

Treelines

Fall 2018



Upcoming Chapter Events

Wightman Lumber Specialty Woods Tour

146 County Highway 35A,
Portlandville, NY 13834
Friday, Sept. 28, 2018
9:00am-noon

Kristi Sullivan

**Cornell University Department
of Natural Resources
Land Conservation
Programs**

Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018
6:30 pm

*Please note that this program
will be held in the new
Agriculture Development
Center next to the Cornell
Cooperative Extension office
building.*

Managing Your Land for Wildlife

January Potluck

Mike Zagata

**NYFOA Director of
Organization Development**

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019
Doors open at 6:00pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY

Members are encouraged to
bring a friend and/or neighbor
to any of our programs.

Wightman Lumber/Specialty Woods Tour

146 County Highway 35A,
Portlandville, NY 13834
Friday, Sept. 28, 2018
9:00am-noon

Wightman Lumber/Specialty Woods is located in Portlandville, NY just off Route 28 onto County Highway 35A (between Oneonta and Cooperstown). The company was founded in 1945 by two Wightman brothers and is run today by their descendants - Dave and Dan Wightman. Over the last six decades Wightman's has grown into a full-scale wood-manufacturing operation committed to bringing the highest quality wood products to the market. Exacting standards combined with impeccable craftsmanship have created Wightman's reputation as one of the region's top resources for solid wood materials. Wightman's is an independent operation with one mill that sells specialty woods to retail customers and wholesale lumber to companies like Wood-Mode Cabinets and to overseas markets. On an annual basis they process about 7 million board feet of lumber. They are one of the few independent mills in New York "still standing" after the recent economic downturn. The mill tour will be led by Dave Wightman who is more than capable to discuss all facets of the operation and give a holistic view of the industry today - including a discussion of the markets, competition, quality of New York's hardwoods, and what he sees

as the future of the timber industry in New York. Take exit 17 off I-88. Follow NY-28 North to Co Hwy 35A in Portlandville. Turn right onto 35A and the facility is on the right. Please use 2nd entrance. 42°31'36.6"N 74°57'54.8"W

SOT Chapter Program

Land Conservation Programs

Wed., Nov. 14, 2018, 7:00 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Agriculture Development Center
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY

Kristi Sullivan, a wildlife biologist with the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, will provide information about land conservation, restoration and research programs she is working on for the Edward L. Rose Conservancy, a nationally accredited, non-profit land trust organization. The Conservancy works with landowners in the Southern Tier of New York and Northeastern Pennsylvania to protect land by buying or accepting donated conservation easements. The Conservancy is also a partner in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Riparian Buffer Conservation and Restoration grant program that provides funding to landowners to protect streams. Kristi will also discuss some of the research on wildlife, and water resources the Cornell Department on Natural Resources has been conducting on Conservancy preserves.

**SOT Chapter Woods Walk and
MFO Refresher
Michael Tree Farm
May 19, 2018**

On May 19, 2018, the Michael Tree Farm was the site of a NYFOA Southern Tier woods walk, which also served with cooperation from the Cornell Cooperative Extension as a refresher course for members of the Master Forest Owner Program. The weather was wet, but did not deter the enthusiasm of the attendees which included Brett Chedzoy Regional MFO Coordinator for the Cooperative Extension Program, Michael Zagata, NYFOA, Director of Organization Development, and over two dozen Master Forest Owners, in addition to other NYFOA members. Participants traveled from as far as Jamestown and Albany, and everywhere in between.



Jerry explains the early years and progression of the Michael Tree Farm

The woods walk by Jerry Michael covered many aspects dealing with forest regeneration. Jerry covered many of his observations, and thoughts, in his pursuits to create a program at their family owned tree farm in Whitney Point, not only relevant to proper forest management for regeneration, but also for the recreational use, and the privacy it affords the family.

Along the woods walk Jerry explained how over the years the efforts and considerations have evolved to contain the esthetics the family enjoyed in the use of their land for the wildlife, and recreational uses it has offered the family over the years, including his son's wedding held deep in the woods. Jerry has kept a great many large trees, which though they have no commercial value, have great value to the memories of his family.



Jerry explained how this American Chestnut at 8 years old shows no signs yet of the Chestnut blight that destroyed these valuable trees. Other American Chestnuts must be grown in close vicinity so cross pollination can occur. The tree tube prevents deer and rodent damage. Tree tubes are used throughout the property to prevent damage to marketable timber from browsing and girdling by rodents. Though these chestnuts will not become marketable timber they still provide valuable nut crops as mother trees for research towards blight resistant strains. Though a tree tube offers protection to young saplings, it can also cause damage to expanding trunks if the tube is not slit open during the tree trunk's growth. Not



Damage to red pine stand from 2003 ice storm

Jerry began with a discussion of the early years of the tree farm, and the destruction of a Red Pine stand due to the ice storm of 2003. The story of the tree farm goes back to when his mom and dad first purchased the land, and how during the years it progressed to a Christmas tree farm after his purchase from his parents, and how his children and their's are following the path he has put forward, and have started their own small stand of Christmas trees in addition to their forest regeneration efforts.



Brett Chedzoy and Jerry Michael opening comments with Ron Pedersen in the foreground (former NYFOA president 1999-2003)

doing this would result in girdling the base of growing trees as they expand. The tube, once slit open, should be left on the tree to prevent rubbing by bucks. Jerry explained this girdling occurred on a dead red oak we passed during the walk where the tube was not slit to allow for expansion. The lesson being that tree tubes must be maintained for growth reasons, as well as removal of debris and nests which can affect growth.

Special thanks to Ron Pedersen for providing more than 100 tree tubes to woods walk participants to assist in their regeneration efforts.



Standing outside of a deer enclosure fence, it is evident of the damage from browsing on saplings growing outside from those inside of the enclosure. The enclosure which bears a sign dated 2014 demonstrates the effectiveness of the use of enclosure fencing in areas of young timber growth. Similar effects have been demonstrated with the use of timber slash techniques from the cutting of culled trees. It is important to cut the culls so they fall cross each other so as to protect the area from multiple directions rather than in a straight line.

Cornell has used this technique to protect young saplings from deer damage with slash piles 12' high by as much as 20' wide at their Arnot forest, much to the dismay of browsing deer. The slash technique

offers an effective low cost approach for the landowner compared with the enclosure fencing approach.



Here Jerry explained how cutting a 1" oak sapling that was damaged by browsing, had been cut to the ground. It quickly regenerated by placing a tree tube over it. Because the previous sapling had an established root system, it appeared that the new sapling had an accelerated growth which put the tree at about 8' in less than 2 years time. Due to a bend near its top, the tree was cut at the top bud about a year into growth which produced yet another 2' surge in its growth.

What we can learn from this woods walk may best be summarized by a final hand out he provided at the conclusion of the walk.

In summary, tree shelters are useful for protecting planted seedlings, or browsed and coppiced natural regeneration in a small woodlot. However, material and labor cost, plus maintenance requirements make tree shelters impractical for large-scale regeneration projects. Deer enclosure fencing, or alternatives like "engineered brush barriers" can be a practical and affordable means of

protecting regeneration on small to medium-sized woodlots. Planted hardwood seedling will not thrive as well as natural regeneration from seed.

Remember that successful forest regeneration is like a three-legged stool. It requires management of interfering vegetation, deer, and sunlight. If you don't deal with all three, the stool will not stand up.

SOT Chapter Woods Walk at Kazacos Property

On June 9th, a woods walk was held at Stacey and Jeannine Kazacos 100 acre tract in Otsego County. The woods walk offered participants insight into various aspects of both the 480a program offered by the state, and the variety of applications available for funding by the NRCS through its EQIP program. There are a number of practices that are eligible for funding through the EQIP program including forest health thinning, crop tree release, and forest trail and landings improvement. Each eligible conservation practice has a "Practice Payment Rate (PPR)" based on a percentage of the state average cost of a typical installation of that practice. In order to apply for EQIP funding the applicant must have a valid Forest Plan which has been established through either a private forester, or state DEC forester. The applicant can be in both the 480a state program, and the EQIP cost share program. To apply for EQIP funding you need to sign form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application. These forms are available at your local NRCS office. To find additional information on EQIP funding contact your local USDA-NRCS office, or your local DEC Forester.

Information is also available online at www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov, or www.dec.ny.gov.

On hand for the woods walk was Stacey and Jeannine's forester Chris Tcimpidis, president of Bevin Forestry Services, which is located in Delaware County. Chris has many hats including forester, certified herbicide applicator, and Wildlife Biologist.



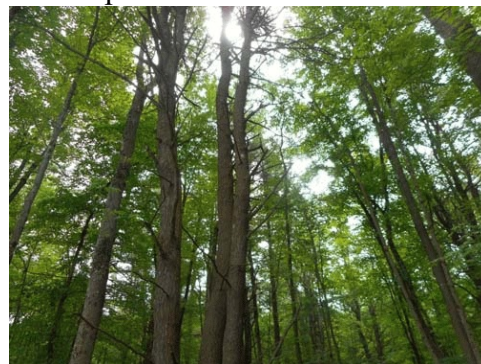
Water's edge showing herbicide line.

During the walk Chris explained many of the unique aspects of each area under the forest management plan entailed. Some areas near wetlands, or water, such as ponds, which Stacey and Jeannine have both, need special consideration in the type of herbicide used, and its proximity to the waters edge to alleviate potential dangers to wildlife. Concentrations are also adjusted depending on the species of the invasive, or competing vegetation being treated. It was noted that for removal of competing vegetation such as ferns, the requirements under the EQIP program require multiple year treatments up to three years to ensure the rhizomes, and spores already present on the forest floor are eliminated so that they do not return after the initial treatment.

On an area treated for removal of diseased beech, Chris's team had

used small stem treatment with Glyphosate. Stems in this area averaged 1-3". By applying the treatment to these smaller stems, the herbicide permeated other connected sapling roots and even the larger diseased beech that generated them. Glyphosate was also used on many of the NY, and Hay-scented, ferns that covered the under story, to allow light to hit the forest floor. Chris also noted that having some beech is not necessarily bad if it was not afflicted with the "Beech Bark Disease", though it has little economic value except as firewood, or for propagation of Shiitake mushroom logs. Another reason to preserve uninfected beech is the valuable mast(nuts) they bear, loved by turkeys especially.

Stops were made at other heavily wooded old forest areas. These areas contained a very large population of Red Maple. Stacey explained that their hopes were to remove as much of the red maple which was not covered under their EQIP funding, and beech as possible, so the forest canopy could be opened, and they could plant more valuable species such as oak, and hard maples while leaving species like black cherry, which also populated the area in places.



Closed canopy allows very little light to the forest floor.

Chris mentioned that in order to control the red maple population that a different herbicide approach would be necessary since Glyphosate did not

work well on removal, or controlling Red Maple regrowth. This area would require the use of Triclopyr in combination with perhaps other agents containing surfactants. Triclopyr by itself requires a certified herbicide applicator to apply, however Pathfinder II which contains Triclopyr is legal, and available for purchase by the landowner in NYS. Jerry Michael noted that simply removing the Red Maple and Beech population, and replanting new more desirable saplings, would not in itself solve the issue since the new saplings in the now open under story would be subject to browsing by deer. It would be necessary to protect these saplings from browsing by the use of tree tubes, or some form of deer exclosure. Stacey, and Jeannine are committed to doing this at the additional cost that it entails. Michael Zagata, who was among the participants, and has recently joined the NYFOA state organization as Director of Organization Development, mentioned that "replanting and protecting the effort" was one of the larger issues with the average landowner being able to take on such a reforestation effort, since many landowners could simply not afford to do this without some type of funding program from either state, or federal agency funding like those from the EQIP program. Mike mentioned that the "Empire Forest for the Future Initiative (EFFI)", would have been a great step forward in helping some landowners realize some of these reforestation goals, but it did not pass final legislative approval during the last budget session due to local government concerns over reimbursements for loss revenues. Hopefully, we can all help by pushing our representatives for passage in the not too distant future.

Our final stop along the walk found us again in an area of wetlands where large growths of invasive shrubbery had taken over the landscape. Honeysuckle was the predominant issue in the under story of this old pastoral acreage that once was home for White Pine that had been afflicted with the White Pine Weevil which had deformed many of trees producing multi-trunk monsters that will be difficult to cut and remove.



Treated honeysuckle lies in front of a white pine with severe white pine weevil damage, noted by the multitude of trunks.

Chris and Mike spent considerable time talking about why the mature forest crown needs to be thinned. Doing so allows light to reach the forest floor and thus enable those plants that don't grow in the shade to form an under story.

Those plants, via the process of photosynthesis, convert CO₂ and H₂O into O₂ and sugar - food and cover for wildlife. Thus when we open the forest crown we encourage grasses, "weeds" and brush that provide habitat for species not found

in the mature forest. In other words, by managing our forest we can increase wildlife diversity. We also provide openings where the young of mature forest birds can go to feed on insects and fruits to "bulk-up" for the fall migration. Proper cutting can actually lead to an increase in the acres of "young forests" - a goal supported by DEC, Audubon and The Nature Conservancy.



Michael Zagata, speaking of Dr. Ralph Nyland, SUNY-ESF, and the path forward to sustainable regeneration.

We thank Stacey and Jeannine for the time they put into our woods walk at their property with the help of their forester Chris Tcimpidis to allow us a greater picture of the associated problems, and some of the solutions, and programs available to landowners toward reforestation in NY state.

Windsor Chair Camp with Dave Abeel: Season 4

The Southern Tier Chapter again sponsored a three-day workshop with Dave Abeel from Traverse City, Michigan. Nine participants ranging from ten years of age through Social Security recipients collectively built stools, boot benches, side chairs and an arm chair. Geographically, folks traveled from five chapters: Capital District, Southern Finger Lakes, Western Finger Lakes, Central New

York and of course, Southern Tier, to the home of Dave and Kathy Williams.

Chair campers signed up during the winter months and chose the items they wanted to build from the array of offerings that include boot benches, tall stools, a variety of chairs, a settee and rocking chairs. Upon arrival at the workshop, students were given handcrafted Chair Camp 2018 badges to wear, courtesy of Finn Williams as well as a set of parts to be shaped, fitted, drilled, sanded and assembled.



Kathy detangling badges

Dave provides all the tools needed to build Windsor furniture including specialty tools, drills, right down to common items like sandpaper. Instruction is informal with plenty of one-on-one assistance. Less complicated pieces are ready to go home after two days; more involved ones take three days. The goal is to proudly go home with a functioning piece of furniture ready for final sanding and finish application.



Oscar shapes his chair seat with a travisher



Peter Smallidge assembles his arm chair on day 3 of chair camp



Dave Abeel explains to Sara and Jan the importance of lining up stretcher tenon holes for front and back legs on Sara's boot bench.

Here are some participant comments:

Peter Tonetti says, "This year's chair was better than last year's, which I thought was pretty good and I have ideas how I can make a better one next year. In addition to the chair making, meeting new people, good conversation at lunch and being able to talk with other NYFOA members about different subjects other than chair making over a couple of days are added benefits. Dave Abeel does a great job with his instruction. It surprises me that a complete novice like myself can make a chair in a couple of days that Maureen wants in the house instead of the barn."

Sara Lafayette Aversa: "... There's just something really satisfying

about working with your hands whether that's woodworking, gardening/farming, sewing/crafting, or taking care of things you love. I hope to take the skills I learned at camp and put them to good use building end tables, an entertainment center, and maybe a new coffee table this winter...."

Peter Smallidge: "...I'm intrigued by the beauty of the handmade tools, especially the travishers and scrub-compass planes. I think a workshop on how to make these tools would be a great experience...."

13 year old Oscar Williams: "...My family hosted the first chair camp when I was ten and I built a stool then with quite a lot of help. This time I made a side chair with just a little assistance. Next year I want to build a rocker."

Jan Lafayette: "I told Sara this morning that I could not stop describing to my Dave how I made the bench and what I learned. She says she is doing the same with Mark. My Dave and I have both come to the conclusion that it was a great experience for me. So forget about my feeling overwhelmed...."

Ed Neuhauser: "...With the carefully thought out designs that Dave Abeel provides, it's amazing the strength of the structures that can be made with so little wood.... Hope we do it again next year."

Chair campers and I express our appreciation to Kathy and grandson Finn for the outstanding hospitality, snacks and superb lunches they provided.

Chair Camp Season 5 is being planned for 2019, tentatively at Ed Neuhauser's new facility near Groton,

NY. As a NYFOA Rewards participant, Dave Abeel offers a 10% discount to our members. Please direct your questions and interest in participating to Dave Abeel at abeeldavid@hotmail.com.

Letter from the Chair

The ash trees near my house in Tioga County have been fading for the last few years. I've been trying to convince myself that these dying trees are from some bug other than the Emerald Ash Borer. Every so often I will stop to examine one. I have been unable to see any channels under the bark or holes in the bark. That is no longer true. Kevin Mathers, who works for Cornell Cooperative Extension stopped by my house on our way to the Kazacos Woods Walk this past spring. He confirmed my concerns that my trees and the trees in my neighborhood do in fact have EAB by identifying the "D" shaped exit holes and channel markings under the bark on one of my trees.

There's no evidence of an infestation of the EAB on my property in Broome County. I'm sure that it's just a matter of time. This past winter and spring I've been working on creating an inventory of the ash trees on my property. My purpose is to understand the value of the trees without marking the trees with paint. I do not want it to appear that the trees are marked for cutting. Ash trees are easy to identify during the dormant season because their bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges and their branches and buds are directly across from each other. I've counted 165 trees greater than 12 inches in diameter. I marked each of them with an identification tag, measured their

diameter, determined the marketable height of each tree, recorded their GPS coordinates and attached a pink construction ribbon around each tree.

The pink ribbon that I obtained from Tractor Supply prevented me from missing any trees while creating the inventory. This allowed me to spot the trees I've marked at a glance. I used a Nikon Forestry Pro laser rangefinder/hypsometer to determine the merchantable height of each tree. (I purchased the Forestry Pro on Ebay.com for about half price compared to new. The seller claimed that it was used for a class at the University of Alberta, Canada.) The numbered aluminum tags and nails were purchased at Forestry-Suppliers and are the same type of tags that I used for the Timber Growing Contest. My GPS is a Garmin 650t that uses both the US and Russian satellites to determine latitude and longitude. This model GPS has proven to be more accurate than previous GPS models that I've owned. I used a carpenter's holster that I also got from Tractor Supply to hold my pen, notebook, nails, tags, diameter tape and hammer. I put the GPS, Forestry Pro and carpenter's holster on my belt.

I put the tag#, date, species, latitude, longitude, stand, diameter and merchantable height into a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet. I copied the Doyle, International and Scriber tables for different form classes from the book, *Timber Measurements* by Steven Bick and added them into a separate workbook. I used Excel functions to calculate the number of 16 foot logs or half logs per tree. Doyle form class 80 is the most relevant for ash. I then calculated the Doyle volume

based on harvestable logs and diameter from the Doyle form class 80 workbook to determine Doyle volume for each tree. I then summed the volume for each tree to find the total Doyle volume. I used the average price from the NYS Stumpage report to calculate a price. A forester would likely provide a more meaningful determination of value. The board foot volume of my ash is not a large number. Most of my trees are just above 12 inches. My average diameter for the 165 trees is 14.64 inches and my Doyle volume is 11646 board feet. When I select 15 inch and larger trees the Doyle volume drops to 6592 board feet from 57 trees.

Doing a count as opposed to a sampling takes longer but for the small woodlot owner who wants to spend time in the woods it's more accurate.

I hope to see you at our fall and winter meetings.

Steve

Other Area Events

The New York Tree Farm Program will have an all day educational program, **You & Your Forest's Health**, on September 8, 2018 on the property of Daniel Newman, 100 Sugar Bush Road, Windsor, NY 13865. Contact Dan Newman with questions: (607) 655-1411, newmanforestwildlife@live.com <http://www.nytreefarm.org>

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As our chapter moves forward with the commitment of providing our members with the latest in information, field events, and presentations at our chapter programs, we try to eliminate excessive cost while expanding the criteria of current topics to our membership. As with this first issue of our digital newsletter, which we hope will provide more informational detail, while bringing down cost. Even with these efforts, membership dues do not cover necessary cost for communication, and programs for our membership. We thank our members for their support in our efforts, and we ask them to consider one more area that would greatly help the efforts to improve our ability to enhance, and expand chapter programs. Some of you can do this just by your normal online purchases at Amazon. You simply need to register your purchases through SMILE.AMAZON.COM and listing NYFOA as your choice to contribute through the Amazon Smile Foundation. It does not affect your purchase price, and 1/2 of 1% of your online purchase will benefit NYFOA in their efforts to provide more value for our members. Thank you for your thoughts going forward, and your considerations in our efforts to increase the awareness in matters that concern the NYS forest owner.

The Steering Committee (SOT)

For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit www.nyfoa.org, or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566.

Annual membership is \$45 and includes: subscriptions to Treelines: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

Be sure to check out the NYFOA website at <https://www.nyfoa.org/> for up to date information.

Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee

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Welcome New Members

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Charles M. Cutting
Richard A. Harlem
Kortney Lawlor
Jerry O'Neil
Rebecca Shelley
Mark Wingerter

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