

Treelines

Spring 2019



Upcoming Chapter Events

Apple Tree Grafting

Donald J. Paukett

Backyard Fruit Growers Organization

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:30 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY

Shiitake Mushroom Workshop

Saturday, April 27, 2019, 1-4 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street,
Binghamton, NY

Annual NYFOA State Meeting - Regeneration- Current Challenges and Opportunities

Saturday, May 4, 2019
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Syracuse ESF Campus
Syracuse, NY

Woods Ravine Farm Woods Walk

Saturday, May 11, 2019
363 County Route 33
Norwich, NY
10:00 am

**This woods walk will
concentrate on non-chemical
treatment of invasive plants.**

Fall Program

BU deer hunt results field trip
See Fall newsletter for date

Get Ready for Spring - Apple Tree Grafting Presentation

Donald J. Paukett

Thursday, March 21, 2019 6:30 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY
Doors open at 6:00 pm



Come join us for an information packed presentation by Donald J. Paukett, who is a member of the “Backyard Fruit Growers Organization”, and Retired Associate Vice President for Administration at Binghamton University. Donald’s presentation will cover numerous topics for those interested in grafting of apple trees, as well as other fruit and nut trees. It will include information on the science of grafting, techniques and procedures, and discussions on creating a new orchard vs. top grafting current trees, and wildlife plot improvements as well as dealing with deer issues, and other pest that might affect your crops.

Topics will include information on root stocks, and how they can be used for tree size control, and provide root disease resistance. The

collecting and storage of scions for grafting will also be discussed along with an introduction to the various grafting techniques including bud grafting, whip grafting, and top grafts. Don will also cover the pruning of your top grafted trees for long term success, and successful crops.

We urge all our members who have an interest in developing a productive fruit, or nut tree orchard to attend this presentation. Please bring a friend or other family member that shares in this interest, and we look forward to seeing you for this very interesting, and informative program.

Shiitake Mushroom Workshop

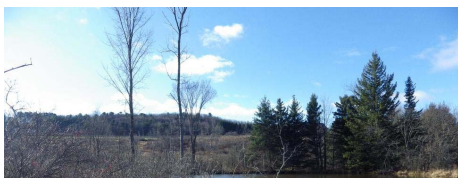
Saturday, April 27, 2019, 1-4 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
840 Upper Front Street,
Binghamton, NY



The Shiitake Mushroom Workshop will be open to both NYFOA members, and non-members. The cost for members will be \$10, and for non-members \$20. Each participant will have a hand in the complete inoculation process, and leave with a 40" inoculated log. Registration is required, and payment is to be made at the time of registration. Registration will be limited. Those wishing to attend the workshop are encouraged to register early. Registration can be made over phone by contacting Steve Kutney, (607) 862-9152, or stephen_kutney@yahoo.com. Mail check made out to NYFOA-SOT, to Ken & Sharon Semanovich, 2 Airport Road, Binghamton, NY 13901.

**Annual NYFOA State Meeting
Regeneration- Current
Challenges and Opportunities**
Saturday, May 4, 2019
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Syracuse ESF Campus
Syracuse, NY

**Woods Ravine Farm Woods
Walk
Invasive Control Without
Chemicals**
Saturday, May 11, 2019
363 County Route 33, Norwich
10:00 am



A woods walk will be held on the property of Darryl Wood this spring. The woods walk will include discussions on the removal of invasive vegetation without the use of chemicals. Darryl, along with his consulting forester, will discuss a wide range of topics, including plans

for creation of a “sugar bush” for future maple syrup production, planting of native NY trees, and the creation of a nut grove. Benefits of the 480a, and NRCS programs will also be discussed. The walk will explore some of the work that has been undertaken by Darryl, and his forester over the last four years. The woods walk will be held rain, or shine, so dress accordingly. The property is located in the town of Norwich, at 363 County Route 33. It is located approximately 1.2 miles from County Route 32 (the Polke Store) on the left. Signs will be posted for the event. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the woods walk. Please pre-register for the walk with Steve Kutney at (607)862-9152, or by e-mailing stephen_kutney@yahoo.com.

**Fall Program
Threats to our forests: An extreme
example of the impact of deer
overabundance**
Date TBA

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.

**Annual Potluck Dinner
Managing your Forest for
Wildlife**

At our annual pot luck dinner, January 22, 2019, NYFOA, Director of Organization Development, Mike Zagata gave an information packed presentation that covered a number of subjects ,including how forestry practices have changed over the years as they pertain to sustainable forest, and wildlife management.

Some of the tenants of “the young forest initiative” which is currently being discussed at the state level through the partnership of many private organizations such as NYFOA, CFA, Audubon, Ruffed Grouse and many others, in collaboration with state entities from the DEC, and the legislative branches, are putting forth new views of how we deal with reforestation issues as we move forward. Many of the actions and proposals offer a vast departure from previous views of what constitutes a healthy forest.

Visitors to our state can look out their windows while driving down our roads and ask, what do you mean you need reforestation? After all, our roads are lined with old growth forest. Mike pointed out that one needs only to look at our roadsides to see the Goldenrod which inhibits the growth of other plants, and signifies areas of poor

soil from past farm activity, and poor forestry practices. Our forest today are old, and while old has its virtues, a succession plan is needed if our woodlands, and wildlife are to be sustainable going forward. The young forest initiative is intended to move us in that direction.

Forests should contain all phases of growth, from young to old, and some between. Mike explained how destructive weather such as straight line wind burst, lightning strikes, as well as other weather phenomena can contribute to forest regeneration that helps in the development of young forest successions, which in addition to older stands brings greater diversity to the woods both in terms of vegetation, as well as wildlife. Improvements through mechanical interventions such as selective clear cuts, and shelterwood stands may also assist in restoring more variety to our woodland habitat. Such interventions in the past were viewed as having a negative affect on the wooded landscape. Native Americans used slash and burn, and in doing so created a variety of forest ages. They understood the need to have a mix of habitat to sustain their needs for game, and other human activity.

Mike mentioned that though it is desirable, and is the current goal to have a 10% regeneration rate for the young forest initiative, many areas such as the Oneonta area which he calls home has to date only a 2% regeneration rate for young forest which is far below the desired outcome.

In addition to the weather, and the mechanical intervention of man, wildlife has a critical roll to play. Beaver activity helped create a variety of aged woods, without

interference from humans. Though man has had a positive effect, many past activities have been detrimental to our forest regeneration. Our area relied heavily on the use of hemlock stands in the tanning industry which created poisonous runoff to our streams and rivers in addition to surface water. Mills along rivers have caused environmental problems with mill ponds, and the silt that was left behind the mill dams.

The Beaverkill was declared an environmental disaster in the 1940's and is now a world class fishing destination. So we have begun to make great strides in our efforts to a sustainable future for our woodlands, and wildlife but there is much more we can do as landowners for the future generations that hopefully will carry the torch forward. Thanks to Mike for an insightful presentation.



NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter Chair, Steve Kutney, counts raffle tickets among the prizes at the greeting table, which is adorned with the newly acquired NYFOA tablecloth. Thank you for your efforts in obtaining these tablecloths for each chapter by Capital District Chapter's secretary and newsletter editor, Laura Pisarri.

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.
----Abraham Lincoln

We'd like to once again thank our sponsors for their generous donations at our "Pot Luck" dinner raffle.

Dryshod Boots (\$150-200 value)
Tractor Supply - \$45 Gift Card
Taste NY Gift Basket - \$35 value
Home Depot - \$25 Gift Card
CNY Farm/Power (Cortland) - \$25 Gift Card
Norwich Implement - \$25 Gift Certificate
Lowe's - \$25 Gift Card

Spring is Coming! Get out in the woods!

Spring will be here soon and with it the opportunity to get out in the woods. For those participating in the northeast timber growing contest, this is the time to take measurements. Anyone not familiar with the requirements of the contest can go to www.TimberContest.com, or contact Dean Faklis. Dean can be reached at, 585-669-2956, or dfaklis@frontiernet.net.

Spring is also a good time to evaluate the health of your woods. The folks at My Woodlot have put together "Healthy Forest Checklist". The My Woodlot website, <https://www.mywoodlot.com/>. Scroll down and click on "Nature and Wildlife", then scroll down and click on "Find Out if my Woodlot Healthy". Click on "Perform a Woodlot Health Checkup" and it will take you "Healthy Forest Checklist". This is an easily downloadable PDF file. This file is included at the end of this newsletter. Be sure to look around the My Woodlot website for other activities to do in your woods.



We'd like to thank the folks at My Woodlot for their cooperation. Be sure to check their events page for some of our programs, and others.

Another resource can be found at <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/ny-checklist>. Scroll down and click on the "KeepForestsHealthy_Card_11.20.pdf". Be sure to read the "KeepForestsHealthy_Document_11.21.pdf" to help you understand how to use the checklist.

Letter from our Chair

The Real Property Tax Law 480a was created to make it financially possible for landowners to engage in the practice of forestry. Quality timber encourages jobs in the forest products industry and generates income for landowners and towns. The text of the law can be found at <https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/real-property-tax-law/rpt-sect-480-a.html>. The 480a law requires that the DEC, "adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the department's responsibilities." These regulations can be found online at https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/foresttaxlawhandbook.pdf. This is a useful document. A copy of the regulations and law should be sent to all landowners who are enrolled in the RPTL 480a Forest Tax Law Program. I think this would lead to less DEC

landowner disputes. A landowner would have a difficult time explaining why they had a timber cut without notifying the DEC.

The increased use of technology improves productivity. May I suggest an online interactive website with a database that contains all of the relevant information on the properties enrolled in RPTL 480a. The online database could be used by foresters, landowners, and State and town workers. Automation would make it easier to file an annual commitment, manage notices to town assessors, and file notices of commercial cutting. The database should contain an electronic copy of current and past management plans. Work schedules could be more flexible and modifiable based on the owner's current situation and the current timber market. An online State database would provide fire protection for this information since online databases are typically backed up. The law uses the term "certified commitment." I would hope that online certification could be accomplished using online security software. I do my taxes online. Why not a 480a yearly certification?

The current Regulation states that "...noncommercial treatments shall be accomplished at not less than the greater of the following rates: (i) 10 acres per year; or (ii) five percent of the total acreage in the certified tract needing treatment;" This is a backbreaker and discourages landowners from doing Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) work. In the long term, more TSI means better timber resulting in more income for the landowner and more money for the town. The landowner is given a year to complete TSI work, but the effective time window is from mid-July to October. TSI at any other time of year is less effective, and typically

results in multiple sprouts from stumps and girdled trees. I have hired people in the past when my work schedule prevented me from doing the TSI work myself. It's not impossible, but in general it's very difficult to find a contractor for this type of work. Completing the work can be influenced by the weather. Most landowners find it difficult to complete TSI within the effective time window. It may be an impossible task for long distance landowners. I would like to specify as little as one acre, with the goal of doing one acre each year. As a landowner gains experience they can commit to a greater number of acres per year. In today's world, the landowner can send a cell phone picture of their completed TSI work to the Regional Forester, or upload the picture to a database. I would like to see an approach that looks like a partnership with the DEC rather than a rigid schedule with the threat of legal action.

The proposed 480b law never contained a provision for cutting firewood by the landowner like the current 480a law. I think that preventing people from cutting firewood is a huge mistake. People do not like the feeling that they no longer own their property. I do not cut firewood on my property but I can understand why landowners would want to. The current Regulation puts a strange twist to the law. Regulation 263 on fuelwood production states that "If standing trees are to be harvested a cutting prescription is required at least 30 days prior to cutting." Yet in subdivision 5 (d) the law states "...and may annually cut, in accordance with sound forestry practices, ten standard cords or the equivalent for such owner's own use, without notice and free of tax

imposed by this section.” The 30 day notice of a “cutting prescription” should be removed from the regulation document to be in compliance with the law. The DEC could provide landowners with a document that explains how their long term financial interests are enhanced by using downed trees for firewood, and explain the characteristics of trees that have no commercial value but make excellent firewood. As I read this Law, it seems to me that trees cut for TSI can be used at a rate of up to 10 cords per year. Beyond the 10 cords, I do not see anything wrong with paying the town 6% of the stumpage value of firewood from TSI operations. The value of this wood can be derived from the firewood values in the semi-annual stumpage report published by the NYS DEC.

The current Regulation document calls for five-year updates to management plans. The commitment required in the law is for ten years. Updates to management plans are expensive. It seems to me that management plans could be updated every 10 years without any harm to the Program. Make the plans due on Nov. 1st in the year prior to when the work schedule begins.

I do like the sections in the Regulation document on Christmas trees and maple syrup production. This could be expanded to include mushrooms, medicinal plants, and wildlife plantings as long as they don't interfere with timber production. I sincerely hope that these suggestions help with the administration of the 480a program.

-----Steve

480a Landowner Input

The NYSDEC is moving forward with potential regulation changes to the Forest Tax Law Program, and is gathering stakeholder comments. Landowners and private consulting foresters that participate in the Forest Tax Law Program are invited to a series of public meetings throughout the state. The regulation reform effort will not alter the annual tax benefit, stumpage tax, or commitment period or penalties spelled out in the law, this according to the Feb. 1st letter from the Div. Of Lands and Forest. Below are listed some dates and locations for these meetings.

March 14th, 2019 11am-1pm
DEC Region 4 Hdq.
1130 North Westcott St
Schenectady, NY 12306

March 20, 2019 7pm-9pm
SUNY New Paltz
1 Hawk Drive
New Paltz, NY 12306

March 21, 2019 7pm-9pm
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Study
2801 Sharon Tpk
Millbrook, NY 12545

March 27, 2019 6pm - 8 pm
DEC Region 6 Sub-office
7327 Rt. 812
Lowville, NY 13367

For those who are not able to attend a public meeting, there will be online webinar entitled Forest Tax Law (480a) Regulation Reform on Friday April 5 from 10am-12 noon.

Meeting Link:
<https://on.ny.gov/2HEbGaQ>
Meeting Number
645-952-248
Password
CBTgv3pz
Hosekey 800305 or

Join by Phone
1-844-633-8697
1-518-549-0500
Access code: 645 952 248

Other Events

Sap to Syrup & Sustainable Forest Management Workshop

Saturday March 30th, 2019
9:30am-noon
Cornell's Arnot Forest
611 County Rd 13
Van Etten, NY 14889.

Join staff and educators from the Arnot Teaching & Research Forest as we explore this facility which is managed on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University by faculty and Cornell Cooperative Extension educators. We'll start by visiting acreage which is currently being managed using sustainable forest management practices and how you can implement some into your woodlot. We'll then move to their sugarbush operation with a tour of the sugarbush, sap collection system, sugarhouse and an overview of syrup production. Weather dependent, they may still be making syrup. Follow this link to register https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=forestmngtmaplesyrup_203

FREE for Veterans and Active Service Members/ \$15 for general public.

Welcome New Members

Michael Maben
Suzanne Treyger

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 www.nyfoa.org for up to date information.

Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee

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Delegate to State Board

Darryl Wood

Members At Large

Gary Sergio, Dave Williams

Note from the Editors:

We need your help in ensuring that our newsletters offer our members the very best in informative content, and easy access. This being our third digital copy of the newsletter, we want to be certain that our member readers have no issues with access to the newsletter through the NYFOA.org site, and those that have either no access to the internet, or simply require alternative delivery of the publication know that we are here to help. Anyone with questions, or concerns regarding the newsletter are invited to contact either Ken & Sharon Semanovich, (607)204-0101, or our chapter chair Steve Kutney, (607) 862-9152.

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We thank our members for their support and 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)

Healthy Forest Checklist















There's a lot going on in a forest, several different factors should be considered in order to decide its health. Professionally trained foresters take measurements and look at many types of information to fully evaluate forest health.

Here, we guide you through making simple observations about your woods to assess how healthy (or unhealthy) they are.

STEP 1: Walk through your woods and use the Healthy Forest Checklist below to look for and record different signs of forest health.

STEP 2: Calculate your Score at the bottom.



STEP 3: If you are concerned about the health of your woodlot, consider contacting a Master Forest Owner or State or Consulting Forester. You can share you observations with them and start a conversation about the health of your woods and your options for the future.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS	YES, I see It	NO, I don't see It
1. Signs of disease or damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves changing colors or dropping out of season. Damage to leaves, bark, etc. 	Seeing many trees damaged by insects and/or disease is a sign of poor health.		
2. Different species and ages of trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different -looking leaves, bark, overall tree shape. Different size trees (height and diameter). 	Seeing trees of different species and ages/sizes is a sign of good forest health.		
3. Lichen on your trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scan trunks and bark for flat, leaflike lobes or paintlike crust colored green, orange, yellow or gray. 	Seeing lichen on tree trunks is a sign of good air quality and good forest health.		
4. Different organisms in your soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look under a fallen log or dig holes. 	Seeing different types of soil organisms is a sign of good soil quality and good forest health.		
5. Signs of tree regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young trees several inches or feet tall. 	Seeing young trees in the understory is a sign of re-growth and good forest health.		
6. Standing dead trees and dead logs	Having a few dead trees and logs is actually a sign of good forest health. They provide wildlife habitat and return nutrients to the soil.		
7. Different wildlife species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mammals, birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, etc. 	Seeing many kinds of wildlife is a sign of diversity, productivity, and good forest health.		

CALCULATE YOUR SCORE

Count the number of checks in  boxes. These are signs of GOOD forest health: _____

Count the number of checks in  boxes. These are signs of POOR forest health: _____

Take the total number of  and subtract from it the total number of  : _____

If you get 0 or a negative number, you have an equal or greater number of POOR signs than GOOD signs. In this case, consider contacting a professional to share your forest health findings and get more information and advice.

NY Forest Owners Association
Southern Tier Chapter
Steve Kutney, Chair
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Endicott, NY 13760-8014