



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

The Overstory

Volume 34 Issue 2
Summer 2023

SAC OFFICERS

Chair: Bruce Cushing
Vice-Chair: Vacant
Secretary: Bill Burke
Treasurer: Bob Manning

NEWSLETTER

Editor and Design:
Kristie Edwards

To submit articles for publication,
please contact: [Kristie Edwards, 411
Beech Street,
Mayfield, NY 12117
edwardsk922@gmail.com](mailto:kristie.edwards@nyfoa.org)

INSIDE

The Tenacity of Trees...
Coming Events
Education on Agroforestry at
SUNY Adirondack

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Blackberry Maple, Straford, NY
Jim Klein, Gwynedd Valley, PA

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

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

Challenges and Decisions for Woodlot Owners?

Jim Lieberum, CPESC, Warren County SWCD

New York State is blessed by a diversity of habitats- farms, fields, woodlands, water, wetlands, mountains, shorelines.... we have it all. Because of that we have an abundance of wildlife and in particular deer. In some cases, we have so many deer that we can't have certain plants in the ground without them being eaten overnight. My wife intensely dislikes the deer in our area as they mow down her hostas every year at the end of June. It's pretty much assured that if the habitat is right, you see deer.

Deer are an amazing animal as they seem so fragile but are extremely tough, smart and resilient. We practically eradicated them in New York, but through management they have come back with an estimated population in NY of 1.2 million, but it is certainly not an equal distribution per square mile across the state. Deer like other animals do two things well, they eat then poop. It has been found that a deer needs to consume up to 8 percent of its body weight in browse and greens each day which translates to nearly 10 pounds of forage for a 120 pound deer. Obviously not all deer are 120 pounds, so think of the deer just as a herd of animals that will eat you out of house and home or more specifically your woods and yard, much like an over grazed pasture on a farm.



Bing Images

Continued on page 3

Caught in the act!

Education on Agroforestry at SUNY Adirondack

Nick Rowell, Natural Resource Specialist , Warren County SWCD

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District partnered with SUNY Adirondack's Agricultural Business program and The Farm @ SUNY Adirondack on a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. The grant funded a pilot program to develop education and implementation of an agroforestry plan for 30 acres of the college's farmland.

To allow the developed agroforestry plan and implementation to continue well into the future, and long after this grant closes out, a key element was the nursery. The District worked with the college's Sustainable Agriculture class to build the tree nursery and fence it in. The nursery includes air prune beds currently planted with 100 Hazelnuts and 300 Chestnuts that will be grown out for a year and transplanted in fall of 2023. The goal of the nursery is for the students to continue to grow specific tree species to be transplanted as part of the agroforestry plan, and sell as a value-added product to help fund the future tree crops and The Farm @ SUNY Adirondack. Planting trees can be a huge lift, but the District was very fortunate to have been donated a DETCO tree planter to be used for the grant and is also available to farmers and landowners across NYS. If any Districts, farmers or landowners are interested in borrowing the tree planter, please email NickR@warrenswcd.org.



Above: Air Prune Beds

Left: Planting Chestnuts

From page 1

When the carrying capacity of an area is reached, things change and in particular the health and diversity of the woods. My office is routinely requested to conduct site visits to landowners and we see significant deer impacts. This is true even in our county where the 2021 reported deer take is only 841, but we have woodlands that are becoming less able to support deer and other forest wildlife such as turkeys, woodland birds, squirrels, etc. Why is that? Much like people, deer eat what is the tastiest to them first. Hardwood seedlings are a favorite along with many woodland plants such as Indian Cucumber root. When you lose this natural regeneration, say goodbye to future seed and mast sources. Or perhaps you will have an expansion of what is now termed "interfering vegetation" which are generally identified as certain fern species and American beech regeneration. These species are not desirable for deer browse so they are normally avoided. This vegetation then effectively outcompetes most of the other plants that we should find. You only need to look at any number of state lands in the Adirondacks to see the impact from the beech that has expanded through root suckering, which has no more resistance to the beech bark disease than any other sprout from the main infected tree. If you have ever hunted or hiked through a large stand of beech, your nose will get whipped, eyes poked and you probably won't see any critters at all. So much for a diversity of quality wildlife habitat.

Our woodland properties are getting smaller as they get broken up and sold off and small woodlot owners can play a huge roll in forest management. However, many feel they don't own enough to have an impact. Some are concerned with what they can and can't do from a proper management strategy, regulatory aspect, or ethical conundrum. Well my recommendation to an owner is to develop a forest management plan through a private consulting forester, or a department/agency, based on the landowner's specific goals. It is your land and if you choose to do nothing, that is your choice. However, there is a wide variety of activities that you can undertake that will benefit the



Notice the lack of seedlings and young growth

forest. Additionally, spending a day pulling and digging out honeysuckle is great exercise and in my case, good for the soul and blood pressure....

New York State Forest Preserve land and other state lands are generally off limits for extensive management activities, so much of the management responsibility falls to us private landowners. If you like hearing the tweety birds at 4:45 AM in June, seeing red backed salamanders under firewood that you are picking up, listening to a broad winged hawk or enjoy seeing deer while deer hunting, it is imperative that we put an effective effort forth to manage our woods for the future.

Treeconomics 101: Colour-Coded Prosperity

Paul Hetzler, ISA Certified Arborist

Deciduous trees, lakeside ice-cream stands, and marinas all close down each autumn for the same reason: as daylight dwindles and cold creeps in, their outfits become less and less profitable. At a certain point it makes sense to batten the hatches until the following spring.

Some enterprising holdouts stay open longer; perhaps they have a cost advantage others do not, or have less competition. A few are the opposite, closing shop at the first hint of fall. Those are likely the ventures which barely scrape by at the height of summer. I'm talking about trees here, of course. Trees whose leaves show colour ahead of their same-species peers are doing so because they are barely breaking even.

The solar-powered sugar factories we call trees are good savers, and meticulous in their accounting. As a rule they do not live beyond their means. In addition to sunlight, they require carbon dioxide, a good supply of water and nutrients, and their roots need to breathe easily. The latter point is critical.

Each spring, a deciduous tree takes money out of the bank – starches out of trunk and root tissue – and invests in a solar array, known as leaves. After paying for its annual complement of leaves, its costs include nighttime respiration, and as-needed maintenance like the synthesis of antimicrobial compounds in response to injury. Its income is sugars; its savings account, starches.



This maple tree gets its spring leaves

Continued on page 5

The Tenacity of Trees....



Amazing tree grows out of a rock!

For more tenacious trees visit:

<https://amherstgardenclub.org/2020/04/24/the-courage-and-tenacity-of-trees/>

Continued from page 4

As summer wanes, longer nights drive up costs (respiration), while shorter days bring down income, eventually forcing hardwood trees close for the season. However, if a tree's root zone is compacted, root respiration is hampered, and roots can't do their job. Its sugar factory will be less efficient compared to others of its species, and less profitable overall. Soils laden with deicing salt, and mechanical damage will also compromise root function.

Yard and street trees experience very high soil temperatures, restricted root zones, and intense competition from lawns. Trees with waterfront homes have other challenges: fluctuating water levels tax their root systems, and those soils tend to be nutrient-poor. Such trees will reach the break-even point earlier than robust trees, and they will colour first.

Early colour is a reliable sign of tree stress, but palette gives information as well. We know that orange (carotenes) and yellow (xanthophylls) are already present within the leaves, masked by green chlorophyll. Trees begin to make a waxy compound to block off water and nutrients to their leaves, equivalent to winterizing a camp – it protects the plumbing. As leaves are thus choked off, chlorophyll dies, revealing yellow and orange.

The red-purple range (anthocyanins), though, is a different story. Red pigments are manufactured in the fall by some species, maples in particular, at significant cost. Science has yet to come up with a truly plausible explanation for this. The point about red is that a maple showing lots of it is in good enough health to



“waste” energy making anthocyanins. Last year in the Ottawa Valley and beyond, sugar maples were yellow only, the first time in living memory that has happened. Soft (red) maples had plenty of red, but hard maples were devoid of it. This is an indication that as a species they are facing tremendous chronic stress.

If one of your yard trees has leaves that are turning colour and dropping early, you can be sure it's in decline, and it would be good to hire a

Certified Arborist to evaluate it. If your favourite cottage-country ice cream stand closes early, that might indicate the owners are having trouble. But they could be just tired.

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.

From page 2

With the grant funds, the District was able to hire a professional in the agroforestry field to develop a plan and work directly with District staff and the college to setup the necessary program infrastructure and expertise on agroforestry implementation. We also developed a webpage for the grant that will soon become a resource page for this form of agroforestry:

Visit our Agroforestry page at <https://warrenswcd.org/agroforestry/> or scan the QR Code:



The goals of the grant are to benefit natural resource conservation on the 30 acres of agricultural fields at the college while increasing production through the implementation of agroforestry practices. A tributary of Halfway Brook runs along the east side of the farm fields which is part of the Lake Champlain Watershed. The agroforestry project we have planned includes agricultural best management practices while installing sections of edible riparian buffers, restoration and reforestation of agricultural fields (afforestation) for ecosystem services, water cycle enhancement and farm production.



Tree Planter at Workshop

“This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00A00707-0) to NEIWPC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program.”

Coming Events....

New York DEC Forest Woodswalk

Middle Grove State Forest, Greenfield

Previously scheduled for June 17th has been rescheduled for August 12th. Same information as before check NYFOA Website or spring issue of newsletter for details.

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 23, 2023

Kurt & Kristie Edwards

411 Beech Street, Mayfield

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

Woodswalk— 10:00 am

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

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

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

Beware of the Giant Hogweed

Do Not Touch This Plant!

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a VERY LARGE, invasive plant that can cause painful burns and permanent scarring. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight and moisture, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. Giant hogweed is a Federally listed noxious weed and NYS law prohibits its possession with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, introduce or propagate.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html>




Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Grant Program

Funding for Private Landowners to Grow the Forests of the Future

The purpose of this grant program is to support the regeneration of forests so they may continue to deliver vital services such as mitigating climate change, protecting air and water quality, and supporting the economy. Young forests in New York face many challenges today that did not exist a century ago, the most significant being wide-spread damage caused by increased white-tailed deer populations and competition from invasive vegetation. Active management of the land is essential to ensure the survival of young trees and allow forests to become established or renew themselves, but this can be an overwhelming and expensive task.

Through Regenerate NY, landowners can apply for financial assistance for projects on their land that support the establishment and renewal of healthy forests. This is a cost share reimbursement program, so all costs must be incurred by the landowner or fiscal sponsor before they can be reimbursed.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/119950.html>



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

SOUTHEASTERN

PO Box 541
Lima, NY 14485
1-800-836-3566

SAC Officers:

Chairman :
Bruce Cushing
nyfoasac.cushing@gmail.com
(518) 695-9207

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer:
Robert Manning
remremrem99@gmail.com
(518) 251-4638

Secretary:
William Burke
liamsb46@gmail.com

Steering Committee Members:

Kurt & Kristie Edwards
edwardsk922@gmail.com
(518) 661-5685

Jane Jenks
janejenks.adkmts@yahoo.com
(518) 532-7595

Ed & Donna Welch
trautwei@gmail.com