



# NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK**

## PRISM Findings

By Spencer Barrett, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator Capital-Mohawk PRISM

### The Overstory

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#### INSIDE

Remember When  
Coming Events  
Online Resources

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

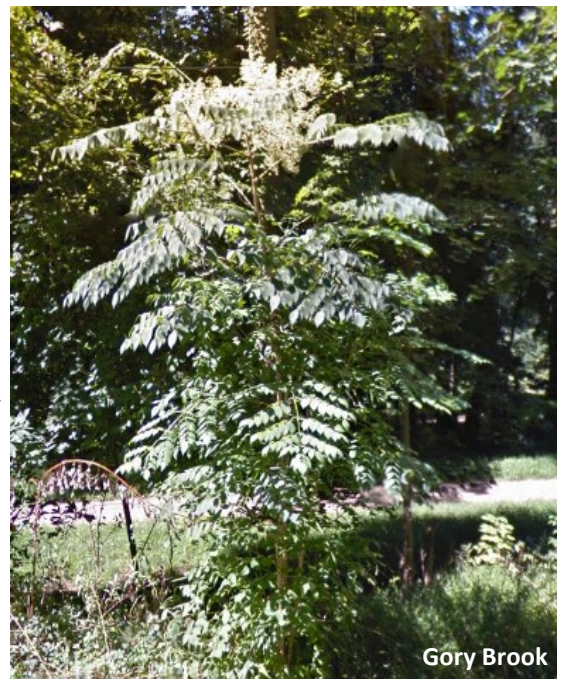
Dan Ladd, Fort Ann, NY  
John LaPann, Scituate, MA  
Lauren Whalen, Albany, NY

#### 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)

This month marks the fourth time I have written for the NYFOA newsletter. My byline notes that I am the Terrestrial Invasive Coordinator, but that leaves much of my job description up to the imagination. You may or may not know what the Capital-Mohawk PRISM is or what it does. This month, I write to clarify these issues, explain who we are, and inform you of new species of interest in the region and how you can combat these threats. This year, we have discovered a number of high priority invasive species that have not thoroughly invaded the forests and fields of the Capital and Southern Adirondack areas, and I write imploring forest owners to become familiar, stay vigilant, and report these species so we can help to keep them out of our ecosystems.

The Capital-Mohawk PRISM is one out of eight separate PRISMs operating in New York State. PRISM stands for Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, and like the name suggests, it is a group made up of very different people from many fields of employment working in coordination to prevent invasive species from causing damage to our industries and ecosystems in New York State. These partnerships are funded by the Department of Environmental Conservation through the Environmental Protection Fund in order to address the growing numbers and impact of invasive species in the State of New York, one of the main entry points for non-native and harmful species in the country. We have meetings, host events, hold trainings, and disseminate information out of our various offices, including my own at the Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Our program has grown quickly in the last year, moving from one full-time staff member to three, each with their own specialty. Forest owners represent important constituents, people who are comfortable with the natural world and can tell when something is amiss. You are eyes on the ground, private land managers who own and protect a portion of the three million acres we cover, and we cannot tackle invasive species without your help.



Gory Brook

This summer, we launched a widespread scouting project which sought to identify and categorize invasive species throughout public land across the region. We visited over 50 parks, preserves, conservation easements, and other public spaces and made reports of invasive species to the statewide database wherever we went. A number of new species were detected, which were not reported to have moved this far into the state. These species are low in number, and have the highest probability of success when considering management. I'd like to introduce you to four plant species that may become problems in the next twenty years--unless people like you and me can fight the tide of invasion and stop them in their tracks within New York.

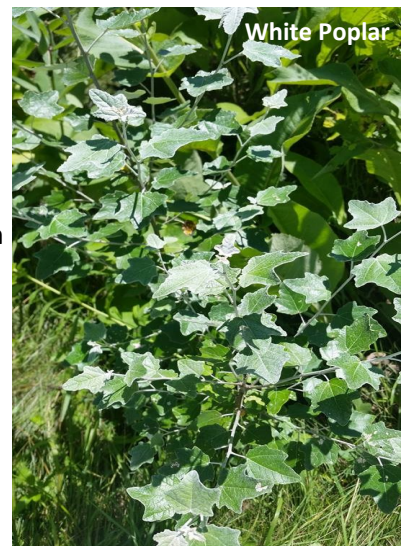
**Japanese Angelica Tree:** Never reported in the Capital Region, Japanese Angelica Tree showed up in Ballston Spa this summer with a population of saplings popping up at a municipal park. This is a species that has spread vigorously through Pennsylvania and the Lower Hudson Valley and is capable of making dense stands that inhibit other trees' ability to regenerate. Identifiable by its doubly compound leaves and thorns on both leaf and trunk, the species can be treated through herbicide but has little to no manual removal methods.



**Shrubby Bushclover:** Not only new to the PRISM, Shrubby Bushclover is a species that is new to upstate New York as a whole. Again, found in Saratoga County, this Lespedeza is in the pea family and is a quite striking ornamental plant that fixes its own nitrogen. We believe that the population we found was planted for quail habitat but has spread far beyond its original plantings and taken over field habitat in Daketown State Forest. The leaf of this plant is trifoliate and it has a pea-like pinkish purple flower.

**Asiatic Dayflower:** While not completely unknown in the Capital Region, Asiatic Dayflower has had an influx of reports in recent years and seems to be more and more active. From Schenectady and Troy to Ballston Spa, Dayflower has been popping up in semi-natural areas all across the East Coast. It gets its name from its bloom time, which is limited to a day a year. The petals of this flower are unique, with two large blue petals on top, and one small white petal underneath. The plant is relatively resistant to many common herbicides and is not very easy to remove manually, though it can be done when the soil is moist.

**White Poplar:** White poplar is another species that has been around but has recently been found creating monocultures in protected habitats in Washington and Saratoga counties. It creates root suckers like other poplars and enjoys open habitats such as fields and grasslands. The diamond marks on the trunk are one of the best ways to identify the plant, but the underside of the leaf is also quite characteristic through a white coating on the underside of the leaf. While it is found in 43 out of 48 states in the mainland United States, little attention has been given to this European tree as an invasive species. It has been banned from Connecticut but is still being sold in New York. It can be treated with the cut-stump method of herbicide application if you make sure to follow up on all the suckers that this tree is known for.



Though all of these species are known to exist in at least one other location in New York, all of them are under-reported. This lack of information is one of the biggest barriers to invasive species management in the state. As you may have heard at least a few times before, 63% of New York State is forested, and of that huge chunk of land, 76% is privately owned. This is why you personally are so important to this fight. Invasive species management is not something that can come from a purely top-down approach. We need you, land owners who care about habitat and forest health, to help us to make informed decisions about how to deal with species you see causing harm to the forests of New York. Forests represent 80% of the biodiversity of land-based species and New York has a fantastic resource that we have been charged with protecting for future generations. If you see these species on your property or otherwise, please contact us or, if outside of our service area, your local PRISM. We are here to provide information and assistance to anyone who lives within our boundaries and we need your help to do so. Invasive species pose a huge threat to our state but we're here to help.



# Saratoga Tree Nursery Tour

By: Kristie Edwards (photos by Bob Manning)

As an avid gardener I know just how much love, care and work goes into a successful growing season. The battles against the elements, bugs and nature's beasts both large and small are constant and ongoing. Between two vegetable gardens, a fruit tree orchard, blueberry bushes, flower beds and our woodlot we are constantly fertilizing, watering, weeding, planting, fencing in or harvesting something. Assisting the natural process in our woods is a yearly process, each spring we purchase a different species of tree to plant. In our mind we are helping with the regeneration process in reality we are probably just feeding the deer! Some times in the spring right after the snow melts my husband will come home with a handful of cracked and sprouting red oak acorns. I put them in soil and after a few weeks we have baby oak trees growing, when they are ready we take them out and select a place to plant them. Feeling pretty proud of our small contribution we wait for them to grow big and tall.

In comparison to our small efforts the Saratoga Tree Nursery faces many of the same battles in a much larger scale. They produce and distribute approximately 1.2 million tree and shrub seedlings annually. Imagine if you enjoy gardening, just how much work goes into that process! In September we toured the Tree Nursery, learning firsthand what is involved in producing 1.2 million plants. NY State DEC Forester, David Lee, gave us a first rate and very entertaining tour of the nursery.

The Saratoga Tree Nursery is the oldest state forest tree nursery in the country, the program was established in 1902. The Department of Environmental Conservation operates the present Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs which was established in 1911. Using local seed sources they grow over 50 native species of tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on private and public lands. The Nursery plays a vital role in our State's environmental future. Trees and other plants filter ground water, improve air and water quality, stabilize streambanks, reforest idle land, and improve aesthetic value of the landscape.

Our tour began in an open field used for growing bare root hardwood seedlings. The field had a fresh growth of cover crop over most of it but there was also many plots growing the next harvest.



Here we discuss the various hardwood seedlings growing in the field

## Coming Events...

January 19th, 2019

SAC Annual Meeting

Crandall Library

251 Glen Street, Glens Falls

- ◆ 10am - 11:30 Annual Business Meeting
- ◆ 11:30 - 2pm Break for lunch at Davidson Bros.
- ◆ **2pm Public Presentation: Wildlife Rehabilitators, How to Obtain Care for Orphaned, Injured and Otherwise Debilitated Wildlife.** Presenters-members of the North Country Wildcare with special guests: recovering wildlife.

Please RSVP if you are planning on having lunch at Davidson Bros. to Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com

## Officer Nominations...

At our next annual meeting we will have our membership will vote for new officers. A nomination committee will be formed to secure candidates for all offices. The position of chairman and vice-chairman will be open and will need to be filled. We welcome members to get involved with our chapter board operations. All offices are open to any member wishing to become more involved in our organization. We also welcome members to become involved with the steering committee. This could include coordinating events, updating our county fair booths, member education, member recruitment, community outreach, chapter archives, chapter representative to the state organization, etc. Your new ideas and participation are always welcome. If you have any interest in any of these offices, please contact Lou Inzinna at [louinz.sac@gmail.com](mailto:louinz.sac@gmail.com)

Continued from page 3

We learned about field care and crop rotation, fertilization, irrigation and crop selection. A seedling harvester was nearby it looked aged and well used. Dave explained to just how the seedling harvest process worked. We continued on to a building dedicated to the sorting, bundling and packaging of seedlings for distribution. There we learned how the trees were selected for sale, which involved inspecting the height of the seedling, the structure of the root system and other aspects important to the successful survival of the young plants.

The seedling nursery sat up on a hill under the canopy of many mature trees. The vulnerable seedlings were all fenced in for protection from the local wildlife and other harmful elements. Everywhere you looked there were rows of lush green foliage, seedlings growing in cell systems. After venturing on we completed our tour at the seed processing plant. The Nursery has a complete seed processing plant equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to extract and germinate seeds. It is one of the only large-scale seed extraction and processing facilities in the Northeast. It can harvest, clean and process all sorts of native seed from cones, fruit and pods. The seed extraction was a very impressive and memorable part of the tour, I have always wondered how one would remove seeds from a pinecone! With that and many other questions answered we moved on to the cold storage of the seeds. Seed storage is a vital part of the process. The fragile seeds are stored in a controlled environment, ensuring optimal germination for future use. Storing sufficient seed to preserve diversity of our future forests is essential.



Nursery stock is fenced in for protection



Dave describes how the bare root harvester works

## Did you know....



www.fineartamerica.com

### Pine Cones Have Genders

Conifers produce both female and male cones. Male cones shed pollen and female cones make seeds. Wind blows pollen into the female cones, pollinating the seeds.

Source:

<https://blog.pachamama.org/8-things-didnt-know-pine-trees>



# Online Resources

The History of the Saratoga Nursery: The NYS tree nursery program is over 100 years old and has played a significant role in reforesting the state.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/61187.html>

Trees for Tribes: Replanting Streams or the Hudson Valley

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html>

Current Projects of the Saratoga Nursery: The Saratoga Tree Nursery produces 1.5 million seedlings representing over 50 species annually.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/61320.html>

Nursery works with Akwesasne Mohawks and partners to plant Black Ash

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/akwesasneash.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/akwesasneash.pdf)



Here the tree seedlings are sorted and bundled for distribution



Dave describes to us how the seeds are extracted from their source

At the conclusion of the tour Dave explained to our group that not all of the seed can be collected locally. There is a need to gather seed all over the state to insure diversity in their stock. There is also a program in which they will buy seed sources from private land owners across New York State.

For more information on the New York State Tree Nursery, their spring seedling sale and some of the programs they support- please see the links in the Online Resources section above.

With the tour of the nursery complete the SAC chapter members enjoyed our Annual Picnic at the 4H Training Center in Ballston Spa. Lou Inzinna was presented the NYFOA Chapter Service Award for 2017.

Much of the information for this article was taken from the Tree Nursery website below:  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/75090.html>

# Increasing the Value of Your Timber - Get Active!

By: Dean Faklis

Some of us are lucky, but a large share of us own woodlots where the biggest and best trees have already been harvested. The owner that authorized that harvest is likely not a bad person and likely did not use faulty logic. They made an economic decision that they felt was correct for their family.

After all, the owner(s) had to carry the costs associated with growing those trees for a hundred years! For example, our hardwood trees have an annual growth rate of between 1-4% and maybe a third of those trees are marketable, giving an effective annual growth rate of around 1%. NY property tax, which is based on fair market value of the forested land, is now found between 3-5%. Even with proper forest management, section 480-A, and rosy assumptions, the economics of growing timber on private parcels is generally not favorable in NY today. Sometimes it's necessary to realize a gain to help pay the bills and the best trees become targets, mature or not. It's unfortunate for the health of our forests and wildlife that our property tax structure is hostile to growing timber.

But there is hope in getting active! If you're lucky and own forestland that has not been high graded and where someone else paid the carrying costs for a century, here's a high five! If you own high-graded woodlands, here's a high five to you too! For both classes of landowner, it's good to get active by putting the available annual timber growth on the best trees.

The Northeast Timber Growing Contest is designed to help improve the long-term productivity and health of small private woodlands in the northeastern forest through the engagement of landowners and forestry professionals in a process that includes education, research, technology transfer, and friendly competition. The timber contest was founded in 2013 and it grew from a recognition that many forest owners take pride and see value in growing the best quality trees possible on their property. Growing quality timber is one component of restoring the northeastern forest because it reflects success in controlling deer impacts, reducing interfering vegetation, and practicing good silviculture. The contest's website is full of great information and resources ([www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com)). ***It's free and takes only four hours per year to begin to grow high quality timber!***

We'd love to help you and your family get started. For example, in the most popular contest category, sample areas are identified in the woodlot and measurements are taken of tree diameter for all trees in that sample plot. Those trees are numbered and measured annually so that annual growth can be ascertained for each tree. Based on the data, thinning decisions can be made and growth can then be focused on your best trees. It's fun (and profitable!) to grow great trees. The rules that govern the measuring, scoring and judging processes can be found at [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com).

Please note that growth of just one square foot of basal area is like adding a fresh new 14" diameter tree to your woodlot. Each of these "new trees" can have an effective value of \$100-\$200 each! Some contestants have shown that it's possible to grow five such trees in one year on one acre. With proper silviculture, you can choose what this "new tree" is....wood on high quality sugar maple sawlogs or low-value beech firewood. The contest framework helps you put the growth on your best trees and use your lower quality material for projects or heat. Let the winning trees get all the light, water and nutrients.

The timber contest is loads of fun and brings the family together in the woodlot. There are several contestants that span three generations and seeing Grandma, Grandpa and the little ones hard at work measuring trees is a delightful sight! There is still time to enter your team and your woodlands for 2018 and it only takes about four hours or less.

If there are any questions or if anyone needs help measuring trees, send me an email: [dfaklis@frontiernet.net](mailto:dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Check out the timber contest website at: [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com).



Sarah, Charlie, Del and Jim are taking timber contest measurements in the mid-autumn sunshine.



## Inzinna Awarded the NYFOA Chapter Service Award

By: Donna Welch

The quality of leadership plays a major role in the success of any organization. The Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA is no exception. Over the years since its creation, SAC has had numerous effective, hard-working, and creative leaders who have spent their two years as Chair helping to make this a successful chapter, and contributing to the efficacy of our statewide organization. Several of us here know first-hand or from watching spouses and friends, that those two years as Chair are really demanding, as well as rewarding. We also know that chapters in the state that have not had leaders have disbanded or seriously diminished.

We would like present our most recent SAC Chairman, and full-time Adirondacker, Lou Inzinna the Chapter Service Award for his continuing efforts over and above what is expected of a Chapter Chair to keep the Southeastern Chapter alive and well. Lou served as Chair from 2014 to 2015, and was really effective at providing structure to

our meeting and work activities, at engaging other Chapter members to actively work on Chapter projects, and at encouraging people to host and participate in woodswalks. When his term was finished, Lou, like former Chairs, was ready to step back from the leadership responsibilities. However, when there were no candidates for Chair or Vice Chair, Lou continued to do the Chair's work, without the title, to ensure that SAC could continue to effectively serve its members and remain a viable chapter. Without his ongoing efforts, there would be no annual meeting today for us to attend. Without his work, during his term as Chair and after, there would be no deer enclosure, no storage vehicle for Chapter materials, no logging videos for the county fair exhibits. Without Lou's leadership, we would not have had the woodswalk to see the regeneration after Kurt and Kristie Edwards Seed Tree Regeneration Cut, we would not have shared our time together on Oven Mountain at Bob and Tomoko Manning's woodlot and appreciated the gorgeous views. Without Lou's ongoing leadership, we would not have continued to have the learning and camaraderie that makes us better stewards of our own woodlots.

It is with great appreciation that we give him this year's Chapter Service Award, and thank him for all he has done to keep the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter alive and well for all of us.



Kurt Edwards presenting Lou his award

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)



**NYFOA**

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN**

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