

# Treelines

Winter 2018-2019



## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Managing Your Land for Wildlife

**January Potluck**

**Mike Zagata**

**NYFOA Director of Organization Development**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Doors open at 6:00pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
840 Upper Front Street  
Binghamton, NY

Bring a dish to share and your own tableware.

### 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

### Woods Ravine Farm

**Woods Walk**

Saturday, May 11, 2019

363 County Route 33,

Norwich, NY

10:00 am

## SOT Annual Pot Luck Dinner Managing Your Land for Wildlife

**Mike Zagata, NYFOA Director of Organization Development**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
840 Upper Front Street,  
Binghamton, NY

In addition to the comradery, and abundance of culinary treats provided by our members, our guest speaker will be Mike Zagata, NYFOA Director of Organization Development. Mike will offer a "PowerPoint" presentation which covers the history of NY Forests, the impact on them as a result of the "preservation" movement, and the recent "Young Forest Initiative" which has been advocated by NYFOA, and other organizations throughout the state in conversations with the DEC, and legislators in Albany. Mike will discuss what it all means to the landowner's goal of being able to combine managing for wood fiber, and for wildlife at the same time.

There will be a raffle the evening of the pot luck dinner for a pair of DryShod waterproof boots. Tickets will be available for \$1 at the door. Door prizes include a Taste NY store gift basket (roughly \$35 value), a \$25 gift certificate from Norwich Implements and a \$25 gift certificate from CNY Power Sports in Cortland. Other door prizes are being sought.

Please bring a dish to share (power outlets will be available for crock pots) and your own plate and utensils. Hot and cold beverages will be available.

## 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

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, & wildlife plot improvements.

The "Backyard Fruit Growers Organization" is dedicated to preserving old varieties of apples and sharing information. Donald works as an instructor at their spring grafting workshop teaching hands-on root stock grafting to other growers and the public. At this workshop members bring 400+ varieties of apple scions and some pear, paw-paw, and other nut

varieties. They participate in restoring old varieties that had been previously believed to have been lost. The members have amazing skills across many types of plants, apples, nut trees, paw-paws, etc.

Look for additional information in "Treelines" Spring newsletter on this presentation, and mark your calendars now for this chance to learn valuable information first hand that will help in your efforts of improving apple orchard growth, and production just in time for the Spring growing season.

### **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. A sign-up sheet will be available at the annual "Pot Luck" dinner on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required, and payment to be made at 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 [steven\\_kutney@yahoo.com](mailto:steven_kutney@yahoo.com). Mail registration can be completed by mailing check made out to NYFOA-SOT, and addressed to Ken & Sharon Semanovich, 2 Airport Road, Binghamton, NY 13901.

### **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 [steven\\_kutney@yahoo.com](mailto:steven_kutney@yahoo.com).

### **Wightman Specialty Woods Lumber Mill Tour**

On Friday, September 28, a tour of the Wightman Lumber mill in Portlandville, NY was provided by co-owner Dave Wightman. Dave, and his brother Dan, took over the mill's operation from their father, who founded the mill in 1945. The mill has expanded its operation significantly since their father first started, and now employs some 50

people, including other family members. Dave and Dan's sister Pat manages the retail operation, while Dave's son Matt runs the custom molding portion of the business, which includes the manufacture of the dies necessary for the production of customer specific moldings, and wooden parts.



*Metal detection in timbered logs is noted by the dark stain deep within the tree.*



*Undetected metal destroys saw blades.*

Dave's knowledge of local timber traits provided the participants in the tour with some of the reasons for their selection of timber they purchase locally with the help of area foresters. They purchase much of the White Pine, and Red Oak used in the operation locally. Not only does it help area landowners, but as it turns out the Red Oak from the local hills are among the most uniform in color anywhere. The color uniformity, especially with the manufacturing of cabinetry and



flooring, is an extremely desirable trait. Dave mentioned that some PA areas have similar desirability, but that comes at a cost since much of it has a higher board foot cost, in addition to the added transportation.



*One thing metal detectors cannot find is old porcelain insulators, left in trees from when the area was farmed and electric fencing was used.*

Though a significant amount of lumber produced at the mill is Red Oak, and White Pine, the mill also produces wood products from Cherry, Hickory, Basswood & Maple, depending on the time of year since moisture content, and sourcing, vary greatly with each species. While softwoods can be kiln dried to 10-11% for acceptable use, hardwoods require a much lower moisture content after drying, ranging normally in the 6-8% acceptability area. Some applications with hardwood such as those dealing with RF (radio frequency) glueing require moisture contents of no greater than 5% for acceptable performance. Such is the requirement they had from Gibson Guitar.



*Stacking lumber for drying. It is essential to provide ventilation between the layers of boards. This is accomplished with stickers, which are laid in place using laser guidance.*



*Stickers, which are narrow strips of wood used to separate layers of boards, allow for air flow during the drying process.*



*Lumber drying in the kiln.*

A tour of the lumber mill included stops at the debarking station, metal detection, kiln drying, saw operation,

storage, as well as the specialty products produced on site such as molding, flooring, and customer specific wood parts. As part of the tour participants were able to see a unique part of the operation, where the kiln dried boards were subject to a final quality control check on their way to storing, and shipping. Wightman lumber is the only mill which passes every kiln dried board over a chain driven belt with capacitance meters to measure the moisture content of the boards. Those that are above acceptable moisture levels stop the belt, and the board is removed to be returned to the kiln for additional processing.



*Capacitance meters along the line inspect every board for moisture content.*

In addition to the retail operation which is open to area residents, the mill ships boards throughout the country by container. Each container holds 12,500 board feet of product. They also ship internationally, especially to China and Canada, as well as within the states.

The Wightman family prides themselves on providing a superior product for distribution. Returns are virtually unheard of, which is not only a matter of reputation, but also affects the bottom line, and overall profits.

The SOT would like to thank Dave Wightman, and his staff for a really informative day, and we hope others will have the opportunity to see this wonderful piece of Americana manufacturing for themselves.

Wightman Specialty Woods is located at 146 County Highway 35A, Portlandville, NY 13834.

The mill does offer tours to the public as the schedule permits. Interested parties, and individuals interested in visiting the mill should contact them at (607) 286-9201 for further information.

### **SOT Chapter Program Land Conservation Programs**

On November 14, 2018 Kristi Sullivan, of the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources & Land Conservation Program, provided a presentation on a variety of subjects regarding land conservation, restoration, and monitoring of forests in the NY Southern Tier.

In addition to her duties with Cornell's Natural Resources & Land Conservation Programs, Kristi also works on conservancy projects, and conservation easements through the Edward L. Rose Conservancy which is 501(c)3 charitable organization. More information on the Edward L. Rose Conservancy may be found on their website at ELROSE.ORG or e-mailing Kristi at elrosepublic@gmail.com or calling 607-255-5508. These easements through Edward L. Rose Conservancy are for riparian buffers of at least 35ft. wide, and up to 180 ft. wide (distance from top of stream bank). For areas without trees or

shrubs, native plants will be planted on buffer free of charge! Funding may also be provided to install fencing to keep livestock out of the buffer.

Kristi discussed how donations of land, or conservation easements can benefit landowners who wish to fulfill a legacy plan in perpetuity for their properties, but lack family interest in making these goals happen. Though some of the conservation easement programs carry some cost in implementation of stewardship fees, many of the programs offered through the various conservatories available in the state offer tax benefits to the landowners as well. By taking part in these conservation easements, not only has the landowner protected the property from over development, and subdivisions, the landowner can receive tax benefits on 50% of income over five years, and local property tax relief of 25% on up to \$5K. Of course there are a number of factors which are considered, and those that have an interest in the possible use of these easements, and land donations are advised to contact their financial advisors, tax consultants, and attorneys to discuss their individual circumstances. Anyone interested to learning more about this topic is welcome to e-mail Kristi at kls20@cornell.edu

### **Bad News/Good News Arbor Chain Saw Review**

by Jerry Michael

Having a good start on my ninth decade, I've found it increasingly difficult to put in more than a couple of hours in the woods with my old faithful Stihl Farm Boss. A couple of years ago I purchased a lighter-weight Stihl Model 181 C-BE for about \$219. Big mistake. Too many plastic parts,

including the so-called "Quick chain adjustment system", which is anything but quick. The bar and chain are of such light-gauge steel, they just will not hold up under anything but the most gentle use on small material. After an unreasonable period of stress and procrastination, I unloaded it cheap, with appropriate warnings to the purchaser.

Now for the good news. In a recent edition of the Niagara Frontier Chapter Newsletter, NYFOA member Mark Gallo raved about his "top bar arborist's chainsaw". I contacted Mark for additional details and ended up purchasing a Stihl Model MS 193 for \$339 from Agway. The saw is what arborists refer to as an "in tree" saw, which means you can use it for limbing with one hand while climbing the tree, which is about the last way I would consider using it. With a 1.84 cc engine that delivers 1.7 horsepower, it is perfectly adequate for limbing, felling trees up to about 10" diameter, and is great for girdling. It comes with either a 12" or 14" bar and only weighs 7.7 pounds, which is less than my hunting rifle. I have been using this saw for 4 or 5 hours a day this fall, without the fatigue that can make hazardous work even more dangerous. Most importantly, this saw's design and construction is what the Stihl label has traditionally represented. I couldn't be happier with it for the kind of work I have to do in my woodlot these days.

Stihl Chainsaw Parts for obsolete older models

It has come to our attention, that many of us with older model chain saws may be having difficulty in

finding replacement parts. It appears that Stihl themselves will only carry parts for a limited number of years (approx. 7). Since many of us try to maintain their equipment for longer periods, we hope that the list that follows provides some hope to repair older models which might be difficult or expensive to replace. Hopefully these vendors may be able to help many of you who find yourselves in this situation. Though specific to Stihl, these vendors may be able to offer assistance for other brands.

Ron's Saw Shop (SD) 1-800-433-6304  
E-mail [sawparts@hotmail.com](mailto:sawparts@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.ronssawsalesandservice.net](http://www.ronssawsalesandservice.net)

Joe's Tractor (NC) 336-885-4582  
Woodcutters Headquarters (NY)  
716-542-9839

Draper's Outdoor Power (OR)  
541-889-9250

Way-Ken Contractors Supply (IL)  
773-283-2413

Tim's Country Saw Shop (WA)  
315-942-4589, (only older Chainsaws  
from the 030 and up)

Legacy Feed & Fuel (ID)  
208-838-3003, Fax 208-888-1963  
E-mail: [shop@legacyfeed.com](mailto:shop@legacyfeed.com)

Charm Engine Ltd (OH)  
330-893-3033, Fax 330-893-3095

Auburn Chain Saw & Mower (NY)  
315-252-0664, Fax 315-252-0728

Dunn's Equipment ) 978-372-7100  
Fax 978-521-2300

E-mail: [dave@dunnsequipment.com](mailto:dave@dunnsequipment.com)

Mentzer & Elliott Chain Saw (OR)  
541-443-2351

### Scouting for Emerald Ash Borer by Kevin Mathers

Looking for an excuse to get out into your woodlot during winter? You can do some bird watching, get some exercise and search for signs of emerald ash borer (EAB) all at the same time. During the winter

woodpeckers are busy searching for insect larvae hiding in trees which makes up a large part of their diet. When they find an ash tree infested with EAB they really get to work. The larva EAB (grubs) hiding just under the bark of ash trees provides woodpeckers with a bonanza of nutrient-rich food to help them survive in harsh winter conditions.



*Blonding of ash tree bark by woodpecker activity. Photo courtesy of Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.*

Woodpeckers are experts at both detecting insect larvae and accurately and efficiently chiseling away bark and wood to find the prize. With ash trees, the woodpeckers will chip off the darker gray outer bark before zeroing in on the unsuspecting larvae. This feeding behavior exposes highly visible patches of lighter tan-colored inner bark, often described as "blonding". While woodpeckers will sometimes go after native insects infesting ash trees using this same foraging technique, if you find numerous blonded ash trees at the same location it's highly likely you've found an EAB infestation. Unfortunately, woodpecker feeding has not reduced EAB populations enough to save our ash trees, even when they have been found to consume nearly 50 percent of the larvae.

If you don't yet have EAB in your ash trees, it's a good idea to keep a close watch. Ash trees rapidly become brittle and dangerous after they are killed by EAB, so early detection may allow you to harvest trees before they become too hazardous.

### Letter from the Chair

Last winter I wrote that I thought it was a good time to sell timber. Lumber futures hit a new high in May of 2018, but have since dropped to a 28 week low as of the end of October. Prices are expected to stabilize and not return to the highs according to a recent Investors.com article titled, *Wood Products Executive Says Lumber Futures Market Crash is Probably Over*. Yves Laflamme, Resolute Forest Products Chief Executive officer said, "Even if prices have bottomed, fourth-quarter results for lumber won't be that great after the slump and the persistent dispute between Canada and the U.S. over softwood lumber." I would expect hardwood prices to follow that trend.

I would like to share with you a method for using hack and squirt taught to me by forester, Mike Gray. To apply herbicide it's often recommended you grind down a hatchet's sides so that the blade length is about two inches. Rather than grinding a hatchet use a plaster hammer that can be purchased at Home Depot for about \$30. The non-hammer part has a hatchet blade that is 1 ¾ inches. I sharpened the blade before going into the woods and used it to treat beech growing on a steep hillside.





**plaster hammer**

Beech trees have a thin bark. You just need to swing the hammer so that it squarely goes into the side of the tree. A little pocket will be formed. A squirt bottle is used to fill the pocket. I used a product that contains 41% glyphosate without mixing with water. I use water to get a 25% glyphosate mix when using my brush saw. I used the same mix with this hack and squirt method. You just need to squirt a little bit in each pocket. You may want to add a little dye, but I don't think it's necessary. Skip a few inches between hits. Wear gloves that will protect you from chemical exposure.

It has come to my attention that the Stihl Company does not sell parts for equipment seven years after a product is discontinued. A local Stihl dealer gave SOT member Jerry Michael a list of dealers that carry obsolete parts. I was able to order a part that I needed for my 20 year old brush saw from a dealer on the list. We have included the dealer list as part of this newsletter.

If you have not attended one of our meetings or woods walks I would like to encourage you to do so. You will always learn something. On the woods walks you will see some amazingly nice properties. If you have wanted to attend an event but the day of the week selected didn't work out for you, send me an email

so that we can use that information for planning future meetings or woods walks.

I hope to see you at our next event.  
-Steve



Each chapter received a tablecloth from the state NYFOA organization to use at programs to promote NYFOA. Thanks to Capital District Chapter's Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Laura Pisarri, for her efforts in making this happen.



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.

### **INVASIVE INSECT ALERT!!!!**

As the new year begins, yet another invasive pest is on our doorstep in NY state. The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect from Asia that primarily feeds on the tree of heaven, however, of concern to NY forest owners, it can also feed on a wide variety of plants such as grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees as well as a number of other plants.

SLF's were first discovered in PA in 2014, and has since been found in NJ, DE, and VA. As of the spring of 2018, NY has no infestations, but there has been a number of recent sightings. Given our proximity to PA it is expected to be found in NY eventually. The small number found in NY most likely have hitch-hiked in by laying their eggs on luggage, firewood, and vehicles that have visited neighboring states and transport them in. Though SLF's can jump and fly short distances, they spread primarily through human activity, and are transported long distances. Anyone that has visited areas with infestations such as parts of PA with dense SLF populations should check their hair, clothes, and belongings for any sign of this insect.



If you have additional questions, or might have spotted this insect, you can contact your local DEC or Cornell Cooperative Extension office to discuss. This insect can have a huge affect on NY's grape, apple, and hop industries.

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As you complete your holiday shopping, remember the power of SMILE.AMAZON.

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)**

**Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee**

**Chair**

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stephen\_kutney@yahoo.com

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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 offers our members the very best in informative content, and easy access. This being our second 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, aait@stny.rr.com, or our chapter chair Steve Kutney, (607) 862-9152, or steven\_kutney@yahoo.com.



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS, &  
BEST WISHES  
FOR A  
WONDERFUL &  
HEALTHY NEW  
YEAR!**

Be sure to check out the NYFOA website at [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org) for up to date information.

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