



Newsletter

Southern Finger Lakes Chapter

NY Forest Owners Association



January 2018

Marty Borko – Jeff Joseph – Carol Holden – Brett Chedzoy – Bill Randall – Jeromy Biazzo

The **mission** of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapter and statewide activities such as woods walks and tours, the bi-monthly New York Forest Owner magazine, and affiliation with other organizations with similar objectives, NYFOA helps woodland owners to achieve their management objectives for their properties and encourages the appreciation of the qualities and importance of New York's forests.

Welcome to new SFL chapter members!

Renee Thomas – Bartow, NY
Jay Schissell – Erin, NY
Glenn Swan – Freeville, NY

Message from the Chapter Chair

Changes are coming for our Chapter Newsletter!! Starting with this issue, we will be changing to our new digital color format distributed by email. This change will allow us to provide greater content for local and regional forestry issues and our local and regional chapter events. Distribution electronically will also help us reduce the costs of distributing our newsletter, which will help support other items such as chapter events, speaker presentations, and donations. We are asking for your help with this change by making sure we have your current email information. Please send your email information to: Bob Barton robarton@fltg.net. Anyone that is not able to receive emails should contact me at (607) 387-9224, so we can continue to provide mail delivery.

We are now in the middle of winter and have experienced some bruising winter weather so far for several months now. The days are growing longer and we can look forward neighboring NYFOA chapters. As we work to take advantage of our redesigned website, we will be putting our events

into it. NYFOA has invested a good bit of time in this redesign. A modern logo is now being used NYFOA wide...all part of an effort to “brand NYFOA” and its publications.

For no good reason that I can find, there seem to be far fewer insects around, biting or otherwise. The wind often moderated the usual impact of biting gnats and flies. Insects weren't absent, but there were just fewer. There are barn swallows every year in the barn, but we notice when they leave, because the biting insects rebound. Not this year. We noticed the same on our fields with buckwheat: very few fritillaries and flies visiting the blossoms. Bees, yes, thanks to a generous beekeeper seeking buckwheat honey. People with some knowledge of these ecological observations should email us with their thoughts as to why the woods performed for us this year! I would appreciate it.

As most of us have reported, the mast from nut trees and the seeds on other trees were significantly above average. Some conifers that have never had seed cones were covered, and the maples really put out an abundance of seeds.

Be sure to attend the Levatich Memorial Winter Seminar this year in February. Details are on page 7.
-Bob Barton – Chair robarton@fltg.net

NYFOA News -
Board and Chapter Chairs:

**Message from Charles Stackhouse, NYFOA
President**

At the June 2017 meeting, the NYFOA Board agreed to retain a professional staff person to assist us with chapter support and membership growth. I am delighted to report that we have retained a candidate with outstanding qualifications to serve NYFOA as Director of Organization Development. His name is Michael Zagata, and he will begin his new assignment with us on January 15, 2018. Mike's impressive resume includes a PhD in Wildlife Ecology, years of experience in environmental health and safety with the energy industry, service as the DEC Commissioner for NYS, and as President and CEO of the Ruffed Grouse Society. We are very optimistic that Mike's background, vision and energy will help expand NYFOA's reach to our state's private forest owners.

Events of Interest

January 17 to February 21, 2018; Introduction to Tree Fruit Production. An online course from the Cornell Small Farms Program will be offered. Webinars will be held from 7-8:30 PM every Wednesday, and recorded for later viewing. This course trains beginning tree fruit growers in fundamental concepts in orchard planning and management. To register, visit <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/>.

January 18-20, 2018; The Christmas Tree Farmers Association of NY will hold its 2018 winter convention at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, Syracuse at 441 Electronics Parkway. More information on the convention and a downloadable registration forum can be found at www.christmastreeny.org/Meetings.php.

January 19, 2018; Beginners Maple School is scheduled for 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the American Maple Museum; 9756 State Route 812 (Main Street) in Croghan. Cost is \$5 per person. The event is free for 4-H and FFA members. Contact Michele Ledoux (mel14@cornell.edu); (315) 376-5270.

January 20th, 2018 - Winter Maple School - American Maple Museum, 9756 State Route 812 (Main Street) in Croghan. Registration begins at 9 AM. Workshops run from 9:15 to 2:45 PM. Pre-

registration is \$15 per person, due January 16. Walk-ins accepted. Contact Michele Ledoux (mel14@cornell.edu); (315)376-5270.

January 20, 2018; Shitake Workshop. 9 AM to 4 PM at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, 323 Owego Street, Montour Falls. Topics will cover aspects of production important to selling mushrooms in NY, including safety, sanitation, marketing, and regulations. Those who attend one of the workshops or the online livestream are eligible to participate in an advance training group and receive one-on-one support for the 2018 growing season. Cost is \$30 per person. Register at: www.cornelmushrooms.org/viability.

January 23, 2018, 6 PM - 7:30 PM; Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop for Landowners and Public; New York State Hemlock Initiative and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association. South Bristol Town Hall; 6500 W Gannett Hill Rd, Naples. Charlotte Malmberg of the Initiative, will provide information on the identification of hemlock trees and HWA, management strategies for landowners, and information on the history and fate of HWA across the region. The new CU Bio-control Research Lab will be discussed. A licensed pesticide applicator will be on hand to answer questions about the various treatment options available to landowners.

January 24, 2018; 6 PM. NYFOA SOT Chapter Program and Pot Luck Dinner. "Following the Wild Bees" presented by Tomas Seeley, from the Cornell Department of Neurobiology and Behavior. Presentation at Cornell Cooperative Extension - 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton.

January 25, 2018; Learning Circle - "Conservation Values - Your Land is Your Legacy", 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Livingston County Center, 3360 Gypsy Lane in Mount Morris. Learning Circles are for women land owners and managers who would like to get together with other women and share information about conservation and land stewardship. Call Joan Sinclair Petzen (jsp10@cornell.edu), (585) 786-2251, ext 122 to register. A second event will be held on February 15, 2018 at the same location.

January 26, 2018; The 2018 Clinton County Maple School is scheduled for a 4-8 PM event at Miner Institute in Chazy. Topics include: forest tent

caterpillars, best management practices to promote sugar bush health, and prevention of off-flavors in maple products. The evening concludes with an open forum and Q&A on syrup trends and other topics. The event will be followed by a meeting of the NEN&Y Maple Produces Association. Contact Sara Bull (slk95@cornell.edu; (518) 561-7450).

February 23-24-25, 2018. NY Farm Show, State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY. Free programs to help landowners get benefits from their woodlots will be presented each day during the 2018 Farm Show in Syracuse by the New York State Forest Owners Association. Meet with a forester from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or speak with a Cornell trained volunteer.

March 21, 2018; 6 PM. NYFOA SOT Chapter Program – Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Regeneration. Chris Tcimpidis of Bevan Forestry is the featured speaker. As a consulting forester, wildlife specialist and certified pesticide applicator, he will discuss the control of invasive and interfering vegetation, silvaculture and deer management with regards to forest regeneration. Included will be how to apply for EQIP Regeneration Programs funding. Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY.

April 21, 2018: NYFOA 2018 Annual Meeting. ESF campus in Syracuse. Included is a silent auction coincident with the annual meeting. The auction's beneficiaries for 2018 have been selected and are NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team, and NYFOA's Woodlands Mini Grants.

Annual Dues: Our dues year begins in January!

Woodland Owners Helping Woodland Owners

Trained and certified woodland owner volunteers are available to visit other owners and provide non-technical educational assistance in support of sustainable forest management. Contact a Regional Director for a free site visit by an MFO volunteer. Southern Tier contact is Brett Chedzoy; bjc226@cornell.edu; (607) 535-7161.

Fall 2017 SFLC Woods Walk

On September 30, 2017 the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter had an enjoyable walk in the woods of Jayne Port and Lew Ward whose land is at 246 Smith Road in Newfield, NY. This walk was very informative for learning about managing small family woodlots for wildlife, wildflowers, timber and recreation. In addition to hearing about Lew and Jayne's many years of effort, improvement, and



Lew Ward explaining special aspects of woods that he has worked over more than a decade.

management practices, forestry expert Brett Chedzoy of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County was on hand to provide additional information regarding forest management and helped answer individual questions.



Brett Chedzoy offering ideas and concepts at Lew Ward's and Jayne Port's woods.

Cornell Launches \$1.2M Bio-Control Laboratory to Address Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

Cornell University in Ithaca, NY announced in November 2017 plans to launch and develop a new bio-control laboratory to help counter the spread of HWA. The laboratory, partially funded by the NYSDEC, is focused primarily on the elimination of the adelgid, an insect which threatens hemlock trees in the area and the northeast. Cornell entomologist Mark Whitmore, the leader of the research and initiative, indicates that biological control, or biocontrol, is a term used to describe the use of natural enemies within an ecosystem to eliminate a specific species.

The laboratory will therefore focus on researching the best predatory insects to HWA to later establish in ecosystems throughout New York. The laboratory currently has 2,600 of the predatory beetle species *Laricobius Nigrinus*. The Initiative plans on having up to 26,000 beetles for release in the fall of 2018. The Initiative is intending to engage more people around the state that are interested in

this issue and raise HWA awareness. Interested landowners can contact the Initiative and provide information regarding forested land including: legal protection status like a conservation easement, common boundary with any state owned property like a state forest or wildlife management area; when HWA was first noticed on a parcel, and how widespread it is.

At this point with the limited amount of bio-controls available, the biggest way private land owners can help is by providing food material to feed the laboratory colony. This would be through the collection of infested foliage from the trees with



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid cottony masses in new branchlets.

the heaviest HWA infestations.

Cornell's project is also interested in cataloging sites with hemlock hedges. A hemlock hedge can either be a planted landscaped hedge, or collection of natural trees that forms a wall of dense growth (likely on the edge of a forest clearing or yard). The hope is to use these hedges as field insectaries to grow bio-control beetles on. If it appears that a property could support Cornell's project in any of these ways, or if there any additional questions contact Nicholas Dietschler (nd283@cornell.edu).

Free Online Course: Creating a Community-Based Deer Management Plan

Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources (Human Dimensions Research Unit and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension) has developed an online educational course—Creating a Community-based Deer Management Plan—aimed at supporting community leaders, wildlife

professionals, and Cooperative Extension educators in creating community-based deer management plans.

The course reviews the essential elements of a complete community-based deer management plan with real-world examples developed by communities across the United States. The course also includes brief educational videos featuring wildlife professionals, academics, non-profit personnel, and community leaders.

The online course is accessible via the Community Deer Advisor website (www.deeradvisor.org), or by browsing courses at <https://canvas.instructure.com>. The Community Deer Advisor, a collaboration between Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources (Human Dimensions Research Unit and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension) and The Nature Conservancy, is aimed at providing guidance as communities progress through a community-based deer management decision-making process.

The purpose of this online course is to help community leaders understand the components of a community-based deer management plan. For any further information or have questions about the course contact Dr. Emily Pomeranz; Department of Natural Resources; Cornell University; Email: efp33@cornell.edu.

About Us:

The NYFOA SFL Chapter Newsletter is published for our chapter members three times a year in early spring, fall, and winter. We always welcome news, events, or any information of interest to those managing or caring for woodlots in the Southern Finger Lakes area. Send articles for our newsletter to James Edwards, edwards855@gmail.com. It's best to send pictures in jpeg format. Articles with about 500 words or less are best for us to include.

Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Steering Committee

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Join NYFOA

Join Us! Whether you simply read our magazine, attend meetings, take part in planned events or become a volunteer, you can enjoy the many benefits of being a NYFOA member. Join members on "woods walks" and tours to stimulate enthusiasm for good stewardship and goal-oriented woodland

management. Receive the New York Forest Owner bimonthly magazine as well as chapter newsletters. Attend state-wide meetings as well as numerous local educational events. Become part of a local chapter to establish relationships with neighboring woodland owners to share experiences and successes related to ownership of forest property. Benefit from our affiliation with other organizations with similar objectives, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension. Become part of a larger voice advocating for sound forest management practices. Be able to subscribe to the hardcopy edition of the popular magazine Northern Woodlands at a reduced rate (\$15/year). Membership includes: Six issues of the FOREST OWNER magazine, woodswalks, chapter meetings and statewide meetings for all members. Membership is not limited to landowners! Contact Us: NYFOA, PO Box 541 Lima, NY 14485, PHONE: 800-836-3566, EMAIL: info@nyfoa.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

On the Lighter Side

Lew Ward offered the following from his readings. By William Cullina, the book is titled Understanding Perennials (2009) and contains this quote on page 185:

... I think every gardener has to come to terms with the fact that plants die—sometimes from our own mistakes and sometimes because of things like hurricanes, floods, and insect invasions that are beyond our control, and some within it. Cultivation, then, is learning to accept the things we cannot change, having the tools to change the things we can, and the experience (or reference book) to know the difference. Wait a minute---I haven't seen that on a bumper sticker?

Garlic Mustard

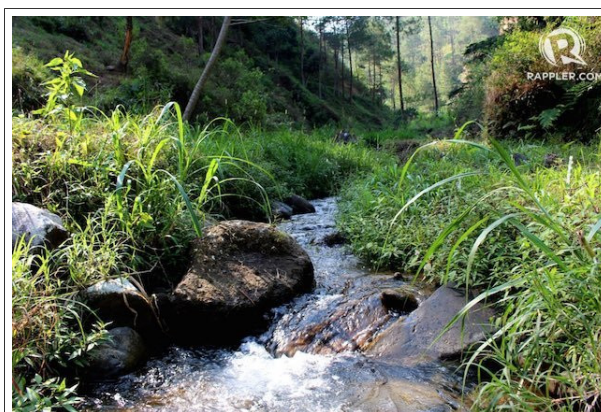
Another interesting item that Lew has found for you is a YouTube video about 9 minutes long. Garlic Mustard, a nonnative biennial has a number of interesting properties. You can find this video at <https://youtu.be/-3odmy6rg4k> [For those of you who received this newsletter by email, you can view this directly by hovering your cursor over this web address and click it. It is a hotlink. If you only have hard copy, you need to type in the web address above into your browser on your computer.]

This video examines the web of life in the forest of NY State and really North America. It is a fascinating web of life.

A Slashed Forest That Came Back

Continuing the theme mentioned above, that of the web of life in the forest, here is an article that really shows this concept.

It sets up in a remote village trying to grow rubber trees and sell the latex. The river they use to water the trees often dried up for years at a time. This made the rubber trees unable to survive, let alone offer the latex; the trees needed water. When the droughts happened, they lost their livelihood. Most of the drought was more caused by heavy



Banyans to the rescue This formerly dried-out stream is once more alive and vibrant due to Sadiman's tireless efforts and the water-retaining properties of the banyan trees he had the foresight to plant.

logging and subsequent deforestation.

One resident thought about the situation and wanted to do something about it. He knew about the banyan tree's ability to store water in its growth area, so he wanted to plant banyan trees in the drought area, in order to get the reforestation going. Over a 19 year period he was able to plant 250 acres. One obstacle he had was that banyan tree plants were very expensive. So he devised to buy clove trees at low expense. Cloves can be sold, so he planted clove trees to get money to buy banyan trees. Over time, he and others reforested the drought stricken and slashed land to prevent drought. Since he began, no droughts have occurred and the river is running again.

This article may be found at <http://matteroftrust.org/15113/this-indonesian-man->

[single-handedly-saves-his-village-from-starvation.](#)

The picture was copied from this same article.

NYFOA at the NYS Farm Show

Every year NYFOA offers forestry related seminars at the Farm Show at the NYS Fairgrounds. Please see the last page of this newsletter where we have listed the seminars given by experts in forestry and how to get the most out of your woodlands.

2018 Peter Levatich Memorial Seminar for Rural Landowners *Enjoying Your Woods for More Than the Trees*

Saturday, February 17th 9:30 am to Noon

@Spencer-Van Etten High School, State Route 34, Spencer



The Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the NY Forest Owners Association (www.nyfoa.org) invite you to their popular annual seminar. Cornell's State Maple Specialist, Steve Childs, will discuss how to assess the potential for maple production in your woods, as well as tips for getting started in sugarmaking. Wildlife expert and author,

Linda Spielman, will talk about identifying wildlife signs in the winter woods based on her new book:

A Field Guide to Tracking Mammals in the Northeast. **Attendance is free and open to the public!**

Pre-registration is NOT required, but questions can be referred to Brett Chedzoy at Schuyler CCE:

bjc226@cornell.edu, or by phone: 607-535-7161. In the case of cancellation due to extreme weather, notification will be posted by 9:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10th at CCE's

forestry forum: www.cornellforestconnect.ning.com



Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County
Schuyler County Human Services Complex
323 Owego Street, Unit #5
Montour Falls, NY 14865

Farm Show 2018, NYFOA Seminars Schedule

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22

11 AM Working With Your DEC Service Forester
Matt Swayze, NY Dept of Environmental Conservation
1 PM Insects and Diseases that Threaten Your Woods
Kim Adams, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
2 PM Making Maple Syrup for Fun and Profit
Stephen Childs, Cornell Maple Program
3 PM Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements
Michael Fournier, US Dep't of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

10 AM Making Income from Your Forest
Rich Taber, Cooperative Extension Service Chenango County
11 AM Silviculture-What it Means to Manage Your Woods
Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University
1 PM 8 Steps for a Healthy and Productive Sugarbush
Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University

2 PM Managing Your Land for Recreation
Diane Kuehn, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
3 PM Silvopasturing: Trees and Animals Can Live Together
Brett Chedzoy, Cooperative Extension Service Schuyler County

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24

10 AM Managing Deer and Timber
Brian Underwood, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Ctr, SUNY Coll. Of Env. Sci, & For.
11 AM Professional Foresters Can Help You Have a Successful Timber Sale
Brad Wentworth, Forecon Inc. Cortland NY
1 PM The Law: Rights and Responsibilities of Woodlot Owners
Timothy Frateschi Esq. Frateschi Law Firm, Syracuse
2 PM Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements
Michael Fournier, US Dep't of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
3 PM Working Safely in the Woods
Michael Burns, NY Center for Ag. Medicine & Health