The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

March/April 2018

Member Profile: Ellen Graf and Zhong-hua Lu

Volume 56 Number 2

NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association
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In This Issue . . .

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The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the May/June issue is March 1, 2018.***

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.

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Cover: Ellen Graf and Zhong-hua Lu stand among the firewood they collected from their property which provides them fuel and inspiration. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of Ellen Graf and Zhong-hua Lu.

From The President

The few weeks prior to my writing this column have been busy ones for NYFOA. On January 15, 2018, Mike Zagata, our Director of Organization Development, came on board. Mike has already been to a number of chapter meetings to meet chapter members, hear their ideas and concerns, and familiarize himself with the current state of the chapters. He has scheduled meetings with most of the rest of the chapters; a number of conference calls with the board or the board's executive committee have occurred. An amazing number of ideas and suggestions for chapter support and membership growth have come forth already.

NYFOA members who have been to our website or are on our email list already have been notified of Mike's selection for this position and been told of his background. For those who haven't yet heard this information, a quick summary follows below as well as a message from Mike on page 5.

The NYFOA Board of Directors sought out a professional to work on a part-time basis, to assist us with chapter support and membership growth. We selected Mike, whose resume includes a PhD in wildlife ecology, years of experience in environmental health and safety with the energy industry, service as the NYS DEC Commissioner under Governor Pataki, and as President and CEO of the Ruffed Grouse Society. We are very optimistic that Mike's background, vision, and energy will expand NYFOA's reach to more of our state's private forest owners.

In late January, the Governor of New York announced his proposed budget for next year which included the Empire Forests of the Future Initiative that we have been promoting for years. Of the initiative's six components, NYFOA supports five but strongly opposes the sixth. The good parts of this initiative include amendments to the NYS Forest Tax Law which should allow more forest landowners to enroll and ensure that their forestland can remain forest; amendments to the Right to Practice Forestry Law; a community forest grant program; a program for matching grants for stewardship of private forest lands; and a state agency procurement preference for NYS wood products. What we strongly oppose is a new proposed regulation that mandates landowners provide the state with advance timber harvest notification. Using our website and email chain, we informed our membership about the Governor's proposals and the importance of contacting key legislators to express support for the good parts and with concerns about this intrusive, burdensome, and unnecessary regulation. When this edition of the *Forest Owner* gets into our members' hands, the budget will likely be set in law and, hopefully, NY forest landowners will have been successful in their efforts to advocate for NY forests and those who maintain them.

–Charles Stackhouse
NYFOA President

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

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

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

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Telephone: _____
Email: _____
County of Residence: _____
County of Woodlot: _____
Referred by: _____

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Message from New Director of Organizational Development

MICHAEL ZAGATA

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our membership and potential members; to talk about why your board hired me; and to look at some options for moving forward.

Early in my career I earned a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology at Iowa State University and then taught wildlife and forestry courses and conducted research on the impact of forest cutting practices on wildlife at the University of Maine-Orono. One of our members is a former student of mine and now works for Cornell Extension "…guess who?" From there I went into Washington, DC and worked for The Wildlife Society (TWS) as Field Director (job much like this one), Audubon as Director of Federal Relations (lobbyist) and then at The National Research Council to develop a focus on renewable natural resources, including forests. While at TWS I was fortunate to work for Jack Ward Thomas, the only wildlife biologist to become "Chief" of the US Forest Service and author of "The" book on elk. Following that I spent several years in the energy industry overseeing compliance with environmental laws and regulations, served as your DEC Commissioner for Governor Pataki, helped form the Conservation Alliance of NY and finally served as President and CEO of The Ruffed Grouse Society – an organization of about 100 chapters devoted to wildlife that occupy young forests.

January 15, 2018 was my first official day on the job, but I've spent considerable time getting to know our organization (I am a member). What strikes me is the commitment on the part of our volunteers and members. Nearly everything that has been written in terms of policy, by-laws, newsletters, technical papers, etc. and all the education and outreach to potential members via woodswalks and other venues have been done by volunteers. My hat is off to you!

The board hired me not to tell you what to do, but to look at what each of our chapters is doing that works, what isn't working and what we might be doing that we're not presently doing, and then package the information in a manner that helps all of the chapters grow in membership and political clout. We have about 1,600 members and there are about 700,000 forestland owners in NY. If we had just 10% of that number NYFOA would be even more of a powerhouse in terms of political clout and the financial ability to fully implement its mission. I appreciate that money can be "the root of all evil," but the lack of it can be deadly. NYFOA is a not-for-profit, but that doesn't mean we don't need to behave like a business and focus on listening to, and then satisfying, our customers — our members and potential new members. Doing that will help us grow and succeed.

It's too early to lay out an agenda as I haven't yet had the chance to visit all the chapters. To date, I've met with the WFL, SAC, and CDC chapters. However, there are some things that would seem to be a fit for NYFOA to pursue. That list includes amending 480-a in a manner that reduces the financial impact on local governments, is less burdensome to participants and allows for practices that benefit wildlife. The Governor's 2018 budget proposal is a start that we should support, but much more remains to be done. About 70% of you expressed an interest in actively managing your forestland for wildlife and we need to help figure out how to enable you to manage for things that provide societal benefit, e.g. air quality, water quality, wildlife, aesthetics, etc., without bearing the full cost. Carbon credits, biomass for energy (would provide a market for the low-grade wood left following generations of high-grading), and support for DEC so that it has the foresters and wildlife biologists necessary to implement these programs also seem appropriate.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you to grow NYFOA. That's all for now.

—Mike

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
Larry Chase	CDC
Gennaro Cibelli	NAC
Dan Clapper	SOT
Rod Cropsey	SAC
Russell Findlay	AFC
Stephen Finnan	WFL
Mark Horbert	LHC
Andrew Hulley	CNY
J. Tim Kane	SOT
Colin & Lacie Larson	AFC
Theodore Lauve	SOT
Don Oliver	CNY
Faith & Steve Pappano	WFL
Tom Seeley	SOT
Brian Sheets	WFL
Gregory Steiner	NAC
Glenn Swan	SFL
John Swapceinski	WFL
Michael Tonetti	LHC
Joe Wawrzynek	NFC
Stella and Silas Yellich	SAC

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

Which walnut is it?

Question:

I have walnut on my property, but I can't tell if they are black walnut or butternut. What's the difference? (Steve, WFL Chapter)

Answer:

These species are common in some areas of NY, and have numerous positive attributes. It's not common to have both on the same property, though it is possible. Both are prized for the beauty of their wood, the utility of the walnuts they produce, and their stately appearance. Both have some serious health concerns.

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and butternut, AKA white walnut (*Juglans cinerea*) are in the walnut family, related to the hickories (*Carya* spp.), and native to New York. The geographic range of butternut includes most of NY, except the higher elevations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains. Black walnut occurs in the state, but more sporadically. It is most common in the Finger Lakes region and lower Hudson River, but also occurs in the St. Lawrence River valley.

In NY, the family Juglandaceae includes the walnuts and hickories. Both species of the walnut genus, have alternate leaves and branches, as do all hickory species. The leaves of both genera are pinnately compound (Figure 1), and the leaflets have serrate margins (the edge of the leaf). The leaves are large, resulting in a corresponding large leaf scar. The vascular bundles are easily evident in the triangular shaped leaf scar, and are arranged in three clusters. Both genera have a nut as a fruit, and the nut is enclosed in a husk. The bark of both genera is rugged, though with the walnuts it is ridged and furrowed. In the

Figure 3. The husks of black walnut (pictured) and butternut lack sutures or splits that are characteristic of the hickory genus.

Figure 1. All species in the walnut family, Juglandaceae, have pinnately compound leaves. Butternut, pictured, has 11 to 23 almost stemless leaflets.

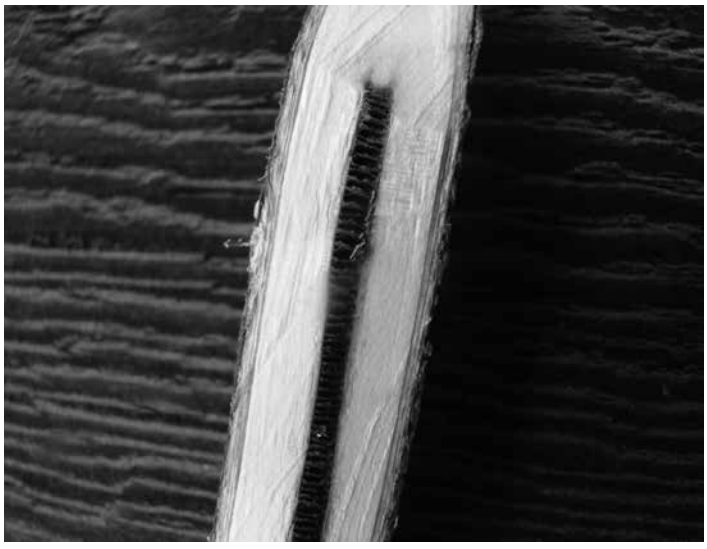

Figure 2. Butternut pith (pictured) is darker than that of black walnut, and both are chambered.

Figure 4. Butternut leaves are hairy, especially where the stalk (called a "rachis") joins the stem.

hickory genus, the bark is ridged and furrowed for some species, but others—like shagbark hickory—have exfoliating plates.

There are several features that differentiate the walnuts from the hickories. The walnut leaves have more leaflets than the hickories. Walnuts will have 11 to 23 leaflets and the hickories will have 5 to 11 leaflets. The bark of the walnuts is softer, or corkier, allowing indentations with your thumbnail. The bark of hickory is hard and not easy to indent. The pith of walnut is chambered (Figure 2), meaning the center of the twig is essentially hollow, though sectioned every millimeter or so with a divider. The pith of hickory is solid, technically known as homogenous. Finally, the husk enclosing the nut on walnut is softer, the husk lacks sutures or "splits", and the husk is odiferous when scraped, bruised or crushed; it will stain your hands and clothes (Figure 3). The husk of hickories is harder, and has sutures or splits with 4 sections.

Figure 5. Black walnut leaves are not as hairy as butternut, or hairless, and may have more leaflets than butternut. The number of leaflets is variable.

There are several features that allow for easy differentiation of black walnut and butternut. Butternut has 11 to 17 almost stemless leaflets, the margins are serrate (which means toothed), and the leaf stalk is hairy where it meets the stem (Figure 4). Black walnut leaves have 13 to 23 usually hairless leaflets (Figure 5), but otherwise is similar to butternut. The terminal bud on butternut is elongated while the terminal bud on black walnut is almost as wide as long. Pith color on butternut is dark brown and pith color on black walnut is light brown. The bark of butternut is harder than black walnut, but both have a dark inner bark when sliced (Figure 6). Above the leaf scar on butternut is a light-colored fuzzy ridge, which is absent from black walnut. The nut of butternut is elongated, and the nut of black walnut is rounded (Figure 7). Both have edible meat in the nut.

Both species have highly valued and attractive wood, especially the heartwood. Black walnut is slightly darker and some butternut has "worm holes" that add to its character. The wood is relatively soft and easy to work. The BTU value of both species is low and they have limited value as firewood; butternut is not legal in NY to be included as "hardwood" firewood. Both species can be tapped for sap that is boiled into syrup that tastes similar to maple syrup. However, filtering of walnut syrup is complicated by high levels of pectin that clog filters.

Butternut is afflicted throughout its range by a fungal disease known as butternut canker, resulting in a disease syndrome known as butternut decline. The fungus is first apparent in lower branches, and subsequently cankers develop on branches and the stem throughout the tree (Figure 8). Black walnut is

continued on page 18

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Karen Ceballos

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

The Northern saw-whet owl is the smallest owl in the eastern US. Saw-whets tip the scales around only 3 ounces (ranging from 2.3-5.3 ounces), and typically reach about 8 inches in length. They are mottled brown and have a white breast with cinnamon and reddish brown streaks. Their striking yellow eyes peer out from a whitish facial disk, and dainty white streaks radiate around the face. Unlike Eastern screech owls, saw-whets have big rounded heads with no ear tufts. Their faces have a cat-like quality, and the V- shaped white patch above the eyes gives them a glowering look. Juveniles are dark brown with a creamy, yellowish breast and belly. Males and females have similar plumages, but females are about 25% larger than males.

Despite being one of the most common owls of northern US forests, the Northern saw-whet owl is seldom seen. They are highly nocturnal, hunting from dusk to dawn and then roosting in the thick cover of conifers during the day, avoiding predators and birders alike. You may be more familiar with their piercing "too-too-too" calls that ring through the forest January through May as eager males try to attract mates and establish their breeding territories. These calls are repeated many times, sometimes for hours. It's one of their calls that gave rise to their name, since settlers likened the sound to a whetting stone sharpening a saw. If you're really keen on spotting a saw-whet, look for them under the dense cover of small conifers. They're usually roosting relatively low to the ground, just above eye level (around 3 to 8 feet). Take note of the behavior of small songbirds as well. If they find a roosting saw-whet, songbirds will start mobbing the owl, calling and flying and making a ruckus, and exposing the location of the now irritated owl.

These three ounce balls of fury and feathers prefer mature forests with an open understory for hunting. They are often found in conifer forests, but can inhabit a variety of habitats, from swamps and riverside forests, to coastal scrub and the open shrub habitat of the west. People occasionally find them in urban areas and city parks, especially during migration. They have a fairly large range, living in forests all across the northern US, and in forests of southern Canada, western US, and even central Mexico.

Their migration habits are still not well understood, and historically, people thought that saw-whets did not migrate. However, we now know that many saw-whet populations do in fact migrate and will winter in the forests of central and southern US, even crossing the Great Lakes and other bodies of water. In the fall of 1999, a fisherman was very surprised to have a saw-whet land on his fishing vessel, 70 miles from shore in the Atlantic Ocean near Montauk, New York. About once every four years, saw-whets will also move southward in large numbers. That being said, not all saw-whets migrate, and upstate New York is home to some permanent resident saw-whets.

Males ring in the breeding season with their "too-too-too" calls beginning late January. An interested female will respond with a "tsst" call or whistle. The male then flies around her about twenty times before landing before her and presenting her with a token of his affection: a dead mouse. Saw-whet owls are cavity nesters, meaning they nest in previously made holes, often made by Northern flickers or pileated woodpeckers in dead snags. They're usually monogamous during a breeding season, but will

find a new mate each year. While the female incubates and broods her four to seven eggs, the male will do all of the hunting. However, when the nestlings are about 18 days old, the female decides she's had enough and leaves the nest. She may roost elsewhere and continue to hunt for the chicks, or may leave entirely, sometimes starting a new clutch elsewhere. After that it's up to dad to bring food to the chicks until they are about four to five weeks old.

Don't be deceived by their adorable appearance; these owls are mighty predators. They mainly prey on mice, particularly deer mice, but will eat other small animals like shrews, voles, bats, chipmunks, insects, and occasionally birds and other owl species. They hunt by lying in wait on low branches for an unsuspecting mouse, and then swoop down on their prey. Because of their small size, they often have to eat their prey in pieces and store leftovers on a nearby branch. If their remaining food freezes, they can defrost their leftovers by incubating it like an egg! As a small owl, they are preyed upon by larger raptors including great horned owls, long-eared owls, and hawks.

Saw-whets are generally common and widespread, but they are hard to study because they are nocturnal and secretive. There is much we still don't fully know about their populations, distributions, movements, and biology. Most populations are likely declining due to habitat loss of mature forests. These forests are very desirable for logging, but are also important saw-whet roosting habitat. If you own woodlands in their breeding range, you can help by allowing dead trees to remain and serve as nest cavities. They use nest boxes, so you might consider putting one up to attract a breeding pair (more info and specific nest box instructions can be found at *https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/*). Climate change may also cause habitat shifts affecting the southern range limit of saw-whet owls.

So keep your ears tuned for the sounds of saw-whets at night, and with a combination of luck, persistence, and good observation skills, you might be rewarded with a glimpse of these special owls.

Karen Ceballos is a New York Master Naturalist Program Assistant, Cornell Department of Natural Resources

NYFOA POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM

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

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

SIGN MATERIAL	COST PER SIGN	NUMBER ORDERED*	COST
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Aluminum (.012 gauge)	$.90	_____	$_____
Add Name and Address to Sign Set up cost per address			$5.00
Plus $.05 per sign		_____	_____
Shipping and Handling Cost $10.00 per order			$10.00
SUBTOTAL			$_____
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Make check payable to NYFOA. Send the completed form to: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485. Questions? Call 800-836-3566

* Minimum order is 25 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.

NYS 4-H Forestry: Connecting Youth Outdoors

Ingrid Hill

As we all know, we live in a fast paced, consistently evolving world containing a host of challenges for tomorrow's global citizens. Our highly agrarian society has undergone a fundamental shift in recent history where our children have become indoor learners who are perpetually plugged in through TV, video games, and other modalities of electronic media. Numerous research studies demonstrate that children play outside less and have a much narrower range of outdoor activities. Richard Louv, writer of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, describes this cultural shift as a phenomenon of 'nature deficit disorder' and talks at length in his book about the increasing divide between youth and the natural world. This creates significant implications for our young people in the areas of environmental, social, psychological, and spiritual well-being. If we intend to cultivate a system of leaders who are equipped and prepared to take on modern day challenges, we must begin today by preparing our youth to fully understand and engage in the future that they will inherit.

In direct response to these needs, 4-H Youth Development programs across the country have taken fundamental steps to provide high quality, highly engaged environmental education that teaches youth about real world problems and prepares them to become the leaders of tomorrow. 4-H educators are working to combat today's disconnect with the natural world by getting youth outdoors and teaching that engagement with nature is alluring, fascinating, and FUN! 4-H Forestry is one such program, providing an easily managed, low-cost response to this disconnect that we see in contemporary society. The 4-H Forestry curriculum provides opportunities for volunteer involvement and addresses multi-faceted learning strategies that occur '*in'* nature.

For the last ten years, New York State 4-H has implemented an annual three day regional camping experience whereby youth and families come together for a forestry event that capitalizes on accessibility of a beautiful 4-H camp arena. Youth participants are introduced to forestry management tracts in tree measurement, tree identification, topographic maps, compass and pacing, and insects and diseases. By offering the weekend as a state wide program available to all enrolled 4-H youth, participants have the opportunity to experience forestry education that may not necessarily be available in their home counties through local extension offices. The variety of focus tracts provides direct connection to the National 4-H Forestry Invitational competition tracts and offers an opportunity for inquiry based learning. Additionally, a Cornell Test Forest sits alongside the residential 4-H camp, where participants can also see firsthand examples of current field research.

NYS 4-H Forestry Weekend youth have a lesson in Tree ID from Andrew Randazzo, Youth Development Educator from CCE Columbia/Greene. Andrew has coached the National team the last two years and joined the New York Forestry Weekend team in 2017. His experience in forestry and natural resources has been a valuable addition to the enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude among the youth.

During the 4-H Forestry weekend, youth experience interspersed periods of highly focused, educationally rich curriculum intermingled with fun community-building recreation in the great outdoors. This has allowed youngsters to make new friends as well as engaging with forest management principles that they may be encountering for the first time. Interestingly enough, we have found that the program draws many repeat participants year after year who love to reconnect with instructors, coaches, and peers from around the state. The social connections inherent in the NYS 4-H Forestry program support one of the key essential elements that 4-H youth development is known for – belonging. Additionally, a sense of responsible stewardship is fostered through lessons in environmental ecology, and a sense of shared responsibility unfolds through meal preparation and clean up all weekend long. Everybody (including the young people) actively participate in all aspects of the experience. It builds camaraderie and assists families in feeling ownership for the success of the program overall.

An important component of the NYS 4-H Forestry weekend is selection of the New York team who will represent at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia each summer (*http://4hforestryinvitational.org/*). Determination of this team is made through an evaluative test process on the final day of training. Youth, 14 and older, must demonstrate proficiency in each tract of the curriculum and the four high scorers (and one alternate) are selected as the annual team. Travel for all youth participants is covered through sponsorship to the national event and the NYS 4-H Forestry program covers the fees for chaperone travel. This ensures that no youth is left out of the national competition experience due to insufficient family resources. For many

2017 youth participants

young people, participation in the national event is a capstone experience among their 4-H tenure and it does much to inspire participants to give back. For the past several years, our national participants have remained involved in the local program effort through junior leadership or assistant teaching. This is a legacy that we hope to continue. Through positive experiences in learning and outdoor education, we are building young people who are thoughtful, involved participants in supporting local initiatives and making a difference for others.

The New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) has been critical to the success of the NYS 4-H Forestry program. Through generous annual sponsorships since the onset of our weekend program, we have been able to keep the cost of this great program affordable for all families. To date we ask families to contribute only $42.00 per person to cover all of their meals, accommodations, and educational programming for three days. I'm certain that you will agree, this is a bargain when you consider similar youth experiences. The ongoing support of NYFOA helps us to offset the expenses of facility rental, to expand our reach through standard industry equipment that supports youth learning, and to cover chaperone fees for the national invitational travel. Last year, we reached out to NYFOA with additional continued goals of hoping to establish a fund of two annual $42.00 program scholarships within New York 4-H, integration of a junior coach model at the national event (some of the southern tier states utilize this model successfully), as well as a possible reduction in costs overall for the families attending the weekend program. These continue to be goals moving forward. Additionally, the NYS 4-H Forestry program is in need of human resources. We need volunteers! We need them badly. We need industry professionals who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with enthusiastic 4-H youth. Our hope is to build a rich and diverse volunteer force for not only the annual weekend event, but also at local extension offices throughout New York State. Every county has an extension office and our local theme is persistent — never enough volunteers to do all of the remarkable things that we would like to do. If you would like to become involved in the NYS 4-H Forestry program please feel free to follow up with an email to Ingrid Hill at *imh23@cornell.edu*.

Dave Jackson, a Forest Resource Management Educator for Penn State University Extension and chair of the national 4-H Forestry Invitational says it best when he writes, "As we work in partnership to continue connecting youth to valuable life experiences in forestry management practices, I am confident that today's youth will be better prepared to be future landowners, voters, policy makers, and inheritors of the natural resources we depend upon and must pass along to future generations. As up and coming adults, our youth better understand renewable natural resource management, needs, issues, and concerns. In some cases, participation in the 4-H Forestry program has even had an influence on the future career choices of the participants, with a number of them continuing on to pursue natural resource management careers."

For these reasons and so many more, NYS 4-H is grateful to partners like NYFOA who continue to support us in prioritizing strong educational initiatives for young people in and around their precious natural world. Working together we can overcome societal challenges that draw youngsters away from outdoor recreation and environmental education and continue to demonstrate the inherent value in being strong stewards of our natural world.

Learning to read topographic maps and understanding angle of declination are important parts of the weekend curriculum.

Ingrid Hill is 4-H Resource Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension – Orange County.

Silent Auction 2018

Dave Williams

As you read this we are moving into the eleventh hour of preparation for our silent auction which funds the NYFOA Mini Grants for educators program and the New York 4-H Forestry Invitational Team. Your contribution of cash or donated items and purchases at the annual meeting on April 21 allow NYFOA to support excellent opportunities for youth to learn and to appreciate our woodlands. It is easy to participate.

To make a tax deductible donation, fill out a *Donor Form* found on page 15 of the January/February issue of the *Forest Owner* magazine or you may find this form on the NYFOA website (click on "News"). Email the completed form to *auction@nyfoa.org* or mail it to Liana Gooding, Office Administrator (PO Box 541 Lima, NY 14485). If you have any questions, please contact Gerry McDonald at *oakmando@gmail.com*.

To learn more about how some of the auction proceeds are invested, be sure to read the article on page ten by CCE Educator Ingrid Hill. Ingrid makes a good case for the need of more outdoor education opportunities for today's youth who spend far too much time tethered to electronic gadgets. She goes on to explain how NYFOA's support for the New York State 4-H Forestry Invitational Team makes it possible for youngsters to participate in this program.

Support the silent auction and it will support our kids.

One of the donated auction items from 2017.

New York Forest Owners Association

56th Annual Spring Program, Saturday, April 21, 2018

21st Century, Our Woodlands, Our Watch

Marshall Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

8:15 a.m.	**Registration and refreshments**. *Check out the displays from NYFOA Chapters and forestry oriented exhibits in Nifkin Lounge*.
9:00 a.m.	**Welcome**: Charles Stackhouse, *President NYFOA* and David Newman, *Faculty of Forestry, SUNY ESF*.
9:15 a.m.	**Income Producing Opportunities for the Woodland Owner** Rich Taber, *CCE Chenango County*
10:10 a.m.	**Early Succession Habitat for Wildlife** Mike Zagata, *NYFOA*
11:05 a.m.	**The Status of the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid in NY State and Initiatives** Mark Whitmore, *Cornell University*
12:00 p.m.	**Silent Auction**
12:30 p.m.	**Luncheon and NYFOA Annual Awards Banquet**
2:00 p.m.	**NYFOA Board of Directors Meeting**

Prepared by Conference Chairperson Rich Taber, CNY Chapter and with input from the NYFOA Board of Directors

As additional enticement to attend the annual meeting, we are offering some fabulous door prizes!
A Makita EA5000 chainsaw, two sets of chainsaw safety chaps, and two chainsaw helmets. ***Makita*** has donated the chaps and helmets and in conjunction with Makita dealer Dave Nielsen of Nielsen's Sales and Service in Penn Yan, they have subsidized our purchase of this great saw. List price is $499. Someone is going to leave the annual meeting with a big grin and a great chainsaw, and four members will leave with some important protective equipment. ***NYFOA thanks Makita and Dave Nielsen for their generous support.***

Please Register by April 6, 2018 by Returning This Form to Address Below

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:**_____

Chapter Affiliation: _____ **Email:** _____

Registration Fee: $20 per person $15 for students. *Please make checks payable to NYFOA or pay by credit card*.

Number Attending: _____ **Total enclosed: $**_____

Names of Additional People Attending:

_____ _____

Form of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Credit Card No. _____Expiration Date _____V-Code_____

Signature: _____

Send the completed form to: ***NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485***
Map, Directions and Parking information are available online at www.nyfoa.org

Northeast Timber Growing Contest
2017 Contest Results

Dean Faklis and Peter Smallidge

We're proud to present the 2017 summary and results for the Northeast Timber Growing Contest (www.TimberContest.com). 2017 marks the end of the fourth full growing season and the fourth set of adjudicated results. Here is a list of contest participants:

Del Allen, Milo, Yates, NY

Blough Family Forest, Ontario, Wayne, NY

John and Jason Dewey, Unadilla, Otsego, NY

Doolittle Family Woodlot, York, Livingston, NY

Kurt and Kristie Edwards, Mayfield, Fulton, NY

Chris Howard, Wheeler, Steuben, NY

Jeannine and Stacey Kazacos, Lisbon, Otsego, NY

Gerald Palmer, Guilford, Chenango, NY

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The New York Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org).

You will receive an email every two months that includes a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *the Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

Ronald Pedersen, Sanford, Broome, NY

Piestrak Forest Lands, Lindley, Steuben, NY

Dale and Eileen Schaefer, Canadice, Ontario, NY

Schlafer Family Forest, Hector, Schuyler, NY

Team Smallidge, Crown Point, Essex, NY

Spreutels Family Forest, Guilford, Chenango, NY

Team Springwater, Springwater, Livingston, NY

Charles and Sarah Stackhouse, Bluff Point, Yates, NY

Walton's Woods, Knox, Albany, NY

David and Kathryn Williams, Guilford, Chenango, NY

Todd Williams Family, Barton, Tioga, NY

Winkler Tree Farm, Andes, Delaware, NY

Welcome to the New Contestants and Future Timber Beasts!

We have a school team, Cassadaga Valley School, under the excellent direction of Cheryl Burns. They won a NYFOA Woodlands Mini Grant and will enter the results of their first growing season in 2018.

There were three races in 2017; Hardwood – Board Foot Volume, Hardwood – Basal Area Increment, and Conifer – Basal Area Increment. The Hardwood – BA category received entries from 15 teams and was the most popular category. All of the entries were normalized by the site index (an estimate of the height of a 50-year old tree on a particular soil type) to help create a level playing field. Sites with lower site index receive a beneficial handicap. Please visit *www.CornellForestConnect.ning.com* and search the blogs for "site index" to learn how to use Google Earth Pro and Web Soil Survey to determine site index and other features of the soil.

All competitors submitted their entry materials on time and in good order. The judges met during January 2018 to review the results and make the necessary computations. The rules that governed the judging process can be found at *www.TimberContest.com*. Congratulations to all the participants!

Here are the **2017 Northeast Timber Growing Contest Results**, with high score in **bold**:

Hardwood – BA	
Jeannine and Stacey Kazacos	**0.0647**
David and Kathryn Williams	0.0564
Gerald Palmer	0.0519
Team Smallidge	0.0465
Kurt and Kristie Edwards	0.0452
Dale and Eileen Schaefer	0.0365
Team Springwater	0.0337
Del Allen	0.0312
Ronald Pedersen	0.0304
John and Jason Dewey	0.0282
Walton's Woods	0.0225
Charles and Sarah Stackhouse	0.0214
Doolittle Family Woodlot	0.0209
Chris Howard	0.0184
Todd Williams Family	0.0147

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume	
David and Kathryn Williams	**0.0657**
Kurt and Kristie Edwards	0.0614
Team Springwater	0.0595
Del Allen	0.0364

Conifer – BA	
Ronald Pedersen	**0.0250**
Team Springwater	0.0212

All results were normalized by site index, so they are a bit difficult to compare using the typical units for board

feet and basal area. To give a better understanding, here is some background on the raw data for the top five in the basal area categories, with their site index in parentheses:

Hardwood – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)

	sq. ft.	% Growth
Jeannine and Stacey Kazacos (69.75)	4.6	4.51
David and Kathryn Williams (68.83)	3.3	3.88
Gerald Palmer (69.33)	3.3	3.59
Team Smallidge (59.22)	2.4	2.75
Kurt and Kristie Edwards (60.63)	1.8	2.74

Conifer – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)

	sq. ft.	% Growth
Ronald Pedersen (71.80)	2.7	1.79
Team Springwater (67.23)	2.9	1.43

Please note that growth of just one square foot of basal area is like adding a fresh new 14" diameter tree/acre to your woodlot! Jeannine and Stacy grew 4.6 such trees in one year on 1 acre! With proper silviculture, you can choose what this "new tree" is….wood on high quality sugar maple sawlogs or red maple firewood! The contest framework helps you put the growth on your best trees and use your lower quality material for projects or heat. Let the winning trees get all the light, water and nutrients.

For 2018, the word of the year for contesters is again… *thinning*. The available growth will then be placed on the best growing trees and there will be fewer trees in the sample plots. This causes the *percent growth* to shoot up! Properly thinning out the slow growers is a key component of the contest and a key to the competitiveness within your forest. When trees are culled from the plots, their place is kept in the tally sheets, but their data is omitted in the computations. This way, the amount of timber harvested from the plots can be tracked over time but the culled trees do not contribute to the annual contest scores. Here is some more growth data for comparison:

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume – Growth on 20 Trees

	bd. ft.	% Growth
David and Kathryn Williams (68.83)	271.7	4.52
Kurt and Kristie Edwards (60.63)	94.4	3.73
Team Springwater (70.00)	277.1	4.17
Del Allen (69.51)	121.3	2.53

Sarah and Charlie Stackhouse, along with Forester Jim Bagley, assist Del Allen with establishing his contest plots.

Dave and Kathy's high-quality trees might be valued at $1 per board foot. That's $272 in value growth on just those 20 trees. Contest participants become *Timber Beasts* when they accumulate normalized scores that total at least 1.000 across all categories. Here are the current timber beast standings:

Timber Beast Scores (Sum of all team scores across all categories)	
Team Springwater	0.5191
Kurt and Kristie Edwards	0.3954
Team Smallidge	0.2098
David and Kathryn Williams	0.2003
Del Allen	0.1505
Piestrak Forest Lands	0.1455
Winkler Tree Farm	0.1260
Dale and Eileen Schaefer	0.1002
Gerald Palmer	0.0923
Jeannine and Stacey Kazacos	0.0647
John and Jason Dewey	0.0644
Charles and Sarah Stackhouse	0.0613
Ronald Pedersen	0.0554
Todd Williams Family	0.0449
Blough Family Forest	0.0314
Spreutels Family Forest	0.0251
Walton's Woods	0.0225
Doolittle Family Woodlot	0.0209
Chris Howard	0.0184
Schlafer Family Forest	0.0136

Let's work together to grow participation in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest to help spotlight the importance of growing quality timber. There is plenty of time remaining to enter *your* forest for 2018!

It takes only four (4) hours per year to begin to grow high quality timber and lots of help is available. If your forestry organization is interested in holding a contest workshop, there are free workshop materials available. The workshop will teach tips and tricks to get you started.

Any questions or if anyone needs help measuring trees, email: dfaklis@frontiernet.net. Also, check out the timber contest website at: ***www.TimberContest.com.*** Thanks and congratulations to all!

Woodland Health

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

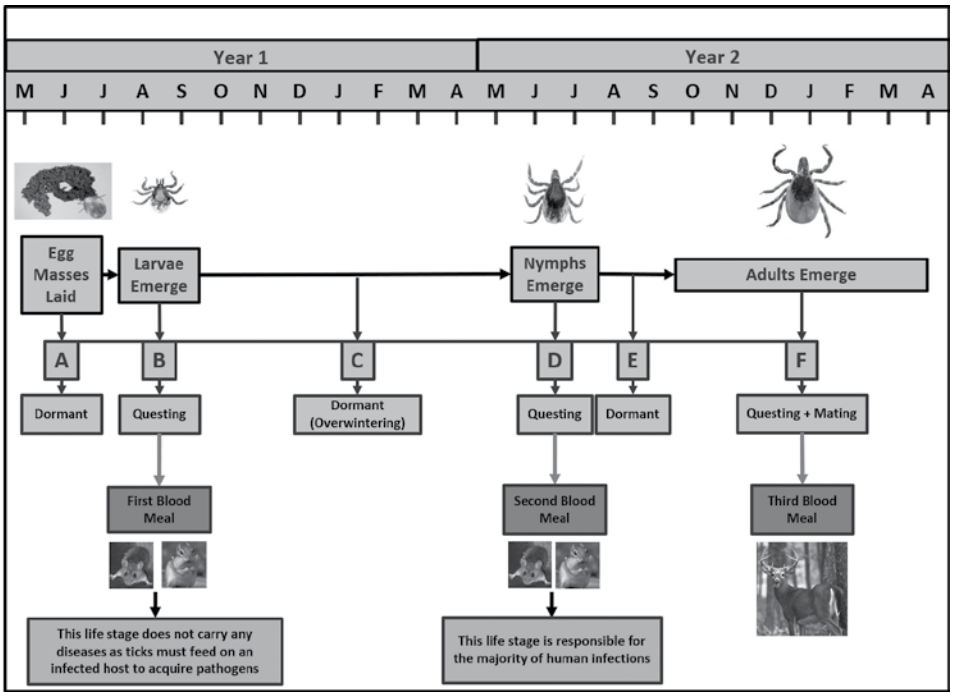
Coordinated by Mark Whitmore

Ticks in the Winter: A Shrouded Life

By James Burtis

Many of us living in New York State are intimately familiar with the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), the primary vector for Lyme disease. This pest can be found in forests throughout New York State, and for those living in highly infested areas, like the Hudson Valley, the feeling of a tick crawling up your leg in the warm weather is all too familiar. This often begs the question, where do ticks go in the winter, and what does cold weather do to them? Often this question is asked during an abnormally cold period, like the recent 'Bomb Cyclone' that hit much of the northeastern United States, with the hope that the following summer there will be fewer ticks. Unfortunately, ticks have certain advantages when it comes to surviving harsh conditions that many other pests do not.

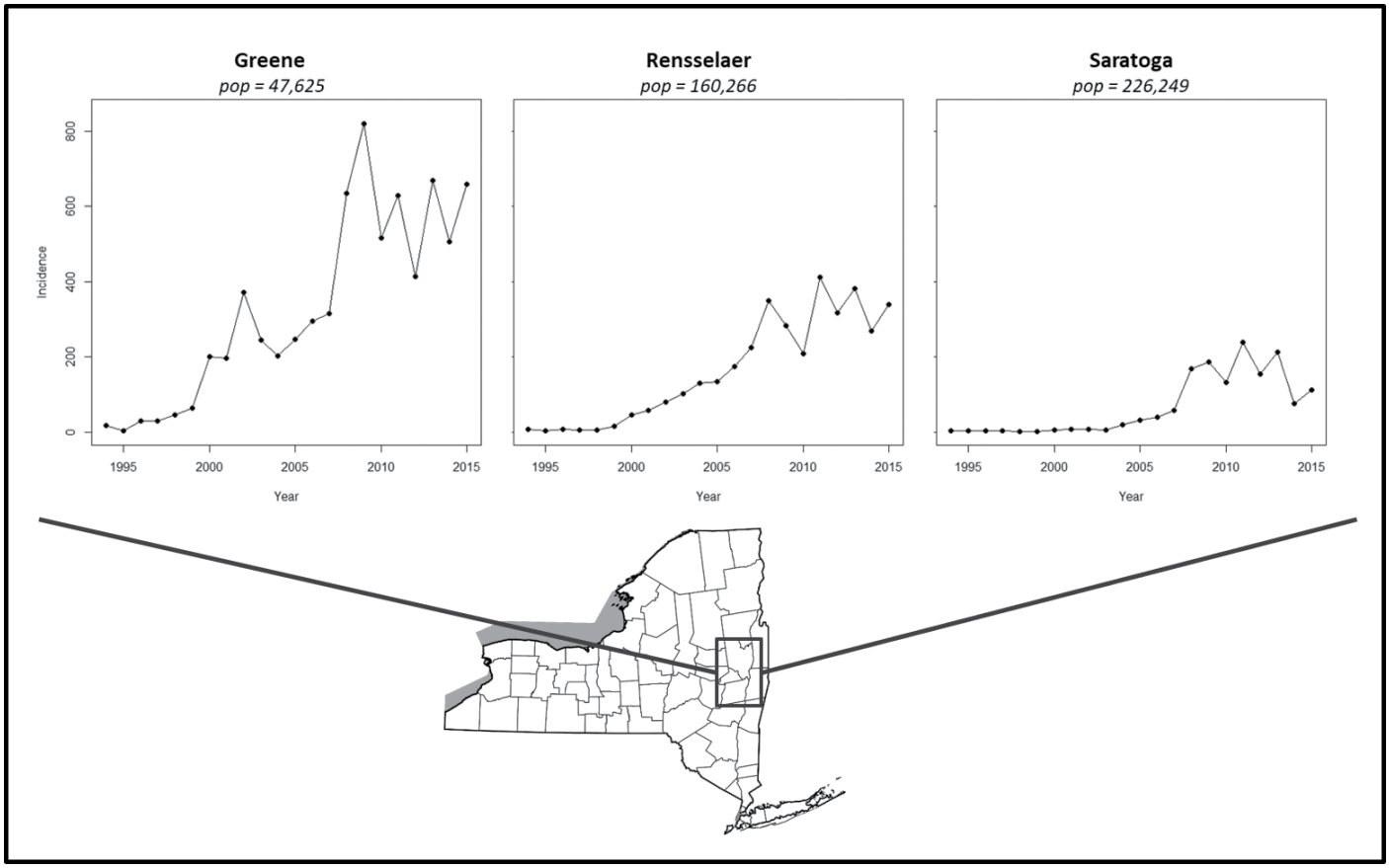
Blacklegged ticks have a complex two-year lifecycle, the majority of which is spent either resting or waiting to feed on hosts, which they do only three times in their life (once per life stage). In order to survive the extremely long periods between bloodmeals ticks have evolved some of the slowest metabolisms of any creature on earth. In the blacklegged tick's case, this allows them to go for months without feeding, and in the winter they are able to burrow under the leaf litter where they are protected from extreme weather. In addition to the behavioral adaptations that allow them to avoid freezing, blacklegged ticks are also physiologically adapted to deal with temperatures down to -10 °C (14 °F). While the air temperature may plummet below this threshold, particularly in upstate New York, soil temperatures are generally far warmer. In a recent experiment at Cornell University, ticks were placed in the field in microcosms and snow was removed from half of them to explore the insulating effect of snow on tick overwinter mortality. Researchers were surprised to find that snow removal had no effect on the overall survival of the ticks. Similar conclusions were drawn by a group of researchers in Canada who placed ticks at varying latitudes to determine whether cold conditions at high latitudes would affect tick survival. They too found that these hardy arthropods were not negatively affected by the cold.



A guide for the two-year life cycle of the blacklegged tick, showing the timing of emergence for each life stage, their primary hosts, and which life stage has the highest probability of infecting people.

Of course, this all begs the question, if ticks can survive in the winter, why do their populations appear to be increasing throughout much of New York State? The answer is complex and incomplete, but while it may appear that ticks are expanding due to a warming climate, mounting evidence suggests that they may simply be reclaiming their original range throughout eastern North America. In order to understand their population expansion, we have to travel back 100 years and examine the landscape of New York State. At this point much of the land in the state, and the northeast in general, was farmland. This had essentially decimated the natural habitat for blacklegged ticks, as they do best in forests, causing tick populations to retreat into a few small refugia. After the great depression, many of these farms were abandoned, causing them to revert to forestland. Over time this created a large amount of highly suitable tick habitat, but ticks move slowly over large distances since they generally rely on hosts for transportation. Once blacklegged ticks move into a new area the population likely takes time to establish, then increases for a period, and finally stabilizes. While we don't have the tick density data from the field to backup this theory, these trends are reflected when we plot the incidence of Lyme disease over time between 1994 and 2015 in several counties in New York's capital region.

While winter weather conditions are unlikely to have a strong impact on ticks in New York, other weather conditions have been shown to have dramatic effects on both tick survival and behavior. The strongest of these effects is that of spring drought, which reduces both the survival and host-seeking activity of blacklegged ticks. This happens because ticks must



The three graphs above show the incidence of Lyme disease (# of cases / 100,000 people) collected annually by the New York State Department of Health in three capital region counties between 1994 – 2015. All three counties exhibit a similar trend, with an initial increase in Lyme disease incidence, followed by a stabilization period with high interannual variation in incidence.

climb onto low lying vegetation and wait until they encounter a host due to their low mobility. During this host-seeking period, they leave the protected habitat under the leaf litter and can be exposed directly to harsh environmental conditions. When it is dry, ticks cannot spend as much time in these unsheltered habitats waiting for hosts. Therefore, ticks must descend more often to the soil to rehydrate. All this extra movement increases the amount of energy they must use to search for hosts, decreasing their overall survival and reducing the probability of encountering a host. This drought effect appears to be particularly strong on the second (nymphal) life stage, which is responsible for the majority of human cases of Lyme disease. This life stage actively searches for hosts in late spring and early summer, when the weather begins to warm. Warm weather, when combined with dry conditions, increases the risk of desiccation substantially. This reduction in tick activity during hot, dry conditions is strong enough so that it is even reflected in the annual number of Lyme disease cases as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with lower incidences recorded during years when droughts occur in the spring.

Tick-borne disease systems are complex, and many factors interact to determine the density of blacklegged ticks in a given year. Some, like weather, are intuitive and comparatively easy to measure. Others are more unexpected, for example tree masts. A mast event occurs when trees across a region synchronously produce an abnormally high number of seeds, likely to overwhelm seed predators so some seeds can survive to germinate. When these events happen, they promote a rapid increase in small mammal populations. These small mammals are important hosts for blacklegged ticks. What makes this effect difficult to detect is that it works on a two-year lag. Trees produce excess seeds in year zero, which increases small mammal populations the following year feeding the first blacklegged tick life stage (larva). Ticks then spend approximately 10 months dormant in the soil before emerging in their second life stage (nymph) which can infect people. Unfortunately, ecological complexities such as these are what makes it difficult to detect trends in tick populations and predict the annual incidence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases.

In summation, while ticks slumber under the protection of the leaf litter and snow during the winter, and are well-adapted to cold environments, there are times when they are vulnerable to weather conditions, particularly desiccation. We still have much to learn regarding the off-host life of these important disease vectors, and it is difficult to predict how weather-related factors will affect tick populations and the incidence of Lyme disease in the future. Currently many researchers in the northeastern United States are working to learn more about blacklegged ticks and their interactions with the environment, with the hope that we can improve our ability to predict and understand the population dynamics of these seemingly ubiquitous disease vectors.

James Burtis is a Ph.D. student at Cornell University studying how environmental factors affect the off-host survival of blacklegged ticks in New York state.

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

Figure7. The ridged and furrowed bark of butternut is dark, chocolate brown when sliced (left image). The color is similar to that of black walnut (right image), but butternut bark is denser and harder to slice.

Figure 8. The nut (without the husk) of black walnut is round (left), and the nut of butternut is elongated (right). Both have delicious though difficult to extract nut meat.

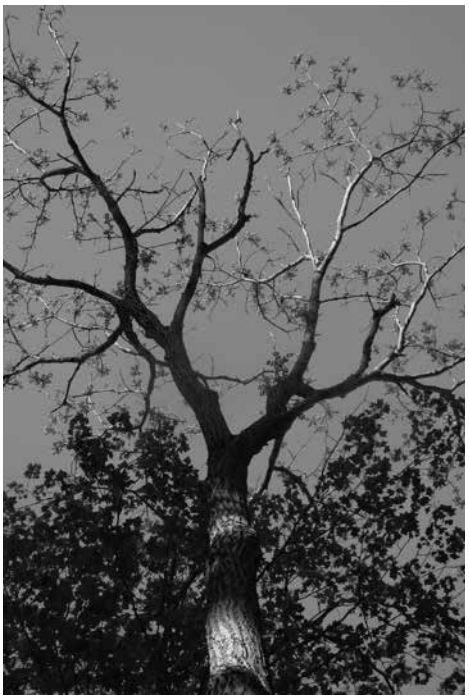


Figure 9. Butternut canker is affecting trees throughout the Northeast. Branches develop cankers, which then develop on the stem. The tree slowly declines, and the crown thins as fewer leaves are produced.

susceptible to *Nectria* fungus, but has its greatest risk from thousand canker disease which is a fungus vectored by the walnut twig beetle. Thousand canker disease originated in the western states, but has spread east. It is not yet known to be present in NY.

Both butternut and black walnut grow best on good soils, though black walnut is more restricted to especially fertile, deep, and moist soils. Butternut performs better on soils that are dry, rocky, or of limestone origin.

Regardless of the species, both butternut and black walnut are interesting and valued species. They have unique attributes that make them attractive and useful to humans and wildlife.

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.

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

Please send your suggestions to:
Mary Beth Malmsheimer, editor
at mmalmshe@syr.edu
or
Jeff Joseph, chair, NYFOA editorial committee at jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

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

Member Profile:
Ellen Graf and Zhong-hua Lu

Peter Smallidge

In 1997, Ellen Graf found a piece of land that was magical with the mixtures of lichen-covered rock, trees, water and wind. Located entirely on the Rensselaer Plateau, the land is now home for Ellen and husband Zhong-hua Lu who was born and raised in China. This land is typical of other properties because there are stories and history that can be told from the trees, the past land use, and the people who lived and worked the forest and the trees — in this case, rugged sheep farmers who rented parcels according to a feudal system under Van Rensselaer.

Ellen is from the midwest, but has lived in upstate New York for 40 years. Her husband Zhong-hua Lu came to America in 2002. Both Ellen and Zhong-hua are artists. Ellen has worked as a master mask maker for theatre for 30 years and is a non-fiction writer (author of *The Natural Laws of Good Luck*). Ellen has also worked in support of people with mental health issues, and for the NY State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. Their woods are part of their life and lifestyle, and serve many purposes. Their talent in art allowed them to find branches and other beautiful pieces of wood that they added to teapots they created together. Ellen used wood as parts of animal masks that included everything from moose to luna moths and every aspect of human nature, good and evil! Ellen currently makes small nature dolls inspired by the landscape that are similar to Scandinavian trolls or gnomes and definitely provide good luck and good companionship. The houses are made of hollow trees and have lichen covered roofs. Zhong-hua has recently forayed from traditional Chinese brush paining into oil landscape painting exclusively inspired from the land in Cropseyville.

Ellen Graf stacking firewood collected from their woods, and used to heat their home. Firewood provided fuel, but also the opportunity to keep the trails clear and to learn from the land.

Ellen is a life-long forest lover and able to identify most trees and vegetation. Her love of the forest began as a small child when her father took her to the smoky Mountains and she met a man named Gleb who lived off slugs and other delicacies. Her father, of Swiss heritage, was a mountain climber and later took her to her ancestral Switzerland, which has much in common with Cropseyville though much higher in elevation. Zhong-hua was born in 1958, and his entire childhood was defined by famine. He and his sisters learned to forage all the edible grasses and leaves, and, out of necessity, used slingshots to bring down songbirds. Zhong-hua was sent to the countryside by Chairman Mao to be a village schoolteacher when he was just sixteen, before he had a chance to grow a beard where he learned even more techniques for surviving in a rustic situation. For all his preparation, Zhong-hua was not prepared for the deep, deep snow and subzero temperatures of upstate New York. His solution is cashmere sweaters purchased at the Good Will. The result—Ellen and Zhong-hua now can keep their house 10% cooler and use much less wood than in the pre-cashmere era.

Granddaughter Yiyi enjoying a hike on the property.

One of their favorite pastimes is to walk the old logging trails with their Great Pyrenees and their little mutt. The walks are a source of endless joy and reconnect them to nature and the land. In the winter time they like to cross country ski. Any time of year they enjoy the company of children and grandchildren. Rowan, now three and a half, has always been able to hike like an adult and especially likes playing explorer in the new stands of pine. Ellen and Zhong-hua have five

continued on page 22

One grandson who enjoys playing among the white pine saplings.

children, Ellen's three daughters and son, and Zhong-hua's daughter. Now there are seven grandchildren, all forest lovers. The oldest is eight. When he was three, he held out his hand to his hovering mom and said, "Get back mom, I just want to wander the world by myself." He disappeared into the underbrush.

The Rensselaer Plateau is a plateau with elevations of 1,000 to 2,000 feet located in central Rensselaer County. Ellen and Zhong-hua own 51 acres, including four stands of productive forestland, which are similar to other parcels in the history of logging and land clearing. The soils are not especially productive, so farming wasn't common. A small horse pasture was on their property, and the actions of the horses helped keep the trees clear. More recently, without horses, the trees have started to regenerate in the pasture. Ellen and Zhong-hua know this is a natural process, but they miss the texture that the pasture added to their property.

Eastern white pine has regenerated from an old horse pasture north of the house. There are a multitude, but the DEC forester said this is a good regeneration to allow. Beyond the pasture there is a mixed stand dominated by eastern white pine with northern hardwoods such as red maple, sugar maple, and northern hardwoods. Surrounding this stand is a stand of hardwoods including northern red oak, red maple, beech, and hickory. The largest tract is a stand of eastern hemlock and northern hardwoods: eastern hemlock, black birch, sugar maple, northern red oakm and white ash are the dominant tree species in this area. Sections of this stand are very steep and from the eastern-most side there is an excellent view of Tamhannock Reservoir. The soil is mostly very stony loam on sloping ground.

There is no evidence or worry yet about hemlock wooly adelgid. There is little in the way of understory. The white pine, in many areas, tower above the other trees. The white pine appear to be older than the rest of the forest, and in some cases may have begun to decline due to previous weevil damage.

In addition to enjoying the chance to walk and ski, Ellen and Zhong-hua have also invested time and toil to utilize and improve their woods. For many years they harvested all their own firewood from the land, working together just as they created together. Beyond firewood, they spend time keeping the trails clear and working to eliminate multiflora rose. Ellen and Zhong-hua enjoy their pond, and have put in hours of watery effort to control the weeds that grow in the pond. At some point they may rent equipment to help them really clear the pond weeds and restore the pond depth

They work with hand tools and chainsaws on these tasks, noting the importance of safety. Zhong-hua is an expert at chainsaw maintenance and repair. Their neighbor, whose father once owned the land, taught Ellen how to safely use a chainsaw. The concern for safety was unfortunately emphasized when a

The stone walls on the property tell a story of previous times and owners, and how they worked the land.

Multiflora rose is a common pest plant on the property. Ellen and Zhong-hua manage these with repeated cutting at the base.

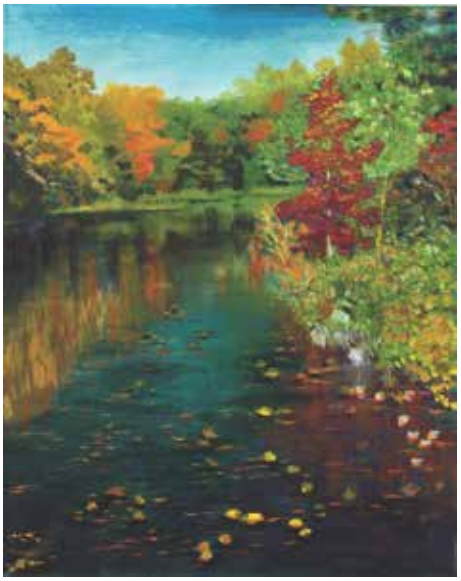
close member of the family, working as a professional logger in North Carolina, was killed instantly by a "widow-maker" branch that fell from the canopy.

Like all woodland owners, Ellen and Zhong-hua have neighbors. Some of the neighbors have become good friends and also enjoy walking on their land and joining in bonfires in the pasture. A newer neighbor, one who purchased an inholding within their property, has shared his frustrations. Their new neighbor ordered a pre-fab home that became stuck on the narrow, rocky road, and sat outside their window for two months. The neighbor often runs a generator that is loud and intrusive. The road leading to his house is no longer a public road, so the town will not plow the newcomer out in the winter. There is no well on his land and no plumbing.

Ellen became interested in forest management because in some areas the tree species that were thriving were not the ones she wanted there. In the case of the mammoth pines, some of them cracked their whole length and fell during storms, filling the pasture with their impressive carcasses. Zhong-hua did a great job cleaning that up, but he is uncommonly strong. Ellen also became aware of invasive species and wanted to learn how to control them. She also wanted to harvest some wood, particularly the big pines, but didn't know if she needed to re-plant or just let the native hardwoods come back on their own.

Ellen has benefited as a member of NY-FOA. She still works full time, and many Saturdays, so her ability to participate in events is currently limited. She looks forward to future opportunities to meet other members of NYFOA. The *Forest Owner* magazine and chapter newsletters are important ways that she stays connected to educational resources and with other owners who share their interests. Ellen is a professional writer and hopes to contribute through that skill by writing some articles.

Ellen added to her knowledge base and a desire to help others when she participated in Cornell's Master Forest Owner volunteer training in 2016. Although each property is different, and has different needs based on what the owners want, her best advice is to love and respect nature, and to be safe. Ellen enjoys her role as a forest owner because it allows her to protect and to improve the forest. Ellen plans to remain involved as well with training opportunities provided by Cornell.



A painting by Zhong-hua Lu, inspired by their woodlands.

If you are interested in being featured in a member profile, please email Jeff Joseph at jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

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