

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 2019



Member Profile: Shari and Dick Gibbs

Volume 57 Number 2



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FOREST OWNERS
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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. Shari and Dick Gibbs welcome friends to Thanksgiving, 2018. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of the Gibbs.

From The President

Over the past few months, several forestry related legislative initiatives, at both the national and state level, have been proposed or acted upon. NYFOA, through its policy and legislative affairs committee, monitored the process and supports the positive outcomes. These initiatives would not



only benefit our members as they sustainably manage their woodlots but would also help our forests to do what they do best — that is, provide a

wide array of environmental, social and economic benefits including stabilizing climate, protecting water supplies, purifying air, modifying temperatures, enhancing biodiversity, enriching the soils, providing recreation and jobs, and improving health.

In my last column I mentioned the Forestry and Wood Products Summit that took place in October, and the announcement of a “Regenerate New York” program to assist forest owners with the cost of managing for regeneration. I am pleased to report that the Governor’s budget included a Regenerate New York cost-share grant program with an allocation of \$500,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund. If approved by the legislature, these grants would be administered by the DEC and NYFOA has recommended that they be distributed regionally. We would like to see regeneration “success stories” in each of our chapter areas that would serve to educate and motivate

other forest owners as well as the general public. We also hope that, if this grant program can demonstrate success, the funding level will be increased, or at least be made available every year. Please contact your state legislators and request their support for this allocation from the Environmental Protection Fund, particularly if they are members of the environmental or agricultural committees.

In late Fall, after much negotiation the federal government with bipartisan support passed the “2018 Farm Bill.” This bill assists forest owners by providing significant funding for many conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). The bill also supports markets for wood residuals (biomass) and innovative wood products by reauthorizing and expanding the Community Wood Energy Program (CWEP) and the Timber Innovation Act (TIA).

This year’s annual spring program/conference will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019 at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. Special thanks go to Kristina Ferrare who is coordinating this effort for NYFOA. As in the past, the program will be held in conjunction with our spring board meeting. In addition, the annual award ceremony will occur at this program. This will allow conference participants (both members and non-members) the opportunity to

continued on page 4

Join! NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private

forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York’s forests.

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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.

From the President (continued)

appreciate the extraordinary efforts of those NYFOA members who volunteer to ensure NYFOA continues to provide the valuable services, information, and education that our members and public at large have come to expect. Please mark your calendars.

A regional Fall program is also being developed to showcase the efforts of our chapters and continue to share best practices.

Not being a social media participant (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), I find the NYFOA Facebook page quite simple to use, and loaded with timely, useful, and easily accessible information. When this winter's weather kept me indoors, a few minutes searching the Facebook page brought me new information that was at times entertaining and at other times extremely useful. "Checking for woolly adelgid in your hemlocks in the winter" and "a newly discovered beech disease" are just two examples of the information that spurred me on to further action. With the information only one click away on the NYFOA page, I would suggest that if not already aware of it, or a bit intimidated, one should at least give it a try.

In closing, as the spring season breathes new life into ourselves and our forests, I'm hoping that you can spend many hours enjoying everything your woodlot has to offer.

—Art Wagner
NYFOA President

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
Jim Davis	AFC
Peter Gianforte	CNY
John Kerniski	CNY
Michael Maben	SOT
Thomas MacAllister	WFL
Daryl & Lorraine Martin	WFL
James Meunier	NAC
Justin Potter	SAC
Fred Rakvica	AFC
Lawrence Robbins	LHC
Scott and Shawn Rutkoski	WFL
Rose Santiago	CDC
Randall Slimak	WFL
Kristin Swanson	CDC
Suzanne Treyger	SOT
Tony Turi	CDC
Keith VanRoy	LHC



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The Deer Impact Initiative: An Update

JERRY MICHAEL

Since NYFOA's Restore New York Woodlands initiative was announced in 2013, we have focused on all aspects of the forest regeneration crisis. However, the NYFOA board decided last summer to concentrate our attention on deer impacts because that is the one aspect of managing for regeneration over which the individual forest owner has the least control. While we have access to the knowledge and resources needed to manage silvicultural and vegetation control practices on our own woodlots, deer have legs, and their population is regulated by the government.

As described in previous issues of this publication (*The Elephant in the Room is the Deer in the Woods*), last fall NYFOA recruited a dozen other forest stakeholder organizations to work with us on solutions. Our new partnership developed a list of fifteen recommendations to address excessive deer populations and met with executives and staff from the NYSDEC Lands & Forests and Fish & Wildlife Divisions on October 31st. We found the DEC to be fully aware of the issues and generally supportive in working with us on solutions. A smaller sub-committee was organized to meet and discuss our recommendations with the DEC in more detail. The sub-committee included representatives from NYFOA, Audubon NY, NY Conservation Council, New York Society of American Foresters, and The Nature Conservancy. We met with the DEC again on December 12th and are continuing to exchange ideas and positions on recommendations on the following:

1. Prioritize forest ecosystem health in deer management decisions.

In the past, deer population objectives were established primarily on the basis of public survey inputs and the largest

representation among survey participants were from the deer hunting community. The DEC is moving toward making deer management decisions on the basis of surveys administered to a broader group of interested public, plus data from objective measures of deer impacts on forest health. These inputs will include the AVID (Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer) system developed by Cornell. Our partnership strongly supports this change, and will encourage the DEC to accelerate implementation.

2. Selectively accelerate deer herd reduction in wildlife management units where it is known to be excessive.

The DEC may consider utilizing early seasons, late seasons and "either sex" tags to accomplish this objective. Our partnership is urging the DEC to adopt a bias for robust action in these cases, even though it may occasionally result in an overcorrection of deer populations. Deer populations usually recover rapidly from negative influences such as severe winter kill, whereas ecosystem damage from excessive deer may take decades to recover.

3. Increase the yield from Deer Management Permits (DMP, or "doe tag") and Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

Because the average size of privately-owned woodlots in New York is 20 acres, we have asked the DEC to reduce the minimum acreage for a "landowner DMP" from 50 to 20 acres. We have also asked that the minimum acreage for a DMAP be reduced from 100 acres to 50. The DEC has not agreed to make these changes as yet, but we intend to keep the pressure on as both changes would increase the forest owner's ability

to directly manage deer impacts on their own property.

4. Promote culling of deer to help resolve "sanctuary" issues.

Legislation is required to provide the DEC authority to permit the culling of drastically excessive deer populations in numerous suburban areas and some parklands where recreational hunting is not possible. Deer herds in such sanctuaries can impact forest health in adjoining forestlands and we are working with key legislators in the NY Assembly and Senate to get appropriate legislation introduced.


Our partnership is also working to define aspects of this issue where additional research is needed and is exploring various programs that could increase hunting access to privately-owned forestland, such as hunting cooperatives.

What can NYFOA members do?

- Participate in AVID by establishing sample plots in your woodlot and reporting the results so that they may be considered in DEC deer management decisions for your WMU. Go to www.aviddeer.com for information.

- Apply for a regular DMP or landowner DMP and, if you get one, make sure it gets filled!

- If deer are impacting your efforts to regenerate your woodlot, apply for a DMAP, or organize a cooperative with adjoining landowners to apply for DMAP. Go to www.QDMA.com/coop/ for a good video and information on organizing hunting cooperatives.

Eat more venison! 

Jerry Michael is a member of the NYFOA board of directors and chair of the Restore New York Woodlands committee.

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

Promoting healthy tree growth in a young forest

Question:

Over the last 3 decades in my woodlot, many trees that were not visible are now 30 feet tall and 5 to 12 inches in diameter and mixed with larger hickory trees. The trees are not getting enough sunlight. I want to thin them out. Should the larger trees be cut? What should I do to promote healthy growth? (Steve P., WFL)

Answer:

The patterns of tree growth as brushy areas of young forest mature is called succession. Forest succession, also called forest development, is typically predictable. Predictability allows owners to somewhat influence the trajectory of the future forest with strategically timed actions or treatments. Forest succession is always happening, and most woodland owners recognize areas of their property that have changed over their years of ownership.

Forest succession typically proceeds through four phases or stages. The stages are defined by the dominant ecological process more than the age or tree size.

The first stage is called "stand initiation." Stand initiation is characterized by a young forest where

the crowns of trees have not yet melded (Figure 1), and there remains an abundance of accessible resources. Competition between trees is low. In the beginning of stand initiation there are enough resources that new trees can establish.

As stand initiation changes to stage two, "stem exclusion", the site is fully occupied by trees and there aren't sufficient resources to allow new trees to establish. Sunlight is lacking for

new trees to establish, thus, stems are excluded. Stem exclusion may begin within 10 to 20 years of the initiation of the forest, and often include 5,000 or more stems per acre. A typical feature of stem exclusion is that the crowns of the trees have expanded and coalesced with neighboring trees to create a closed canopy. Tree diameter early in stem exclusion may be 1 or 2 inches, and perhaps 4 to 8 inches at the onset of stage three, understory re-initiation.

In the third stage, understory re-initiation, the heights of trees have differentiated into winners and losers. Many of the early losers have died. Tree death and height growth differentiation allows sunlight to the forest floor and opportunities for a new understory to develop (Figure 2). During this phase, the shorter trees continue to die as they struggle for light, but some stagnate in the understory creating a broad range of tree diameters among trees that are all the same age. As the trees mature, canopy gaps form when a dominant or co-dominant tree (or cluster) dies. This gap can be filled, under good conditions, by seed from the common trees.

The fourth stage, steady state, happens with the formation of gaps and recruitment of even-aged clusters of



Figure 1. Young forests start after large-scale disturbances such as logging or cessation of agriculture. The stand initiation stage has ample sunlight to allow new plants to establish and grow.



Figure 2. Although all the same age, some trees grow faster and some trees die. Increased sunlight allows for a new understory during the stand re-initiation stage.

seedlings. The onset of the steady state stage requires trees large enough to leave an opening that can't be filled by the expansion of tree crowns. On good quality soils in the Northeast, steady state might begin within 60 to 75 years.

Forest development coincides with crown development and the formation of distinct layers of crowns, known as crown classes (Figure 3). The closed canopy of the stem exclusion stage causes competition for sunlight, and some trees die. At the same time, the

fastest growing species may gain a height advantage and dominate in the upper canopy. Slower growing species may be relegated to lower strata. The differentiation of heights creates a vertical profile characterized by 4 crown classes. Crown classes include dominant, co-dominant, intermediate, and suppressed or over-topped. Crown class is the height of one tree relative to its neighbors and also defined by whether the tree's crown receives direct or indirect sunlight. The two

upper crown classes, dominant and co-dominant, receive direct sunlight. The two lower crown classes do not.

In some woods, an older age class of trees towers above the younger age class (Figure 4). This situation might happen in an old pasture with remnant trees, or after logging that left a few scattered trees. The older trees may form a scattered assemblage of super-dominants that offer opportunities and challenges. These trees provide habitat for birds of prey and a unique aesthetic. The challenge is that trying to cut or fell them will likely result in damage to many of the younger and shorter stems. Damage to some of these younger stems may not be of consequence because a large percentage of trees must die before the stand reaches maturity (see details below). The desire to cut the larger trees ultimately depends on the owner's objectives and whether cutting those trees advances or impedes the objectives.

The pattern of diameter growth during forest development is interesting and predictable. Foresters use a chart known as a stocking chart (Figure 5) to describe the changes in the size and abundance of trees through time. The chart shows a comparison of the number of trees per acre on the horizontal or x-axis and the amount of wood, measured as basal area, on the vertical or y-axis. The diagonal lines from lower

continued on page 18



Figure 3. The upper canopy dominant and co-dominant crown classes are evidenced by larger tree crowns and taller heights than the lower crown class intermediate and suppressed trees. All trees are the same age, but grow at different rates. The lower crown classes have lost the race for sun and are the losers.



Figure 4. Some areas have remnant older trees and a dense younger understory. These are technically "two-aged" stands that offer additional opportunities and challenges for managers.

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

SEASONAL WOODLAND POOLS



Gary M. Stolz, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

In late March or early April, as longer days and warmer weather beckon you to step out into the woods, you may notice shallow pools of water. Lured by the quacking and clucking sounds of wood frogs (*Lithobates sylvatica*) calling out to potential mates as they float on the water, or the loud calls of spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) camouflaged at the water's edge, you can't help but notice that spring has arrived. For many, woodland pools appear to be insignificant wet places in the forest, but they are actually a source of incredible abundance and diversity, and are important components of the forest ecosystem. Serving as breeding habitat for amphibian and invertebrate species, and feeding habitat for many others, they are so abundant with life that some have likened them to the 'coral reefs of the forest.'

These shallow, woodland pools, often called vernal pools, are valuable to many species of wildlife and essential for the survival others. Typically small (< 1

acre), and isolated from streams or other bodies of water, they fill with water during the spring and other rainy periods, but regularly or periodically dry up during the driest months of summer. The amount of time they contain water, called the hydroperiod, may vary from year to year. Pools that hold standing water for at least two and one-half months in the spring are ideal because they provide adequate time for frog and salamander eggs to hatch, and their larvae to grow and leave the water. In drier seasons, these seasonal pools are easy to overlook. However, if you keep an eye open, there are certain telltale signs that indicate water is present during at least part of the year. Look for topographic depressions in the forest floor with compacted leaves, covered lightly with sediment and darkened by water stains. You can also look for wetland plants, such as sphagnum moss, sensitive fern, sedges, and some wetland shrubs growing in a depression.

Many species of wildlife may benefit from the presence of these woodland pools. Invertebrates like dragonflies, damselflies, and water boatman find refuge in the water. Reptiles such as the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), and blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), travel to woodland pools in the spring to feed and mate. Garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) and ribbon snakes (*Thamnophis sauritus*) prey on young frogs as they emerge from the water, and water snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*) feed on tadpoles, adult frogs, and salamanders. Mammals, including shrews, mice, skunks and raccoons, also feed on the many invertebrates and amphibians found in or near the water. Wild turkeys may stop at pools to feed on insects, and songbirds nest in lush vegetation nearby. Some amphibians, such as the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), wood frog, and others, have adapted to these habitats. Although these species live in the forest for most of the year, they depend on the water to breed and lay eggs, and for their larvae to grow and develop. Shallow pools that dry up periodically cannot support fish, which are major predators of wood frog eggs, and frog and salamander larvae. With recent increasing concerns about amphibian health and population declines, the role of these valuable forest refuges has gained increased attention.


If you suspect you have a seasonal woodland pool on your forestland, you can take steps to protect this valuable habitat and associated wildlife. Any activity that changes the amount of water a pool holds may also affect the length of time a pool holds water and its suitability as habitat for the animals that live there. Draining or diverting water from entering a pool has obvious negative consequences. However, deepening a pool so it can hold water longer may also change the suitability of the habitat for wildlife. A pool that holds water on a semi-permanent or permanent basis allows for fish and some larger invertebrate predators to survive and presence of these predators can change the biological community. In addition to the quantity of water that a pool holds, the quality of water that enters the pool is also important. Take care not to divert

polluted runoff containing sediment or chemicals into woodland pools. Within the pool, avoid disturbance of the pool depression even during times when there is no standing water. This includes driving recreational vehicles or heavy equipment through the pool depression, or piling sediment or other debris in or near the pool.

The surrounding forests are just as important as the pools themselves. Many animals depend on woodland pools to complete just part of their life cycle. For example, wood frogs and spotted salamanders visit the pools in the springtime for a few short weeks to breed and lay their eggs. Once they deposit their eggs, they move out into the surrounding forest where they feed, grow, and find cover for the remainder of the year. Amphibians are generally very prone to drying out and to temperature extremes. Areas with deep leaf litter, abundant coarse woody debris (logs and branches), and patches of shade provide these animals with the opportunity to move across the forest floor and find suitable cover from the elements. Pool-breeding salamanders readily travel 130 yards or more from breeding pools, while juvenile wood frogs may disperse over half a mile.

While protecting woodland pools does not prohibit active forest management in the vicinity, you can take steps to protect the values of the surrounding forest for woodland pool dependent species.

Encourage a mostly closed canopy ($\geq 75\%$) in a pole or greater size class to provide shade, leaf litter, and woody debris within 30 yards of the edge of the pool. Avoid creating ruts, exposing mineral soil, or creating any sources of erosion or sedimentation. From 30 to 130 yards from the pool's edge, encourage a closed or partially closed canopy ($\geq 50\%$) and minimize disturbance whenever possible. When other objectives prevent you from being able to protect a buffer around the entire pool, focus on maintaining a forested connection between or among clusters of pools, or between pools and large expanses of forest.

By taking a proactive approach to locate and protect woodland pools on your property, you can conserve these extremely valuable habitats and the animals that live there. You too can benefit by visiting these pools in the spring, summer, or fall. Alive with jelly-like egg masses, tadpoles, aquatic insects, salamanders and frogs, vernal pools can provide endless hours of adventure and hands-on exploration for children and adults alike. 

Kristi Sullivan works in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University as Director of the NY Master Naturalist Volunteer program. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming programs, visit <http://blogs.cornell.edu/nymasternaturalist/>



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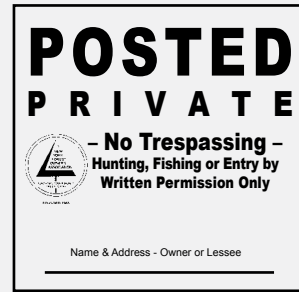


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News from New York Tree Farm Program

BY MARY JEANNE PACKER



Forest Habitat Management Workshops and Woodwalks planned as part of new Harvests for Habitat Project

Harvests for Habitat is a partnership that began in 2018 in the upper Delaware watershed between Audubon NY, Watershed Ag Council, and NY Tree Farm Program with funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the American Forest Foundation. Forest owners and tree farmers, foresters, and loggers from across New York State, in addition to those whose lands and clients are located within the upper Delaware watershed, are invited to attend either of the upcoming forester and logger workshops and also the NYS Tree Farm 2019 Field Day – all to be held in the watershed.

The upper Delaware watershed provides forest habitat important to the survival of at-risk bird species such as wood thrush, cerulean warbler, and many others.

Harvests for habitat projects enables habitat improvements through active forest management and financial incentives. The project is seeking the involvement of professional foresters and loggers who have clients who may be interested in participating in the program.

Two free workshops are planned that target professional loggers and foresters who are working on forest management projects in the upper Delaware watershed. Forest owners who are interested in getting more information about the Harvests for Habitat program are also welcome to participate in the sessions. SAF credit applications are pending approval.

Presentations at the Harvests for Habitats workshops will include how the application of certain sustainable forestry practices can improve forest habitat conditions, and details on incentives available through the project to support management activities in the Watershed. Forest management can meet the habitat needs of many species of birds and help

to balance the types of habitat available in the surrounding landscape. Silvicultural treatments, including shelterwood and group selection, that help to improve forest habitat for two project target species will be discussed. Wood thrush and cerulean warbler are both NYS Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and priority species of the Harvests for Habitat project.

Each workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dates and locations are:

Thursday, March 7, 2019 - USDA Offices, 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856

Thursday, March 28, 2019 - Catskill Center, 43355 NY-28, Arkville, NY 12406

Participants are asked to pre-register at least three days prior to either Harvests for Habitat workshop; and may do so by contacting the NY Tree Farm Program office: email nytreefarm@gmail.com or call 518-854-7386.

To highlight opportunities for family forest owners to get involved with the new Harvests for Habitat program, the 2019 NYS Tree Farm Field Day will be held this year in the upper Delaware watershed. The event will take place on Saturday June 8 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the John A. Lennox Memorial Forest and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County 4-H Camp Shankitunk. Camping and rustic cabins are available on-site, for an additional fee, for the nights of June 7 and 8.

Field day morning workshops will include many of the same Harvests for Habitat program topics as covered at the March logger and forester sessions and will also provide information on the potential threat to NYS forests from the invasive spotted lanternfly. Afternoon

Continued on next page

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woodswalks are planned to take place in some of the 18 different silvicultural blocks in the model forest and will highlight forest management practices that can be undertaken with incentives available through the Harvests for Habitat project. Resource tables and informational displays staffed by representatives of various forestry and natural resources conservations agencies and organizations will be set up all day at the Camp. NYS-DEC Pesticide Applicator recertification and SAF credits are pending approval.

Registration information and a detailed program will soon be available on the NY Tree Farm Program website www.nytreefarm.org 

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NYFOA Chair Camp 5 with Windsor Chair Master Dave Abeel

ED NEUHAUSER AND DAVE WILLIAMS

Learn to Make Heirloom Furniture With the Wood You Grow

Dave Abeel from Traverse City, Michigan has always had an interest in making furniture from scratch, particularly a wide variety of Windsor chairs, early benches and stools. Dave found that he enjoyed teaching others to build furniture as much as he enjoyed building the furniture itself. Over the years he has developed a furniture building system that allows even the least experienced woodworkers to successfully construct a piece of Windsor furniture in two or three days. Now he travels around the country in a van chock-full of benches, tools, supplies, and materials to selected locations where he “sets up shop.”

Thanks to hosts Peter and Maureen Tonetti, Camp 5 will be held in their impressive barn on beautiful Cazenovia Lake in Cazenovia, NY. The Central New York chapter sponsors this year’s event and we hope the new venue will be convenient for participants from a new geographic area. We also expect several of our long-time campers to return as well, particularly for the newly launched tool making workshop.

In a nutshell, this is what you may expect: On Day 1 chair campers receive roughed-out parts needed for their projects, instruction, and access to all the tools and supplies needed. Participants will learn to bend wood, shape and fit parts, bore holes, cut tenons, assemble and level their project, taking the project home for sanding and finishing after Day 2 or 3. Want to work with a spouse,



son, daughter or grandchild to make your item? That is perfectly fine and does not add to the cost.

As you can see in the following information from Dave Abeel, he is planning to be in New York July 28-31. As you will note, NYFOA members receive 10% off the regular rate as Dave is a NYFOA rewards vendor. If you are interested in attending the workshop this summer, please contact Dave Williams at kdwillmill@gmail.com or Ed Neuhauser at edward.neuhauser@gmail.com.

Information provided from Dave Abeel appears below.



I am David Abeel, instructor for this summer’s **NYFOA Chair Camp 2019**. This will be our 5th year of conducting a NYFOA Chair Camp. This year’s camp features an optional one-day class to make tools and a three-day session for stool, bench, and chair making. You may sign up for either or both sessions.

The one-day tool making workshop will be Sunday July 28th from 9 am until 4 pm. Participants can choose to make a travisher or a compass plane. I will supply the 01 tool steel blanks which students will grind, shape, bend, and heat treat. I will also supply a variety of wooden tool components for students to assemble, shape, fit, and sand around their blade. The outcome will be a great



tool ready for work on Monday at the start of chair making class and to take home and start building your own items from scratch.

Chair Camp, which is a separate sign up, will run for three days July 29th – 31st from 9 am until 4 pm. You will be able to choose one of seven projects: tall kitchen stool, boot bench with or without a back, comb back side chair, comb back arm chair, comb back rocker or the largest of the projects, the 42 inch settee. Note, not all projects will require three days to complete so you don't have to attend class on day three, for example, if you finish on day two.

There are no prerequisites to make any of the tools or chairs offered. Beginning to advanced woodworking skills are welcome. Teens under 18 will need permission of a guardian to participate.

Dress to be on your feet all day. We take a short lunch break around noon. Bring your own lunch.

All turned parts, materials and tools will be provided. That being said, we love to see what hand tools you might have lying around your workshop. If you have a rechargeable drill or orbital detail sander it might come in handy if we have a big class. I will bring three of each. We will learn about working with

a bending form, travishers, a compass plane, various spoke shaves, hand planes, and drawknives. We also will practice determining sightings lines and drill angles for drilling your seat.

Please don't be intimidated if you have never made something like this before. My goal is to make chair making accessible to all ages and skill levels. All students will take home an heirloom quality Windsor chair that is glued up with legs leveled and ready for you to paint or varnish at home.

In regard to the cost of tuition for class, it depends on what project you have selected. There is a discount for NYFOA members through the NYFOA Rewards program, a NYFOA members' benefit. You can pay by check or cash on the day of class. Regular (non-member) and member pricing are:

Travisher
\$100; *NYFOA member \$90*

Compass Plane
\$100; *NYFOA member \$90*

Tall Kitchen Double H Stretcher Stool
\$200; *NYFOA member \$180*

Boot Bench without back
\$200; *NYFOA member \$180*



Boot Bench with back
\$290; *NYFOA member \$260*

Side Chair
\$290; *NYFOA member \$260*

Arm Chair
\$345; *NYFOA member \$310*

Rocking Chair
\$395; *NYFOA member \$355*

Settee
\$495; *NYFOA member \$450*

Contact me at abeeldavid@hotmail.com if you have a question or visit David Nelson Abeel on Facebook to see samples of my work and other class outcomes throughout the past year. I look forward to meeting you this summer. 📷



Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The 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.

Women Owning Woods *Help Us Get Started*

TYLER VAN FLEET

WOW! Take a look at what we're starting – a Women Owning Woods (also known as “WOW”) network in the Catskills and Hudson Valley region of New York. If you're a woman who owns woods and wants to grow as a lover and steward of the forest, we're interested in connecting with you. Please complete our online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wow-2019>) to share your input on forming a new women landowner group in our region.

A little bit of “herstory”

I work in the forestry program at the Watershed Agricultural Council. Our organization works with farmers and forest landowners in the New York City watershed to help them take good care of their land in order to protect water quality and support regional economic viability.

Back in September, 2018, I attended the Women and Their Woods retreat hosted every other year by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Surrounded by fellow women landowners (don't let my first name fool you, I am a lady), I spent four days learning about ways to understand, care for, and enjoy my land.

I have to say, it was pretty unusual to be in a room of only women discussing forest ecology, timber harvesting, and conservation options. So often we find a preponderance of men in these fields and male landowners often take the lead with land management.

The women at the retreat had the opportunity to get to know one another over several days and begin to open up and speak candidly about their feelings, connections, concerns and dreams for their properties. We practiced using

forestry tools, identifying plants, interviewing consulting foresters, imagining what's possible for our woods, and clarifying our priorities based on our values and passions.

By the end of the retreat, I felt inspired, focused, and energized. I started talking with some other participants from Southern New York about the possibility of forming a Women Owning Woods group in our area. We wondered: *Wouldn't it be helpful to get together with other woman landowners from time to time to learn skills, share advice, discuss questions . . . and eat?!* Our next question was: *Are there other women landowners out there who would be interested in giving this a try with us?*

So here we are, embarking on a new endeavor to form a WOW group in the Catskills and Hudson Valley region of New York. In fact, the idea of engaging women landowners is sweeping the nation and many similar networks are popping up like skunk cabbage in late winter! Check out the national Women Owning Woodlands network at www.womenowningwoodlands.net to learn more.

We are seeking input from other women landowners to help guide our direction forward. What, why, when and how might you be interested in getting involved? If you have any interest — even the slightest inkling — please share your thoughts with us by completing our online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wow-2019>.

My collaborators are Heather Hilson, Watershed Agricultural Council, Tracey Testo, Cornell Cooperative Extension – Columbia and Greene Counties, and Heidi Bock, Columbia Land Conservancy. Please feel free to get in touch with me by emailing ivanfleet@nycwatershed.org. 🌲

Tyler Van Fleet is with the Watershed Agricultural Council.



Here I am, far left, identifying a tree with the help of a key and fellow women landowners (from left to right: Jenny McGarvey, Pat South and Dee Weber) Photo Courtesy of Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Major Change for Income Tax Treatment of Timber Sales for Forest Landowners: 2018 Tax Year

DAVID COLLIGAN

It's early in the New Year and all of us have made a New Year's Resolution to file our income tax returns on time by April 15th, 2019 for the tax year 2018. This year many landowners will be in for a surprise as a major change has occurred in the forest tax treatment of timber sales by forest landowners. As a direct result of the new tax law, many forest owners will lose significant timber expense deductions starting in 2018 and continuing through 2025.

Most people don't want to think about forest land property types until they have to report the receipts from a timber sale to the IRS. This article will address how expenses related to forest land can be treated in years with or without a sale. It will not address timber depletion allowance.

Each year you must make a determination of your property type for income tax purposes. There are three types to choose from. The choice basically depends on how you use your property, structure your accounting systems around your property, and how much you personally are involved in the management of your timber lands. All these questions will have a profound effect on the income tax treatment of your timber property for the calendar year 2018.

I. Personal Use Property

The first type of forest property is "Personal Use Property" which means that it's mainly used for personal enjoyment, or in other words growing timber is just a hobby. The test as to whether forest land is personal use property is whether or not you own the property for a profit purpose. Many forest owners are not even aware they

have valuable timber in their woods. For personal use property you can still get long-term capital gains treatment for timber held for one year or more, but forestry expenses must be accumulated until the sale in order to be deductible. The tax law did not change for these owners.

II. Business Property

The second type of timber property is "Business Property". If your timber is owned as a business and you materially participate in that business, your timber expenses are fully deductible on Schedule C. To further complicate this matter, businesses are subject to passive loss rules which cannot be used to offset non-passive income such as wages. This has the unfortunate result that deductions from passive businesses maybe denied for the year when there is no income from the passive source. A passive activity is one in which you do not actively participate, mainly based on a number of hours you participate in the business. The tax law did not change for these owners.

III. Investment Property


The third type of timber property is "Investment Property". If your property is mainly used for generating profit from growing timber or is held for asset appreciation your timber is considered investment property. The mere fact that you do not annually or regularly harvest timber from your property does not mean there is no profit purpose as the IRS regulations and rulings have held growing timber for future sale is a profit purpose.

Timber expenses may include fees paid for a forester, attorney or accountant. These expenses may also include pre-commercial thinning, firebreak maintenance, overnight travel,

vegetation-competition control, insect control, disease prevention and fire control. Depreciation from equipment used is also deductible. These owners who did not have a timber harvest are in for a rude surprise. For investment property, timber expenses and certain other "miscellaneous itemized deductions" are no longer deductible.

Property Taxes

There is a glimmer of good news with respect to timber property and taxes: State and local property taxes on timber investment property are not "miscellaneous itemized deductions" and are still deductible on Schedule A. Alternatively, you may elect to treat these taxes and other timber expenses as carrying charges and deduct them upon timber sales. This is the only approach available for two categories of timber owners who do not have a timber harvest in the current tax year, timber investment property owners and personal use timber owners.

This is a very significant change in the tax laws. Many people who own timber could be affected by this rule change. 

David J. Colligan is member of NYFOA and a partner in Colligan Law LLP. You can reach him at dcolligan@colliganlaw.com or visit his website at www.TimberLaw.com

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

Woodland Health

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

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

BETLES IN THE HOUSE...OR: WHAT ARE THOSE TINY PILES OF WOOD DUST?

BY MARK WHITMORE

The other day I was driving through town and passed one of the houses that I looked at when contemplating purchasing my first home. It reminded me that every once in a while it is handy to have knowledge of the insects that eat wood. The place was old but well kept, perfect size for a small family, affordable, and walking distance from shopping. I was sold... until I went downstairs. I immediately walked out and crossed it off the list. What I found in the basement was that the old floor joists, they looked like maple, had

a million little holes in them (2 to 3 mm) and there were little piles of fine wood dust everywhere. Powderpost beetles. It would only be a matter of time before the structural integrity of the home would be compromised.

Boring in wood is not an uncommon tactic for insects. There are many diverse orders including moths, termites, ants, and many different families of beetles that have devised different tactics to exploit this abundant source of food and/or shelter. The vast majority of these insects require that the

wood be green, in contact with wet soil, or infected with a fungus. However, there are a few beetle families that have adapted to feed only on dry wood and can be serious pests in buildings and old furniture: powderpost beetles (*Lyctidae*), deathwatch beetles (*Anobiidae*), and false powderpost beetles (*Bostrichidae*).

When you think about it, exploiting cured wood as a source of food and shelter is not an easy lifestyle, but these beetles have developed some remarkable morphological and physiological adaptations. First of all, dried wood is hard and requires specialized, hardened mouthparts starting with the smallest larval stages. They have also developed specialized structures to anchor the larval body within the boring tunnel so the mandibles can actually get enough purchase on the wood fibers to break them off while mining. Then there is the question of food quality. Wood isn't exactly the most nutritious thing to be eaten, but depending on the family, they have developed digestive systems that can handle the starches they get from within cells and cellulose, engaging the help of fungi or bacteria to acquire some essential nutrients. On top of that wood is dry and they have developed methods to retain moisture in their bodies as well as structures to keep the fine dust out of their breathing apparatus to avoid asphyxiation. To bug geeks the fact that even one family of beetles has found a way to exploit this peculiar food source is a marvel, let alone three very different families. This is a perfect case of convergent evolution.

The powderpost beetles (*Lyctidae*) are the most common in my experience. In the northeast we most commonly have the old world lyctus beetle, *Lyctus brunneus*, which is about 4mm, or less than 1/8 inch long, dark brown to black, and somewhat flattened. These are the beetles I found in that house I was inspecting, and are one of the biggest problems when it comes to conserving antique furniture. They are easily recognized by the very fine powder, like baking flour that they produce with their chisel-like mouthparts. Powderpost beetles are often first noticed by the



Figure 1. The powderpost beetle, *Lyctus brunneus*. Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

little piles of the powder that accumulate near the small, circular adult exit holes when you move a piece of wood or furniture. Powderpost beetles are specialists on the starches they get while grinding up cells with their hardened mouthparts and they can survive in wood with a moisture content of only 8%. Softwoods are nutritionally poor for powderpost beetles because they have little starch, so they stick to hardwoods, especially species with large pores like oaks, ash, hickories, and even bamboo. It takes them from a few months up to four years to develop, depending on conditions, and they can reinfest the same piece of wood generation after generation, eventually reducing the wood to a sponge-like texture. This can be quite problematic when you have a museum full of valuable old furniture!

Deathwatch beetles (*Anobiidae*) first came to my attention when reading Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" and although I didn't know it at the time, it was this beetle rather than a beating heart the protagonist was hearing in the wall before admitting to murder. Indeed, it is thought that the name deathwatch comes from medieval times when people were awake in the silence of the night caring for the ill, they would hear the clicking of adult deathwatch beetles and liken it to the grim reaper tapping the handle of the scythe on house timbers. The adult beetles make this clicking noise by tapping their heads against the wood to find mates and communicate. Adults are a bit larger than powderpost beetles, up to 7mm in length, cylindrical, and reddish-brown in color. They can be easily differentiated from powderpost beetles by the granular nature of their frass produced with their toothed mandibles that they tightly pack into their galleries. They primarily infest softwoods and can tolerate no less than 14% moisture content, and is often found in old and/or decayed wood, so this is a pest in locations that are not heated and have higher humidity. Deathwatch beetles prefer sapwood and



Figure 2. A deathwatch beetle, *Hemicoelus* sp. Note the protuberance on the top of the thorax designed for tapping the wood and inspiring Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

populations can die out when all of it is consumed.

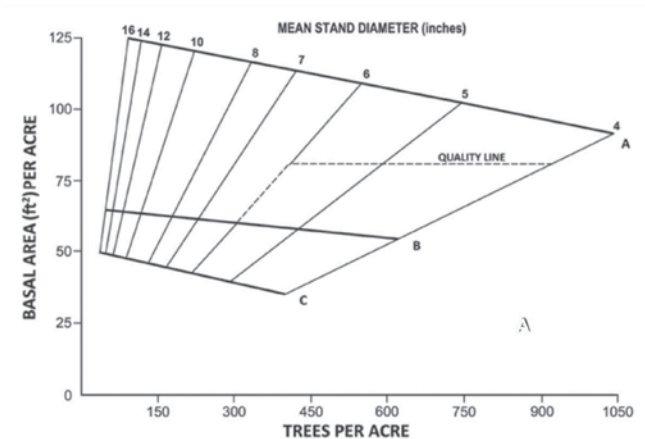
False powderpost beetles (*Bostrichidae*) are usually about 6mm (1/4 inch) in length, and feed on the sapwood of a large variety of hardwoods as well as some softwoods. They are cylindrical and black to brown in color, their frass is the coarsest of the three family groups and is so tightly packed into the galleries that it won't flow easily from the emergence holes as the others do. Another difference with this group is the females will excavate a tunnel into the wood and lay their eggs in the wood pores lining the tunnel. This is a largely tropical family and problems are usually started with imported materials, getting into floors, furniture, and other hardwoods in a house.

Control is actually quite easy if you have a freezer big enough to accommodate the infested item. My son brought home some masks from tropical Africa that were heavily infested with powderpost beetles so I just popped them into the chest freezer for a couple months and we were good to go. In homes it is difficult to control powderpost beetles once an infestation has started.

Prevention is the best tactic and starts with kiln drying freshly cut timber to kill beetles within. You can also bake smaller infested items at 140F for 6 hours. Adults can be discouraged from laying eggs in the wood by coating freshly dried wood with paint or varnish so there are no open pores for them to lay eggs. This basically keeps females from tasting the wood prior to egg laying, a behavior they use to determine if the wood is of sufficient quality for larval development. Careful inspection of buildings is a key to minimizing impacts. Look for the tiny adult exit holes and the accumulation of frass nearby. Infested timbers in a house should be removed and destroyed by burning if possible. Chemicals need to penetrate deeply into the wood with those containing sodium borate being effective and safe, although treatment by professionals is highly recommended. Last but not least is firewood. It is always best to store firewood away from the house, only having a few days wood inside for immediate use. 🗑️

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

Ask a Professional (continued)



Northern Hardwoods Stocking Chart
 Leak et al., 2014.
http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs132.pdf

Figure 5. Stocking chart for northern hardwoods illustrates the relationship between trees per acre and basal area.

left to upper right illustrate the mean (i.e., average) diameter of trees. The almost horizontal lines correspond to the A-, B-, and C-levels of stocking.

Measurements in a woodlot can estimate basal area and trees per acre.

Graphing the intersection of those values allows a graphical representation of a stand's stocking. The A-level is maximum stocking and thus maximum competition. B-level is stocking that optimizes timber production per acre.

C-level is the lowest stocking that will eventually utilize the sunlight available. At the A-level of stocking, there is a 20% average reduction in the number of stems per acre with each 1 inch increase in diameter. Thus for the average diameter to increase by 1 inch, 20% of the trees or 1 in 5 must die.

Owners that thin woodlots that are late in the stem exclusion stage or in the understory re-initiation stage should retain trees that are in the upper canopy, that satisfy their objectives, and that are demonstrating a good acclimation to the site. Upper crown class trees, the dominants and co-dominants, have more leaves and are better able to respond to increases in sunlight following thinning. After thinning and increased sunlight, the upper crown class trees have diameter growth that is 3 to 8 times greater than lower crown class trees. Similarly, the upper crown class trees in a sugarbush may have 50% to 100% more syrup yield per acre than lower crown class trees.



Figure 6. Many owners enjoy tall and large trees. Retain trees that align with your ownership objectives.



Figure 7. A mechanical girdle is organic and severs the vascular tissue known as the phloem. This starves the roots of sugars.



Figure 8. Hatchet marks indicate a tree that has been treated with an herbicide via hack-n-squirt.

Knowing the correct intensity of cutting or thinning is possible by working with the stocking chart. Most owners will want to have a forester help them inventory the woods and determine the current and desired stocking. The

forester could also mark trees that the owner could thin.

Owners who thin should select trees based on criteria that favor their objectives and the trees suited to the soils. Retain trees that:

- Are in the upper canopy positions
- Are a species that is suited to the soil type
- Provide outputs/products that support the owner's objectives
- Have good structural characteristics of the stem and crown (Figure 6)

One practical method to thin is by using crop tree management. This method identifies future crop trees that will be released from competition and given more sunlight. Application of crop tree management differs from the use of the stocking chart to make decisions about how many trees to cut. Both methods can improve the growth of residual trees. The owner selects adjacent trees, which compete with the crop tree, for removal. Several online resources are available to describe the details of crop tree management.

Trees competing with crop trees can be removed by either cutting or girdling. Cutting is feasible for owners with a chainsaw and all the appropriate personal protective equipment. Cutting should use the technique of "directional felling" where the owner decides which direction the tree will fall. A course called Game of Logging teaches directional felling techniques. Felling the trees has the added benefit of producing a product such as firewood or maybe fence posts.

Girdling is a process where the crown is disconnected from the roots by killing the tissue in a band around the stem or injecting an herbicide into the stem that travels to the foliage. Girdling can be via mechanical methods such as an ax, chainsaw or flame torch (Figure 7). Trees can also be killed via chemical methods and injection of a chemical such as glyphosate into a hatchet score or drill hole (Figure 8). Herbicides applied by the basal bark method are a chemical girdle (Figure 9). Be mindful that while girdling is fast and relatively easy, it leaves behind standing dead trees that will eventually fall. 🗑️



Figure 9. Some herbicides can be applied via basal bark. These chemicals result in a chemical girdle of the stem.

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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Dick and Shari Gibbs

DICK AND SHARI GIBBS

Hidley Farm and Forest

Shari and Dick both came from southeastern Minnesota, their family farms not more than five miles apart. Having graduated high school in the same class of 44 students in 1962, they went on to different colleges, but kept their friendship alive and “a-love” through letters and summer courtship. They married in 1966 and within three days arrived in Troy NY. Shari taught school to support Dick in his studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 1971. One would think that Shari’s career as an educator and Dick’s 35-year career as a research scientist developing NYS Department of Environmental Conservation [DEC] programs to control emissions from motor vehicles would have kept them busy enough. Add a family to the mix and life is complete. Right?

Wrong! Their farm roots ran deep; they always wanted to own a small farm. With careers, two young girls to raise, and confronting critical health issues (Dick-diabetes and Shari-lymphoma), Hidley Farm and Forest didn’t happen until 1981 when they purchased 100 acres behind the old Hidley farmhouse that they had purchased in 1972. A framed copy of the deed to the land hangs in the entryway of their home, a record of the indentured servitude of Johannis Heidleigh to the Dutch Patroon Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1787. It has been a long journey renovating the house more than once and learning how to manage their land: 50 acres of cropland and a woodlot to which they added another 30 acres for a farm/forest total of 130 acres.

Initially their focus was primarily on the cropland that a neighbor farmed. The forest was there as a place to remove dead trees for firewood to feed the hungry

fireplace heat exchanger struggling to warm the radiators of Hidley House. Eventually they sought counsel with NYFOA and chapter chair Mike Greason who became their forester. On his first visit to their mixed hardwood forest stand, Mike gave them sage advice and with a wry smile added, “The only thing wrong with this woodlot is that I don’t own it!” Through the years, Hidley Farm and Forest has become more than a source for firewood and bales of hay; it now has many dimensions and Shari and Dick’s very lives are wrapped up in its care.

The 50 acres of cropland is now dedicated to hay that is grown and harvested by a local young farmer. Dick works to maintain open fields, does brush hogging, tilling, and reseeding. At this time, the woodlot could have a commercial harvest, but other goals in their forest management plan allow for keeping it in improvement cuts. They

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Hilltop view of Hidley Farm and Forest with Rensselaer Plateau as background.



Seasoning firewood, the labor of friends.

share their firewood with their friend and neighbor Charlie who cuts, splits, and stacks the majority of this resource.

They have heated their home with Timber Stand Improvement cuts that were first marked by Mike Greason and now by their forester Mary Spring. They selected a NYS built Econoburn wood

gasification boiler that burns very clean and is linked to a 1,200-gallon thermal storage tank in the house basement. The boiler is housed in a shed a short distance from the house and the central heating system provides all household heat and domestic hot water. The shed holds about eight cords of dry firewood. Thus they no



Firewood storage and Econoburn boiler room.

longer need to move firewood outdoors during winter.

In conjunction with another retired DEC scientist, Larry Skinner, they have about 200 maple trees tapped. Larry and his wife Kathy handle all of the work to tap, collect, boil, and market the finished syrup, producing under their name “Skinners Sugarbush.” They produced about 100 gallons of syrup last year. Anyone who has done sap knows that Larry’s efforts require a lot of expense and timely dedication. Hidley Farm provides about three acres for the sugarbush stand, some firewood for Larry’s use in evaporating, and helps with tree management.

Dick and Shari share the farm with neighbors and friends and keep it open for many types of users. Walkers, C-X skiers, mountain bike riders, designated deer hunters, meditators, photographers, and grandchildren all think of Hidley Farm and Forest as their special place and share in its maintenance and upkeep. The Gibbses think of their land as a many layered treasure enjoyed by all, and accept the responsibility of managing user interactions. For instance, the MTB riders have twisty, challenging, technical riding trails in the hedgerows and in the forest. However, some trails had to be moved out of the sugarbush to enable Larry to establish sap lines.

About 25 years ago Dick, Shari and daughters Jennifer and Rachel held their first “Thanksgiving in the Woods” down under a small stand of tall hemlocks. Perhaps ten family and friends, wrapped in the warmest coats they could find, gathered around a big plank table to give thanks for life’s bounty. Stones were heated in the pit fire and placed inside a row of old chimney flues to provide for warm feet. The snow-laden hemlocks overhead, howling wind, and cheek and jowl friendship made indelible impressions on all, and thus was launched a major tradition continued to this day. Every year Thanksgiving in the Woods presents a different challenge and opportunity. The feast has become an open, potluck festival for whoever dares to come ready for whatever nature has to offer. Always there has been live music and singing, fires, great food, and fellowship with a growing community of families and friends. This past year, in temperatures



Gathering for Thanksgiving under the hemlocks. Singing the Shaker Hymn, 'Tis A Gift to be Simple.

not topping 20 degrees, they hosted about 150 people from near and far. Asked why and how they carry on this tradition, they responded, "Why? 'Tis a Gift.' How? Only with huge efforts and enthusiasm from many friends."

Hidley Farm was the birthplace of Joseph Hidley, a fairly well known

early Hudson River Valley painter. The Hidley family cemetery is atop the hill on the farm and has a panoramic view of the western edge of the Rensselaer Plateau. When they purchased the farm, the cemetery was totally overgrown and hidden in a hedgerow. In successive restorations they have returned the



Shari and Dick walk in the woods with grandkids, Sam and Anna.

Hidley cemetery to a place of solace for memorials and wedding ceremonies for friends and family. Because their lives have become so totally invested in Hidley Farm and Forest, they have chosen to have their ashes buried at the cemetery.

NYFOA has been important to Dick and Shari in teaching how to manage their woodlot in sustainable ways that conserve it for future generations while it yields positive benefits now. Woods-walks on their farm and other NYFOA owners' land always lead to increased understanding as each woodlot is unique and carries a history different from others. Social interaction and sharing ideas and experiences with NYFOA members has been especially beneficial. It is through NYFOA that Dick was able to become a Master Forest Owner.

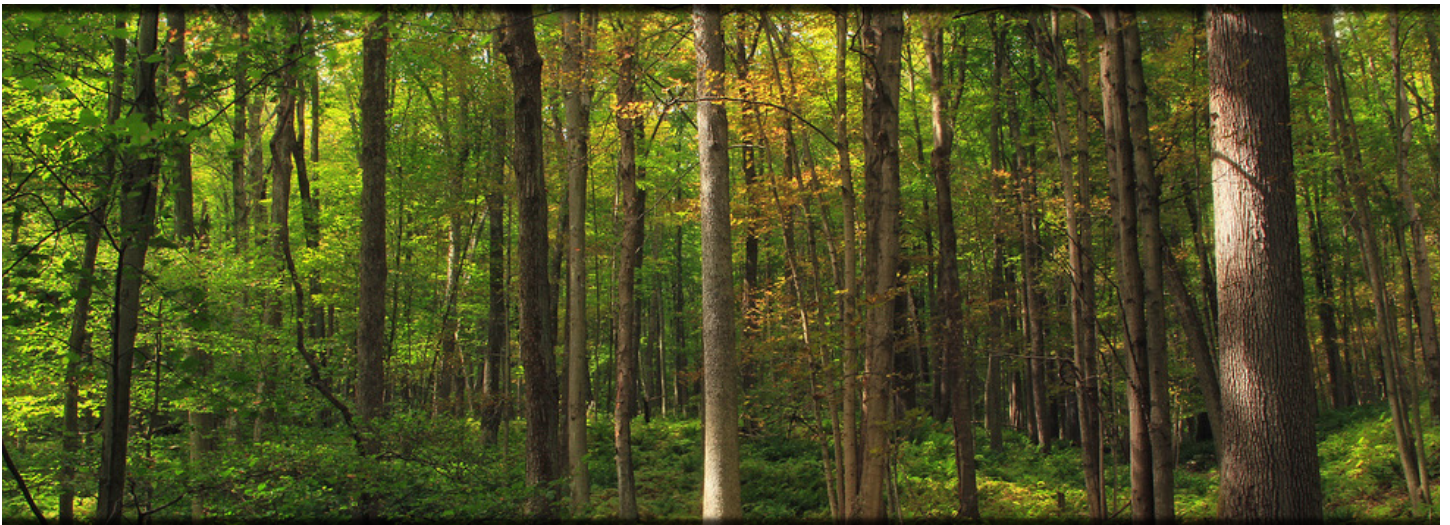
Shari and Dick were founding members of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance [RPA] and this has become their primary retirement focus. RPA, now an accredited land trust, has taught them much about conserving and managing sustainable forests. RPA and NYFOA maintain active collaboration. For instance, Dick brought a chainsaw safety-training course, Game of Logging (GOL), to the CDC-NYFOA. It is now a collaborative project between RPA and NYFOA and offered regionally to all woodlot owners. GOL is made available through the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH).

For Dick and Shari, owning a woodlot and farmland is more than a couple of old folks who, nearing the last stages of life, find they have a bunch of trees in their backyard. Their advice to woodlot owners is to be engaged with your forest. Seek advice. Conserve and protect it. Absentee or aloof ownership doesn't make for good decisions. Treating forests as something to pass forward requires engagement, hard work, and a willingness to keep learning. It requires a PLAN! To protect Hidley Farm and Forest from nearby development and to pass their treasure forward, Dick and Shari are in the process of establishing a conservation easement for the land. NYFOA will continue to be a valuable resource on this journey. ♻️

This was written by Dick and Shari Gibbs who are members of the xx chapter, and edited by Dorian Hyland, who is the column editor for New York Forest Owner Landowner Profile.



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