk for the local NYFOA chapter members and his project was featured in the NYFOA magazine.

As a Cornell Cooperative Extension volunteer master naturalist Steve has also been involved with invasive species monitoring, the Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID) program, doing a multi-year bird survey on his property (to assess the effectiveness of the NRCS project), developing and teaching birding courses/field trips, and teaching nature classes for kids. Over the past three years he has also spent hundreds of hours doing hemlock stand surveys looking for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Regarding the latter, he teamed up this past year with the New York State hemlock initiative folks to put on training sessions

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and assemble a team of nearly 40 volunteer HWA hunters. Then, coordinating with both the New York State Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI) and NYSDEC, he has been planning and leading weekly hemlock surveys on both NYS public lands and several private properties in a four-county region of CNY. The data the team collects is vitally important for forest researchers as they battle to save this foundational tree species.

Steve's dedication and volunteer contributions towards understanding, preserving, and enhancing our woodlands and the creatures that inhabit them clearly qualifies him to be our nominee for the CNY Chapter NYFOA Service Award.

SAC: Kristie Edwards

Over the years our organization has had many hard-working members that have taken on the task of service to our chapter. However, few have taken on as many tasks as Kristie Edwards. Like most of us Kristie and her husband Kurt joined NYFOA because they wanted to learn more about the care and well-being of their woodlands.

Kristie and Kurt got actively involved in NYFOA and our chapter as soon as they

became members, about nine years ago. Early on, they attended Master Forest Owner training, and have been able to help many of their neighbors. Being very well organized, and with her wealth of computer skills, Kristie took over the task of producing our chapter newsletter, "The Overstory." It soon became the shining star across the whole organization. Kristie has been intrepid about gathering stories about our woodwalks, recruited technical authors, gathered news about the chapter, and she provided the membership with up to date chapter activities pertaining to our needs. Along with this substantial task, Kristie also took on the work of overseeing our membership committee, as well as coordinating our annual lunches at Davidson's. She has been the go-to person when someone needs information about the chapter activities or contacts across the organization.

When Kurt took over the role of chapter chairman, Kristie worked in partnership with him, including attending most NYFOA statewide and annual meetings, and addressing our chapter needs.

After Kurt's term as chair ended, and he assumed the responsibilities of woodwalk

coordinator, Kristie then assisted Kurt in his new role, while continuing to produce the newsletter, overseeing membership, and advising and working closely with the steering committee. She has been our source of continuity and consistency over the years. Because of Kristie, our chapter is a much stronger organization, and we all benefit individually from her hard work, and organizational skills. Please applaud Kristie for being the Southeastern Adirondack chapter service award recipient.

SOT: Kevin Mathers

For the last thirty years or so, the Southern Tier Chapter of NYFOA has enjoyed the benefits from a very close working relationship with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. CCE Broome has provided

facilities for most of our chapter's programming and for our annual pot luck dinner. They have helped publicize our events throughout the community, have printed our chapter newsletter, and strongly promoted the Master Forest Owner volunteer program in the county.


These services to our chapter, and to woodlot owners generally, are primarily due to the dedicated efforts of CCE staff educator Kevin Mathers, who is retiring from his long career with CCE this month. In addition to coordinating CCE facilities and administrative services to our chapter, Kevin has brought his extensive knowledge about natural resources into play as a long-term member of our chapter steering committee, where he has also served as co-chair for chapter programs.

During the course of his career with CCE, Kevin must have helped plan, organize, and deliver more than 100 programs, workshops, and woodwalks for the Southern Tier chapter. He richly deserves to receive the chapter service award on the occasion of his retirement. We will miss him as a friend and colleague.

WFL: Ray Cavallero

Ray Cavallero has been a longtime member of the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA. Ray became a member of the WFL board of directors, and accepted the position of our representative to the NYFOA state board of directors for several years. After completing his term as our state representative, Ray continued to be a member of the WFL board of directors. Every year, the welcoming table at our dinner meetings found Ray selling raffle tickets and greeting guests. Ray is an avid turkey and deer hunter on his ten-acre woodlot and camp in Prattsburg. The chapter was invited to his woodlot and camp for an enjoyable picnic many years ago.

Ray retired recently from Monroe County as a social worker and has retired from his position on the WFL board of directors.

The Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA would like to thank Ray for his many contributions to our chapter and the state organization of NYFOA. 

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Woodland Health

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

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

HAVE YOU HEARD OF BEECH LEAF DISEASE?

BY KAREN SNOVER-CLIFT AND MARGERY DAUGHTREY

For the past couple of seasons, leaf damage and overall decline of American beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*) have been observed in Ohio, western Pennsylvania, Ontario, Canada, and in one county in western New York. Researchers in Ohio published a paper in December of 2018, stating the first described occurrence of the damage in the United States was in 2012. At first, researchers believed the damage was most likely an abiotic issue such as abnormal weather patterns that produced warmer winter weather and drier spring conditions. Over time,

new reports of trees with similar symptoms, and what appeared to be different stages of the damage patterns, began coming in from other areas. At this point, an abiotic issue was no longer a valid explanation and a plant pathogen became the most likely cause. This issue has been given the name of beech leaf disease or BLD.

Typically when a new tree disease is discovered in our area, plant pathologists get to work informing the public, forest owners, and those that work in green industry fields about the pathogen's biology, life cycle, host range, distribution, and management.

Unfortunately, there is very little information known and therefore, there is very little to share. We know we need help in identifying areas where beech are expressing the characteristic symptoms of BLD. We need to spread the word of our concern, our quest to identify the causal agent, and the contact information for reporting.

The best way to identify an infected tree is to observe the characteristic leaf symptoms. To view leaf symptoms, it is best to move under the tree and look up through the canopy or, if you have a cut twig with leaves attached, to hold it up to the light. You should see the characteristic banding or striping of the leaves. Sections in between the leaf veins may appear darker green in color and thicker compared to healthy leaves. Those sections may also appear distorted or puckered. As symptoms progress, entire leaves may appear darkened and crinkled, distorted and misshapen, and patches are brown and dry. The flowering timetable may be affected, with fruit production much earlier in the season than normal — and sometimes fruit is produced on younger trees. Eventually the twig tips are affected and no new leaves will be produced so the trees have twig and branch dieback.

A number of other pathogens and pests can cause damage to beech. Leaf damage caused by eriophyid mites or common aphid feeding can mimic the BLD symptoms. Because of the variation in symptoms and the possibility of other pathogens and pests causing damage, an educated researcher or trained diagnostician needs to examine the tissue to determine whether the observed symptoms qualify as this syndrome known as “beech leaf disease.”

Although very little information is known, it is suggested that the cause of this issue is most likely a nematode, virus, or phytoplasma infection. Researchers are gathering data and working on multi-state and multi-agency collaborative projects. With further investigation, we hope to pinpoint the causal agent. Once



Figure 1. Sample of beech leaf disease.



Figure 2. Sample of beech leaf disease.



Figure 3. Sample of beech leaf disease.

the cause is identified, we should be able to provide more information about the infection process, host range, vectoring, management recommendations, and possible eradication plans. In the meantime, we need to conduct good landscape and forest health practices that include reporting symptomatic plants when seen, sterilizing tools when pruning trees, never moving symptomatic plant material, and never moving firewood from a suspected infection zone.

Cornell University is working closely with our New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Agriculture & Markets (NYS DAM) to determine what is happening here in New York State. Our collaborative team is ensuring trees in our forests and environmental areas, and in nurseries and other retail establishments, are evaluated for possible disease, investigating the possible primary pathogen, and reaching out to communities for help with pinpointing infection zones and damaged trees.

If symptoms suspicious of BLD are observed in upstate NY, you can

contact the Cornell University Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic at cornell-plantdiseaseclinic@cornell.edu — or if symptoms are observed downstate, you can contact the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Riverhead at mld9@cornell.edu. You can also contact the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Forest Pest Information Line at 866-640-0652. 📞

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Karen Snover-Clift is the Director of the Cornell University Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, Associate Director of the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network and Margery Daughtrey, a Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University, Long Island Horticultural Research Laboratory, Riverhead, NY

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





Figure 5. Basal bark treatments can be completed during the growing season to avoid the potential negative impacts of overspray onto desired species.

have the tools necessary for cutting, the cut stem immediately opens canopy space for increased light to residual plants, and cutting may provide products such as firewood or brush for wildlife habitat. Caution with cutting is warranted related to the safe use of the equipment and the potential for extra work necessary to stack or pile cut stems. Also, many hardwood shrubs and trees sprout from the stump, and some species such as beech, black locust, tree-of-heaven, aspen, and sassafras typically sprout from the roots following cutting. Resprouting may not interfere with some ownership objectives, but in other cases may complicate future goals.

A variation of cutting is called “high-stumping” (R. Nyland, pers. comm.; Nyland and Kiernan, 2017, For. Chron.) and suitable for control of American beech saplings. Beech stems up to a few inches diameter can be severed below the lowest branch and resulted in a high stump that averaged 2.5 feet tall. The stumps typically sprout, but those sprouts on the stump and stem die within a few years resulting in a reduction in the abundance of beech.

Girdling a stem severs the phloem, which is the vascular tissue that transports the



Figure 6. Hack-and-squirt (or drill-and-fill) exposes wood to the active ingredient glyphosate or imazapyr. In this illustration, a dilute mixture required incisions more frequently than necessary with a concentrated solution.

sugars made in the leaves via photosynthesis (Figure 3). The sugars, primarily glucose, not used immediately for energy are transported as sucrose to the roots for future use as energy. Girdling prevents the movement of these sugars, which prevents storage, and ultimately starves the plant. The phloem is a thin layer of tissue that fully surrounds the stem like a sleeve just inside the bark. Thus, the action of girdling needs to be applied to the full circumference of the stem, but to a shallow depth beneath the bark sufficient to interrupt the connectivity of the phloem. Girdling is relatively quick compared to cutting, does not create accumulations of stems and tops on the ground during the treatment, and requires relatively few tools. However, if the intent is to increase sunlight, the action of girdling may require a year or more to provide full sunlight. Also, girdling leaves behind a dead standing stem that might represent a future hazard, but also provides a snag as habitat for some wildlife.

Pulling, like cutting, provides the immediate gratification of effect. Pulling is obviously limited by the size of the plant and typically only for plants without thorns or spines. In some areas, citizen groups

gather for pulling of invasive species, but current recommendations dissuade this for some species. At a practical level, native species often have well established root systems that limit the ability of pulling except for the smallest stems. Many non-native shrubs (e.g., honeysuckle) have shallow root systems which facilitates the ease of pulling. One result of pulling is the potential for soil disturbance that may stimulate or facilitate the germination of additional undesirable plant species.

Selective Chemical Treatments

Selective chemical treatments include foliar spraying, basal bark, hack-and-squirt, and injection/drill-and-fill. These treatments are effective because they either alter essential functions such as photosynthesis or alter the structure of the plant in a way that simulates mechanical treatments. The effect of chemical treatments are usually apparent within three to four weeks during the growing season and result in death or significant stunting of growth. The effects are not as immediate as cutting, but are more immediate than girdling and result in a relatively permanent solution.

All chemical treatments use herbicides;

in NY, herbicides are regulated through the NYS DEC. Some herbicides can be purchased over the counter and others can only be purchased by a certified pesticide applicator. Home-based recipes should not be used. Every herbicide has a label which stipulates which target species are controlled, the appropriate minimum personal protective equipment, and the manner of application.

Several online resources are available to assist owners who are considering herbicide treatments. Webinars about forest vegetation management are archived at www.youtube.com/ForestConnect. Every label that is legal for use in NY is available on the container at the time of purchase or online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products>. The US Forest Service has a publication on manual methods of herbicide application here <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/40792>. Finally, Penn State University Cooperative Extension offers a handbook that covers fundamental principles of techniques, methods and products of herbicide application in forests here https://extension.psu.edu/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/347/.

Foliar spray treatments apply a fine mist or spray to the foliage of actively growing plants (Figure 4). The treatment is a dilute mixture of the herbicide, usually in water. The plants need to be actively growing, so periods of early-season leaf expansion, drought stress, or senescence



Figure 7. Cut-stump treatment of beech using glyphosate. This treatment can result in up to 85% kill of surround beech root suckers.

at the end of the growing season may limit the effectiveness of the treatment. Common foliar treatments include products such as Accord XRT II, Escort, Oust, or Gordon's Brush Killer (product names are listed as examples, and not as an endorsement or recommendation). The suitability and details for specific use of these products are provided through their label via the DEC website mentioned previously. Most woodland owners use a backpack sprayer and target plants that are small enough to allow for controlled applications to the target plant. Foliar treatments are dilute, thus limiting the total volume of the product per acre. Also, foliar treatments are only effective on plants that are sprayed and only through foliage. The water-based foliar sprays do not penetrate bark or affect dormant plants. Chemicals applied by foliar spray do not move to untreated plants through root grafts, a phenomenon known as "flash." Caution is warranted to avoid overspray that contacts non-target plants. In some cases, the foliage of the target plant species is seasonally accessible before or after the foliage of non-target plants has emerged or senesced and thus reduces the potential for collateral damage.

Basal bark treatments are most often done with the active ingredient triclopyr as Garlon 4 Ultra in an oil-based carrier that penetrates the bark. Vegetable oils are effective as carriers except in cold temperatures (Figure 5). The mixture is sprayed onto the lower 15 to 20 inches of the stem of trees and shrubs with sufficiently thin bark to allow the oil carrier to penetrate the bark. The active ingredient causes a rapid growth expansion and rupture of cells that chemically girdles the tree. Similar to foliar treatments, basal bark applications do not result in movement from the treated plant to neighboring plants through root grafts. Basal bark treatments are more time consuming to apply than hack or injection treatments (see below). Basal bark treatments result in standing dead trees that may be good for wildlife, but potentially hazardous for humans and structures. Caution is also warranted because Garlon 4 Ultra as a liquid can convert to a vapor (i.e., volatilize) and under specific conditions those fumes can aggregate beneath a closed canopy and negatively impact the overstory trees. This problem is controlled by following label directions regarding the amount

that can be applied per acre. Additional details for basal bark treatment are available online <https://extension.psu.edu/using-basal-bark-herbicide-applications-to-control-understory-tree-species> or as a downloadable fact sheet here https://extension.psu.edu/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/522/.

The third type of selective chemical treatments include hack-and-squirt (HS) and injection/drill-and-fill (DF). These involve puncturing the bark and applying products such as Accord XRT II or Arsenal to the freshly exposed wood (Figure 6). The active ingredients for these products are glyphosate and imazapyr, respectively. HS uses a hatchet, machete, or ax to puncture the bark and the product mixture is sprayed between the flap and the freshly exposed wood. DF uses a cordless drill or impact driver to create a hole into which the product is sprayed or injected. A benefit or defect of the HS and DF techniques, depending on perspective, is that the herbicide may "flash" to nearby trees via root grafts that may occur among stems of the same species. Root grafts between different species are unlikely. The extent of flash varies by species, the number and size of stems treated, and likely season. HS and DF, similar to girdling or basal bark treatments result in standing dead trees. For many species, the recommended dose of these products by HS or DF is a concentrated mixture of the product (see label for details), and applied as one milliliter (ml) for each 3 inches of diameter. One ml is a small quantity, about the volume of a single garden pea. There are 5 ml in one teaspoon. Avoid over-treatment during HS and DF.

The DF technique has the advantage over HS of causing less physical impact to the wrist of the applicator. Also, DF can better regulate the use of the herbicide and loss to dripping onto the stem. Specifically, when DF uses a 3/8" bit and one-inch deep hole at a 45° angle to the surface of the stem the hole has a volume of approximately 1.5 ml (a vertical hole of these dimensions has a volume of 1.8 ml). Woodland owners can participate in a citizen science project coordinated by Cornell University Cooperative Extension that uses DF to control cull trees. Details about this project are here <http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/profiles/blogs/cull-tree-treatment>.

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Member Profile:

Darryl Wood and Toby Wollin

DORIAN HYLAND

While he moved around for his education, Darryl Wood, native to Tampa, Florida, moved first to Utah for college and then to Binghamton, NY for graduate school. In Binghamton he met his wife, Toby Wollin, and despite having experienced some dramatic landscapes, there they stayed. New York State has the kind of landscape that invites you to become part of it. They lived in Binghamton and worked at the university for over thirty years. After retiring from the university, he took another full-time job for the New York State United Teachers. Then in 2014 they bought 123 acres of woods and former farm.

Even before they bought their land, they were early pioneers of protecting the environment. They refused to use pesticides or herbicides in their vegetable gardening and tried as much as possible to be organic long before that became chic. They have maintained that principle for over forty years. When they bought their land in

the town of Norwich, Chenango county, they felt it was an opportunity to live that principle in a more focused and complete way.

Their land, about half of which is forested, was bought for two reasons: 1.) to stay active in retirement through business and recreation and 2.) as a legacy for their family of two daughters, one son and five grandchildren. All decisions about how to develop the land for various purposes, as well as improving the health of the woods, are made jointly and equally between Toby and Darryl.

They sought information from multiple sources. Their primary sources for developing and learning new ideas are NYFOA, ForestConnect and My Woodlot. In addition to studying and reading, their consulting forester, Mike Blasko, has been a wonderful resource and assisted them in developing a management plan that meets their goals. Their 29-year-old son partners with them with the physical labor

necessary to improve the land by improving the health and profitability of the woods.

They purchased their property to fulfill their desire for woods, but they wanted that farm because it had land that could be utilized in support of their objectives. The property contains three fields — 5, 10, and 25 acres. The remaining acres are forested. The medium-sized field is sloped, and the other two mostly level. All the fields were either pastured or hayed, or both, and they have been enhancing these since they arrived. There is a pond, inhabited by beavers, that is about half an acre in size. The most beautiful part of the property is a ravine where waters collect to form a stream. As one expects, the ravine is sheltered by hemlocks on rocky slopes. Besides these water features, the land has several vernal ponds and a swampy acre.

Originally part of a 600 acre farm, their property was parceled off with some of the surrounding area still forested. The woods are filled with a wide variety of trees with significant amounts of ash, sugar and red maple, black cherry, hickory, and oaks. A few butternut fill the list and a few apples trees remain. Along the edges of fields and open areas, honeysuckle took hold. The fields were encumbered by multiflora rose, thorn apple, beech, and ironwood. When they bought the property they learned that about five acres had been used as Norwich's town dump. Although covered in 6-10 inches of top soil, old farm equipment, tires and other items float to the surface. Since they knew of the dump before the purchase, Toby and Darryl made peace with it.

To address the business purpose of their plan, they planted 800 sugar maples for future tapping and hardwood production. They also meticulously grew 100 black walnut from nuts. They created a one-acre patch of blueberries for future U-Pick and are planting hazelnuts for another U-Pick enterprise. They are germinating northern pecan nuts for planting. All these nut trees, including the butternut, will create a nut grove for future harvests. This presented a major undertaking but a good business plan.

The business plan is not solely for Toby and Darryl's benefit. This is a legacy for their grandchildren as most of the trees will not mature for many years. Their



One hillside field planted with black walnut.

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One view of Darryl's favorite water feature gives smaller, more intimate views of the rugged nature of the land with quiet water reflections.

hope is to involve the grandchildren in the management of the property as well as the businesses, so as to encourage them to maintain the health of the property and keep it within the family. If someday they decide to sell, they will know the value of a well-maintained, united parcel and it will be more profitable for them.

One of the first tasks they undertook five years ago was reclaiming the fields from

honeysuckle and multiflora rose, which took two years, and a lot of backbreaking work. Once done, they were ready to plant trees and blueberry patches. They participate in the NYS Forest Tax Law 480(a), and have also successfully applied for an NRCS grant for TSI (timber stand improvement) to manage the invasive shrub species. They have kept to their principles of nearly forty years ago and avoided



Vernal ponds appear along the edge where field and woods meet.

the use of chemicals; what could not be brush-hogged was cut with a chainsaw. Darryl and his son removed the invasive shrubs and chipped what could be chipped, using it for mulch, a thorough and wise use of natural resources. As Darryl said, "devilish plants!" Initially, Darryl thought to clear some thorn apples and then chose to leave them. Plans develop, but plans also can change. Their forester, Mike Blasko completed the TSI.

Perhaps the biggest change since they bought the land was an ash harvest before the TSI began. As a result of the ash harvest and the TSI, the forest canopy was opened significantly, allowing the good trees to grow even better. Adding to the growth of trees and changes to the property, the clearing of the fields allowed them to plant native tree species to restore the fields to their natural state. An important source of seedlings has been the DEC Tree Nursery, and they chose only native New York trees. These and the nut trees germinated from seed will form the basis for reclaiming the fields and reverting it to forest, fulfilling their goal of recreating as much as possible the forests prevalent hundreds of years ago.

Through the process of owning and managing a woodlot, Darryl and Toby have developed new skills, utilized existing skills, and enjoyed greater physical activity. Physical labor has been rigorous. Record keeping, because it is a business as well as recreational land, has taken time and effort. With a full-time job, devoting enough time to get it all done is problematic. Through the hard work of Toby, Darryl, their son, and an excellent forester they have been able to accomplish much.

Woodlot management involves the use of several "toys." To house all the equipment needed, they built a barn, 24 feet by 32 feet. It filled quickly with a 45hp Kubota tractor, a brushhog, a rototiller, and a chipper. All three run on the tractor's PTO. They wore out several chains cutting the honeysuckle. Last year Darryl took time to take the Game of Logging training and wishes he'd taken it earlier. While there were fortunately no mishaps, the safety tricks he learned have been invaluable.

Based on five years of intensive labor and preparation, Darryl suggests that people starting out with a woodlot should determine clearly the goals they have for the land, answer questions such as



This view of the stream demonstrates the amazing ability of hemlocks in preventing erosion.

why you own this land, and what do you expect from owning it? Next, gather a group of advisors to help you reach your goals, which should include a consulting forester, NYFOA, other forest owners, and the internet. “While you shouldn’t believe everything others tell you, or what you read, or allow them to direct your decisions, let them challenge you and your goal,” Darryl advised.

From the beginning, they wanted to restore their property to its natural beauty based on their long-held principles of good stewardship. These ideals prompted their dedication to wise, informed forest management; this has given them peace. Thus, they planted only native trees and

avoided unnatural chemicals. These practices allow them to anticipate leaving to their grandchildren a land of good value. Being in the woods, hearing only its silence, gazing at a hawk making lazy circles in the sky, noticing a fox 20 yards away hunting for a meal, catching a glimpse of a doe and her fawn sprinting away at the sound of their footsteps, and the sheer physical enjoyment of working all day to make a difference in this land, these are the benefits of good stewardship. Toward sharing these benefits, they allow neighbors to hike their woods and they held a woodswalk for the Southern Tier chapter of NYFOA in May.

They agree that they have reaped the benefits they now enjoy through the magazine and website, which provide information and practices to discuss, analyze, and implement as appropriate. Specific presentations in the Southern Tier on American chestnut, apple grafting, wild bees, mushrooms, and others were fascinating and provided information for new options on their land. Finally, meeting and talking with other forest owners at those presentations gives Darryl and Toby a special social outlet and a wealth of information to continue their management practices. ♻️

Dorian Hyland, is a writer for The New York Forest Owner landowner profile.

Ask a Professional (continued)

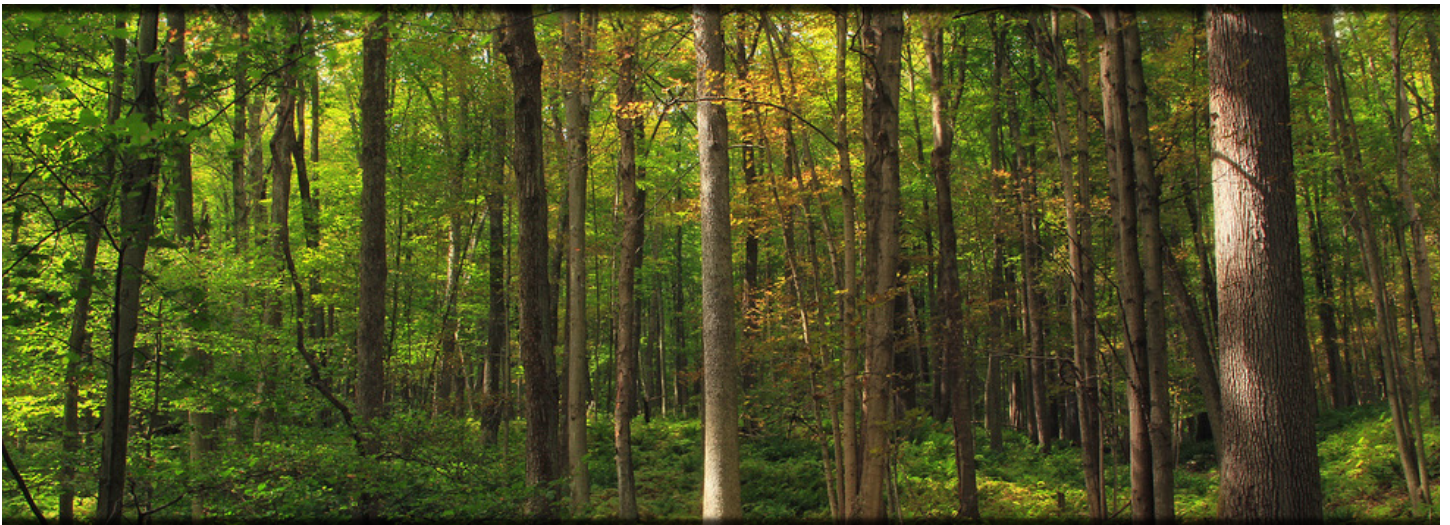
Integrated Selective Treatments

In some circumstances there is greater effectiveness, efficiency, or control of effect by integrating or blending mechanical and chemical treatments. One example is known as cut-stump treatments. With cut-stump treatments the shrub or tree is fully severed and a concentrated solution of, usually, Accord XRT II or another glyphosate-based product is immediately applied onto the freshly exposed wood surface (Figure 7). This treatment provides the immediate benefits of cutting and the prolonged benefits of killing the root system. The cut-stump treatment maximizes the potential for flash. A second option for integration is the frill-spray treatment where the bark of a tree is excised on the full circumference by chainsaw or ax and a triclopyr-based herbicide such as Garlon 3A or Garlon 4 ultra is applied into the frill onto the freshly exposed wood. Garlon products have limited capacity to flash. The frill-spray treatment is useful on stems too large and thick-barked for basal bark treatments and in circumstances attempting to avoid a flash of the product to potentially root-grafted trees. ♻️

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.



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