

# CNY Chapter NYFOA

MAY 2014

COVERING CAYUGA,  
HERKIMER, MADISON,  
ONEIDA, ONONDAGA,  
AND  
OSWEGO COUNTIES

## 2014 Program

*Come join us for all or some of these events*

- Ralph Meyer,  
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- Rich Taber,  
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Designated Board  
Member  
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- Sandy Babcock,  
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- Peter Cann,  
Secretary,  
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- MAY 17** 9:30 AM at Peter and Nancy Cann's - 6155 Quarry Rd, Canastota. There will be a woods walk, looking at regeneration, growth, thinning, TSI, 8,000 pines planted years ago, and spring plants and flowers. Who knows these ? Which are edible? Learn about Cann's energy-independent, off-grid home, including its geothermal system and wind mill. A day for Fun (zipline anyone?) and for increasing your knowledge of woodlands. The Canns are providing lunch, so please RSVP if attending ( 315-687-3812 or email [plcann@twcny.rr.com](mailto:plcann@twcny.rr.com))
- JUNE 14** 10 AM-at Morrisville College, Jim Costello will provide a saw mill demonstration from scaling and grading logs to sawing, grading and measuring the boards cut; also, how their solar kiln works, drying lumber, edging and creating finished boards. Bring your own snacks and lunch. In Morrisville turn south at the light, about 1/2 mile turn left into college entrance, look for sign; second right will take you to the saw mill area
- AUGUST 24** 10 AM - NYFOA-CNY Annual Picnic at Great Swamp Conservancy. Bring a dish to pass & your place setting. We provide drinks & something like hot dogs. From I-90 take exit 34 in Canastota, NY. Go south on route 13 ~100 yards , right on Maple St, then right on North Main St. (~ 3 miles). The Nature Center Complex is on the corners of N. Main St. and Pine Ridge Rd. Follow NYFOA signs. More directions at ([greatswampconservancy.org](http://greatswampconservancy.org)) .

*Details for the following events will be in the next newsletter*

- OCTOBER 18** Kathy McGrath and David Sonnenfeld will host a Woods Walk at their 36-acre woodlot outside of McConnellsville
- DECEMBER 5** Christmas Party at the Babcocks, 6:30- ? in Cazenovia

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the expense of printing and mailing, we will be EMAILING future newsletters to members with an email address.

IF you do not have email or would prefer PRINT copies there will be a charge of \$5.00/year to cover the added expense

Please send requests for print newsletters and your payment of \$5.00 to Sandy Babcock, Treasurer, 3174 Thompson Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035

*The Branch of Knowledge*

Our CNY – NYFOA chairman, Ralph Meyer, shares information about two recent events  
In February we first had our state-wide NYFOA Annual Meeting at ESF

The ESF program was well organized and very informative. The presentation by Dr. Ralph Nyland: Silviculture & Regeneration was one that I can truly relate to from my own experience. The Red Pine when planted in shallow soil (1-2 feet) underlaid by rock or clay will grow for about 40 years and then die. I planted some on my own property in the early 70's and have found this to be true. Those planted on deeper soil tend to live much longer. Have any of you found to be the case on your property?

Another presentation was about the Return of the American Chestnut by Dr. Chuck Maynard. ESF is evaluating the 40,000 plus genes within the American Chestnut and have determined that by modifying just one gene the trees can survive the blight that has plagued our forests for decades. The idea of modifying the gene was the result of a recent trip to China where researchers found that this slight modification enables the chestnut to overcome disease and continue growing as normal. So far this modern strategy appears to be working

A few days later, our CNY NYFOA Annual meeting started with a pass-a-dish dinner and was attended by about 20 people and wow, the food was good!

We then had the opportunity to hear from Professor Snyder about the History of CNY Forests and the Deer Population of CNY. Professor Snyder shared a Power Point presentation and photos of our region from the early 1900's. At the time less than 5% of our land was covered in forest vegetation or swamp land. Interestingly this also meant that the deer population was at a historic low. Over the years as the forest vegetation increased so has the deer population and today our landscape is approximately 70% forestation and as you can guess the deer population is at an all-time high.

As you can see we had a wonderful evening with food, friends and interesting conversation.

We hope you can join us for our future events. Please give us your feedback and input for

- What presentations would you like to see? By whom?
- Where would you like the next annual Pass-a-Dish dinner event to be held?  
Day of the week? Time?  
Enjoy your next walk through the forest...  
Ralph Meyer – Chair

***Speaking of feedback, we received 8 responses to our survey of newsletter topics – the small sample limits the significance of results, but these topics received 3 or more votes. Do you know anyone who can contribute short articles on any of these?***

- 8 / 8 Narratives of members' experiences i.e. "Lessons Learned"
- 6 / 8 Reviews or experience good or bad with local loggers, foresters, sawmills, equipment etc.
- 4 / 8 Forestry or land management items for sale or wanted
- each of these Timber Stand Improvement (felling, girdling, using chemicals)  
Conservation easements, estate and/or tax planning  
Other organic harvests from your property besides timber
- 3 / 8 Compilation of lists of local loggers, foresters, sawmills, equipment sources
- each of these Reviews or recommendations of books or other information sources  
Stumpage values  
Finding the right forester for your needs  
Conservation easements, estate and/or tax planning  
Timber Harvest (contracting, equipment, techniques, clean-up, etc.)  
Interactions between active or old agricultural fields and your forest  
Threats to your forest

# The Benefits of Managing Your Forest Lands

By Rich Taber, Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County  
and CNY Vice Chair

Did you know that New York State has more forests than any other state in the Northeast? The Empire State has 18.6 million acres of forestland! These forests cover 62% of New York's land area, and provide a variety of ecological and economic resources. Eighty-five percent of these lands are owned by private landowners.

Forests have many components: trees, animals, birds, insects, water, plants, soils and more. Each is part of the complex that makes up the forest ecosystem. Private landowners carry the costs of owning these ecosystems, yet they provide values, services, and opportunities to everyone who lives in Central New York, New York State and beyond, and those who visit!

Some of these values and services are:

- clean oxygen and watershed protection
- soil stabilization
- habitat for many species of birds, fish, and animals
- beautiful fall colors and scenery
- open space
- carbon sequestration
- a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities
- jobs for people in the forest products and tourism industries.



almost spring

It's no wonder that so many people love to be in the outdoors!

People own forests for a variety of reasons. To have places for outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife watching are high on many landowners' lists. Some like to make maple syrup, or grow edible mushrooms or ginseng. Some like to have privacy, a place to "get away from it all," and to enjoy nature. Many own land to pass on to their heirs, as part of a family legacy. Other reasons are to harvest timber and firewood.

With all of these services and benefits that come from having forests dominate our landscapes, it is important to have forest owners involved in management activities. Whether you own 10 acres or 500, practicing sustainable management of your woodlands results in many benefits. The planning process has two steps. First is to decide what you want; you identify your goals and objectives. An example of a goal is "to see more wildlife". An objective to support that goal is "to plant food plots to attract deer". The second step is to decide how to get what you want; this means preparing a management plan for your property.

In simple terms, a management plan is a blueprint for your forest; you would use it in the same manner that a carpenter uses a blueprint to build a house. It provides a set of instructions and a timetable of how you are going to manage your forest. At some point you will most likely need professional help in the preparation of a management plan.

A typical forest management plan includes:

- A listing of landowner goals and objectives
- Maps of forest stands, soils, significant landscape features, and property boundaries
- Forest and wildlife inventories
- A listing of recommendations to be carried out with a timetable over a course of years

Here are benefits of good planning and management:

Improved wildlife habitat: management can develop a mixture of habitats on your property, providing for a variety of species.

Possible savings on real estate taxes: woodlands enrolled in NY Forest Tax Law 480-a can be eligible for property tax reductions.

Healthier and higher quality trees: by removing low quality, poorly formed trees, growth can be concentrated on higher quality, more valuable trees that grow faster and are more resistant to insects and diseases.

Greater income over time: higher quality trees of desirable species can appreciate in value at much higher rates than overcrowded trees.

An improved road and trail system: trails put in for a harvest provide access to the woodland long after the harvest is over.

Protect and improve water quality: careful management leaves streamside buffers and protects wetlands. These areas filter runoff, remove pollutants, provide tree cover which keeps streams cool, and protect fish habitat.

In conclusion, forests are owned for a variety of reasons, and they provide a tremendous number of services to owners and all people in society. Because they are of such critical importance to all of us, they need to be well taken care of.

### BREAKING NEWS

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has issued the following press release: Oak Trees to be Removed in Glenville Neighborhood. Full text <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/adbfb>

*Extracts...*

"Tree crews will remove approximately 17 oak wilt infested trees in the Glen Oaks neighborhood of Glenville on Tuesday, April 1".....

"Oak wilt is a very serious tree disease in the eastern United States, killing thousands of oaks each year in forests, woodlots and home landscapes. It is caused by a fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus grows in the water conducting vessels of host trees and as it does, it causes the vessels to produce gummy plugs that prevent water transport. As water movement within the tree is slowed, the leaves wilt and drop off, and eventually the tree dies.".....

"While prevalent throughout the upper Mississippi River region Ohio, West Virginia and Texas, the closest known oak wilt infestation to Glenville is about 200 miles west in central Pennsylvania. For more information about oak wilt or DEC's firewood movement restrictions, please call the Forestry Information Line toll-free at 1-866-640-0652 or visit DEC's website"

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Central New York Service Award for 2013

Bruce and Charlene Revette were selected to receive the Chapter Service Award at the 2014 NYFOA Annual Meeting at ESF.

They purchased their land in 1970 and have worked with foresters for management plans, stewardship plans, timber sales, TSI, firewood, beech control and three beehives for pollination.

Bruce and Charlene have been active in NYFOA for 6 years. They are a welcoming and encouraging couple that have attended most of our NYFOA events.

In 2013, the Spring Woods Walk was held at their Twin Oaks Farm. They invited our speaker from Morrisville College for an excellent slide presentation. They were the feature story in the 2013 NY Forest Owner's Publication. They have made arrangements for our upcoming June meeting where we'll see a demonstration of the process: "Log to Kiln Dried Boards".

We would like to thank Bruce and Charlene for their many contributions to our CNY NYFOA Chapter.

Ralph A. Meyer, Chair

We are happy to welcome to the following New Members of CNY-NYFOA

Peter T. Brennan, Neil Eberley, John Farneth, Dave Frank, Charlie Greene, Michael Gromet, Steve Kinne, Jason Pieklik, Steve Reichenbach



Does anyone have an idea of the value of a horse-drawn ice sled? Its been in the barn for well over 50 years !  
Ralph (meyerralf@oahoo.com) would like to know!

If you would like the donated book (*Technical Guide to Forest Wildlife Habitat Management in New England*) that I picked up at NYFOA meeting, email me...  
randi.starmer@gmail.com

More interesting reading - Curious about what our northeastern woodlands were like pre-Columbus? You will be intrigued by sections of the book, *1491*, by Charles Mann. The book actually covers both pre-1492 north and south america, which is all fascinating and eye-opening. A sequel, appropriately called *1493*, is about the results of the "Columbian Exchange".

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CNY-NYFOA  
c/o R. Starmer  
7022 Bush Rd.  
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**Woods Walk - May 17**  
**Sawmill Demonstration - June 14**  
**CNY- NYFOA Annual Picnic - August 24**



**Spring 2014!**