

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

May/June 2017



Member Profile: Dale and Eileen Schaefer

Volume 55 Number 3



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

www.nyfoa.org

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**The New York
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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 Malmshheimer, 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 July/August issue is June 1, 2017.

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:

Dale & Eileen are members of NYFOA, Restore New York Woodlands, and the National Wild Turkey Association. Their woodlands are certified family forest and certified tree farm. For member profile see page 21. All photos courtesy of Dale and Eileen Schaefer.

From The President

After hearing from a NYFOA member whose town's new zoning ordinances regulated timber harvests, I downloaded "A Municipal Official's Guide to Forestry in New York State" (dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/guidetoforestry.pdf). I learned that all 50 states have "right to farm" laws that were passed to shield farmers from those who would object to the sights, sounds, hours and odors of generally-accepted farming operations as well as local governments



that sometimes adopt nuisance laws against these practices. To place forestry on a par with agriculture, New York adopted a "Right to Practice Forestry" law that took effect March 1, 2004.

The law does the following:

- Provides a strong positive statement about the contributions of forestry to the State's economy and environment
- Upon petition by a forest landowner or the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), requires towns to send proposed new ordinances that restrict forestry to DEC for review. Towns may also initiate this process voluntarily.
- Provides a 45-day period while DEC reviews the proposal. This can help achieve a dialogue leading to constructive solutions to local problems or issues.
- Offers professional DEC advice to the municipality regarding ways to achieve local objectives without negatively impacting forestry. The town can accept or reject that advice without consequence.
- Requires local land use regulations to "facilitate the practice of forestry."

Despite this law, municipalities and towns are adopting anti-forestry regulations that can be harmful to landowners, the forest industry and the local economy. Some towns require or are considering conditional use permits, preapproval of highway usage by logging trucks, performance bonds posted with the town, rigid time scheduling not accounting for weather and markets, and permits for stream crossings in addition to any state DEC permits. Town Code Enforcement Officers

with little or no forestry backgrounds can be charged with enforcing Best Management Practices ("BMP") such as regulating haul road and water bar construction, buffer strips and post-harvest reclamation of haul roads, skid trails and landings. In advancing these regulations, many town officials are not aware of a number of state government, not-for-profit and industry programs, both mandatory and voluntary, that are already in place to promote good forest land stewardship. Proliferation of differing local ordinances can be so frustrating that loggers and foresters will simply avoid working in some localities.

Private forest lands provide many benefits to towns and demand very few community services in return for the property taxes their owners pay. Without the periodic income derived from timber harvesting, many family forest owners could not resist the pressure to subdivide their woodlands or sell them off for development. Local ordinances to protect public safety and welfare should not conflict with family forest owners legitimate rights to income from timber.

I believe that we need a stronger "Right to Practice Forestry" law in New York. New Hampshire has a law that declares "the harvesting of timber often represents the only income that can be derived from property without resorting to development of the property for more intense uses, and pursuant to RSA 79-A:1, the state of New Hampshire has declared that it is in the public interest to encourage the preservation of open space by conserving forest and other natural resources. Therefore, forestry activities, including the harvest and transport of forest products, shall not be unreasonably limited by use of municipal planning and zoning powers or by the unreasonable interpretation of such powers, ..." The American Legislative Exchange Council has a model law on its website (www.alec.org/model-policy/the-right-to-practice-forestry-act.) that declares that "Units of local governments are prohibited from enacting ordinances that may hinder forestry operations that are in accordance with generally accepted forestry management practices." New York State needs to adopt such a law.

-Charles Stackhouse
NYFOA President

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

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NYFOA Auction Redux – A Resounding Success!

DEAN FAKLIS AND DAVE WILLIAMS

Donors and bidders came together on April 8th at the NYFOA Annual Meeting in Syracuse to raise funds for youth forestry in NY. The auction had a decidedly woodsy theme with many handcrafted items, forest services and outdoor tools. The bidding started before 8 am and the final bid was placed within the last minute. The auction team worked diligently and efficiently making sure that each item found its new home. Your membership committee set a steep goal of \$5,000 and the NYFOA membership responded robustly. The goal was surpassed (\$5,000+) and the event was loads of fun for all!

As you know, NYFOA is taking action with NY's children and is bringing forest stewardship concepts into the classroom. It created the Woodlands Mini Grants for Educators and it supports NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team. The NYFOA auction was rekindled to help fund these stewardship programs. These programs are important and our website has all of the details (<https://nyfoa.org/initiatives/nyfoa-silent-auction-2017>). There you'll find a list of donors and pictures of their auction items. We are grateful for the generosity of the donors, bidders and volunteers.

NYFOA's membership committee will report on the progress of these stewardship programs throughout the coming year

at NYFOA.org. If you know of an educator that would help children get outside and learn about our forests, please encourage them to apply for a Mini Grant. Also, please be sure to check out the 4-H Forestry Invitational's website (<http://www.4hforestryinvitational.org/>). And...it's never too early to start thinking about next year's auction! Thanks to All! 🌲



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CCE Chenango Begins Work on Value Added Forest Products Initiative

RICH TABER

CCE Chenango has received a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute titled *“Increased Farm Viability and Diversification Through Value Added Forest Products.”* The impetus for this project was due to the fact that 66% of New York Farms (23,576) have large amounts of forest lands which add significantly to the purchase prices and tax burdens, and yet less than 2,000 farms use their forest land to generate significant income. Sixty percent of New York’s 30 million acres, about 18 million acres, are covered with forests, and most of this land is owned by private forest landowners, and a good share of that by farmers. Much of this land has the potential to generate income, but is currently underutilized. The purpose of this project is to help farmers and landowners become more profitable and diversified by developing a value-added forest (woodland) enterprise that compliments existing farm operations and which can generate more than \$10,000 per year.

The value added products that will be encouraged are maple sap and syrup products, firewood and sawtimber production, and woodland cultivated mushrooms. Possibilities for other potential forest value added products will be considered as well.

To achieve the goals of this project the following activities will occur:

1. Presentations will be given to farmers across the state to introduce them to farm-compatible forest enterprises that can gross more than \$10,000 a year. \$10,000 is the minimum gross income level that is required to be generated per year in order for farms to be eligible for property tax reductions.

2. Videos will be produced on forest income producing enterprises and posted to internet and social media sites such as YouTube, Facebook, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Websites.

3. The project is developing a Forest Value Added Business Plan Template, and will provide one-on-one help for farmers/landowners developing plans for a value-added forest product enterprise.

More information will be developed this year on this exciting project. New York State’s forest resources are always at the risk of being sold and subdivided for development. This project aims to keep the landscape in forests by providing farmers and landowners with viable income generating possibilities. 🌲

Rich Taber can be reached at 607-334-5841 ext. 21 or email: rbt44@cornell.edu



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.

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
Douglas Axtell	WFL
Robert Bond	SOT
Michael Burton	CNY
John Cheselka	NAC
Robert Clarke	LHC
Brian Cook	CDC
Sam Doubleday	CNY
Mark Glauser	CNY
Lance & Heidi Gregg	SOT
Douglas Jenks	SAC
Ken Kuczka	AFC
William Lynch	NAC
Frank McCaffrey	CDC
Mike McCormick	NAC
Tadd Rider	AFC
Larry Ripley	CNY
Ken Rosenthal	WFL
Thomas Schwartz	WFL
Robin & Jim Sevinsky	CDC
Dudley Smith	NFC
Robert E. Solberg	AFC
Ryan Swan	LHC
Josh Williams	SOT

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.

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

Buckthorn - Control of an Invasive Shrub

Question:

I have a small patch of glossy buckthorn that I would like to control. The stems are scattered on about 1 acre, most are less than 2 inches in diameter. I'm not opposed to using an herbicide, but would also consider mechanical control methods. What control options are available? (Mark, CNY)

Answer:

Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) originated in Europe, northern Africa and western Asia. Its history of introduction into the US is poorly recorded, but many other examples of species that have become interfering were introduced in the middle 1800's (Figure 1). This species was formerly known as *Rhamnus frangula* and is also different from the native alder-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*). Glossy buckthorn is a small shrub that is most common on moist soils, often near wetlands. As with other interfering species, glossy buckthorn can dominate a site resulting in complicated access, reduced success with forest regeneration, and a reduction in plant species diversity. Recommendations for the treatment of glossy buckthorn will equally apply to common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*; Figure 2). Care should be taken to avoid mis-identification with the native non-invasive alder-leaf buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*). More information about these species can be found by a search for "buckthorn" at <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>

Many interfering plant species become problematic because of a current of historic over-abundance of deer. Further, once an interfering plant is controlled, consideration for the plants that may occupy the site is warranted especially with high deer impact. If deer impacts are currently high, removing the interfering plant won't necessarily result in the ultimate desired outcome for the owner. A simple field measurement protocol is available to assess the extent of deer impact; a description is available at www.AVIDdeer.com

Control of interfering forest plants is guided by principles of Forest Vegetation Management (FVM). FVM includes (1) certain identification of the interfering plant species and understanding its biology, (2) inspection for the abundance of co-occurring desirable species that should be retained, (3) consideration of any current or planned management activities, deer impacts and site conditions that might enhance or complicate treatment, (4) an evaluation of the costs and logistics for all feasible treatment methods and modes (described below), and (5) a determination and strategy for those plants desired on the site after treatment. Webinars about FVM are archived at www.youtube.com/Forest-Connect

Methods of treatment are either mechanical (i.e., organic) or chemical. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages depending on the circumstances. Modes of treatment are either selective or broadcast. Selective treatments will isolate and treat a single stem of the interfering species. Broadcast treatment are applied to an area and all stems present are affected. All treatments can be described by a method and mode, or an integration of methods and mode. For example, hand pulling is selective mechanical, and cut-stump is integrated because it involves cutting (mechanical) followed by an herbicide (chemical) treatment to the freshly cut stump (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Glossy buckthorn (pictured) typically is found on moist soils. It lacks the thorn and toothed leaf margin of common buckthorn. Both have dark-colored fruit. Alder-leaved buckthorn, a native non-invasive, has only 5 – 6 pairs of veins, reddish fruit, fine teeth on the leaf edge, and less than 3 ft tall. The bud, foliage and habitat are similar to true alder and care should be used to avoid confusing these species.



Figure 2. Common (AKA European) buckthorn leaves are hairless and have toothed edges. Glossy buckthorn leaves have a smooth edge, unlike common and alder-leaved buckthorn, and may have fine hairs on the lower side.

The selection of a broadcast versus selective treatment for buckthorn or other woody interfering species depends on the number of stems per acre and the abundance of desirable species. If a high number of desirable species are intermixed with the interfering species, or if the total number of stems to be treated requires too much labor, a broadcast treatment may be more appropriate. Many of the treatments described below will include specific product information, none of which should be considered to imply an endorsement.

Herbicides can be an efficient and effective tool, but involve additional considerations. The use of herbicides in New York requires that the name of the target species be included on the product label. Chemical treatments are complicated by the fact that glossy buckthorn is relatively uncommon in New York, and only a few herbicides list this species on the label. Also, home remedies and off-label applications of an herbicide are illegal. Herbicide treatments in general require extra care because it

involves the use of a chemical, and specifically for glossy buckthorn to ensure there is not movement of the herbicide into nearby classified wetlands. Labels for the herbicides listed below can be obtained at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products>. All herbicide products described here are unrestricted in New York, and thus can be purchased without a pesticide applicators license. NYFOA members have a “member benefit” that allows for the less expensive contractor pricing on herbicides through www.Arborchem.com; some of the products listed below are available from this vendor.

A small area with scattered glossy buckthorn may be appropriately managed with a selective treatment. One mechanical treatment is a new strategy that uses black plastic baggies on cut stumps. Buckthorns typically sprout from the stump following cutting (Figure 4), so some post-cutting treatment is required. This is a new product that appears to have good potential, but there is no apparent research to document its effectiveness. More information is available at www.buckhornbaggie.com. Another selective mechanical option with small plants is to pull them. A potential disadvantage to pulling is that soil disturbance may stimulate the germination of seeds of the glossy buckthorn or other undesirable species.

Because many non-native woody plants expand leaves before native species, a selective chemical foliar treatment in early spring can target the glossy buckthorn with limited potential for collateral damage (Figure 5). The early emergence of glossy buckthorn leaves may provide a window of opportunity of a couple weeks for a selective chemical foliar treatment. The only herbicide labeled in New York for foliar treatment of buckthorn is “Gordon’s Brushkiller” (EPA registration number 2217-952). An Internet search will provide vendors of this product. If there are no or few desirable species intermixed with the glossy buckthorn, or overspray would result in limited collateral damage, the foliar treatment could be extended into the growing season. If all circumstances allow, a foliar treatment may be the most efficient way to control a small area of small buckthorn. Because Gordon’s Brushkiller also acts by penetration through bark, care should be made to avoid overspray onto nearby desired woody

Forest Vegetation Management Overview and Examples of Treatment Options

		Method	
		Mechanical	Chemical
Mode	Selective	<i>Examples</i> Hand pulling Flame weeding	Cut-stump Basal bark
	Broadcast	Mowing Grazing	Mist blower

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

Figure 3 All treatments can be described by a method and a mode. Each combination of method and mode has advantages and disadvantages depending on the circumstances. Combinations of methods and modes result in an integrated treatment, often providing greater efficiency and effectiveness.

continued on page 19

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

RING-NECKED SNAKE (*DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS*)



The ring-necked snake is a slender, small to medium-sized snake that grows to an average length of 15 inches. Females are sometimes longer than the males, but not significantly so. The head of the ring-necked snake tends to be wider than its neck and flattened in appearance. Its sides and back are brownish-gray or bluish-black, with a yellow to orange ring just behind the head. Smooth scales give the ring-necked snake a slightly glossy appearance. Its belly is bright yellow or yellowish-orange, typically without spots, or with just a few small black spots down the center.

As summer approaches and the weather warms, the ring-necked snake having emerged from hibernation in April, becomes quite active. Generally found in or near moist, shady woodlands, the ring-necked snake is common in New York State in locations where appropriate cover is available. Specific habitat sites are varied and include mature or second growth forests, old fields, rocky hillsides, grassy fields, and the borders of streams and rivers. Forest edges, roadside cuts, and forest openings such as log landings and skid trails also provide attractive, sunny sites.

It takes about three years for these animals to reach maturity, and ring-necked snakes often will live longer than 10 years. Most adults mate in May and June, and egg-laying occurs at the end of June or early July. Females usually lay two to 10 oblong eggs, each about 1-inch long, in nest sites inside logs, under rocks, or in old burrows. Because females often share their nest sites, it is common to see many eggs together in

one location. Young snakes four to six inches long hatch out approximately six weeks later, and begin to feed and grow rapidly before the winter begins.


Ring-necked snakes seldom are seen moving about during the day. Even where abundant, they tend to be secretive, and can usually only be seen by lifting up rocks, logs, or other cover items during the day in the summer or early fall months. While searching for ring-necked snakes, it is common to find two or more ring-necked snakes under the same cover object. Once these snakes begin to use a cover object they often return to it, using their sense of smell to relocate the site.

Although docile, ring-necked snakes often exude a pungent, unpleasant-smelling musky substance when handled. This defense mechanism probably provides some protection from predators. Likely predators of this animal include animals that can enter burrows or dig such as the Eastern milk snake, black racers, shrews, weasels,

and skunks. Other animals such as owls, hawks, foxes, and domestic cats may occasionally prey on ring-necked snakes when they venture out to feed. The snakes, in turn, may feed on a wide variety of items including salamanders, small snakes, frogs, slugs and worms. However, salamanders are often the most common food item eaten, followed by earthworms.

As the days grow colder in September and October, ring-necked snakes move into deep rock crevices, anthills, or burrows made by other animals. Ring-necked snakes have preferred locations where they retreat to hibernate during the winter. Individuals often use the same hibernation sites year after year. They often share winter den sites with other ring-necked snakes as well as other snake species.

To enhance habitat for ring-necked snakes on your land, maintain any open slopes with exposed rocks for cover and basking areas. If you have a timber harvest, ask your logger to push the butt

ends of the logs (usually left behind) into piles at the edge of the landing. These piles provide excellent nesting and resting cover for ring-necked snakes and other woodland snakes as well. Leaving logs on the forest floor and along the woodland edge will provide habitat not only for the snakes but also for the salamanders they feed on. 

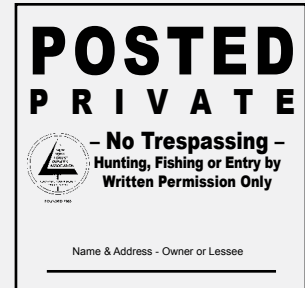
Kristi Sullivan is director of the New York Master Naturalist Program. For more information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming programs visit arnotconservation.info



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Agroforestry Resource Center and Siuslaw Model Forest Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary

MARILYN WYMAN



It all started with recognizing the need to have a place where people could come and learn about trees and forests and see what good forest stewardship looks like. Ten years later, the Agroforestry Resource Center (ARC) and the Siuslaw Model Forest (SMF) continue to prove their value.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties' (CCECG) Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, NY, is a regional center for education, demonstration and research that focuses on the benefits of woodlands to humans, wildlife and water. The creation of the ARC was the result of recognizing this region, as well as most of NYS, was rich in forested land and that there were limited education and outreach resources relating to this topic. It also reflected the larger opportunity to provide good information to private forest landowners through the CCE system, as these owners control the fate of most of New York State's forests.

Agroforestry practices, the signature of the ARC, are defined as the combination of agriculture and forestry practices that result in more integrated, productive, profitable and sustainable land use systems. It can refer to crops such as mushrooms, ginseng or maple syrup, or practices such as silvopasturing, which includes rotational grazing and use of forest edges in pasturing animals.

The Center houses a conference room, art gallery, and office space for staff. There is also a sugar shack for illustrating the process of making maple syrup, a greenhouse, rain gardens, and raised bed gardens.

Partners have always been a crucial part of our success. In 2003, we had nine partners working with us. By 2016, we had over 47 partners, several who provide financial support. In fact, since 2010, CCECG has secured over \$1.75 million in grants and contracts, which supported the Natural Resources Program as well as our association.

Over the past ten years the ARC has hosted numerous programs attracting over 25,000 participants. Programs included hands-on workshops for landowners; classes for loggers and foresters; and agroforestry classes for woodland enthusiasts. Water-related activities include watershed education and promotion of good land stewardship to protect water quality, especially in the face of increased extreme weather events and related flooding. In addition, due to the increased threat posed by invasive species, species not native to a region and ones which may impact the economy or ecology of that region, the ARC provides both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species information.

Our signature Siuslaw Model Forest is one of four NYC Watershed Model Forests, demonstrating forest management practices that balance working forests and water quality while studying and monitoring the relationship between ecosystem functions

and water resources. It was made possible through the generous donation by Eric Rasmussen and his family, forest stewards of the 142-acre Siuslaw Tree Farm for over 50 years. The Siuslaw Model Forest provides outreach and educational programs in a location that includes mixed deciduous forests, pine plantations, streams, ponds and a rich diversity of wildlife. Key partners include the Watershed Agricultural Council, the US Forest Service, the Department of Environmental Protection, Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources and the New York Forest Owners Association.

The SMF maintains well marked trails. The principal purpose is to illustrate good forest stewardship by demonstrating Best Management Practices, or BMPs, which help reduce problems associated with the management of forests, especially preventing soil erosion during timber harvests. The SMF also conducts research and monitoring



View of the northern Catskill Mountains from the SMF.

projects and engages in periodic timber harvesting. Examples include monitoring weather data and invasive species distribution, determining effective deer fencing, and deer impact based on targeted vegetation browse. Demonstrations include illustrating laying yard design for shiitake mushrooms cultivation, Chinese medicinal plants garden, biomass examples such as grasses and willows, and an American chestnut seedling project.

NYFOA has been a consistent and valued partner of the ARC and SMF since the beginning. In particular, the late Mike Greason, retired DEC forester and NYFOA advocate, was a champion of the ARC and SMF and was key in establishing and supporting the direction the ARC has taken. We look forward to many more years of providing information and demonstrations to forest landowners and others interested in the crucial role forests play in New York state. 🌲

Marilyn Wyman works for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties, where she has been involved in extension work relating to natural resources, agriculture and rural community development for 25 years. She is also an avid member of NYFOA.



Pictured here are Tracey Testo, CCE staff, Audrey Kropp, CCE staff, Austin Winegard, SUNY Cobleskill intern and Shane Stevens, CCE staff.

Agroforestry Resource Center and the Siuslaw Model Forest 10th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Friday, May 19 Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m. Location: Agroforestry Resource Center, Aca

Cost: Free but please let us know if you will be attending.

Registration deadline: May 17 Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/ARCanniversary_210 or call 518-622-9820 x0

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NYFOA AWARDS

Jerry Michael Honored with Heiberg Award



Stacey Kazacos presents the 2016 Heiberg Memorial Award to Jerry Michael.

Each year, NYFOA presents the Heiberg Memorial Award to honor outstanding forestry and conservation contributions in New York State. This year's recipient is Jerry Michael. Jerry richly deserves this award based on a lifetime of service to NYS woodlands and woodlot owners — individually, as a board member of NYFOA, and as an active member of several other organizations that promote interrelated forestry and conservation goals.

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

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

Similarly, Jerry Michael is a remarkable person. He graduated from Cornell University in 1959 and worked for 32 years with IBM in human resources and general management. Jerry joined NYFOA in 1989 and has held many leadership positions to include vice chair and newsletter editor of the Southern Tier Chapter, NYFOA treasurer, director at large, and secretary. He has been actively involved with the Master Forest Owner (MFO) program since 1995, conducting over 100 visits to landowners (and we're still counting). Jerry regularly provides training to new MFOs and has worked closely with MFO Director Dr. Peter Smallidge and others to improve this important outreach effort. Jerry is the past president of the Broome County Cornell Cooperative Extension, a board member of the Waterman Conservation Education Center, member of the Broome County Environmental Management Council, and a volunteer on a horticulture hotline in Broome County. Most recently, Jerry treated over 1,000 hemlock trees for the hemlock wooly adelgid in natural areas,

cemeteries, and the Ross Park Zoo in the Binghamton area.

Working with Peter Smallidge, Jerry researched and wrote much of the content comprising the Restore NY Woodlands (RNYW) initiative which is the centerpiece of NYFOA's agenda. His sustained input and wise council is evident in the NYFOA website which was recently updated and rolled out. Jerry organized the 2015 RNYW Symposium at ESF which brought together professionals, academics, and interested woodlot owners to discuss the key issues necessary for forest regeneration. He put together guidelines for leading woodwalks to include a forest regeneration theme. It is not unusual for Jerry to drive 2+ hours to deliver the RNYW message to interested groups. Directly related to Jerry's efforts on RNYW, he has worked tirelessly with NYS legislators to encourage passing legislation that would 'incentivize' private woodland owners to implement best management practices through grants and tax benefits. In 2016, Jerry developed NYFOA's statewide approach to contact NYS legislators and explain NYFOA's key positions. On March 6th of this year Jerry led NYFOA's 5-person team to Albany and met with 19 NYS legislators and staffers in order to promote NYFOA's agenda as part of Forestry Awareness Day.

On a personal level, Jerry is singularly knowledgeable, selfless, and upbeat. He has loved being in the woods from the time he was a young man and Eagle Scout in the Whitney Point area. Jerry actively manages a woodlot and former Christmas tree farm that has been in his family for three generations. He has used his woodlot to conduct experiments on various regeneration topics such as deer exclosures, tree tube use, timber stand improvement methods, and many more. Jerry has published several articles about these activities in NYFOA's magazine, *The New York Forest Owner*.

Jerry Michael continues to play an integral role in guiding NYFOA into the future through his work on the board, the RNYW initiative, the MFO program, and legislative outreach. We thank him sincerely for his service to private woodlot owners and congratulate him heartily as the recipient of the 2016 Heiberg Memorial Award. 🌲

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Phil Walton



Jason Post, CDC Chair (left) and Laura Pisarri present Phil Walton with the Outstanding Service Award for 2016.

Each year the board looks around and asks itself what one individual has demonstrated unmatched contributions to the responsibilities of NYFOA at the state and chapter level. A number of dedicated and eligible candidates for the Outstanding Service Award come to mind, but Phil Walton's name really rose to the top of the list.

His "titled" roles, so to speak, include: Director on NYFOA's board and as NYFOA's treasurer, including working through our transition to our new accounting firm a couple of years ago. At the chapter level, he is a long time,

active, and contributing member of the Capital District Chapter's (CDC) steering committee and has served as CDC's treasurer for many years.

But Phil is far more than just a director, treasurer and committee member. He takes the lead in reservations and implementation for CDC's annual picnic, and sends out reminders throughout the year to keep members well informed on activities at the local and state level.

Without notice or fanfare he gradually assumed more and more responsibility for CDC's booth panels and display

materials. Phil stores these display panels and materials for NYFOA outreach at his home. When an event, such as the county fair, the annual woodworker show or the NYFOA display at the New York Farm Show rolls around he provides delivery, setup and staffing help.

On a more personal level, Phil works to help others gain the benefits (and the fun) from NYFOA's teachings. As an example, he purchased a range finder and supply of metal tags for numbering trees so he could help others to participate in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. And, since another pair of hands makes marking and measuring trees a lot easier, he has willingly helped others develop their sample plots.

Phil is also a Master Forest Owner volunteer, and for his own woodlot and all others, his standard lies with informed management. Have fun, but do it right.

Whether of local or statewide significance, Phil's input on the topic at hand is always thoughtful, helpful and to the point. He listens while others express pros and cons, and with tact and judgment tends to wait a bit before weighing in with solid suggestions embracing further considerations which likely are key to the outcome of the challenge at hand.

Congratulations to Phil and thanks for many years of outstanding dedicated service. 🇺🇸

2017 NYFOA Annual Meeting



Photos, far left to right: Mike Arman was the big winner of the chain saw raffle item. Members enjoyed lunch. NYFOA Office Administrator Liana Gooding greeted members at the registration desk.

NYFOA CHAPTER AWARDS

The following awards were presented at the NYFOA Annual Meeting on April 8th.

AFC - William “Bill” Dorman

Bill and his wife Vi live on Frisbee Road in Cassadaga, New York. They have a son Christopher who is also a NYFOA AFC member, two daughters Tammy and Duwena and five grandchildren. Bill is a semi-retired, self employed quality systems auditor and a retired Town Justice. Bill’s woodland is about three miles from their home on Shumla Road, Cassadaga where they have fifty-three acres on what is the 5th generation farm where he grew up. His son Chris and Chris’ wife Mary and their two children live on the farm. In the middle of his woods he has a nice cabin built by Bill and his father. It has been used by all generations as a family camp and hunting cabin.

Bill joined NYFOA in February of 2010 and shortly after that was elected Vice Chairman of the chapter. Two years later he was elected chapter chairman. Currently Bill serves as chapter secretary. Bill has been managing his woods with advice and encouragement from MFOs and DEC and private foresters. He hosted a very successful, informative and interesting “Restore New York Woodlands” event. Bill, his son, granddaughter, and grandson enjoy deer and turkey hunting on their property. He is an enthusiastic volunteer at our county fair display.

Bill is an active supporter of The Stockton Panthers 4- H club of which his grandchildren Kendra and Jared are active participants and their parents, Chris and Mary, are leaders. Bill has also supported the sheep, poultry, hog and goat program that the family had been involved in. He enjoys using antique equipment to produce hay for the animals and teaching the next generation about land and timber management.

Bill, being an eager worker and ready volunteer, is an easy choice for this award.

CDC - Tracy Lamanec

Chapter Service Award Nominee, Tracy Lamanec, has been a chapter member

for over twenty years. He is a lifelong advocate dedicated to forest sustainability. His support and volunteer time dedicated to NYFOA is appreciated and commendable.

Tracy was born with a love for the outdoors. His family inheritance included the beautiful Shinglekill Falls in Purling NY, where he has so graciously hosted one of our Steering Committee meetings. As a child he was fishing, trapping, and hunting whenever possible. At the age of 16 he was chosen by the Department of Environmental Conservation to be in a short film that demonstrated how to irrigate woodlands and stock streams.

As a young man he worked for the Forest Service, but opted for a career in the sciences, spending the bulk of his professional career working at GE in Schenectady. Throughout his professional career he stayed involved with his interests in the outdoors. For thirteen years he wrote the Outdoor Column for the *Schenectady Gazette*. He has maintained and tended to his own forest property in Rotterdam NY, where he has held woodwalks for NYFOA.

Tracy has stayed active in environmental groups and organizations and has always been happy to share his extensive knowledge with others. He excels at foraging for edible plants and other flora. If you ask him a question about any of the local flora or fauna, be prepared for a fascinating 40 minute (or more) dissertation on the subject. He continues his studies of forest management attending seminars, speeches, films and classes related to forestry.

You will always find him outside, among the trees he loves, swimming at Shinglekill Falls, or playing in his garden. He’s a true outdoorsman, and an asset to the New York Forest Owners Association.

CNY - Ralph Meyer

Ralph Meyer received his degree in forestry from Paul Smith’s College in 1956. At graduation he was drafted into the army. After training as a Field Medic and while being processed to go overseas he saw a notice for the World Soil Group.

After interviewing for a forestry position he was accepted and sent to Schwetzingen, Germany. There he worked with the military and foresters of several countries drawing overlays for topography maps of European forests. He continued this work for 18 months while hunting and sightseeing during time off.

Following the service he worked in forestry in NY and NH, including having his own forestry consulting business in Pennsylvania.

There were far fewer opportunities in forestry at that time and with the family wanting to return to upstate NY, Ralph switched careers and went into sales and marketing. This switch provided the time to invest in woods of his own and practice his vocation of forestry again. He and his wife MaryJane purchased 175 acres in the Brookfield, NY area in 1968. In 1970 the farm became a registered Tree Farm. They became members of the National Wild Turkey Federation in 1980 and joined NYFOA approximately 20 years ago.

Ralph became chair of the Central New York chapter of NYFOA in 2010. He initiated the newsletter that Randi Starmer handles so well for the group and has encouraged woodwalks putting effort into covering different microclimates and conditions within our six county area. Members have also enjoyed touring a saw mill, but mostly Ralph has encouraged members to help each other improve their woodlots.

NFC- Bob Glidden



The steering committee of the Niagara Frontier Chapter awarded our chairperson, Bob Glidden, to receive the NFC Chapter Service award for his tireless efforts, enthusiasm, and organization in running the NFC Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association.

He has worked to establish an inclusive,

well functioning steering committee that has served well to plan and organize chapter events such as woodwalks, educational outings and family activities. He, along with his wife Pat, have encouraged the entire chapter membership to contribute to the chapter newsletter which they produce quarterly. His promotion of NYFOA along with his knowledge and love of the outdoors sets a good example for our membership and all forest owners.

SAC - Dave and Jane Jenks

This year the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter would like to recognize Jane and Dave Jenks, by presenting them with the NYFOA Chapter Service Award. They have contributed many long hours to our chapter for many years. Jane is SAC's long time chapter historian; she has preserved our memories in the form of event photo albums. She has also taken on the daunting task of chairing our nomination committee, spending many hours canvassing the membership for volunteers to fill our slate of officers. Jane is the more visible of the two, but Dave provides the behind the scenes work that makes the two of them such important contributors to our chapter. Together, Dave and Jane are an amazing team at organizing the Washington County Fair. It takes a lot of organization and dedication to pull off this event. Their eye catching display usually brings a yearly ribbon awarded by the fair committee. Jane again hits the phones and has a knack for filling up all the time slots with willing volunteers to staff the booth. Dave and Jane are also valued members of the SAC steering committee, and we are very glad we are able to show our appreciation for all their hard work.

SFL - Brett Chedzoy



The recipient of the service award for the Southern Finger Lakes chapter is

Brett Chedzoy. Brett has been a NYFOA member for over 25 years, and has ably served as SFL secretary for the past eight. Over this time, he has been a steadfast participant, record keeper, and organizer within the chapter steering committee, and he and his family have graciously hosted a number of chapter woodwalks and social events. Never one to be at a loss for words, Brett has also usually served as the chapter's default master of ceremonies.

Brett's background and training as a forester have been invaluable to the chapter. He has always proved willing to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with the steering committee and chapter at large, and despite the challenges of promoting long-term, sustainable forest management to a public that all-too-often is primarily concerned with maximizing short-term profit, he has done so with a consistently positive attitude, and with a good sense of humor.

In addition to volunteering his time with NYFOA, Brett works as a regional extension forester for Cornell, is a regional director of the Master Forest Owner program in the Southern Tier, and somehow also manages to find time to be a successful livestock farmer, an innovator in the practice of silvopasturing, as well as an active steward of his own woodlot.

In promoting NYFOA's mission, he clearly leads by example, and sets a high bar for the rest of us. The Southern Finger Lakes chapter is glad to have him, and we are pleased to present him with the service award for 2017.

SOT - Ken and Sharon Semanovich



Since joining NYFOA and the Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program about ten years ago, Ken and Sharon Semanovich have been tireless in their active support of NYFOA's mission. Ken and Sharon have served on the Southern Tier chapter

steering committee for several years and, because they do most things as a team, Ken and Sharon currently serve as co-vice chairs for the chapter. They play an important role in planning chapter woodwalks and other events, and ran a very successful mushroom workshop on their property last year, including a home-cooked lunch featuring the various mushroom varieties they grow themselves. Ken or Sharon also serve as "official photographers" for all chapter events and can be relied on to conduct woodlot visits as Master Forest Owner Volunteers whenever called upon to do so. NYFOA and the Southern Tier Chapter are indeed fortunate to have these New Jersey transplants on our team!

WFL - Peter Muench



Pete joined NYFOA in the spring of 2011, and by the fall of 2012 he had been recruited to the WFL chapter's board of directors. For the board, he took on the role of organizing outdoor activities. In the years since he has coordinated innumerable woodwalks and several Game of Logging sessions including Level I in his woodlot. He is always brimming with ideas for more outdoor events. With all that Pete does for NYFOA, he and his wife Georgi also manage to find time to care for their 38 acres in Yates county and practice many other crafts.

A recent woodwalk was held on a beautiful day, when the forecast had been for rain. When asked how he had arranged the nice weather, Pete said that he had sacrificed a chicken and danced naked under the new moon. That is an awful image to contemplate, but it shows the depth of Pete's commitment to NYFOA.

WFL chapter is fortunate to have Peter Muench as a member. 🌲

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

FOLIAR ANTHRACNOSE DISEASES OF DECIDUOUS HARDWOODS

BY NICHOLAS J. BRAZEE

Anthracnose diseases of trees and shrubs are caused by a dynamic group of fungal pathogens that vary in their host specificity and ability to cause disease. Anthracnose fungi are taxonomically diverse and many new species are still being discovered today. To illustrate this point, there are at least five different species of fungi that cause anthracnose of birch in northern temperate forests. All anthracnose fungi attack the foliage of susceptible trees and infections result in the development

of spots, blotches, marginal blight or a total collapse of the foliage. Trees with compound leaves may have the petiole attacked, resulting in wilt and premature shedding of large volumes of foliage. A subset of anthracnose fungi can also infect flowering parts, fruit, current season's stems and even small branches. Sycamore anthracnose kills the terminal buds on infected trees, causing the lateral buds to flush and compete for dominance. This perennial pattern of damage results in the

distinctive right-angle branching structure that American sycamore exhibits. The non-native pathogen responsible for dogwood anthracnose (*Discula destructiva*) causes shoot blight and perennial branch cankers that weaken and ultimately kill flowering dogwoods. Typically, anthracnose fungi are not primary pathogens that kill trees in forest settings, but more often secondary agents that contribute to growth loss and decline.

Anthracnose outbreaks are most severe during wet and mild spring weather when new foliage is expanding. Anthracnose fungi overwinter within senescent leaves on the ground and in buds and stem cankers in the canopy. They produce airborne spores that are blown and splashed to newly developing leaves and initiate the first cycle of infection. If environmental conditions remain favorable, additional cycles of infection will continue.

Anthracnose fungi are most active during the early period of the growing season and often go dormant during hot and dry weather in mid-summer. They can then reemerge in autumn, when temperatures cool and leaves are senescing. While this late season resurgence has little effect on seasonal growth, it increases the volume of viable propagules that can overwinter and initiate new disease outbreaks the following spring.

Anthracnose symptoms vary by host and by the fungal pathogen present but can be generally characterized by irregularly-shaped, angular spots or blotches that occur primarily along leaf veins or margins (Figure 1). Spore-bearing structures (known as acervuli) are often produced along primary veins on the underside of the leaf (Figure 2). As rain water travels across the leaf surface, spores are carried with it and create new infection centers (Figure 3). Because water collects at the margins of the leaf, disease severity is often highest at the edges, gradually expanding towards the leaf base. Like many fungal pathogens, anthracnose fungi first establish on lower canopy foliage where shade, free moisture and humidity levels are highest. Once established, the pathogens spread upward in the canopy. Detection of this pattern of injury (symptoms first appearing in the lower canopy and spreading upward) is important to identify so that stresses that cause contrasting patterns (e.g. upper canopy spreading downward) can be distinguished.

Anthracnose of sugar and red maple is often a minor disease that affects foliage in



Figure 1. Symptoms of maple anthracnose on sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*).

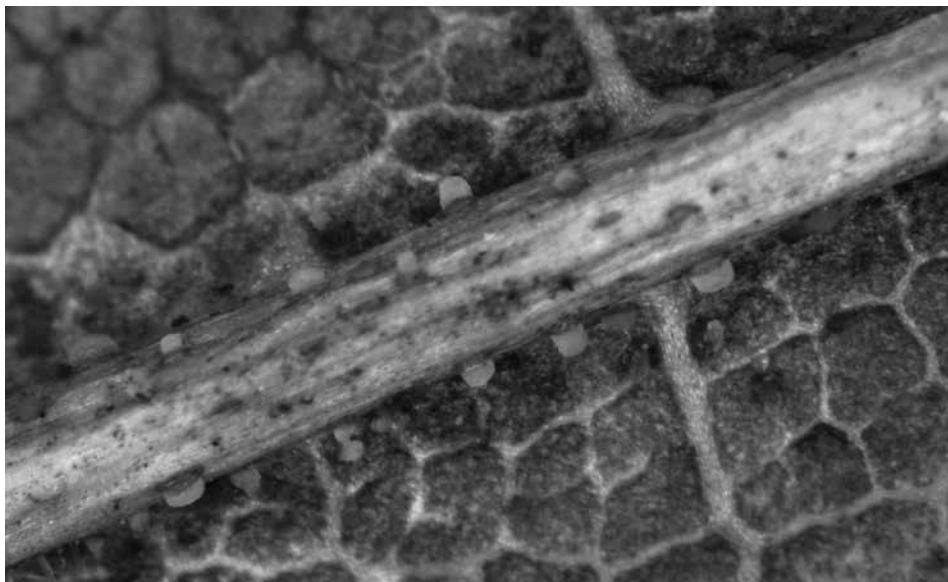


Figure 2. Spore-bearing structures (acervuli) on the underside of a maple leaf.

the lower canopy. However, under ideal conditions, the disease can be severe, leading to scattered defoliation, premature leaf shedding and growth loss. Several studies have included anthracnose as a contributing factor to maple decline when environmental stresses, insect pests and disease-causing pathogens are present. For sugar maple, those include soil nutrient deficiencies, root freezing from mid-winter freeze-thaw, pear thrips, sugar maple borer, Armillaria root rot, among many others. Healthy trees may undergo defoliation in spring shortly after leaf out but are able to flush a new set of foliage. But, this second flush depletes

stored root starch reserves, weakening trees and, in some cases, compromising their ability to properly acclimate for cold weather in autumn. Young trees are more susceptible to lasting damage while older, established trees can usually survive multiple years of infection. Research has shown that maple anthracnose is capable of killing young sugar maple saplings in the understory, especially those defoliated the previous season. This can have long-lasting effects on forest composition when other factors are limiting sugar maple establishment, such as heavy deer browse.

Oak anthracnose can also play an important role in the decline of trees in forest settings when other biotic and abiotic stresses are interacting to weaken trees. Given the recent detection of oak wilt at

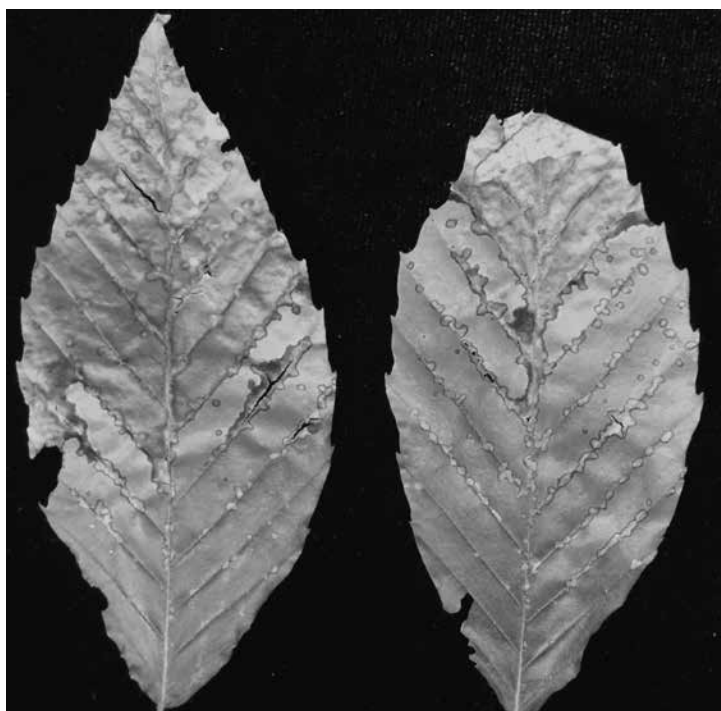


Figure 3. Symptoms of beech anthracnose on American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).

several locations in New York state, there is increased awareness of the symptoms and the pattern of anthracnose disease development so the two can be readily distinguished.

As mentioned previously, anthracnose symptoms often develop early in the season and progress from the lower canopy upwards. Oak wilt symptoms, in contrast, develop in the upper canopy as browning or bronzing of the foliar margins in mid-summer, usually from July onward. Oak anthracnose is most severe to species in the white oak group (e.g. white oak, swamp white oak, chestnut oak and bur oak). Members of the red oak group (e.g. red oak, black oak, scarlet oak and pin oak) are more resistant to the disease but are still injured. Recent research has helped to clarify the taxonomy and host range of the oak anthracnose pathogen, which is also capable of infecting beech (Figure 3), chestnut and basswood. Because beech is very shade tolerant, dense thickets of sapling and pole-sized trees can create ideal conditions for development and spread of the pathogen.

Since anthracnose outbreaks are highly dependent upon spring weather, there is often little that can be done to manage these diseases in a forest setting. Disease suppression activities that seek to improve overall tree vigor may be accomplished through selective thinning operations that provide more sunlight for residual trees. Increasing sunlight and promoting air flow in the lower canopy can help reduce the time that environmental conditions necessary for anthracnose disease development occur (i.e., reduce moisture on leaf surfaces and shade). Consequently, improving vigor promotes resistance to other pathogens and insect pests that contribute to tree decline. Many anthracnose fungi have a relatively limited host range. Therefore, managing to promote tree species diversity can limit large-scale outbreaks where high volumes of spores (inoculum) from one pathogen build up and spread. 🌲

Nicholas J. Brazee is an Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Massachusetts.

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

New NYFOA Web Site and Logo

JIM MINOR

Did you notice the new NYFOA logo on the cover of this issue of *The New York Forest Owner*? Also, if you haven't looked at the NYFOA web site recently, you're encouraged to do so as we think you'll be in for a pleasant surprise. A lot has changed there and we hope it better serves our members and entices prospective members to join.

Here's what's going on. In June of 2014 your NYFOA board of directors began a process to see how we could more effectively reach our target audience of private, non-industrial NYS forest owners. A marketing committee was formed and shortly thereafter a professional marketing consultant was hired. Ginny Brandreth of Brandreth Works reviewed our situation and one of her first recommendations was that our web site needed to be updated. Subsequently we elicited bids for creating the web site and from respondents Vibrant Creative was contracted to build the new web site. We are excited to announce the culmination of this part of our marketing effort with the launch of our new web site on March 15th, still at the web address www.nyfoa.org.

One of the driving forces behind the web redesign was a requirement that the underlying design be "fluid." This is web parlance for being suited for display on both conventional desktop/laptop devices and devices with smaller screens such as smartphones. With a fluid structure a web page intelligently re-formats itself for best presentation on the device being used. This is becoming increasingly important as progressively more of our audience uses these smaller devices almost exclusively. Our previous site showed up on these devices in just tinier versions of the full-screen representation which made reading information and navigation problematic.

Indirectly, another aspect of being fluid was that it enabled us to better attract prospective members. Google's search

engines can detect if a site is fluid or not. If it's not then Google places any results of a search that includes that site further down their list of possible hits. We've got a *lot* of valuable help for private forest owners on our site, the vast majority of it from the former site, but if people can't find us we've already lost. Once they land on our site we'd like them to stick around and see what else we have to offer. Thus we've embedded a couple more Google search boxes that are specific to the site to help them and you, our members. In the background we're also running Google Analytics. This captures summary data (nothing individual-specific) on where visitors go on the site. This allows us to see what visitors find most valuable and points to ways we might want to apply future resources to make their visit even more fruitful.

On our home page we wanted to tell the world and remind our members who we are and what we are about. At the top we have a brief slideshow outlining the basics of our organization, followed by our mission statement. The home page also points to chapter sections and upcoming events/news as well as a running summary of our Facebook page postings (with links to same). On our Facebook page (administered by members Bob Manning and Lew Ward) the link to the NYFOA web site is now more prominent and includes our new logo.

To better support our chapters and better serve our members through them, the chapter sections have been expanded and an interactive map of events across the state has been created so members can see events both within and outside their chapter areas should they wish to participate. Each event has its own web page to provide more complete information.

To make the site more attractive, we had the opportunity of including more images and are grateful to the many

members who supported our first call for them. In particular we wish to thank Bob Manning, Hugh Canham, Jerry Michael, Sarah Stackhouse, Ed Neuhauser, and our magazine editor, Mary Beth Malmsheimer. With a few exceptions all the images on the site are from members. We expect these images will be updated from time-to-time. If you have images you think might be appropriate, please send them on.

You are encouraged to explore our new web site and we would love to hear from you. I will be doing much of the entering of new content and I welcome your feedback at jminor@rochester.rr.com.

Jim Minor is a former president of NYFOA and currently serves as our volunteer webmaster.

2016 NYFOA Scholarship Winner



Katherine Livingston, is a junior majoring in Forest Resource Management at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Her future plans include being the TA for the SUNY ESF Summer Program in Wanakena, NY.

Ask a Professional (continued)

stems, even though their foliage may not have emerged.

A second selective mechanical/chemical treatment is “cut-stump.” This treatment involves cutting each stem and applying an appropriate herbicide to the freshly cut surface. On large stumps, a chemical-grade spray bottle may be most effective. On smaller stumps a sponge-type paint brush may be more efficient. With care, there will be little or no collateral damage. The cut-stump treatment is likely more labor intensive than a foliar treatment because it involves cutting the stem, handling the stem, and applying the herbicide. The advantage is the potential for treatment from June through October, and little to no collateral damage. Herbicides labeled for cut-stump treatment of buckthorn include: Gordon Brushkiller, Pathfinder II (EPA registration number 62719-176), and Accord XRT II (EPA registration number 62719-556). The latter two products are permitted with a 2ee (emergency exemption). 2ee labels, in addition to the product label, can be obtained from the URL previously listed.


A third selective chemical treatment, more appropriate if there are few and larger diameter stems, is a basal bark treatment. Penn State University Cooperative Extension has a fact sheet on the general use of basal bark treatment, not specifically about control of buckthorn (shortened URL <https://goo.gl/yZvnR6>). The products labeled in New York for use as a basal bark treatment



Figure 4. Stump sprouts from common buckthorn following cutting. Failure to treat the sprouts either mechanically or chemically will negate management efforts within a few years.

of buckthorn are Gordon’s Brushkiller and Pathfinder II. For areas with few and small glossy buckthorn, a basal bark treatment is not likely to be the best treatment option because of the effort and overspray when applying to small diameter stems.

Regardless of the treatment option selected, there are likely buckthorn seeds in the soil that will germinate (Figure 6). Scout the area to ensure that any mature, fruiting buckthorn are controlled. Newly germinated seedlings should be controlled regularly, but certainly before they mature and produce fruit. Annually, inspect the treatment area for seedlings. Hand pulling may control

these small plants if they are not too numerous or as time permits. Patches of seedlings might also be controlled with a foliar spray or brush saw, essentially a broadcast treatment but in a localized area. Each subsequent year should produce fewer new seedlings and require less effort. 

Dr. Peter Smallidge, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Ithaca, NY, 14853. Support for ForestConnect is provided by USDA NIFA and the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



Figure 5. Many non-native invasive species will expand their foliage early than other species. This picture illustrates the invasive multiflora rose in early spring that has leafed out beneath a well-formed stand of black locust.



Figure 6. Following treatment, the increase of sunlight on the soil and the potential of soil disturbance may stimulate the germination of buckthorn seeds. Pictured are new germinants of common buckthorn following cutting of the overstory.



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Member Profile:

Dale and Eileen Schaefer

BRIANA BINKERD-DALE

Dale Schaefer is a retired city of Rochester police officer and current town judge in Canadice, where he has lived for the past 35 years. His wife Eileen is from Victory, NY and is the Canadice town clerk and tax collector. After Dale's son Justen earned his PhD, he moved with his wife Tania to Pennsylvania to accept a job; Dale's daughter Lindsey and her husband Dustin live in Kentucky with Dale and Eileen's new grandchild Hudson, where Lindsey teaches school.

As a young boy growing up in Rochester, Dale and his brother and sister used to go for hikes along the Genesee River with their father. "Cooking hotdogs on an outdoor fire, and skimming stones in the river, I became addicted to the outdoors," Dale said. Years later, Dale helped a friend move to the hills of Canadice and could see clear across Canadice Lake to the other hillside. No one lives on Canadice Lake — it's one of two undeveloped lakes in the Finger Lakes. He decided some day he would like to live out there.

Dale purchased property between Honeoye Lake and Canadice Lake about 40 years ago, and has acquired additional parcels over the years including his and Eileen's home. He currently owns three woodlots totaling over 150 acres, plus an additional 11 acres with an 1860's bank barn with a gambrel roof that has been beautifully maintained. The majority of the land is in the town of Canadice, with one parcel in the town of Richmond. The woodlot in Richmond was subdivided from a property that Dale kept an eye on for the family that owned it; when they sold, Dale purchased the woodlot.

The woodlots consist of northern hardwoods including red and white oak, hickories, red maple, ash, poplar, sassafras, cherry, some remnants and sprouts of American chestnuts, and many wild apple trees that Dale has released. There are conifers as well, mostly white pine and spruce plantings with tamarack and red pine volunteers. The topography is fairly well balanced between level areas and slopes. There is a pond at their



One of the aspen trees Dale girdled to create snags for wildlife as part of a federal cost-share program they participated in.

home property, with a frog pond and another small pond at other sites.

Dale is an active Master Forester Owner (MFO) volunteer through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), having attended the first training they held in 1991. Charlie Mowatt, who worked for the NYSDEC and was a big advocate for NYFOA, brought Eileen and Dale into the NYFOA family and advised Dale on many of the early forestry projects. After joining NYFOA approximately 30 years ago they continue to participate in woodwalks, forestry workshops, seminars and webinars. Both Dale and Eileen have been members of the Board of Directors for NYFOA's Western Finger Lakes chapter over the past 25 years. Dale feels confident in making management decisions for their woodlots, prioritizing for sawtimber, firewood, and wildlife. When he does have management questions he will get a second opinion from CCE, the NYSDEC or his personal forester, Bruce Robinson.

"I had a large timber sale done, which was put out to bid, and received over three times the price that was quoted to me by two different loggers that came knocking at our door," Dale said. The sale consisted of 110,000 board feet of timber 180-200 years old, which Dale estimated after counting the rings on the red and white oak. "Heating with an outdoor wood furnace and cutting



Eileen & Dale in front of their 1860s bank barn with gambrel roof on a recently purchased 11 acre parcel.

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Dale has a variety of tools to accomplish his TSI work, but especially important are chainsaw chaps and helmet.

firewood after the sale for 10 years, you can't tell there was a sale on the property other than some remaining oak stumps."

Forest management has definitely been a family affair; Dale's children often accompanied Dale and Eileen on woodwalks and other NYFOA events in their early years. "NYFOA is a family friendly, family oriented organization,"

Dale said, "And the kids always have a great time when they get into the woods." Outside of the loggers that handled the two timber sales Dale and Eileen have held, Dale does the majority of the management work himself. He has taken Game of Logging courses on three different occasions with instructor Bill Lindloff, and speaks very highly of them.



Dale & Eileen in front of the privy that Dale built from timber harvested on site, with Shadow the cat.

Equipment acquired over the years has grown to include a 4WD tractor with a Farmi skidding winch and a poly skidding cone, 4WD UTV club car and many chain saws, pole pruning saw, wood splitter, plus several wagons for hauling split wood and of course a pickup truck. Dale did hire a cutter, Stanley Stek, to help with a timber stand improvement (TSI) project. And Dale and some MFO and NYFOA friends trade off work time in the woods, as well.

Eileen and Dale both estimate their biggest challenge to be deer pressure. A project Dale started several years ago after their first timber sale was to take an open area about 50 feet by 100 feet and put up an eight foot high deer enclosure with plastic deer fencing attached to pole sized trees and aluminum poles added as needed. "Amazing what sunlight and no deer pressure will become," he remarked. "It is so thick with hardwoods that you cannot walk through it." It was so successful that he now has five deer enclosures, including one approximately 50 feet by 300 feet installed to block an undesirable view shed. Initially planted at the recommended density with Norway and white spruce, tamarack and oak have sprouted that it will need thinning at some point. The first deer enclosure has been up for over 10 years now and is about ready to come down; undesirable saplings were cut out several years ago.

Family and friends join Dale and Eileen for recreational activities periodically; hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing and swimming in the pond, and nature watching. Forest management practices support all of these endeavors; for example, cutting trees in the winter in preparation for firewood cutting allows food for deer from the tree tops and cover for small animals as the tops lay in the forest. Dale hunts deer, turkey, squirrel and coyote, and has seen bear on the property as well. His favorite recreational activity, however, is timber stand improvement, which he finds to be refreshing of strength and spirit and to create great satisfaction and peace of mind.

Eileen and Dale have many words of wisdom to share that they have acquired

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over the years, beginning with networking with other NYFOA members as you decide how you want to handle your property; taking a chainsaw safety class if you are using a chainsaw; and hiring a consulting forester for any major project especially a competitive bid timber sale. Additionally, thinning out spruce stands to keep lower branches for cover is a needed component for wildlife including birds — and apple trees are important too. “In the beginning I lost several wild apple trees not knowing ahead of time to save and preserve them by releasing around them and pruning, especially if wildlife is one of your goals,” Dale noted.

Also, sometimes it pays to try something new. “I didn’t want to, or have the time to get involved in measuring trees, but thanks to MFO Dean Faklis for talking me into entering the timber growing contest,” Dale said. “After the second year I am looking forward to measuring my trees this year — it’s fun, not to mention knowing exactly which trees are growing and to what extent!”

A clear love of nature is what prompted Eileen and Dale to get involved in forest management, and their dedication to sharing that with others is apparent. “Being a Master Forester Owner since 1991 I enjoy visits with forest owners and I always learn something of interest (besides, I like to talk),” Dale laughed. Several of their neighbors have joined NYFOA. And while they have been recognized multiple times for their contributions, they send that gratitude right back to their community — Dale wanted to end the interview by taking the opportunity to thank NYFOA, CCE and the NYSDEC for “all they have done in educating and motivating me.” 🌲

Briana Binkerd-Dale is a student in Environmental Biology and Applied Ecology at Cornell University. If you are interested in being featured in a member profile, please email Jeff Joseph at jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

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