



# CNY Chapter NYFOA

February 2017

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

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## NYFOA events

**February 23-25 - 2017 New York Farm Show - NYFOA will again sponsor a seminar series. Times and topics are listed in the Jan./Feb. NYFOA magazine on Page 19.**

**March 18 - 10:AM- noon - Maple sugaring and syrup preparation at Carl Stearns' farm/sugar bush/sap house at 3568 Stearns Rd, Erieville. (315) 446-6634, or carl@stearnsfarm44.com.**

**March 25 - Noon - 3pm - Annual CNY-NYFOA spring covered-dish luncheon (bring one to pass) at Great Swamp Conservancy and hear Rich Pancoe talk about his experiences growing Christmas trees over many years. <http://www.greatswampconservancy.org/directions/>**

**April 8 - NYFOA's 55th Annual Spring Program at Marshall Hall, ESF campus, Syracuse NY - For list of presentations and registration form [www.nyfoa.org/time\\_sensitive/annual\\_meeting\\_2017\\_registration.pdf](http://www.nyfoa.org/time_sensitive/annual_meeting_2017_registration.pdf)**

## Non-NYFOA events that may be of interest

**January 29 2-3:30 pm at Liverpool Public Library -Amy Samuels, Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Onondaga Environmental Institute will discuss native plants and rain gardens. Rain gardens are earth-friendly approach to improving water quality in our watershed and attractive and functional in the home landscape. Free and open to the public.**

**February 9 - 7:15-9:15 at Shoppingtown Cinemas. See a screening of "SEED: The Untold Story" - "In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have disappeared...this heartening story reveals .. a lost connection to our most treasured resource and....a culture connected to seeds."**

View the trailer at: <https://vimeo.com/169932441> and you can get your tickets for the one and only Syracuse-area screening here: <http://gathr.us/screening/19206>.

**February 11 - The Great Swamp Conservancy Winter Hibernation Festival from 10-3. At 1:00 pm Dan Zimmerman will be conducting a Woods Walk! <http://www.greatswampconservancy.org/events>**

Among temperate species, OAKS support the largest number and widest diversity of insects measured, and therefore are immensely valuable to biodiversity and the food web that supports our ecosystems. \*\*\*

Our November newsletter mentioned oak wilt has been found in Canandaigua.

So, if YOU have OAKs in your woods or yard:

CHECK out the bulletin from the New York State DEC which advises only pruning your trees between October and February in order to reduce the risk of "oak wilt disease" now found in 6 locations in New York State.

SEE <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/17fe6a4>

\*\*\* pp. 145- 153 in Tallamy, Douglas W. "Bringing Nature Home: How you can sustain wildlife with native plants" (2011) Updated and Expanded Edition



### Changes in CNY-NYFOA

The position of Vice Chairman of CNY-NYFOA is still **vacant** if anyone is interested in applying ; Randi Starmer will assume Peter Cann's s prior role of Secretary



**Spring is coming and so are County Soil and Water Tree Sales - FYI - you do not have to be a resident of a specific county to order from that county**

One can also order a wide variety from the state nursery at

[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/seedlingbrochure.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/seedlingbrochure.pdf)

First **check tree availability** before ordering at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/75799.html>

<http://www.oswegosoilandwater.com/tree%20form%202017.pdf>

<http://www.herkimercountyswcd.com/Tree-and-Shurb-Program.html>

<http://www.madcoswcd.com/tree-sale.html>

<http://www.cayugaswcd.org/annual-tree-shrub--groundcover-sale.html>

<http://www.ocswcd.org/tree-sale.html>

Into the woods doggies....

Please welcome new  
CNY-NYFOA members  
Edmund Ludwig,  
Richard & Eileen Parker  
Jill & Scott Fonte



Faster, faster !

**Reading Corner**

\*\*\*To find the most recent timber  
stumpage report in New York, go to  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>.  
As of this newsletter, the most recent  
report is from spring of 2016 . We hope a  
more recent report will be available soon.  
Meanwhile, you can look at the spring  
2016 report at  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/  
lands\\_forests\\_pdf/spr2016s.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/spr2016s.pdf)



\*\*\*For Governor Cuomo's proposal for the Forest Products Industry from his 2017 State  
of the State - [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/  
files/2017StateoftheStateBook.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2017StateoftheStateBook.pdf)

If you do not already subscribe, check out the Penn State Center for Private Forests web  
site from which you can access their newsletter articles of interest to forest lovers  
<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests>

Along with other interesting articles, there is a review of the following book:  
"Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian  
Trail" by Ben Montgomery, Chicago Review Press Inc., 2014, ISBN 978-1-61374-718-6

## Silviculture Considerations

By Daniel Zimmerman, CNY-NYFOA Chairman

Being a Forester, landowner, and hunter has given me many different perspectives while working in the forest. It is not every day that I am able to practice Forestry and harvest a nice buck on a client's property! Having everyone satisfied in forestry is an accomplishment and may I add that includes myself! Landowner preference in goals and objectives for his property along with the realities of his/her resource gives a guide to silviculture, silviculture practice, silvical system selection, implementation/alignment, monetary return/business methodologies, and quality logging. Hunting is a sport I not only enjoy but am very dedicated to. The landowner of the property discussed herein wishes not to be identified.

Land owner preference was the single most important aspect to devising and implementing a silvicultural system. Taking the time to visit the forest stand with the owner and discussing what he wanted in comparison to what he had produced a good understanding for the selection of a silvical system that was realistic and achievable. Property line identification was important also. Business concerns of the landowner were addresses in the field, while inspecting the resource.

Silviculture can be defined in several ways and can be complex but for the purpose of this writing a more simplified definition would be guiding, monitoring, and regulating through science and art the formation, growth, quality, structure, and arrangement of forest flora or vegetation to obtain a stated set of objectives or purpose. Silvicultural practice consists and maybe not limited to prescriptions designed for forest stands that encourage long term health, productivity, economic and ecological utilities, management, and ownership objectives.

A silvicultural system is a sequenced package of actions designed for achievement of specific forest stand goals and objectives. A system has a detailed plan that assimilates regeneration, tending, and harvesting to achieve management or ownership stated benefits or purpose. Typically, the plan can predict future harvests called rotations, strives to produce a dynamic equilibrium of biological, ecological, and economic concerns to promote long term forest stand viability, and increasingly looks to address forest health issues (ex: invasive species).

The forest stand I harvested timber from had been selectively logged at least twice over the last forty years, the last harvest done by the company I now work for. The stand was stratified into three distinct age classes with a mature predominately Sugar Maple class ready for harvest. The past harvesting had actually produced an uneven age stand (a community of trees with a noticeable difference in ages) and called for a silvicultural system called individual tree selection.

The individual tree selection system involved the removal of trees from all age classes uniformly throughout the stand. Occasionally, group selection was employed wherever biodiversity could be enhanced on less shade tolerant species. Stand density and site characteristics were also taken into account especially because Sugar Maple was so dominant in the species mix.

A common concern with most landowners is monetary return – how much money are they going to make. This land owner had an open mind and as such was open to novel or if you will different thinking. Due to the nature of the resource: species mix of current in demand species and high quality individual trees, a business payment system centering in on specie grade payments netted the owner a superior return per thousand board feet than what the market stumpage rate was at the time. He saved on cost and benefitted by doing business with a reputable company that he had prior experience with and had done “business research” prior to contact.

As a forest landowner, I also like to point out this owner also benefitted from a really good logging job done by certified and highly trained harvesters and company Forester dedicated to customer and mill satisfaction. What good is income from the sale of timber if the harvesting is done poorly leading to many costly fixes or disputes? Many sales center on perceived high return that result in high production logging at the expense of quality logging. Not in my woodlot or this owners lot!

One of the benefits of being a procurement Forester was that I received permission to deer hunt this property and have done so for a while. I like to go whenever I’m in the area and finish in enough time to get into a tree stand. While in the tree stand, I can notice subtle changes in the forest as time goes by from the prescription I originated and implemented. Sugar Maple responds slowly but noticing the vigor and low to no mortality of the residual stand, puts a smile on my face every time!

My paradox with this lot is the lack of hardwood regeneration due to white tailed deer at the same time wanting to see deer (yes, bucks) every time going out. In bow season it’s not unusual to see twenty or thirty deer in the course of a two hour hunt or so! They yard, overwinter and have a huge impact on forest regeneration in this woodlot.

I recently bought a crossbow, a PSC Fang from a local dealer. Years of occasional hunting on this property and never harvesting a buck came to an end this season. During archery, shots of 35 yards or longer I just won’t take. Many a buck came by knowing this, yes they did! Well, one four point came walking by this crossbow season, forty yards out following two does. I took the shot, down he went, and was amazed just how accurate and deadly the crossbow was! I’ve been bow hunting since I was 17 years old and I was amazed! Not giving up my 60lb Darton compound bow but I am now a crossbow fan too!

Silviculture, silvicultural practice, silvicultural system selection and implementation depends on the realities of the forest resource owned and under review together with ownership objectives and goals. Interviewing correctly and in the field benefits not only the owner but the forester and forest stand as well. Being able to work the forest, and notice the results over time is a benefit not many are able to take advantage of. There is a paradox between Forestry and the sport of hunting! In my mind, I can see myself in my tree stand in hunting season, the Sauquoit valley awash in fall color, Sugar Maple everywhere, sun setting, houselights are slowly coming on the valley’s side, and oh yes, a magnificent Whitetail Buck coming right at me!



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Upcoming NYFOA event dates - Feb. 23-25, March 18, March 25, April 8

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)