



# NYFOA

## New York Forest Owners Association Central New York Chapter

*Serving Cayuga, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and  
Oswego Counties*

### **CNY NYFOA Woods Walk & Picnic—Baltimore Woods—July 23, 2022—9 am**

Come join us for a *CNY New York Forest Owners Association Woods Walk and Picnic* on **Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 9 am** at the Baltimore Woods Nature Center, which is located at 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus, NY 13108. This will be a walking tour of Baltimore Woods Nature Center's afforestation project, led by David DuBois, who is a land steward at Baltimore Woods. ([baltimorewoods.org](http://baltimorewoods.org))

In March 2022, Baltimore Woods grew by 90 acres, bringing the total number of acres that the Nature Center owns and manages to 270+ acres. In the expansion, the Nature Center acquired nearly 30 acres of agricultural land, which was not meeting mission goals. This year, with the support of Habitat Gardeners of Central New York, Baltimore Woods began the process of afforestation on 4.5 acres of former agricultural land. They constructed a deer enclosure, planted seeds and seedling trees, and restored some aspects of primary forest character to the property. (continued—see page 2)

## **Baltimore Woods—Woods Walk and Picnic—July 23, 2022—9 am (continued)**

This reforestation intends to buffer high quality primary forest, restore a forest community that had been suppressed by a legacy of land use, and create usable space for wildlife and visitors.

This walk will go through the restoration area and talk about what the project aims to achieve and what considerations have gone into meeting those objectives. We will also pass through some primary forest adjacent to the restoration area and talk about the benefits of buffering high quality forest with secondary forest for wildlife and preservation of forest dynamics. We will also discuss the importance of primary forest, particularly for native wild plants. The walk distance will be about a mile through the restoration area and primary forest.

**After the walk, our CNY Chapter will then have a “Share a Dish Summer Picnic” in the Nature Center’s picnic area. Please bring a food contribution to share with all!**

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## **A Landowner’s Map**

By Daniel Zimmerman, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District

Have you ever considered having a landowner’s map? What is a landowner’s map? For the purposes of this article, a landowner’s map is a map drawn by you, the landowner, for your own purposes and in your own way! There are many tools out there to help develop a map. But first, one may want to decide the purpose of having one and its usefulness. Having a map you made yourself, to your specifications, can help you in managing your land, help in efficiency of work performed and resources spent, and increase the enjoyment of your property.

Several tools come to mind that may assist you in developing your map. I have used ARCGIS Mapping, Google Earth, County tax Maps, survey map from land purchase, Aerial photos, Web soil survey, and my own sketches! I am sure there are additional sources in addition to those listed. Each of these tools listed have unique properties that can really add to your landowner map and can get very complicated and involved. For the typical landowner, the simpler the better, but these tools can certainly give you many ideas and does not hurt to look into.

One of the things I look out for as owner is invasive species, a hot topic in the natural resources field. I keep a sharp eye out and map the locations when I notice some. In my property, Multiflora Rose, Honeysuckle, and Buckthorn have been identified and mapped as to location and density. This guides me when doing field work to limit or eradicate these pests.

Another purpose I use extensively for mapping is White tailed Deer and Turkey movements, foraging, bedding, and vegetative impacts for both hunting and habitat management. I will do my scouting in spring, summer, and early fall and record my observations on a modified aerial photography overlay of my property’s tax map. This guides my hunting strategies for the upcoming seasons and I also keep them and compare year by year. One would be surprised the patterns that develop. (continued—see page 3)

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## A Landowner's Map (continued)

I also like to utilize ArcGIS applications that allow me to map, to a certain extent, tree species diversity, age, size, timber density and volume in conjunction with “boots on the ground” information that I gather periodically. Outlining forest stands is very useful together with acreage determination that allows for access determination and changes within the forest landscape.

Mapping your property's aquifer and water properties is also very useful. Where are the vernal pools? Where are the intermittent streams, drainages, ponds, stream and wetlands? Critical knowledge when displayed on a map which can lead to many useful insights and planning!

Another useful tool I have used in generating a landowner map is Web Soil Survey. One can generate maps showing your property's soil types and properties. This can really be helpful when deciding on tree planting issues, forest management activities “working window” (i.e., when you can expect conditions to allow you to work the land/forest). Soil fertility, drainage, slopes, and moisture holding capacity are some of the usages of the soils map.

Deciding to develop your own landowner map is, in my opinion, one of the better things one can do to increase your enjoyment of your property. Yes, they have other very useful benefits, such as those previously listed, but, in my opinion, enjoyment tops the list! One map may not accomplish everything you're looking for; I prefer to develop several maps. The satisfaction of doing a map my way and for my reasons simply cannot be emphasized to a higher degree.



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## Forest Property Access Key Points

By Daniel Zimmerman, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District

Having good access to your property sets the stage for heightened enjoyment and better usage of your forest property. Whether you already have established access or need to develop access, there are many considerations and planning needed. I have found that conditions within my forested property are always changing due to changes in vegetation, moisture, rainfall, usage, and wind/ice storms. The key is having a good network of forest trails and keeping them good! In my experience, continuous maintenance is required in order for said maintenance not to get out of hand thus requiring more work and monetary outlay.

Having a good landowner map (one you understand very well) coupled with an aerial photo helps immensely. A soils map together with a topographic map adds very important information to your trails establishment and maintenance. Applying your proposed or existing trails to these maps gives you: 1) good understanding of the soil types encountered along with their ability to be optimally worked including time of year, 2) changes of soil types along your trail routes, 3) steepness or slope, 4) stream or drainage crossing locations, 5) wetland locations.

Keeping in mind your purpose for access/trails is another consideration, especially when establishing a new trail. I always keep in mind that possible future timber harvesting considerations, as well as my own management activities such as firewood harvesting and invasive species control activities, require certain good trail considerations. Recreational considerations that I employ are for hunting (yes, good placement of trails have helped me get some nice bucks!), ATV & snowmobile riding, cross country skiing, and snowshoe hiking, wildlife & wild flower observation.

Some Key Points to consider on trail establishment and maintenance:

- Avoid steep slopes
- Avoid poorly drained soils
- Where possible “run” cross slope in order to encourage drainage and control erosion
- Keep slopes to a maximum 10 to 15% wherever possible
- Install turn ups for small distances on longer downturns
- Install water bars on steeper slopes
- Install broad based dips where drainage is poor
- Keep stream crossings to a minimum including intermittent streams. Keep in mind crossing permit requirements from the state.
- Avoid crossing wetlands whenever possible
- Avoid ecologically sensitive areas containing rare plants and other ecosystem functions

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## Forest Property Access Key Points (continued)

- Do select areas for maximum recreational enjoyment
- Select areas for minimum maintenance requirements
- Select areas adjacent to forest stands requiring future extensive forest management activities.
- Be cognizant of distances involved, especially from a centralized location emanating from a public road

Understanding the ramifications of having good forest property access has increased the enjoyment of my property in many ways. Ease of access, low light access to hunting locations/hunting blinds, quietness, ease of harvested game removal, good hiking/snowshoeing/cross country skiing, wildlife/wild bird viewing, wild food gathering ease, and good physical conditioning are a few of the ways good access has enabled enjoyment.

In addition to enjoyment, good forest access has helped immensely in ease and limited monetary outlay in forest management activities such as property line maintenance, timber stand improvement, stand thinning, firewood harvesting, invasive species location and control, management planning, forest density analysis, growth rates and tree/ecosystem health appraisal to name a few.



### ***Editor's Note:***

Our son, who attends SUNY ESF, introduced us to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Merlin Bird ID," which you can download from the Apple App Store or Android Google Play. Many of you may already be familiar with this free app, but, if not, be sure to check it out! We have had a lot of fun identifying different bird species in varying forest locations.

For more information, go to:

**[merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org)**

***Do you have suggestions for a future newsletter? Please contact [Eric@Frigodesign.com](mailto:Eric@Frigodesign.com)***