

New York Forest Owners Association Capital District Chapter Newsletter

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Chair's Message



As you read this, trout season is under way. As I type this, I have a few more anxious days to wait. As a Log Broker who travels around quite a bit, and as a fisherman, I keep close watch on the streams. I am pleased to say, they are looking good and healthy right now... clear, clean, cold and swift; a trout's paradise. We have to thank the partnership between Watershed Agriculture Council (WAC), Hudson River Estuary (HRE), and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties (CCE-CG), for a lot of this. Between the funds supplied by the first two organizations, and the educational outreach services of CCE-Columbia and Greene County, they have educated many landowners, loggers and Municipalities about Forestry's "Best Management Practices" (BMP). By doing so, they have done a tremendous job contributing to the cleaning up of the waterways and tributaries, feeding streams such as: The Batavia Kill Creek, the Schoharie Creek, and the Catskill Creek. (all prime trout streams) This training focuses on stream bed protection, stream bank protection, preventing stream bank erosion, and how to minimize turbidity while working in and around streams. Thank you all for your dedication on this. The trout are much happier and so are the anglers.

Now, on to market conditions. Ash logs are still a very hot item. There seems to be no letting up on the demand for this species. Skate boards, tool handles, flooring, baseball bats, are all still a big demand. Ash lumber sales were up almost 15%, in this past January alone, over the previous three months.

I haven't seen the numbers for log exports yet, but I am sure it's going to be record setting. The volume of ash logs being harvested is unprecedented.

I think someone put the word out to "starve" the Emerald Ash Beetle out of existence. From what I see being harvested, it might just work. I see ash logs being delivered to mills and yards that are 10" dbh. Being able to sell logs as small as 8" in diameter to flooring manufacturers allows this. Normally, this would turn my stomach, but I can understand the rationale here. I suppose, it's the "lesser of 2 evils"? All other species are doing well. Demand is strong. Log prices are stable. I've been able to move all species, very easily, all winter long. Log inventories in Canada are still quite low, even with the mild winter. This is due to mill expansions, and improved mill equipment. Production levels are up. According to Joe: The first 8 months of 2015, showed Eastern Canada on track, to its highest production levels, since 2007. Lumber prices started to rebound, late October and November of 2015, since hitting a 3½ year low in September. The industry seems to be stable and constant for now. I will keep you updated in July's newsletter. In the meantime, I'd like to see as many of you as possible, at some of our upcoming events. Check out the "Upcoming Events" section in this newsletter.

Jason

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The Holiday Gathering

The Capital District Chapter held the annual cover dish supper for members, family and friends on Sunday, January 16th at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Menands.



There were lots of choices of salads and appetizers, main courses, and of course desserts.



Our Snowmen Centerpieces were a big hit, at the Winter Gathering, on January 16, 2016. CDC Chairman Jason Post and CDC Secretary Laura Pisarri, hand made each Snowman from Honey Locust trees, and adorned them with holiday themed ribbon for scarves.

CDC members and guests were asked to guess how many acorns were in the large glass jar,

which Laura passed around to each table for viewing. One winner, from each table, had the pleasure of taking a Snowman home with them.



Congratulations to the winners: Anna Wolfe, Diane Amyot, Jim Bulich, Lucy Gaskell, Tyler Springer, and new member Ian Powell.

The Holiday Gathering usually features a guest speaker. This year Carl Herzog gave an excellent and informative presentation about bats in New York State. Carl is a wildlife biologist with the Department of Environmental Conservation. He specializes in mammals and coordinates most of the bat-related work for the Department throughout the State.



Carl Herzog

Maple Sap and Syrup Hidley Farm and Skinner Sugar Bush Tour

An A-Z Maple event was held with over 40 attending. We gathered in the "Post" at Hidley Farm, where Larry Skinner provided a wealth of experience, about his 200+ taps and the learning process to successfully make about 100 gallons of finished syrup each year.



We then hiked into the Hidley Farm stand of maples, with NYFOA forester Mary Spring, and learned about the choice between growing maples for timber versus sap. Dick and Shari have chosen the latter, for various personal reasons, even though the five-acre stand has some high quality maples. Mary explained that for long-term sap production, the stand is over stocked and a harvest and removal of non-maples is in order, to encourage larger crowns as needed for photosynthesis of sugars.



Larry explained the vacuum lines and the type of spiles, that have a check valve to keep the suction on the tree, when sap is not flowing. Damage to the tubing network from falling limbs and pesky squirrels, requires considerable maintenance to tubing that needs to be in place, as the timing of the sap runs is critical with the changes in weather patterns.



We then traveled to Larry and Kathy's new evaporator, about a mile away from the sugar bush. All of the exacting steps necessary, to evaporate the sap down to a marketable quality of finished syrup, were explained and demonstrated. Finally, there was a nice table of syrup and maple sugar cookies for all to share. Kathy's cookies were utterly amazing.

New Ways To Care For & Enjoy Your Woods

By Joshua VanBrakle

Every family woodlot, and every woodlot family, is unique. A new website by the Watershed Agricultural Council, a Walton, New York based non-profit, helps landowners discover land-based activities that fit them, their woods, and their lifestyle. It's called MyWoodlot.

"Think of MyWoodlot as a 24/7 library of on-the-ground projects landowners can do either by



themselves or with professional help," says Tom Pavlesich, the Council's Forestry Program Manager and a NYFOA member.

MyWoodlot starts with 10 broad interests like Nature, Recreation, and Timber Production. Each interest is then divided into goals landowners can work toward, with each goal made up of several specific activities.

"We didn't want to be just another information source," Tom explains. "We wanted everything to be actionable."

Every activity includes links to how-to information to help landowners complete it. That information takes a variety of forms including factsheets, photo slideshows, videos, professional contact lists, and even a few smartphone apps.

Once landowners find activities they want to do, they can save them to a profile for easy future access and to track their progress. They can also ask questions and learn from each other through the site's forum.

MyWoodlot is available free for anyone to use thanks to funding from the US Forest Service and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. To get started visit www.mywoodlot.com.

Capital District Chapter Events of Interest

What: Annual Woodworkers Showcase
When: Saturday & Sunday April 2-3, 2016
Where: Saratoga City Center
522 Broadway
Saratoga, NY 12052

Fine woodworking lectures, demonstrations, tools and materials sales sponsored by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association. Over 600 exhibitors. The show runs from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10. For more information visit the following website: www.nwaWoodworkingshow.org

What: New Baltimore Ag Fest
When: Saturday, June 4, 2016
Where: Van Etten Farm
Sawmill Road
New Baltimore, NY 12124

Antique tractors and machinery, vendors, exhibits, entertainment and food will be available at this event.

What: Capital District Chapter Picnic
When: Sunday, July 24, 2015 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: John Boyd Thacher State Park, Glen Doone picnic shelter

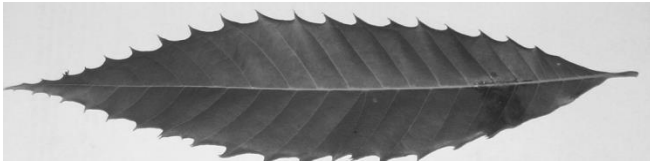
Our annual chapter picnic is being held at the Glen Doone shelter. The site has spectacular views of the capital district from the Helderberg escarpment. The BBQ chicken will be served around 12:30 or so. Please bring a dish of your favorite picnic accompaniment to share with others. The cost: only \$6 per adult which includes the park admission, a BBQ chicken half, drinks and "dinnerware". Take a hike on one of the many trails, or challenge someone in pitching horseshoes. This is a great place to relax on a hot summer afternoon with other chapter members, friends and family.

Reward For Chestnut Trees

Do you have an American chestnut tree growing in your woodlot? Although millions of native chestnut trees were killed by the blight in New York State back in the 1920's, some of the rootstocks still survive and produce chestnut saplings. But the search is on for trees large enough to produce seed. The American Chestnut Foundation of New York (TACFNY) is posting a reward - \$200 for largest American Chestnut Tree Found in New York State, in 2016 and \$50 for all trees over 14" DBH.

The tree must be found in New York State and the property owner must allow TACFNY access for pollination and/or seed collection. Trees must also be identified by TACFNY as pure American Chestnut.

What to look for: Open burs lying on the ground near the tree. The burs will be light brown with long sharp spines and measure about 3 inches across. The leaves are slender; 6 to 9 inches long with pinpointed teeth that have a fishhook profile. They are similar to a beach leaf, except longer and more pointed on each end.



Chestnut Leaf



Chestnut Bur

For further information or identification of a tree contact President and District 4 director, Allen Nichols at 607-263-5105 or by e-mail: fajknichols.75@gmail.com

Steering Committee

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What is The Envirothon?

The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. It was held for the first time in 1992. It is sponsored by NCF-Envirothon, a not-for-profit organization established to promote environmental education program for high school students throughout North America.

This initiative is the result of an ongoing partnership with conservation district associations and cooperating state, provincial, and federal natural resource agencies. The program boasts a successful history of providing hands-on environmental and natural resource management education to high school students and empowering young people with the competencies and motivation vital to achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.



Winning teams from participating states and Canadian provinces compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The competition is centered on four universal testing categories (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife) and a current environmental issue. For more information visit <http://envirothon.org>.

This year Forests Ontario will host the North American Envirothon (NAE) competition from July 24-29 at Trent University in beautiful Peterborough Ontario. The event will bring over 500 visitors from the US and Canada to compete for the championship title.

Seedling Sales Are Open

The State Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs is now selling tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on public and private lands.

Order seedlings by calling (518) 587-1120, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM. Operators can answer questions or direct you to the proper office for other information. An order will be completed over the phone and sent to you via mail or e-mail for your signature and payment. For all other inquiries call the Nursery office at (518) 581-1439, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Species	Height	Cost per unit
Austrian Pine	5"	25/\$20
Pitch Pine	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45
Red Pine	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$65
Scotch Pine	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$65
White Pine	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$65
Norway Spruce	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$70
White Spruce	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$70
Douglas Fir	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$75
Japanese Larch	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$70
European Larch	5"	25/\$20, 100/\$45, 250/\$70
Black Walnut	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66
Butternut	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66
Buckeye	5"-14"	25/\$30
Black Cherry	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66
Hybrid Poplar	5"-14"	25/\$20, 100/\$56
Red Oak	5"-14"	25/\$30,
Chestnut Oak	5"-14"	25/\$30
Yellow Birch	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66
Paper Birch	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66
Sweet Birch	5"-14"	25/\$30, 100/\$66

Welcome New Members!

Mike & Melissa Leonovich,
Ian Powell,
Raymond Wahl,

Rensselaer, NY
Earlton, NY
West Sims, CT

Envirothon Quiz

This practice test is to help students competing in the 2016 Envirothon.

1. What is the most common tree in New York State?
 - a) Red Oak
 - b) Sugar Maple
 - c) White Pine
 - d) American Beech
2. What is the scientific name of Red Oak?
 - a) Quercas alba
 - b) Quercus rubra
 - c) Rhus typhina
 - d) Prunus serotina
3. The bark is dead material.
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. What tree is known for having noticeably large lenticels?
 - a) Sugar Maple
 - b) Pin Cherry
 - c) Red Maple
 - d) Red Oak
5. What is left in the forest after harvesting is known as _____?
 - a) Top
 - b) Slash
 - c) Grading
 - d) Fell
6. A common name for Hophornbeam is...
 - a) Birkwood
 - b) Musclewood
 - c) Ironwood
 - d) Basswood
7. Blister Rust affects what tree?
 - a) White Oak
 - b) Chestnut Oak
 - c) White Ash
 - d) White Pine
8. What is the best time to trim a Christmas tree?
 - a) November
 - b) October
 - c) June
 - d) March
9. What tree is known to have 'bulls' eyes'?
 - a) Sugar Maple
 - b) White Oak
 - c) White Ash
 - d) Red Maple
10. How many links are in a chain?
 - a) 66
 - b) 100
 - c) 200
 - d) 50
11. What tree has the most mast?
 - a) White Oak
 - b) White Pine
 - c) Red Maple
 - d) Sugarberry
12. Which tree has a catkin?
 - a) American Chestnut
 - b) Osage Orange
 - c) Sugar Maple
 - d) Black Cherry
13. What tree has a pome?
 - a) Walnut
 - b) Oak
 - c) Maple
 - d) Apple
14. Which tree has opposite branches?
 - a) Red Oak
 - b) Basswood
 - c) White Oak
 - d) Sugar Maple
15. What is the Latin name of Basswood?
 - a) Prunus americana
 - b) Tilia americana
 - c) Larix rubra
 - d) Alnus rugose
16. What is BAF?
 - a) Basal Area Frequency
 - b) Basal Area Factor
 - c) Barn Animal Farm
 - d) Brazil Area Farm
17. How many feet are in a chain?
 - a) 100
 - b) 66
 - c) 200
 - d) 50
18. What instrument is used to measure slope?
 - a) Clinometer
 - b) Biltmore
 - c) Pulaski
 - d) Hypsometer
19. Trees that have larger branches than average trees are known as what?
 - a) Big
 - b) Snag Trees
 - c) Wolf trees
 - d) Widowmakers
20. What is the official New York State tree?
 - a) White Pine
 - b) Slippery Elm
 - c) Sugar Maple
 - d) White Oak

Answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-T, 4-b, 5-b, 6-c, 7-d, 8-c, 9-d, 10-b, 11-a, 12-a, 13-d, 14-d, 15-b, 16-b, 17-b, 18-a, 19-c, 20-c

Join NYFOA

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 \$45.00 for an individual or family.

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