

# Treelines

Fall 2019



## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Fall Program

#### Threats to our forests: An extreme example of the impact of deer overabundance

September 14, 2019, 9 am  
Binghamton University, 4400 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850

### NYFOA State Meeting "Managing Your Woodlot for Wildlife"

September 28, 2019  
10 am - 3 pm

John Boyd Thacher State Park  
830 Thacher Park Road,  
Voorheesville, NY 12186  
The Helderberg Room

### Protecting Your Legacy: Planning for the Future of Your Land

Kristina A. Ferrare  
and Dr. Shorna Allred  
Cornell Cooperative  
Extension, 840 Front Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

**program will start at 6:15pm**

### Fall Program

#### Threats to our forests: An extreme example of the impact of deer overabundance

September 14, 2019, 9 am



Binghamton University, 4400 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850  
<https://www.binghamton.edu/nature-preserve/index.html>

The Binghamton University campus in Broome County, New York currently encompasses 930 acres of land, including over 600 acres that are undeveloped and in their natural state. The core of this undeveloped land is officially designated the Nature Preserve, 182 acres of land that includes a 20-acre wetland.

The Binghamton University nature preserve and natural areas are diverse in habitat and animal life, but like many landscapes, it faces many challenges. BU natural areas are where the impacts of past land use, high current use, deer, invasive plants, and tree pathogens come together. You may have seen the influence of deer overabundance on forests, but you probably haven't seen it like this. Come walk around the Binghamton University Natural Areas to see the

effects of 200 + deer on less than a square mile of landscape. Learn what has been done (or not done) to try to manage the effects. Led by Dylan Horvath, who is the Steward of Natural Areas of Binghamton University, and a wildlife biologist. He not only oversees activities and maintenance of the campus' natural areas, but also develops and coordinates educational programs for area school groups, teaches a natural history course, as well as facilitates the research and academic use of these areas. In addition, Dylan has spent nearly 20 years as a wildlife field biologist researching various organisms from salamanders to birds, bats, and wolverines.

We will meet in parking lot M1. From the main entrance on Glenn G. Bartile Drive bear right on to West Drive at the roundabout. Follow West Drive to the back of the campus. Turn right on to Connector Road. Turn right onto W Access Road for a short distance. Make your first right turn to enter lot M1. According to the SUNY website parking lot, M1 is the only free parking lot available on weekends.



### "Oak trees support more wildlife that any other plant."

-Doug Tallamy, Entomology Professor, University of Delaware

**NYFOA State Meeting  
"Managing Your Woodlot for  
Wildlife"**

Saturday, September 28, 2019  
10am - 3pm  
John Boyd Thacher State Park  
830 Thacher Park Road,  
Voorheesville, NY 12186  
The Helderberg Room

Hosted by the Capital District Chapter. There will be a Silent Auction, Chainsaw Raffle and a Door Prize!

Speakers Include: Dr. Scott Stoleson, Research Wildlife Biologist with Forest Service's Northern Research Station, PA: "The Importance of Creating Openings Via Clear-Cutting and Other Management Techniques To Benefit Wildlife."

Dr. Walt Carson, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Pittsburgh: "White-Tailed Deer Impacts on Forest Regeneration & Will There Be Another Northern Hardwood Forest"

Andy Weik, Wildlife Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society & Woodcock Society, NYS: "Forest Management for Woodcock & Grouse & Young Forest Initiative"

\$25 Pre-Registration is required, as seating is limited and includes morning coffee and a light lunch. Please Contact Laura (CDC Secretary) by September 16th at: [jason.laura.nyfoa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.laura.nyfoa@gmail.com)

**Protecting Your Legacy: Planning  
for the Future of Your Land**

A Workshop on Legacy Planning to  
Keep Forests as Forests  
Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840  
Front Street Binghamton, NY 13901  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

**doors open at 6:00 pm  
program starts at 6:15 pm**

Kristina A. Ferrare, Forestry  
Program Specialist, Cornell  
Cooperative Extension Onondaga  
County and Dr. Shorna Allred  
Associate Professor, Cornell

Few challenges faced by landowners are more important than the issue of passing their land and its responsibilities on to the next generation. Many landowners want to conserve their woods but don't know about conservation options and how to involve family members in the future ownership and operation of their lands. Protecting Your Legacy: Planning for the Future of Your Land will help landowners by connecting them with legacy planning resources to help them consider the future of their forests. The workshop will discuss conservation and estate planning options using our publications: Protecting Your Legacy and Using a Will to Pass on Your Land. These publications and others are available on [yourlegacyny.org](http://yourlegacyny.org).

**Get Ready for Spring - Apple Tree  
Grafting Presentation**

**Donald J. Paukett**

Apple Tree Grafting Presentation

At our March 21st meeting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Upper Front Street, Binghamton attendees received a wealth of information in addition to some hands on experience in the grafting of scions from a selection of apple tree varieties. Don Paukett, Retired Associate Vice President for

Administration at Binghamton University, provided the attendees the opportunity to see the tools needed in addition to the techniques that have been in use with little change over thousands of years. The tools included grafting knives, sharp saw, tree splitting tool, screwdriver, plastic wrap, grafting bands, labels, and the grafting sealants (Treekote) required in the process. The specialty tools such as the bands, and knives can be purchased online through supplier's such as Leonard's Supply (<https://www.amleo.com>).



**Handi-Cut Tool**



**Splitter tool**

Don allowed participants to try their hands using the tools in preparing the grafts. Attendees were also provided scions from more than a dozen varieties of apple tree scions which they could take with them, and try to graft on their own trees. Don explained it was vital to keep the scions moist so that they would

not dry out, and die prior to their grafting. He explained how it was possible to graft several varieties onto an existing apple tree, but they must be grafted onto apple trees, and that the grafting would not take onto other fruit tree species. Don noted that pear scions could be grafted onto apple trees, but they would be rejected after a few years growth. The time period to graft was also important usually February to May, depending on the weather, and should not be attempted when the sap is frozen. The grafting required that there be a green wood to green wood joining to work, and technique or style was not as important.



### ***Green on green grafting***

Included in the presentation Don explained the available varieties of apple now being used, and why one was preferred over the other depending on its future use, as in the making of hard cider where a more sour variety of apple provided better results. The reasons for grafting are numerous including the preservation of varieties, consumption, use for making specialty ciders, stand improvement, formal gardens, or just for FUN. Not only are the types of apple available numerous as well as their use, but so are the methods that can be utilized in the grafting process including top grafting (main subject for this presentation), inter stem, bud grafting, root stock, and recovering on girdled trees. We thank Don for the wonderful presentation, and all the samples,

and advise he provided those who attended, and we look forward to hearing from all our members in attendance about their experiences in their own applications for this very valuable information we received. Those looking for apple tree stock can visit Cummins Nursery in Ithaca, or Russell Orchards, both mentioned by Don as reliable local sources.

### **Shiitake Mushroom Workshop**



The Southern Tier presented its Shiitake Mushroom workshop April 27, 2019 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Front Street, in Binghamton to nearly two dozen participants. The cost of the workshop for NYFOA members was \$10 with a cost to non-member of \$20. Each participant enjoyed the opportunity to produce their own inoculated log, and left the workshop with a 40" full size log.

Ken & Sharon Semanovich, along with Stacey & Jeannine Kazacos of the Southern Tier chapter provided the instructional help for each of the three steps that were covered on site during the workshop including the drilling of the logs, the inoculation of sawdust spawn, and the sealing of the inoculation sites and labeling.

Participants received a basic introduction which included information on the various species of Shiitake, the types of spawn available (sawdust, plug, thimble), as well as the basic tools they would be using. It was explained that depending on local environments some species propagate better, & faster, and that would determine the variety of Shiitake mushroom spawn to be used ranging from cold range, wide range & warm range varieties. The workshop used a wide range variety called "WR46" which is one of the most prevalent, and productive species used. The "WR46" used is the easiest for first efforts, and normally fruits within 6 months of inoculation when stored correctly.



The types of tools being used were discussed including the angle grinder with 12mm drill bit and special coupling, the palm inoculator, and the types of sealing wax that can be used with the cotton dabber. Cheese wax, or bees wax must be used for "organic" labeling for sale though paraffin can be used if this is not an issue. The total investment for needed tools can be as little as \$100. This of course does not include your logs, which if you are a landowner you most likely all ready have the chainsaw & PPE (personal protection equipment) for cutting the logs. Types of wood that are best suited were also discussed including any type of beech, and ironwood, which offer little



commercial value outside of firewood. The time of year the logs should be cut are early before leaf budding, or later in the fall when the final leaves have begun to fall.

Participants were invited to stay for a question and answer period where a number of other topics were discussed. Individuals interested in future mushroom workshops are invited to contact Ken & Sharon Semanovich at [aait@stny.rr.com](mailto:aait@stny.rr.com). We thank all participants for their interest, and participation.



*Using inoculator tool*

**Woods Ravine Farm Woods Walk  
Invasive Control Without Chemicals**



The woods walk held Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the “Woods Ravine Farm” in Norwich, NY presented attendees a unique look at alternative means of

conducting “brush management” outside of the normally practiced procedure to the use of chemical agents to control invasive plant growth. Owners Darryl Woods, and his wife Toby Wollin, bought the 123 acre property with a number of unique goals about five years ago.

The property, a large portion of which was part of a local landfill has been converted into numerous tree stands, as well as the summer location for his wife’s plant business with the hope of further expanding its use to a u-pick blueberry farm somewhere not too far down the line. With the help, and expertise of his forester Mike Blasko, Darryl has placed much of the property in the NY 480a program, as well as receiving EQIP funds through the NRCS programs available to forest owners.

The walk looked at some of the hand and mechanical intervention Darryl, and his forester have undertaken to take back the under story for planting of “native” NY tree species. Though Darryl admits that removal of existing invasives has been challenging, their efforts are apparent. Removal of invasive species by hand required several visits to each of the affected areas in order to gain control of the landscape. Hands, brush hogs, & tractors replaced chemical intervention. During the walk, attendees had the opportunity to see how this formal landfill has been revitalized for purposes including a young “sugar bush” stand including hundreds of young saplings. To reduce damage from the browsing of deer and vermin they had decided on the use of tree tubes for protection. Though they had decided to use a smaller tube initially due to the high initial cost, as the trees grow adjustments can be made for further protection.



In addition to the “Sugar Bush” stand Darryl had decided on developing other areas primarily for the aesthetics of a “park like” setting which included Red Spruce, Red Pine, Chestnut Oak, Sycamore, & Black Cherry to name a few of the species he wished to include. All of these native to NY. In addition to the blueberry farm they plan on developing on the site, Darryl and Toby hope to one day also develop a nut grove containing Black Walnut, and Northern Pecan which might come to be their only non-native species. It was a wonderful walk for those in attendance, and we wish Darryl and Toby the best for his future plans at the “Woods Ravine Farm”.

**Tick Alert! READ THIS !!**

If the following doesn’t get you to take the tick problem more seriously, nothing will. Some of us have already contracted Lyme disease, and I expect all of us know of family members, friends or neighbors who have suffered the consequences. But Lyme is not the only debilitating disease transmitted by ticks, and Anaplasmosis and Powassan are starting to show up in Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier.

Some readers will remember Danny Price, who served as NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter Chair from 2008-2011. Danny and his wife Carolyn live in Windsor and Danny

was infected with Anaplasmosis from a tick bite in September 2018. He ended up on life support at the Geisinger Hospital in Pennsylvania, breathing with a ventilator, receiving kidney dialysis, and having a 50/50 chance of survival according to his doctors. Happily, Danny pulled through and was released for home health care after 40 days. I saw Danny and Carolyn last May and was delighted to find him back to his old self. Fortunately, Danny was in good physical shape before the incident. Fatalities are more common when the patient has other medical issues, and there have been reported fatalities from both Anaplasmosis and Powassan in Broome and Chenango Counties.

Much has been published on how to avoid ticks and what to do if you find one buried in your skin, so I won't go into that here. I will share one suggestion for keeping them at bay however. Get a large spray bottle of Sawyer Permethrin insect repellent for clothing, gear and tents. Spray some on the cuffs of your pants and socks, and the wrist cuffs and shoulder area of your shirt, and that should keep them away. Do not apply to the skin.

When you are working in the woods with your knees on the ground as we often have to do, you are still bound to pick up ticks. I have already been to the walk-in clinic for a doxycycline prescription once this year. Goes with the territory.

-Jerry Michael

### Farewell to Kevin Mathers Service Award

On Friday, July 12, 2019, the Southern Tier Chapter steering committee held a retirement dinner for Kevin Mathers, who has retired from the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Binghamton, after 30 years of service. Kevin was presented the chapter's service award for 2019. Kevin was a dedicated member of the steering committee for many years and he will be greatly missed as a friend and colleague.



*Kevin Mathers and Steve Kutney  
(chapter president)*

For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit [www.nyfoa.org](http://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.

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**The Steering Committee  
(SOT)**

### Welcome New Members

Scott Brady  
John & Christina Buck  
Richard Conklin  
Kevin Mathers  
Lynn Rider  
Joshua M. Serbonich  
Mark Sherwood  
Andrew Smith  
Dale Smith  
Mary Torma-Kelly

**Southern Tier Chapter Steering  
Committee**

**Chair**

Steve Kutney 607-862-9152  
stephen\_kutney@yahoo.com

**Co-Vice Chairs & Newsletter**

Ken & Sharon Semanovich  
607-204-0101 aait@stny.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Larry Lepak 607-786-5892  
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**Program Chair**

Jerry Michael 607-648-2941  
GoTreeGo80@gmail.com

**Delegate to State Board**

Darryl Wood

**Members At Large**

Gary Sergio, Dave Williams

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