

New York Forest Owners Association Capital District Chapter Newsletter

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Message from the Chair



As is usual, this Spring was very interesting. While turkey hunting, I watched a hen turkey that was asleep on her nest. I had seen the nest with 14 eggs the day before, so I knew where to look as I quietly approached the nest. I was able to back away without disturbing her. I also found an Ovenbird nest with 5 eggs in it. The nest is built on

the ground in fairly open woods. It is covered, with an entrance from the side, similar to a Dutch oven. I had seen the Ovenbird fly from the nest, otherwise I probably would not have found it. There is a lot to see in the woods in the Spring, as the Winter quickly changes to Summer.

I caught a few fish in the Kaaterskill Creek, which borders my property. I had been concerned that most, or all of the fish might have been killed by the pollution which drained into the creeks due to Hurricane Irene.

Our Capital District Chapter had several woodswalks this Spring. There is a lot of planning and time involved by the woodswalk leaders. During the woodswalks, the leaders, and also the participants, answer a lot of questions about the things we come across in the woods. Usually, there is someone that is knowledgeable about birds, insects, diseases, wildflowers, etc. On our last woodswalk, we were lucky to see a pair of Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers, bringing food to their babies in the hole of a tree.

Although our Chapter has been maintaining a healthy membership, we would like to increase our numbers, so as to be able to promote sustainable forestry practices to more people. If you know of any possible members, please ask them to join. Applications are in your Forest Owner magazine, which should be passed on unless you are collecting them. I find that when I keep magazines to read again later, I almost never get back to them.

Our April issue of the Newsletter had an excellent article, "Why Trees Matter" by Jim Robbins. The article is

certainly worth reading again. Our Newsletters are posted on nyfoa.org, making it easy to look back for any articles. There is a wealth of information and links on nyfoa.org, pertaining to almost anything about our woodlands.

We have more woodswalks and our annual picnic planned. Please try to attend and share in the camaraderie and exchange of ideas. If you would like to have a woodswalk on your property, contact one of our Steering Committee members. They are posted in this newsletter.

Jim Bulich

Future Chapter Events

Saturday, July 14th - Rensselaer County

10:00 a.m. meet at Gibbs property, 287 Hidley Road, Wynantskill, NY. Mike Birmingham will lead a walk through the woodlot and lead a discussion of forest health including strategies that woodland owners can use to address threats from insects, diseases, and invasive species. Contact ph (518) 283-0155

Sunday, July 29th - Albany County

11:00 a.m. meet at Glen Doone Picnic Area in Thacher Park, Voorheesville for our annual picnic. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy barbecued chicken, fellowship, horseshoes, and hiking. The picnic area offers great views from the Helderberg escarpment. ph 895-1028

Saturday, September 15th - Schoharie County

11:00 a.m. meet at Landis Arboretum, 174 Lape Road, Esperance, N.Y. for the official opening of the Sustainable Forestry Trail. This trail was developed by the Capital District Chapter in partnership with the arboretum. This is also the weekend of the arboretum's Fall Plant and Book Sale starting on Saturday, so there will be plenty to see and do. Contact ph (518) 875-6935

Sunday, September 16th Greene County

2:00 p.m. at the Wyman Tree Farm, 815 Lawton Hollow Road, Middleburgh, NY. View a timber stand improvement (TSI) harvest that occurred last summer, see a five foot diameter white pine, and learn about the Wyman's shiitake mushroom production project which utilizes small diameter hard wood trees from the woodlot. Contact ph (518) 827-5828

New e-mail News Service

By Phil Walton

CDC has inaugurated a new email service! For all chapter members for whom we have a current and functioning email address, I am sending occasional reminders of the schedule of events and news about other interesting programs going on in the area or online, to keep you informed of activities you might care about as forest owners.

Several years ago our then membership secretary Joan Kappel sent messages about upcoming events and changes to our programs via a personal email account. We let this effort lapse because it was cumbersome and not an efficient use of time. Technology keeps us moving forward, however.

Mike Seager of the Western Fingerlakes Chapter found a low cost list service for not-for-profit organizations started a news service for his chapter. With his help, I was able to create a similar service for the CDC. My first message was in mid-May, which was really just a "Welcome to...." message. Since then I have sent two additional news messages with content I hope those who received them found useful.

The big advantage is that you can subscribe or unsubscribe to the list yourself, without asking me to change the list. Subscribe to the list by sending an email to nyfoa-cdc-news-subscribe@npogroups.org. The message can be empty; all that matters is that you send a message *from* the email address where you want to receive the updates. Similarly, you can unsubscribe from the list by sending a message to nyfoa-cdc-news-unsubscribe@npogroups.org. If you haven't received a news message from me yet, and have previously provided your email address with your membership information, you might want to update your profile.

I expect to send chapter news about once per month, perhaps a little more often if there is time sensitive information that should be disseminated. Recognizing that some people have slow internet connections, I limit the messages to text, i.e., no graphics heavy content that is slow to load. Consequently, these messages will be plain looking and short on eye-catching pizzazz, but full of reminders of activities in our area, and updates to the chapter events schedule. Note that any response to the list comes only to me and the other list administrator, and not to the entire group as found in a blog.

If you have an email account, I hope you will sign up for our service. If you don't have email or don't want to get more email, rest assured that we will continue to produce the regular chapter newsletter. If you have any questions or problems regarding the new list server, let me (Phil Walton) know at 518-895-5346 or at pwalton518@gmail.com.

New Forestry Trail

Several weeks ago the steering committee voted to support the development of a self guided forestry trail at Landis Arboretum in Esperance, Schoharie County. Significant progress has been made on this project and we anticipate an official opening on September 15th. Ron Pedersen donated larch trees from his woodlot which were sawn into 4" by 4" posts. Steve Sloane, another chapter, used a router to number the posts.



Ron Pedersen sawing posts for trail markers



Jim Beil and Phil Walton finish setting a post

When it is finished, the quarter mile long trail will have eight numbered stops. Each stop will highlight a particular aspect of woodland ecology and sustainable forest management. A trail guide is currently being developed. Copies of the guide will be available at the beginning and end of the trail. The trail is located in a section of the arboretum known as the Bass Woodlot.

Exploring Five Rivers

The clouds were thick and rain was in the forecast, but a handful of optimistic woods walkers joined naturalist John Lawrence for a walk at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Our goal was to reach the woodlot on the far end of the 500 acre facility and return to the parking lot before the rain started. Surprisingly, we made it – perhaps thanks to our guide who kept us on a tight schedule.



John Lawrence welcomes the group



Wet trail conditions on the way to the woodlot.

Restoring the American Chestnut Woodwalk

On June 16th Ken James of Averill Park hosted a woodwalk on the restoration of American chestnut. Ken is a member of the American Chestnut Foundation and has been grafting and planting chestnuts for several years. Ken owns a



woodlot that was once populated with chestnuts which got him interested in the species. This native tree was essentially eliminated from forests throughout the eastern United States a century ago. Chestnuts succumbed to a bark fungus from Asia which was introduced in 1904. The fungus quickly spread throughout the natural range of the chestnut. Although mature chestnut trees were killed, the root systems occasionally survive. Consequently, chestnut saplings can still be found in some woodlots and they will usually grow to about 8" in diameter before being attacked by the fungus.



Ken led participants on a tour of his backyard where he has established a small orchard of American chestnut trees. Some of these trees are old enough to bear seed.

TIMO Timber Harvest Tour

The Chapter was invited to join members of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance on a June 16th tour of a timber harvest in the town of Stephentown, Rensselaer County. The tour was led by Bob Bradbury, a consulting forester with LandVest. Landvest manages the property for the landowner - The Forestland Group. The Forestland Group is a timber management investment organization based in North Carolina. The timber sale we visited was about 100 acres in size - part of a tract of 1,372 acres. It was described as a combined thinning and regeneration harvest.



Bob Bradbury, Regional Forester - LandVest



Ferns Inhibit Tree Seedlings

The forest conditions on this property illustrated the challenges faced by landowners and foresters where desirable advance regeneration is in short supply. The area we visited had an overstory of mixed hardwood sawtimber with red oak as the most valuable component. But the understory had a high percentage of beech which will tend to be a much larger component of the residual stand unless controlled.

LandVest hopes to regenerate some areas with small patch cuts, 1-2 acres in size to establish seedlings of red oak, pine and maple. However, there are significant challenges - especially with red oak. Oak seedlings are readily browsed by white tailed deer, and deer tracks were evident on the trails we walked. There appeared to be a high population of well established beech saplings throughout the stand. Unfortunately, deer will not eat beech. The beech seedlings and saplings will compete for growing space with more desirable tree species unless they are eliminated. Controlling the beech is expensive and requires a long term investment. In addition, there are openings throughout the property where heavy fern cover inhibits the establishment of any tree seedlings. The ferns will tend to spread into adjacent forested areas if trees are thinned. Controlling ferns is also expensive and requires a long term investment.



Crossing the "Header"

It is often said that forests are a renewable natural resource. In other words, timber can be harvested without destroying the forest. In fact most forests in New York State have been logged on a twenty to forty year cycle. However, although trees almost always re-grow after a timber harvest, this does not mean that the productive capacity of the site cannot be diminished by timber harvesting. It is widely documented that most hardwood forests have been degraded by past selective removal of the most valuable trees. Forests in New York have an abundance of low value timber as a result of past cutting practices. Woodland owners who want to grow high value timber should make sure that harvests remove low value trees and leave an adequate stocking of good timber for the future. A timber harvest can be used to achieve landowner objectives while improving the health and productivity of the woodlot. However, timber harvests, especially high-grading, can also adversely impact future value and productivity.

2012 Woodsmen's Field Days

The NYS Woodsmen's Field Days will be held next month at the Boonville fairgrounds – August 17-19. NYFOA member Walter Freibel, who helps with the event, is looking for volunteers to help answer questions in the Forest Education Building during the seminars that are held on Friday Aug.17th and Sat.Aug.18th.

If you would like to help out, call Walter at (315) 841-8874. NYFOA volunteers will get a free re-useable weekend pass for the entire 3-day event. This will be the 65th year that the Field Days have been held, and it is a great place to see logging and sawmilling equipment. The following forest education seminars are also offered:

Friday, August 17th

9-10am "Conservation Easements for Forest Land" Don Fisher President, Pomeroy Appraisal Associates
10-11:30am "Hazard Tree Management" Rene' Germain, PhD Professor, SUNY-ESF Graduate Education Coordinator, SAF Certified Forester, Chair NYLT Curriculum Committee, NYLT Board Member
11:30am-1pm "Developing Water Sources for Wildlife" William S. Snyder Professor, Morrisville State College Environmental Sciences Dept.
1-3pm "Invasive Feral Swine & Their Impact on New York Forests" Michael Putnam NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist, Region 7
3-4:30pm "Wildlife Management for Woodlands" William S. Snyder Professor, Morrisville State College Environmental Sciences Dept.
4:30-6pm "Trout Habitat Creation & In-Stream Work for Forest Owners" Colin Lawson Trout Unlimited Regional Watershed Ecologist New England Culvert Project Coordinator

Saturday, August 18th

9-10am "Forest Policy & Regulation" Eric Carlson President & CEO, Empire State Forest Products Association
10-11:30am "Emerald Ash Borer: Ramifications for Eastern U.S., Recent Scientific Studies & New York's Strategies" Mark Whitmore Extension Associate, Cornell University Dept. of Natural Resources
11:30am-1:30pm "Ash Seed Collection Program & Critical Ash Wood Uses" Les Benedict Assistant Director, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division
1:30-3pm "Hemlock Woolly Adelgid & Thousand Canker Disease" Mark Whitmore Extension Associate, Cornell University Dept. of Natural Resources
3-5pm "Skidder Bridges/Access Road Construction & Placement" Rock Termini Chair, Western Chapter SAF Nick Parker, CF
5-6pm "Minimizing Water Problems by the Proper Design, Construction & Placement of Water Diversion Devices" NYC Watershed Agricultural Council

Steering Committee

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*State board of directors

Note: Any chapter member is welcome to join the steering committee. We need your ideas and extra help. Meetings are held every three months at the Colonie Town Library.

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

July 10th – 6:30 p.m.
October 9th – 6:30 p.m.
January 8th – 6:30 p.m.

Recognition For Marilyn Wyman

CDC chapter steering committee member Marilyn Wyman recently received a national award from the Association of Natural Resource Professionals. Marilyn works for Cooperative Extension in Greene County. She received a Gold Award in Innovative Programming for her work relating to Forest Stewardship education. The award acknowledged Wyman's work in building regional collaborations through the establishment of the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agroforestry Resource Center in Greene County and connecting with private forest landowners through new venues such as the multiple values of forests, sustainability, and agroforestry.

Congratulations Marilyn!

Emerald Ash Borer Moves East

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was recently found in Dutchess County directly across the Hudson River from the large infestation found two years ago in the City of Kingston and its vicinity. This is the first discovery of EAB east of the Hudson River.



Emerald Ash Borer Beetle is smaller than a penny

Damage from EAB is caused by the larvae, which feed in tunnels just below the ash tree's bark. The tunnels disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branches and eventually the entire tree to die. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, yellowing and extensive sprouting from the roots and trunk.

The first detection of EAB in New York was in western New York (Cattaraugus County) in June 2009. Since then, infestations have been discovered in five more counties in Western New York and four in the Hudson Valley. Nineteen counties in NY are currently under state and federal EAB quarantines.



Note the "D" shaped EAB emergence hole

Since this insect was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, it has destroyed 70 million trees in the United States. New York has more than 900 million ash trees, which are about seven percent of all trees in the state. Every ash tree is at risk from EAB. Communities and homeowners will face tree removal costs since ash is a common street and park tree and has been widely planted as an ornamental tree in yards. The potential costs to municipalities from EAB could exceed \$12 billion over the next 10 years.

Current regulations ban untreated firewood from entering the state and restrict intrastate movement of untreated firewood to no more than a 50-mile radius from its source. This was done as a precaution against the introduction and spread of EAB and other invasive species because of the documented risk of transmission by moving firewood.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urges residents to watch for signs of infestation in ash trees. To learn more about Emerald Ash Borer and the firewood regulations, or to report suspected EAB damage, call DEC's emerald ash borer hotline at 1-866-640-0652 or submit an EAB report on-line at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72136.html>.

Welcome New Members!

Heather Bruce	Avon, Colorado
Justin Gansowski	Castleton, NY
NA Prince Natural Resource Asset Trust	NYC
Irene & Kevin Pryor	Johnsonville, NY

How Well Do You Know Rare Wildlife Species?

See if You Can Identify This One!

Hint #1 - Of limited distribution, but possessing most unusual characteristics. Reported to date only by hikers and hunters in the remote mountains of the Adirondacks and Catskills. Built somewhat on the lines of a coyote, somewhat on the pattern of a bobcat, but with ears like a jack-rabbit. The tail is long and bushy, and is carried recurved along the back the same as a squirrel's.

Hint #2 - A nightly prowler. Emerges after dark and slinks down to a local landfill to hunt. This critter isn't particularly fussy about its diet, but has a great fondness for discarded car and flashlight batteries - probably on account of their higher pH content. When hungry it is a timid animal. But its courage returns after feeding, and it will then stalk boldly along woodland trails until it sights a hunter or hiker heading to camp. Thereupon it will precede its victim by two or three rods, slowly waving its long tail and touching one ear and then the other. The previous few miles of travel on a heavy feed of batteries generates a substantial charge of static, and these alternating contacts produce a series of brilliant discharges which invariably please and attract the traveler who then follows and is never seen again.

Hint #3 - The nest of this animal is unique in nature and a dead give-away if you happen across one in the woods. Nests are lined with portions of old inner tubes, while the eggs (for the critter is oviparous¹) are shelled with bakelite².

1: Meaning egg laying, the mammalian equivalent is called, *monotremic*.

2: A precursor to modern plastic.

What is it?



Answer:

The Eveready Sand Squink

Anguillamvorax coruscens

Join Us!!

Help Support Sustainable Forestry

The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests. Please consider joining because your support helps make a difference. Regular annual dues are just \$30.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family.

Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 www.nyfoa.org