



# NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK**

## The Overstory

Volume 34 Issue 1  
Spring 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:edwardsk922@gmail.com)

### INSIDE

The Tenacity of Trees...  
Coming Events  
Remembering Friends  
Arbor Day

### 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

## An Adirondack Woods Walk-Sac's Annual Picnic

By Art Perryman

On September 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, we hosted a woods walk for about 30 people who appreciate forests (the woods) and NYFOA members at our property in Wevertown.

After an arrival period with coffee and refreshments someone asked, "where will we be going in the woods?" "Well, we have a choice. We can either walk the exterior which is approximately 7 miles or we can do a more interior woods walk of about 7 tenths of a mile." There was an overwhelming decision of the second choice.

In 1963, my wife Kris and I made our first purchase of real estate. We bought 267 acres of mostly forested land. It was the "Johnston farm" which had been farmed for generations until the late 1920's.

While serving with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne at Fort Bragg, NY and 2 years in Germany, I saved my pay diligently having in mind purchasing 100 acres of Adirondack Forest land after my discharge. Kris was a science student at Albany State. Within two years of my discharge Kris and I were married. At that time I was a member of the New York State Police. We knew we wanted to live in Wevertown.



This buck carved from a log is a beautiful example of Arts wildlife art work.

# Arbor Day

Paul Hertzler, ISA Certified Arborist

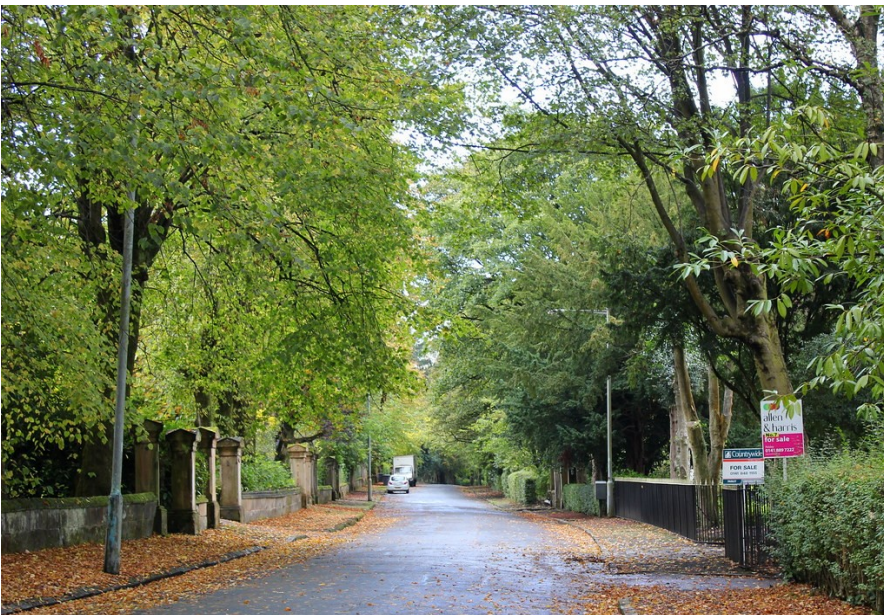
Muskrat Day. Velcro Appreciation Week. Arbor Day. You know it's an obscure event when the greeting-card trade hasn't bothered to capitalize on it. While not the best-known celebration, Arbor Day has a respectable history, as well as a local connection.

Rooted in northern New York State, Arbor Day, observed on the last Friday in April, is now recognized around the world. J. Sterling Morton of Adams, NY germinated the concept in 1872 to highlight the need to conserve topsoil and increase timber availability. Morton's son went on to found the Morton Arboretum in Illinois, and Arbor Day went on to become a somewhat obscure, if virtuous, tradition.

Not only was J. Sterling passionate about planting trees, for him the act was sacred. He said "The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful and the ennobling in mankind," and believed every tree planted made our nation a little better. I tend to agree with his lofty pronouncement. To plant a tree is to invest in the future, and is an act of generosity. When we add a tree to our community, it's likely that many generations of people after our passing will enjoy it.

Trees enrich our lives in surprising ways. Many of us are aware trees decrease home energy costs, increase property values, filter pollutants, store carbon and all that goody-gum-tree stuff. But few know that shoppers spend more money when there are trees in a downtown shopping district, and that homes sell faster on tree-lined streets. Crime rates drop when urban neighborhoods are planted with trees. And lying under a tree in summer cures acne. Ok, I made that last one up, but the rest is true.

It may be noble to plant a tree, but it has to be done right or you may as well rent the thing. A poorly planted tree will live but a fraction of its potential lifespan. Location is the first consideration. Kids and trees look cute when they come home from a nursery, but they grow up fast and often take up more room than expected. If a site is under wires or has restricted space for branches or roots, the right species and variety is needed that can reach full-size without causing conflicts.



The old adage "dig a fifty-dollar hole for a five-dollar tree" may need to be adjusted for inflation but the idea still has currency. Ninety percent of tree roots are in the top 25 centimeters (10 inches) of soil. To reflect this fact, the planting hole should be saucer-shaped and 1-2 times the diameter of the root system, but no deeper-ever, or the Planting Police will ticket you. OK that's fiction too, but if an arborist happens to come along they may scowl ominously.

It's imperative the trunk flare be at ground level, because deep planting leads to serious future health problems. For the tree, mainly. Here's an arborist joke: What do you call a metre-deep planting hole for a tree? Its grave.

On this tree lined street the power lines are hidden by the foliage

Continued on page 5



from page 1

As a youth I hiked and hunted on the Johnston Farm. We sought to purchase this beautiful place. Within a couple of years, the purchase did unfold for us. Dr. Howard B. Johnston, who was of the Johnston family farm, died and we purchased the property from his wife and son. Over the 59 years since, we have been able to add 8 more properties so that our home and tree farm is now about 470 acres.

Kris taught high school science at Minerva Central School for 48 years, retired for 4 years, and returned to teaching at MCS, to fill the schools need for a science teacher.

After retiring from the state police, I began doing wildlife art and sculpture. Kris knows that I have the important need to spend lots of time in the woods so that I can do more realistic art.

In 2004 Kris and I were Tree Farmers of the Year for New York State. We went to Albany and received the award for our forest management practices from Lieutenant Governor Mary O'Conner. It was a very nice experience.

Our son, Art II is a NY State Forest Ranger. He and his family live here in Wevertown. We have two daughters one in Friendship, NY and the other in Albany. Art and his family were able to join our group for a relaxing picnic beside the pond. We enjoyed a barbeque and pot luck lunch after a wonderful walk in the forest.



NYFOA members viewing Art's work in his art gallery.

We have had very good fortune to live here in these Adirondacks. Our appreciation has led us to a caring stewardship of our home and forested area. The greatness and beauty of God's creation is also taken as evidence of the unseen things of his work. (Genesis 2:9 and Colossians 1:16.



Beautiful setting for our annual picnic and barbeque



The SAC chapter suffered the great loss of some important members and very close friends during the last few months of 2022. On the next few pages we will remember our friends, their contributions and love of the forest.



**Pauline (Woods) Fullerton** passed away on December 19, 2022 in Windsor, VT. Polly and her husband Erwin have been members of NYFOA since before chapters were instituted. They were actually involved when the SAC chapter was first formed in 1990. Before the first year was out Polly found herself sitting on the steering committee, the chapter treasurer and together she and Erwin became editors of the first SAC chapter newsletter. Polly served as treasurer for 10 years. In 2000 the couple was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the chapter. They were Master Forest Owners and New York State Covert Program volunteers. They also hosted many woodwalks on their tree farm property, the most recent was our Annual Picnic in 2020. Polly was also very active in her community she was a member and treasurer of the Long Hill Snowmobile Club in South Woodstock, member of the South Woodstock Home Makers, and the Woodstock Camera Club. She enjoyed going to garage sales, flea markets, antique tractor shows. Most of all she loved spending time with her family at their family tree farm in the Adirondacks.



Polly and Erwin at a SAC event in 2019

## The Tenacity of Trees....



**This tree is eating  
A fence**

For more tenacious trees visit:

[https://  
amherstgar-  
denclub.org/2020/04/24/the-  
courage-and-tenacity-of-trees/](https://amherstgardenclub.org/2020/04/24/the-courage-and-tenacity-of-trees/)

Continued from page 2

Before backfilling, remove all burlap and twine. Wire cages on B&B trees should be cut away or stomped to the bottom of the hole. Container-grown root systems may have circling roots that should be teased out straight-this may require vertical cuts into the root ball.

Adding loads of organic matter to the backfill likely dates back to ancient times, when folks might grab an arborist, if one was handy, and throw them in the planting hole. Possibly in response to this, arborists now recommend little or no additional organic matter in many cases.

With extreme sandy or clayey soils, peat moss, compost or other amendments can be mixed in the backfill up to 30% by volume. More can cause a “teacup effect,” leading to root suffocation. Fertilizer is stressful on transplants, so wait at least a year on that. In healthy native soils, trees may never need commercial fertilizer.



The burlap on this rootball is being removed before planting

Water as you backfill, and prod the soil with a stick to remove large air pockets. Unless the site is very windy it's best not to stake the tree-movement is needed for strong trunk development. Mulch 5-10 cm over the planting area (not touching the trunk) to help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil.

It's nearly impossible to over-water a new transplant, but it does happen. Throughout the first season, check the soil every few days to be sure it's moist but not waterlogged.

Given our long winters, it is good to consider trees with aesthetic interest outside the growing season. Here are some cold-hardy suggestions:

Hawthorns are salt-tolerant native trees maturing at around 7 metres, good for under utility wires. 'Winter King' has copious persistent fruit that look great in winter & provide bird food.

River birch are medium-large trees with attractive and unusual pinkish-white exfoliating bark. 'Heritage' is resistant to many pests and diseases.

Kentucky coffeetrees are tall & drought-tolerant, with few pests & diseases. Their coarse-textured branches produce a striking winter effect-they deserve to be more widely planted.

For spacious sites, our native bur oak has twisting branches with corky wings; interesting in all seasons. A bur oak silhouette in winter is breathtaking. Especially if it's real cold. These massive trees tolerate both drought & intermittent flooding, & can live hundreds of years.

Happy Arbor Day – planting a tree is a wonderful activity to share with loved ones, and a great investment in the future. Tree Canada offers excellent information on tree selection and planting at: <https://treecanada.ca/resources/canadian-urban-forest-compendium/8-species-selection-and-planting/>

*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.*





**David M. Jenks** 87, passed away peacefully on November 12, 2022. He was another of our very active and long-time members for over 30 years. Dave and his wife Jane were instrumental in the Family Forest Fair in the 1998. They also co-chaired the organization of the Washington County Fair for many years.

Dave was a collector of antique Bombardier snowmobiles and a member of the Antique Snowmobile Club of America. He was a charter member of the Schroon North Hudson Snowmobile Club and a Member of ARTEC Snowmobile club. He also was a member of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, and the Schroon Lake Historical Society.

He enjoyed traveling, working in the woods, hiking, fixing things, and time with his family. He enjoyed being outside and loved to go snowmobiling and make maple syrup.

Above: Dave shows off a favorite tee shirt

Below: Dave and Jane working with the sawmill

## Coming Events....

### Annual Meeting Saturday, April 8th

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County  
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa

10am Business Meeting  
11:30 - 1pm pot luck lunch  
1 pm Presentation

Rich McDermott , NYS DEC Forester

Topics of discussion will be Carbon Credits, 480a tax law, Regenerate NY, EQUIP and DEC services for the landowner, will also touch on forest health issues.

Please bring a dish to share for the pot luck lunch, beverage and table service.

### Spring Events

We are working on two events for spring.

In April we hope to have a pruning demonstration and in May we are planning a woodswalk with Rich McDermott, DEC Forester to lead us through some state property to view some of the projects they have been working on. Neither event has a set date or time at this time. Once the plans are set for both events we will send out an email and post the details on the NYFOA website, on the SAC chapter page.



**Peter T.V. Gregory**, 86, died suddenly at his home on Monday, November 21, 2022. He was a member of NYFOA for over 25 years. He served as both vice chair and chairman of the Southern Adirondack Chapter from 1997 until 2001. He and his wife Betty hosted the annual picnic in 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree at New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University. Peter worked for NYS Department of Parks and Recreation for over 30 years until retiring as assistant regional director in May of 1995. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed all the great outdoor activities, especially hunting. Following his retirement, he cherished family time at "The Farm," a special place that he owned in Shushan, Washington County.

Above: Peter (far left)

Below: Annual Picnic at Peter and Betty's home

**At our annual meeting on April 8th we will be holding officer elections. We are still in need of a vice chairman to fill that vacant office. Our current officers will be nominated for their current positions. Any members that are interested in being added to the slate of officers for the April vote please notify:**

**Kristie Edwards via email: [edwardsk922@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com) or by phone: (518) 661-5685**

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](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com)





New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN**

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

**SAC Officers:**

Chairman :  
Bruce Cushing  
becushing@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