



Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Forest Owners Association



September 2013

FALL EVENTS



New York Forest Owners Association Southern Finger Lakes Chapter



Peter Levatich's "Hobnob" Forest
158 Bailor Rd, Brooktondale, NY 14817

Saturday, October 5th 9 – 12 noon

A ~ 1 mile woods walk through the 130-acre *Hobnob Forest* with owner Tim Levatich. Started in 1975 by Tim's father, Peter, recreation was an early and constant focus, along with growing prime saw timber and firewood. Management planning, NYDEC service foresters, the American Tree Farm System, boundary line maintenance, regeneration work, repeated pre-commercial thinnings, and extensive road building were all part of its development. There are many things to see and topics to discuss surrounding 38 years of intensive management on this family forest. We will also look at challenges to regenerating the next forest. Please come and learn from our mistakes, so you can have a head start in your own woods. Sponsored by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the NY Forest Owners Association. Free and open to the public. Children are welcome if properly supervised. Porta-potty on site. Light refreshments will be served in the morning. Rain or shine so please dress for the weather! For more information, please contact Tim at: tpl10@cornell.edu or by phone at: [607-592-5126](tel:607-592-5126).

Woodlot Thinning Workshop at the Neuhauser Tree Farm
434 West Groton Rd. in Groton, NY

Saturday, October 26th 9 – 12 noon

Woodlots are often overstocked with too many trees and should be "weeded" much like a garden to promote the growth and health of the best individuals. Harvested trees can be utilized for firewood, lumber or other timber products. This hands-on workshop will guide woodland owners through the principals of two thinning methods, and discuss how to select the "best" trees based on management objectives. Sponsored by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the NY Forest Owners Association. Free and open to the public. Rain or shine so dress for the weather! A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP for the lunch count to Brett Chedzoy of Schuyler CCE at: [607-535-7161](tel:607-535-7161), or by email at: bjc226@cornell.edu

Chairman's Message

I observe that this summer's weather has been outstanding for seedling or small tree plantings done last spring. The heavy rains throughout the growing season have really helped to establish these guys. As many tree planters know, a lack of moisture during the first year really compromises the seedlings, since their roots need establishment from the get-go. The downside of rain surplus really targets more agricultural aspects, such as vegetables and grains, and soil erosion. Forests serve the great purpose of sponging up a lot of water, for slow release. Based on the ditches running most of the summer, it seems the forests are pretty saturated. Good for tree growth, though! And the mushrooms have been really plentiful.

The Finger Lakes National Forest is trying to reestablish butternuts in that forest. If any of you, within 50 miles of that forest, know of butternut trees that have no canker and full crowns, please advise me directly. I will notify the research team, so that they might evaluate the specimens and perhaps take scion wood for grafting to rootstock for possible plantings in the forest. If you know the provenance of the tree, that would be really helpful, too.

The SFL Chapter has two wonderful woods walks coming in October. We encourage your participation during a really nice time of the year, and perhaps you might bring a friend or two who might enjoy these Saturday morning events. Hope to see you there!

If any of you have friends or acquaintances who might enjoy receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please feel free to forward their email addresses to Claron Holden <cbholden@frontiernet.net>. We promise no spam! Just stuff about your woods!

Robert Barton - Chair

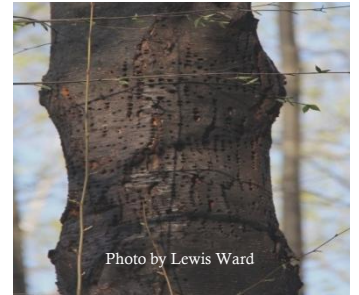
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

By Marty Borko, Barton

The yellow-bellied sapsucker is one of two woodpeckers considered summer residents (breeders if you like) in New York forested lands. They reside in mixed hardwood as well as conifer-mixed hardwood throughout most of upstate New York reaching highest densities in the higher elevations of the Catskills and Adirondacks.



During spring migration they visit a great variety of tree species, hardwoods and softwoods with the birch being a particular favorite. They proceed to drill a horizontal row of feeding holes that exude sap from the cambium layer's xylem. They do this to several trees and then make rounds to collect the sap as well as the many insects that were attracted to the rows of feeding holes.



The tongue of this black and white woodpecker, with a little red on its crown and a yellow wash on its belly and breast, is unlike most woodpeckers. Most have a spear-tipped tongue whereas the yellow-bellied sapsucker has a sponge tip. Summer and fall sap comes from the cambium's phloem, which is richer in nutrient than the spring sap. Sapsuckers usually drill a nest cavity, most commonly lay 4 white eggs that hatch out to the loudest begging young I have experienced in doing

two NYS Breeding-Bird Surveys.

Several references make note of the positive correlation over the last two decades of the increase in the yellow-bellied sapsucker and the ruby-throated hummingbird. This would be particularly true in areas of denser forested lands where flower nectar is scarce. Hummingbirds regularly feed at the feeding rows along with many warblers.

Some may ask does this drilling damage trees? Most apple orchards have survived with extensive evidence of drilling and many forest trees show this with no apparent harm. Occasionally a tree or two will be lost but this species has evolved in concert with the Northeastern deciduous forest.

Remember that all the songbirds are protected by International Bird Treaties.

New York Forest Owners Association SFLC Steering Committee Officers

Bob Barton – Chapter Chairman
Robarton@fltg.net

Jeff Joseph – Chapter Designated State
Board Director
jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com

Secretary – Brett Chedzoy
Bjc226@cornell.edu

Ed Neuhauser – At-large State Board
Member

Treasurer – Scott Smith
Ses83@cornell.edu

edward.neuhauser@gmail.com

Newsletter layout – Clar & Carol Holden (Carol's photos of mushroom workshop)
cbholden@frontiernet.net



Planting Black Locust for Profit

By Brett Chedzoy (bjc226@cornell.edu)

Black locust is one of the most beneficial and potentially profitable trees that can be planted in the Northeast. Some notable qualities include fast growth, ease of establishment, and a highly-durable and dense wood that is ideal for firewood, posts and outdoor applications. Black locust is also a nitrogen-fixing legume that is good for “naturalizing” areas by allowing other trees and shrubs to grow beneath its light shade.

The most significant pest of black locust is the Locust Borer, which can damage and occasionally kill young trees. Vigorous, fast-growing locust are considered to be much less susceptible to borer damage than those struggling to grow on poor sites, or due to drought or weed competition. Adult borers emerge in late summer and feed on goldenrod pollen before laying eggs on the bark of young locust, so controlling this food source through mowing or spraying may help reduce borer populations and damage.

Black locust has the potential to be a profitable timber crop if properly managed. The selection of quality planting stock, good site preparation, and maintenance until trees are well established will enhance the growth, survival and profitability of the plantation. There is considerable genetic variation in black locust for straightness. Care should be taken to select planting stock from “improved” (straight) selections of locust to maximize the yield of usable posts and sawtimber.

After planting approximately 700 trees/acre (~ 8' x 8' spacing), thinning should occur about every five years starting at year fifteen. For best results, cull the smaller and poorer quality trees for posts and firewood in each thinning. The plantation can be managed on a short rotation (< 25 years) for posts, or longer rotation for posts, poles and sawtimber. Round posts from locust are currently in high demand and sell for \$6 to \$12, depending on size and quality. Poles can be worth several times that, and are also in demand for applications like hops plantation trellises, pilings and pole barn construction. Black locust lumber retails for \$3 to \$6 per board foot. Once a plantation reaches maturity based on the desired mix of products, the remaining trees can be clearcut during the dormant season to stimulate vigorous regrowth from coppice (stump sprouts) and root sucker. These second-growth plantations will have a high number of stems per acre and will require thinning at an earlier age to promote the growth of the best individuals.



This locust plantation on our farm in Watkins Glen was 20 years old at the time of the photo. It has been thinned at 16, 20 and 24 years of age. Approximately \$1500/acre of fence posts have been harvested in the three thinnings (using a value of \$5/post). The best quality trees are left and will eventually be harvested for a combination of products, including sawtimber. Sheep and goats can be seen grazing in the background on the grasses and forbs that grow well beneath the locust canopy.

Picture highlights from the Mushroom Field Day at Cornell's Arnot Forest, May. 2013



Dr. Ken Mudge showing how to drill holes for inoculation.



Dr Mudge putting a sawdust spawn plug in holes.



Dr. Mudge showing the hot wax to seal holes.



Waxing holes filled with sawdust spawn.



Participants drilling holes.



A suggested method for stacking your mushroom logs.



Shiitake mushrooms fruiting.



Dr. George Hudler explaining a growth on a tree.

Come and join our group of New York Forest Owners, a not-for-profit organization which supports sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands. Regular annual dues are just \$30.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family.

Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 www.nyfoa.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County

Schuyler County Human Services Complex

323 Owego Street, Unit #5

Montour Falls, NY 14865