



CNY Chapter NYFOA

November 2016

*COVERING CAYUGA,
HERKIMER, MADISON,
ONEIDA, ONONDAGA
& OSWEGO COUNTIES*

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CNY-NYFOA events

December 2 - starting at 6:30 pm - Annual CNY-NYFOA Christmas party at Sandy and Maria Babcocks' home at 3174 Thompson Rd. in Cazenovia. They always provide a wonderful festive buffet dinner and all you need is to RSVP if you are coming (315-662-7707 or email aplstone@dreamscape.com) and bring \$5/person to help defray costs.

February 23-25 - 2017 New York Farm Show - NYFOA will again sponsor a seminar series and Hugh Canham is looking for volunteers to serve as part-time moderators at some of the seminars or be additional helpers in the NYFOA booth. If you would consider doing either, please contact him by phone: Home 315 457 4972 or Cell 315 430 4972 or email: hocanham@esf.edu

Non-NYFOA events that may be of interest

**November 5 - 9 AM - 10:30 AM - The CNY Land Trust has scheduled a walk at the Great Bear Springs Conservancy - It is open to the public but you need to register at <http://cnylandtrust.org/great-bear-walk/>
A Map is available at : <https://goo.gl/maps/EYrGRntuFfk>**

November 6 - 2-3:30 pm at Liverpool Public Library - Showing of the documentary "Hometown Habitat" by the award-winning filmmaker Catherine Zimmerman. The film shows how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Free and open to the public.

Personal Statements from CNY- NYFOA's past and present Chairmen

Mary Jane and I spent last winter in Denver with our son. We intend to do the same this year, leaving January 15th and returning in May. For this reason I am resigning as chair of Central New York NYFOA. I announced this at the summer picnic and hike in September. I recommended Dan Zimmerman as the new chair, asked for a vote and if anyone had any objection. Everyone was in favor. Effective now, 10 /15/16, Dan is the new chair of Central New York NYFOA. I will be here to attend our board meeting in January.

Dan is a professional Forester of 35 years and president of Central New York Society of American Foresters. Dan will take our chapter to another new level in today's changing world.

Thank you for allowing me to be chair of this wonderful organization.

Ralph



Dan Zimmerman's Biographical Statement (or Three Sentence Resume)

Thirty nine years' experience as a procurement forester, consulting forester, veneer, saw log, and red pine pole buyer; and business/managing forester in central, northern, and southern New York State, graduate of three colleges. Have managed own business, sawmill procurement forestry, hardwood log export yard, and up to six timber harvesting subcontractors. Owns and manages thirty six acres of forest land, tree farm inspector, authored SWOT 2015 survey for economic revitalization state competition for six/seven county region, chair of Iroquois Chapter of Society of American Foresters, new chair of Central New York Chapter of New York Forest Owners Association, participant in Mohawk Valley antipoverty initiative, presently employed by McDonough Hardwoods in Vernon Center as chief Forester and MBA, graduate of Leadership Mohawk Valley class of 2016, ardent hunter and fisherman, and lastly father of three and father of three and husband of thirty five years.

Additional Leadership Changes in CNY-NYFOA

Rich Taber also feels he is no longer able to serve on the board as Vice Chairman. Here is another opportunity calling to someone to volunteer his or her services. Thank you Rich for assuming this role for many years. If you think you can provide this valuable service, please contact Dan or another board member (Sandy Babcock, Peter Cann, Bruce Revette). Their contact information is on the panel on the left side of the first page of this newsletter.

**Vision Statement for the Central New York
Chapter New York Forest Owners
Association
By Dan Zimmerman**

I would like to extend a hello to the membership of the Central New York Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association. (NYFOA). I am honored to be your new chair. I would like to thank Ralph Meyer for the work and leadership that he has given this organization. Great work, Ralph! I hope Ralph stays on as a consultant and participant into the foreseeable future.

Collaboration, organizational structure, and volunteerism/participation are the topics I would like to discuss briefly. There are many exciting endeavors that could be undertaken. Core beliefs of NYFOA as stated on the web site are:

- Promoting science based resources to support woodland stewardship.
- Supporting woodland owners in the long-term stewardship of their forest resources.
- Raising public awareness of the challenges to sustaining our forests.
- Seeking collaborations with other organizations having similar goals and objectives.
- Respecting private property rights as they relate to sustainable forest stewardship

Collaboration can be defined as working with people and/or organizations to produce a desired end result. I see great possibilities in working with other organizations and groups of people! The forest community consists of many interests, some of which could be our partners. Unbelievably (at least to me), is the exclusion, and sometimes vilification, of some sectors of the forest community that are actually crucial to forest management. Having worked in the forest for close to forty years I've seen a lot and would point out that in every group of people and professions there are good and bad, honest and dishonest. Casting a whole group of people (timber harvesters for example) in a negative way imparts a poor public opinion not only of harvesters, but also of our organization! I would like to collaborate with this sector and others to better organizational effectiveness and viability. There are some really great people to be found here and elsewhere in the "forest community".

Additionally, I would like to envision a more cosmopolitan chapter that receives support, opinions, and input from varied but related organizations. Having largely one benefactor can result in a lack of diversity in thought, practice, and support for our members.

It is my hope that we can make an exceptional chapter operating under our core beliefs that would serve as an example of collaboration for the entire state! To that end I would like to propose the creation of two committees:

1. One centered on event planning : walks, dinners, and educational endeavors.
2. Another centered on awards to outstanding forest owners and recommendations for increasing membership and their implementation.

We have some exceptional members who would be a huge asset and their input would greatly help us all with the infusion of ideas and participation. The mechanism of organizational structure would enhance and free up leadership to address other concerns.

So, how about it? Can you volunteer some of your time to committee work? If I don't hear from you, I'll be calling! Of all the ideas expressed in this writing, I feel the most important is volunteering and participation by the present membership. It is my surmise that we have some outstanding members who by participation, utilizing acquired life skills, and contacts, can ultimately be responsible for a truly vibrant and unique chapter! Collaboration and organizational structure are benefited from, and are augmented from, member participation. To borrow from a frequently used cliché, "life is just what you make it", *so too is this chapter!*

Recent CNY-NYFOA Events

Our annual picnic and woods walk was postponed to September 25 due to expected thunderstorms on August 21. The September weather was perfect and a nice sized group gathered in the morning to walk in the Starmer's woods.

After the morning walk we enjoyed a potluck lunch on the porch. At that point Ralph announced that he was stepping down from the Chairmanship since he now spends a significant part of the year in Colorado and felt that it was unfair to CNY-NYFOA to continue that position from afar. We hope we continue to see him and Mary Jane at future NYFOA activities when he is in CNY and also thank him for his leadership of CNY-NYFOA for the past 4 years.



After lunch, some members then walked or drove to the cemetery of Conrad Bush, a revolutionary war soldier who was given the property by New York state for his military service. His grave is marked with a granite obelisk of impressive height!



Would you like to schedule a Woods Walk in your woods?

Are there some unique features to your woods or could you discuss what you have done, or would like to do in the future, on your property and get the varied opinions of other forest owners? Woods Walks are similar to what another landscaping organization calls "Show Me, Help Me" tours and are valuable to all participants, landowners and visitors alike.

Again, let a board member know if you would like to host such a woods walk in the future.

An added benefit of Woods Walks that all NYFOA members know is that walking in their woods is good for your health as well as your mind and spirit. Apparently this is what some people call "Forest Bathing" or what the Japanese call "Shinrin yoku".

No wonder you feel refreshed!

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/05/17/forest-bathing-is-latest-fitness-trend-to-hit-u-s-where-yoga-was-30-years-ago/>

Please welcome new CNY-NYFOA member - Rick Langdon



Reading Corner

As a NYFOA member you probably have received the email from the state chairman, Charles Stackhouse, regarding the proposed revisions to NY State 480a Forest Tax Law.

Here are web links to the contents

http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/letters/480a_ltr_to_DEC.pdf

http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/letters/HarvestNotification_ltr_2016.pdf

On a related note, have you harvested timber recently? Are you concerned about taxes on your timber?

"The National Timber Tax Website was developed to be used by timberland owners, as well as a reference for accountants, attorneys, consulting foresters and other professionals who work with timberland owners regarding the tax treatment of timber related activities."

Check it out at <http://Timbertax.org>



It is easy to forget that the NYFOA website has many links to items of interest to forest owners, especially under its "Education" page ---

You can find these at <http://www.nyfoa.org/education/index.php>

Many of us know of Cornell's Extension Service's vast resources of forestry information and services such as the Cornell ForestConnect web site, but did you know that Pennsylvania State Univ. also has an extension service with interesting forestry information? Check out <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests>

Forestry bad news.....Another tree pest may be getting closer to our region:

According to the NYDEC, oak wilt has been spotted in Canandaigua.

Please refer to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html>



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Upcoming CNY-NYFOA event dates - Dec. 2, Feb. 25-27

If you have news, articles, or photos of general interest to share, please send them to Dan (<danielzimmerman57@yahoo.com>) or Randi (randi.starmer@gmail.com)