



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

The Overstory

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gareth Price, Kingston, NY
Nancy Riding, Shepardstown, WV
Nikki Rosier, Salem, NY
David Steele, Batavia, NY

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

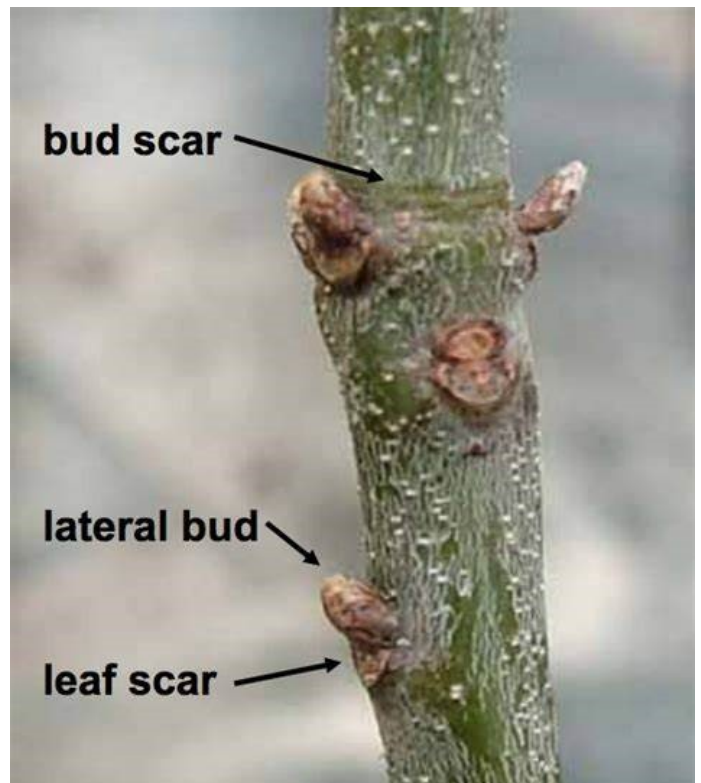
Scarred for Life

Paul Hetzler, ISA Certified Arborist

It makes sense that dying trees have terminal bud scars. Sounds like an awful condition – my condolences. But the healthy trees have them, too (terminal scars, not condolences). It's a good thing, since terminal bud scars provide an excellent way to leaf through a tree's health records going back 5 to 10 years.

After a woody plant has its full complement of leaves, and they have hardened off, that tree or shrub makes both vegetative and flower buds for the following year. Inside each vegetative bud is an inchoate shoot tip, while the reproductive parts are in the flower buds (incidentally, trees have a secret stash of vegetative buds in case of spring frost damage, but no spare flower buds). At the tip of each twig, a woody plant makes a terminal bud, most often larger, which is the future leader of its respective leaf-dom. When a terminal bud starts to grow in spring-time, it leaves behind a ridge of bark around the twig.

You can look down the twig toward its parent stem and usually find at least five terminal bud scars, sometimes fewer, sometimes more. Reading glasses or a hand lens will help, because older scars are less distinct. The space between each scar is called a node, and it represents the growth from a particular year. It acts as a ruler for arborists and foresters, and it can for you as well.



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Clemons Woodswalk

By Bruce Cushing

On May 21, 2022, I hosted a woods walk in my forest in Clemons, NY to talk about the improvements made to the forest and listen to other forest owners and the challenges they have had in keeping their forests healthy and viable for generations. My land has been heavily cut and deer browsed. We have been trying to revitalize the forest through Timber Stand Improvement practices.

The day set for the walk had a heat advisory of temperatures in the 90s! We gathered together at 9:30 for a “hello”, a coffee and Blueberry Sour Cream Coffee Cake. (I can do more than play in the woods). We sprayed a tick deterrent, dabbed on sunscreen and filled up on water. The old logger landing has a pile of small cobblestone we use to maintain the old logging roads, patches of Japanese Knotweed; an invasive species which we have been slowly eradicating, and tree tubes of different sizes. One 6ft tube has a young sugar maple we planted three years ago, growing 2ft out of the top. Without the planting and protection from the tree tube this tree would have been browsed by the large population of white tail deer in the area. Unfortunately this young tree was the breakfast, lunch and dinner for the Spongy Moth hatching and now ravaging the mountainside.

It was a gorgeous blue sky day and the leaves were fully out so visibility from the roads and into the woods was limited. We walked the old logging roads, checked for ticks, and looked at the stone put down to maintain the roads; as water bars for erosion control, and leveling the roads for safety. No one wants to personally see how well the roll bar on their tractor works.

I have used a few different types of tree tubes in different sizes. I found that an 18 inch to 3 foot tube on a natural growing seedling is the easiest. We keep several tubes on hand and when we find a seedling that has survived the deer browsing we put a tube on it. When the seedling starts to grow out of the initial protection, we replace it with a taller tube. In the past four years we have planted over 200 bareroot trees and shrubs that we have purchased from various county soil and water conservation districts. Some of these trees are now over 6 feet and growing. If not for the tree tube protection the deer would have eaten them. Now the Spongy Moth infestation is growing. We found that having netting over the tops of the tubes on the smaller trees does help, but once the tree is growing out of the 6 foot tube there is not much we can do but spray for the caterpillars.



Cobblestone road

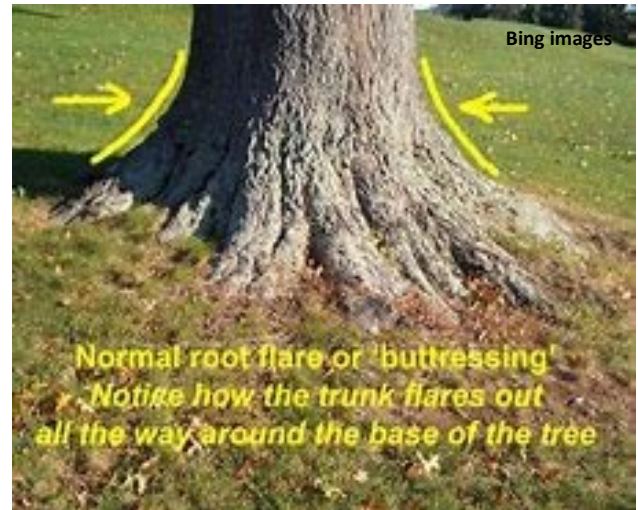


Salamander hiding spot

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Certainly this varies by species, but one would expect to see 10 to 15 centimetres of new growth each year for a twig getting ample sunlight. Yet if you visit a university campus or walk down a city street, you'll discover trees with 5 or 10 millimetres between terminal bud scars. It might be fair to consider those trees terminal cases.

This information will help you make better decisions about managing your landscape trees, sugar bush, or woodlot. If you notice a consistent lack of good growth, you'll treat that tree or stand differently. Perhaps a soil test is in order to see if essential nutrients are missing. If you plan to prune a tree with scant growth between scars, prune lightly, no more than five to ten percent of leaf-bearing material. If you're wondering how foresters collect twig samples from the upper canopy, some use a nifty tool called a shotgun. Whatever it takes to keep your work interesting.



Another handy metric when evaluating young trees is something called a trunk flare. Examine the base of any tree. If there is an obvious flare, that's as it should be. But if the trunk resembles a fence post at the soil surface, the flare is buried, and that tree's roots are gasping for air, hardly able to function. Occasionally a young tree will survive long enough to grow new (adventitious) roots up where they can get oxygen, but it generally won't thrive the way it could have.

Deep-planted trees also will be more likely to develop girdling roots, a condition which is exactly what it sounds like. These are roots which began growing in a circular pattern because the burlap was too difficult to penetrate in the first year or two. As the expanding trunk reaches this ring of death, the python-like girdling root(s) chokes the trunk. This typically happens when the trees are 25-35 years old. Sidebar: always strip off the burlap once the tree is situated in the hole.

One can see the handiwork of girdling roots along roadways between mid-August and mid-September. Trees planted under contract by the Ministry of Transportation or local highway departments are often just plopped into the planting hole, burlap and all. Trees in the 25-35-year age class begin to turn colour before surrounding trees of the same type. Once you're tuned in to this phenomenon, you will see it everywhere you go in late summer and early autumn.



Girdling roots

The reason strangled or sick trees are early leaf-shedders has to do with their balance sheets. If a tree is being strangled by girdling roots, its sugar factory is less efficient than in other trees of its ilk. Root-girdled trees reach the break-even point earlier than robust trees, and hence they colour first. Now you have a few more means for evaluating tree health.

I hope they can help you keep a few trees from becoming terminal before their time.

A Permanent Resident of Canada, Paul Hetzler lives in Ottawa. He is a member of ISA-Ontario, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Society of American Foresters. Before moving to Canada he was the Natural Resources Educator for Cornell University Extension in northern New York State.

Annual Meeting—April 30th 2022

Covid 19 has really taken it toll on our events and meetings over the past 2 years. We were able to get this meeting in after being postponed from February until April. Although the attendance was lighter than usual we had a productive meeting. We reviewed the treasurers report from the past year, discussed committee happenings or non-happenings. We bounced around ideas for future events and voted in our chapter officers.

Hugh Canham presented information on current Legislative Affairs. He started with the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act. This legislature bodes well for the landowner. This proposal must receive voter approval in November’s election. Hugh encouraged us to rally support for this bond act by talking to friends and neighbors, send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, contact your local politicians etc... to drum up support. He also included information about the Environmental Protection Fund and the Freshwater Wetlands Act, both are part of the approved budget. He also shared information about the Climate Action Plan – Hugh has drafted NYFOA’s response to this plan at that time pending approval.

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The Tenacity of Trees....



**Tree roots extend
to the mainland
for nutrients**

.....

Follow this link for more amazing trees:

**[https://www.positivenewsus.org/
the-tenacity-of-trees.html](https://www.positivenewsus.org/the-tenacity-of-trees.html)**

Continued from page 2

This year we held off planting small bareroot trees until fall with the hope that the wet fall weather and lack of caterpillars will help cut back on mortality rates. Last year we lost 60% to the dry spring and caterpillar infestation.

We walked along a twelve acre tract that I had identified with my forester as a section to put into the EQUIP program. We identified 30 crop trees per acre for timber stand improvement. They have already responded to being released; clearing the surrounding competitive growth. My forester marked them with blue paint so they are readily visible as the undergrowth fills out. I worked on the eradication of invasive honeysuckle and multiflora rose, (cut back and treated) and cut back some of the grapevine that was smothering young trees. We now have more native wildflowers and the area is open for more young trees to grow. The grapevine is an important food source for wildlife; it will grow back and the young trees are less stressed. Of course pulling out all that grapevine put more stress on my shoulders.

We have tried to keep in mind the balance that occurs in healthy forests. I learned a lot from Audubon's Woods, Wildlife and Warbler project, the team at Cornell Forest Connect and the NYDEC. We now leave most of the "blow over" trees and a few overly enthusiastic girdling jobs as snags. Previously I would have cut them and pulled them down. Now, we watch the wildlife run up and down, or leave the fallen trees and brush for woody debris. Some of the brush piles now have young trees started within them since the deer don't like to walk through them when there is an easier route.

All along the route Mary's goat kept everyone company and even found a few snacks along the way. Time goes by fast during a woods walk. We had lunch and a lot of information sharing. A day in the woods, good food and friends to share forest observations. It was great to walk with people who understand and appreciate the effort it takes to regenerate a forest. Thanks to everyone who was able to come, I always learn a lot from you.



Mary's goat, Esther.

Notes on Legislative Affairs for NYFOA

(Prepared by Hugh Canham. Adopted from material received from Empire State Forest Products Association)

Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act

The proposal amends the State Finance Law, by establishing a new fund, the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Fund, to hold the bond proceeds from the sale of sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$4.2 billion. The final bond act is \$200 million more than the Executive request, but substantially lower than the Senate request of \$6 billion and the Assembly request of \$5 billion.

This proposal must receive voter approval in November's election. The Bond Act that would provide funding for:

- \$650 million for land acquisition. Priority for ESFPA is working forest conservation easements.
- \$1.5 billion for climate mitigation. ESFPA supports mitigation using natural and working lands that store and reduce carbon and funding for Green Buildings that incorporate the use of mass timber and wood.
- \$650 million for water quality improvements and resilient infrastructure (i.e., sewer and water infrastructure) that will support economic development.

Increased Funding for the Environmental Protection Fund

Adopted with modifications. The final Budget increases funding for the EPF to \$400 million.

- \$40 million for Open Space/Land Conservation. An ESFPA priority is working forest conservation easements both state and the Land Trust Easement program funded at \$1.5 million.
- \$1.75 million for Biodiversity/Landowner Habitat Conservation. Priority for keeping private forests as forest.
- \$17 million for Invasive Species. Priority on forest pests and diseases impacting private forests.

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Coming Events....

Washington County Fair

August 22nd - 28th

Fair organizing committee will be Dave DeLaMater,
Mary Marchewka and Kristie Edwards

Please contact Kristie if you are interested in staffing
the booth to schedule a date and time.

Phone 518-661-5685 or email :
edwardsk922@gmail.com

Annual Picnic

September 24th, 2022

Art & Kris Perryman's

3929 St Rte 8, Weavertown, NY

(1/2 mile east of rte 28 - there will be a sign Adirondack Woods Studio)
Near TC Lumber Company

Arrive: 9:30 —10: am (refreshments available)

Woodswalk— 10:00 am

Picnic following woodswalk – Hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages
will be provided

Please bring: A salad or food item to share and lawn chairs

Please RSVP to Kurt Edwards 518-661-5685 or at
edwardsk922@gmail.com by 9/16

- \$2.5 million for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Outside Power Generation. Includes \$500,000 for Regenerate NY.
- \$4.8 million for Climate Adaptation. Includes \$200,000 for the Wood Products Development Council.
- \$16.2 million for Climate Smart Communities Projects. Includes \$500,000 for Community Forest Program.

Freshwater Wetland Act Amendments

Retains and clarifies the silvicultural exemptions for silvicultural treatments and practices; however, it does include amendments that would include the buffer areas of wetlands under the regulations and phases in a reduction of wetlands regulated from 12.4 acres to 7.4 acres effective January 1, 2028. Effective January 1, 2025, wetland jurisdiction will remain at at 12.4 acres but adds the buffer to the regulations and wetlands of “unusual local importance”. Adds to the definition of “unusual local importance”.

Green jobs bond act;

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-fy-2023-investments-clean-energy-infrastructure-climate-resiliency>



Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?

Do you have a suggestion for a chapter event?

If so please contact Kurt Edwards, event coordinator,

at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at edwardsk922@gmail.com



New York Forest Owners Association

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