



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

The Overstory

Volume 29 Issue 2
Summer 2018

SAC OFFICERS

Chair: Vacant
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*

INSIDE

Remember When
Coming Events
Online Resources
Voracious Vines

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Edward Brown, Mayfield, NY
Rich Covell, Saratoga, NY
Steven Geunther, Hadley, NY
Rich Mascera, Brant Lake, NY
Kristopher Williams, Gansevoort, NY
Jack Worthington, Middle Grove, NY

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

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

Finch: An American Success Story

By John R. Greenwood

My interest in NYFOA and our tour of Finch Paper was one of an average citizen. I'm a simple homeowner and forest advocate not a forest owner. I grew up on about 80 acres of woodland my parents owned in Greenfield Center NY. My father harvested just enough wood for our personal use. As we toured the Finch Plant today I couldn't help but think of how much my father would have enjoyed it. As knowledgeable as I thought he was about the woods, being a member of NYFOA has made it clear that what he taught me only scratched the surface. If there was one takeaway from our Finch Tour for me today, it's how much there is to learn and how important it is to get your information from educated sources. Associations like NYFOA and companies like Finch have convinced me they've earned that designation.

It didn't take more than a few minutes inside Finch Paper for me to realize why the title on the cover of the brochure (Finch: An American Success Story) was so accurate; it was the people of Finch. From the first introduction, to the last answer of what must have been hundreds of questions that Saturday morning, it was evident that the people involved in Finch's current success are some of the most knowledgeable and dedicated individuals in the wood and paper industry. Before we saw one piece of machinery we were led to a large conference room where we were introduced to our tour guides for the day.



Group photo taken in Finch parking lot full of logs. 20 SAC members attended the tour.

Finch, continued from page 1

The very first thing that was impressed upon us was plant safety. We received a safety briefing along with, ear protection, safety vests and glasses. We were also given a wonderful history lesson about Finch's past and an optimistic commentary on its future. I don't have enough space to name each individual and their specific titles and background. I also don't want to miss acknowledging even one of them, so I will blanket my praise by saying, every single Finch employee involved in our tour—from Human Resources to the Foresters, to the employees out on the plant floor could not have been more accommodating and professional. It was an informative and eye opening experience. The care and expertise put into every sheet of paper that leaves that plant was evident from start to finish.



I knew right off the bat that I couldn't write fast enough to document all the facts and details about paper making that were given to us during the tour so I began jotting down common themes that we encountered at each station of the plant tour. One thing I found interesting was not just how much things have changed in 150 plus years of making paper, but also how much things have remained the same. The materials and chemistry have evolved greatly but the effort and need to pay attention to every small detail

throughout the process has not. Paper-making can be dangerous and frustrating. Too much or too little tension on one roller can effectively shut down an entire shift in minutes. Finite moisture and temperature control are critical. My blanket interpretation of the Finch Plant was how well everyone executed their portion of the process and how much pride they took in doing it.

Besides our well informed and detailed tour of the plant the other aspect of Finch Paper that I personally found interesting was the wide range of services the company provides. I had no idea how many aspects of timber management they have available. Another thing that impressed me was that they don't limit their services to large landowners. They will work with anyone looking for guidance regardless of whether it's a few acres or a thousand acres. That is the reason for their current success. They are constantly evolving and adjusting their business plan to meet the needs of an ever changing world and the industries in it. They know that the long term success of their business relies on the health of all forests. Whether it's an invasive plant or insect they, like NYFOA understand that knowledge and spreading that knowledge is critical to their survival.

I highly recommend going to the Finch website www.finchpaper.com. There you will find reams of more detailed information on Finch Paper history and the services they provide. Being an area resident my entire life I've passed that mill hundreds of times. I liken it to that old retired neighbor across the street that you never took the time to stop and talk to, and then found out after he passed that he was a decorated war hero. Don't wait another minute to learn a little more about the company next door. You might be surprised at how much you didn't know but wished you had. I want to thank NYFOA and Finch Paper for providing another great learning experience.



Top: Group discussion about their inventory of pulpwood

Below: The yard, logs are being sorted for production

Voracious Vines

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

Every forest has an edge; at that edge, you're likely to find vines growing in differing patterns. Some grow straight up into the canopy, climbing over tree branches to get there, some grow across the ground and through the herbaceous level, and a few (often a forester's least favorite) wrap around the trunks of trees tightly, winding their way to sunlight. Our forests of the northeast have grown up in co-evolution with many species of vines: grapes, moonseed, trumpet creeper, American wisteria, and the oft-maligned poison ivy have been here for centuries. However, the forest faces new threats in the non-native vines that have been brought over for landscaping purposes. These vines have few insects and other herbivores that target them, and as a result, threaten trees across the state.

The most famous invasive vine nationally is Kudzu. "The Vine That Ate The South" has gotten hungrier as time has gone on and now there are 40+ sites where Kudzu is located in Southern New York. Identifiable by its three pronged leaf and brilliant purple flower, Kudzu was used for erosion control and livestock forage in the south and is now firmly rooted (no pun intended) in that region. In New York, Kudzu has not had a historical presence and is still at a stage where we can stop it from spreading, though its unmatched growth rate of up to a foot a day makes it a serious threat. If you have seen Kudzu, you can report it to the DEC at (845) 256-3111, where they will request pictures to confirm the location.

The most common invasive vine in New York thankfully grows a little bit slower. Oriental Bittersweet is a woody vine that wraps around the trunks of trees as they grow, choking out the tree slowly but surely. Identifiable by its orange roots, this vine has extremely circular leaves and can be found almost anywhere in the state. It makes attractive red fruits that are encapsulated in an orange covering in the late fall that are present throughout the winter and eaten by birds, who then spread bittersweet across the countryside. To combat this plant, the entire root must be removed from the ground, which is complicated by its extreme horizontal growth and habit of snapping off when pulled. Herbicide is often the quickest way to deal with larger vines, painting the cut stump of large bittersweet immediately after cutting it is a good way to ensure that the same vine isn't threatening the same tree the next year.



Continued on page 5

Coming Events...

Annual Picnic

Saturday, September 22nd - 9am

Raindate September 29th (only if heavy rain storms)

NYS Tree Farm Tour/Saratoga State Park

Tree farm tour will begin at 9am (come dressed for the weather)

2462 St Rte 50, Saratoga Springs

The Annual Picnic will follow in Saratoga State Park

Please bring a picnic item to share (salads, fruit, chips etc...)

Hotdogs, burgers or coldcuts for a sandwich will be provided

We will be in the public picnic area, there are picnic tables but you may want a chair. Directions and more information will be sent by email and posted to the NYFOA website later this summer.

Washington

County Fair

August 20th - 26th

If you would like to volunteer to work this event contact Jane Jenks

(518) 532-1825



The Wild Side of Herbs

By Betty Densmore, Reprinted from Forest Owner Nov/Dec 1992

As you walk through your fields and forest do you ever realize that under your feet and around you are the ingredients for powerful cures, magical potions, fragrant potpourris, culinary delights and richly vivid dyes? That shamans, medicine men, Druids, witches, apothecaries and colonial housewives would have gathered baskets of treasured herbs that you pass by? It wasn't until my tiny herb garden exploded into a yard full of domesticated varieties that I began to realize how many occur in the wild.

Herbs are said to be "useful plants", not a very satisfactory definition. Perhaps, plants valued for their medicinal, savory or aromatic qualities is better. Dozens of plants that are officially recognized as herbs occur in New York State. One of the remarkable things about them is how many are aliens introduced by Colonists. Consider the ubiquitous chicory, comfrey, coltsfoot, mints, catnip, mullein, mustard, tansy, yarrow and even burdock...all were introduced to North America.

Native herbs were necessities which have long been harvested by farmers and gatherers for family use and as cash crops. Boneset was widely used by Confederate troops for controlling malaria and fevers. Joe Pye Weed (named after an Indian doctor) made a tonic. Ginseng is used by the Chinese for many cures but especially to prolong sexual potency into the golden years. (It works to judge from their population figures). Bee Balm, also called Oswego Tea and bergamot, makes a soothing tea and is also used in potpourri. False hellebore, one of Spring's earliest plants, and often mistaken for skunk cabbage, is used for heart trouble. It has an action similar to digitalis, but is said to be more powerful. Its roots yield a potent insecticide.

Continued on page 6



Bee Balm

© AmericanMeadows.com

Did you know....



Wikipedia

There is a tree named Pando that is technically an entire forest. It is a clonal colony of 4700 Aspens in Utah that all share the same root system.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pando_%28tree%29

Online Resources

Find A Forester

A forester is a specialist with advanced education, using his or her abilities and knowledge of forestry and natural sciences to provide professional forestry services to private individuals, corporate and government entities. Whatever your goals are for your woodlot, a professional forester can help. A forester can provide you with the technical expertise to help with a variety of services including improving conducting a timber sale, creating forest trails, creating wildlife habitat, or planting trees. The type of forester you should choose will depend on the type of service and complexity of the service you are interested in.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5230.html>

Vines, continued from page 3

Empire Forests for the Future Initiative

The Empire Forests for the Future Initiative is a multi-part program whose goal is to protect and enhance the health, quality and sustainability of trees and forests across New York State. The proposal would reform the current forest tax law to increase sustainable production from the forest products industry; adopt voluntary, sustainable harvesting guidelines; implement a timber harvesting notification system; create a wood product procurement preference; and establish cost share forest management practice and community forest grant programs.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/112691.html>

Insect, Plant and Plant Disease Identification at the Diagnostic Lab

The Forest Health Diagnostic Lab is committed to helping the citizens of New York resolve their troubles with insects and plants. We are available year-round to identify your insects, plants, and plant and tree diseases.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79716.html>

Swallowworts come in two varieties, pale and black. They are difficult to tell apart when vegetative, but grow five-petaled, star-shaped flowers in either purple-black or pinkish-white coloration depending on the species. These flowers bloom in mid-summer and have been seen blooming since the start of June. This species is of special concern due to its effect on pollinators; monarch butterflies think that its milkweed and lay eggs on it that hatch into caterpillars that consume this poisonous plant. Since it is related to milkweed, it produces bean-like seed pods that burst open with fluffy seeds that are spread by the wind. This has resulted in the Hudson River being one of the main corridors that this plant has spread by, all the way north into the Adirondacks. It is also notoriously hard to remove manually, though a foliar spray application of herbicide can do the trick.

Japanese Hops is either new to the Albany area, or we may have just started paying closer attention in recent years. This is not the hops used in producing beer, it's a five-lobed, non-native variety that has small hooks on the bottom of the large leaf. Sometimes mistaken for Bur Cucumber, the species have very different fruit and Hops is identifiable by those hooking hairs previously mentioned. Bur cucumber also has tendrils that reach out to find new places to grow, the tendrils are tightly spiraling, which is the most identifiable difference between the two plants. Fortunately, this is another vine that does not have a strong presence in the region right now, so it is especially important to report this one to your local PRISM.

I unfortunately don't have the space to cover all the invasive vines that threaten our trees, they are quite numerous. Not making the cut, I encourage responsible forest owners to research other threats to their property, such as chocolate vine, non-native wisterias, wintercreeper, mile-a-minute vine, periwinkles, porcelainberry, English ivy, and Japanese honeysuckle. Fragmentation of our forests has opened plenty of powerlines, roadsides, and property boundaries that makes perfect vine habitat due to the increased sunlight that is now up for the opportunistic plant to take advantage of. Often, humans are responsible for bringing these quick-growing species here and it will take a concerted effort on our part to stop these plants from taking over these areas and then our backyards. If there are any questions regarding the management of non-native vines, don't hesitate to contact your local PRISM office.

Spencer Barrett can be reached at the Capital Mohawk PRISM office by email sb685@cornell.edu





Many of the alien herbs are credited with the healing powers as well. Foxglove is the source of digitalis. Comfrey is used for poultices, elecampane for colds, valerian as a sedative and on and on.

Angelica is a splendid plant. With its huge leaves and thick stalks it seems almost tropical. It grows lush and big and smells delicious when cut. I find a place in my garden for it every year and a friend comes to dig the root to use in making Drambuie (a typical NYFOA member!). Colts foot is that lovely yellow blossom that is one of spring's first flowers and one that brightens many woodsroad. Catnip seems to be around every cellar hole in Western New York. If you can't find it, your cat can!

Herbs are surrounded by myths and legends. Caraway is used in love potions, the root of catnip, when chewed, is said to make the most gentle person fierce and quarrelsome, yarrow is reputed to have conjuring powers. Sew an ounce of yarrow in a square of flannel, put it under your pillow and during the night your true love is supposed to appear in a dream. Garlic appears in many religious rites; the ancient Egyptians invoked its name in taking oaths, Homeric legend has garlic saving Ulysses from the fate of companions who were changed into pigs by Circe. During the great plague in Europe a house in which garlic was stored recorded no losses to the Black Death.....very possibly it kept everything and everybody away! Legend says: "When Satan stepped out from the Garden of Eden after the fall, Garlic sprang up from the spot where he placed his left foot, and onion from that where his right foot touched."

Love potions and visions aside, herbs have practical uses to those of us who spend time in the forest. I always crush some pennyroyal or tansy leaves between my palms and wipe my hands on my face, arms and hair before going to the woods during black fly and deer fly season. This works as well as commercial insect repellents and I haven't exposed myself to Ndiethyl-tolumide or Hexanediol (whatever THEY are!).

Bee Balm makes lovely tea, is a fine cut flower and delicious to have around with its citrusy odor. It also makes a handsome dried flower. Chicory has long been a coffee additive and sometime substitute. Tansy is used in making Chartreuse liqueur and wild mustard in pickling. The uses of herb are many.

If you ever chance upon valerian in bloom you'll be overwhelmed by its lovely perfume. Know that the roots produce an excellent sedative. Bedstraw produces a dye, through its primary use was to stuff mattresses long ago. Every ditch seems loaded with fragrant bedstraw in the summer. Goldenrod with its 80 varieties is useful as a dye plant. Even if you are not in need of sedatives, or mattress stuffing, and don't like Chartreuse it seems that a nodding acquaintance with the most common herbs that grow on you property is worthwhile. You can dazzle your city friends with some of the wonderful legends as well as introduce children to the delights of fragrant mints, catnip, and others. Besides, it just might fit into some Machiavellian scheme of yours to be able to identify poisonous Nightshades, monkshood and other deadly plants!

I have dealt with only a few of the most common herbs that grow on or near my property. Peterson's FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS lists dozens of others as occurring in New York State. I keep hoping to happen upon two of my personal favorites: Wood-Betony and Sweet Cicely. One of the great pluses of chapter woodswalks is that foresters and knowledgeable members often point out rare or interesting plants. As my knowledge of what I'm seeing increase so does my enjoyment of the wild side of herbs.

Southeastern Adirondack Chapter Social Media Person Needed

By Lou Inzinna

The Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA is a diverse mix of friends, acquaintances, experienced and inexperienced woodland owners. We share in the fact that we love and care for the outdoors. Many of us spend as much time as we can in our woods, hiking, clearing trails, cutting firewood, watching animals just to name a few. Some of us share our experiences at our meetings, woods walks, picnics and general gatherings. Some of us are computer savvy and some, not so much.

The world is changing so fast and Social Media has a huge part in this change. NYFOA is starting to become more user friendly through its updated website (<https://www.nyfoa.org/>). NYFOA even has a Facebook presence (<https://www.facebook.com/The-New-York-Forest-Owners-Association-481274978599327/>) hosted by our own Bob Manning.

We have one of the best chapter Newsletters that comes out three times a year. However to connect with our members in a more timely matter, we need to add an additional form of communication. **We need someone** to explore the use of Social Media for the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, whatever makes sense. This task would not take a lot of time especially for someone that has experience. It will open up a new opportunity to communicate with members that are too busy to participate in chapter activities.

We need you! Please contact one of the SAC Steering Committee members on the following page if you are able to help us. You can help our Chapter! Please Help SAC Enter the Social Media World!



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



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN
ADIRONDACK CHAPTER**

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

SAC Officers:

Chairman - Vacant

Vice Chairman - Vacant

Treasurer:

Robert Manning
bobmanning@frontiernet.net
(518) 251-4638

Secretary:

William Burke
liamsb46@gmail.com

Steering Committee Members:

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

Lou Inzinna
Louinz.sac@gmail.com
(518)374-1490

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

Ed & Donna Welch
trautwei@gmail.com