

THE OVERSTORY

Winter 2010-2011

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Southern Adirondack Chapter

New York Forest Owners Association



Winter at Arbutus Lake, Huntington Wildlife Forest

FARM SHOW 2011: RICH IN FORESTRY RESOURCES

This year's New York Farm Show, to be held Feb 24-26 at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, will include a variety of exhibits, seminars and other activities of great potential interest to anyone owning land with trees. Farm Show guests can also attend NYFOA's *Annual Statewide Membership Meeting*, to be held at 1pm Saturday, February 26 in the Arts and Home Building.

Information will be available on just about every woods-related topic, from timber production to wildlife management and recreation. Some nine different seminars and workshops will be held over the three-day period, covering such topics as Conservation Easements, Firewood Production, Timber Sales, Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Deer Management. A Forestry Information Booth, jointly sponsored by NYFOA, DEC, CCE and SUNY ESF, will offer participants a great chance to meet and talk with forestry professionals from these important resources.

Representatives of the State-wide Master Forest Owner program will also be on hand, to explain their important role of introducing landowners to the nuts and bolts of forest management. MFO's are dedicated volunteers, specially trained to help woodland owners take their first critical steps toward setting forestry-related goals and completing a workable forest management plan.

The quality and variety of information planned for this event-all of it free- is truly hard to beat! For more details, contact Jamie Christensen, at (315) 472-6323 kchriste@twcnny.rr.com; John Druke at (315) 656-2313 jcdruke@twcnny.rr.com; or Rich Taber at rbt44@cornell.edu.

THERE'S A FOREST IN YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE!

As thoughtful forest owners, most of us spend a lot of time worrying about the future of our trees, but seldom consider how our carefully crafted forest management plans will survive over the years. Will future owners of our property be willing, or able, to follow these noble blueprints, often meant to survive for generations, ideally in perpetuity? What can we do, right now, to help ensure that the woodlands we cherish will go on serving our families and communities effectively for as long as possible?

Fortunately, our growing storehouse of internet resources is offering a valuable aide in meeting this challenge. On *Wednesday, February 16, 2011* Cornell's **ForestConnect** webinar series will feature a presentation titled "Your Land, Your Legacy", designed to help us apply the principals of estate planning to the special needs of our forest legacy. Led by Paul Catanzaro of U Mass, the webinar will discuss the role of estate planning in land conservation; provide tips for families on communicating effectively about forestry goals; identify professional planning resources; and help participants learn from the experience of fellow woodlanders. The webinar can't offer specific legal advice, but will give participants a head start on the estate planning process.

The *ForestConnect* website will be available for this broadcast starting at noon on February 16. Registration is required, as it is for all the Cornell webcasts. You'll find complete information on registration and access procedures at www.ForestConnect.com. *If you can't make the live presentation, or are reading this after the scheduled date, an archived copy will be available on the same website.* Supplemental reading for the program may be found at www.masswoods.net/images/stories/pdf/ylyl_web.pdf

SARATOGA NURSERY: A TRADITION YOU CAN COUNT ON!

The Tree Nursery at Saratoga, an icon among the Empire State's forestry resources, is once again accepting orders for its annual sale of tree and shrub seedlings. Opened in 1902, the 300 acre facility is conveniently located between Routes 9 and 50 just south of Saratoga Springs, adjacent to Saratoga State Park. Offering more than 50 species, the Nursery continues its long tradition of providing low cost, native planting stock raised from known seed sources within New York State. Its hand-picked seeds help ensure long-lived, hardy plants, whether used for forestry or ornamental plantings. Another great reason for shopping the Nursery at this time is their need for support in the face of the State's budget crisis. The Nursery is once again a target for potential layoffs and other disruptions, as DEC responds to the Governor's demands for savings. *So go buy some trees, spruce up your woods and help keep this great program on its feet!*

Details on the facility's offerings, including lists and descriptions of available species and an order form, may be found at a special DEC website: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395,. Seedlings may be ordered by phone at (518) 587-1120; or by mail at Saratoga Tree Nursery, 2369 Route 50, Saratoga Springs New York 12866. Phone orders, the preferred method, are taken Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. *While orders will be accepted through mid-May, they should be placed as early as possible for best results. Species sell out early, so act promptly!* For planting advice, contact your nearest DEC Regional Forestry Office.

TWIN WOODSWALKS BLEND STEWARDSHIP, ADVOCACY AND FUN

Known for its lively and informative woods tours, NYFOA's SAC Chapter pulled off a nifty double header last Fall, offering a pair of contrasting but complementary events with something for (just about) everyone. Herewith a look back at their dual successes.

JANE AND DAVE JENKS: SCHROON LAKE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

REPORTED BY BARBARA HENNIG--PHOTOS BY BOB MANNING

The Southern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA met at the home of Jane and Dave Jenks in Schroon Lake on September 25, 2010 for our regular fall woodswalk. Some 30 people attended, on a classic autumn day, in fact warmer than had been predicted. (It interested this writer that weather information for Schroon Lake comes out of the Burlington office of the NWS.)

A new feature for this woodswalk was our look at a specific one acre plot. At our annual meeting this past January, Donna Welch suggested that woodlot owners choose and lay out a one-acre site within their woodlot, whereby we could watch the results of forest management over time. The Hewitts, Jenks, and Fullertons expressed interest in Donna's approach, and later the Mannings spoke up, all from Warren County. I myself felt that focusing on this quite limited area on the Jenks property, and hopefully seeing it again in a few years, would be especially interesting.

Jane and Dave's forester is Steve Warne. Steve recognized that some of their land was perfect for inclusion of a demonstration one acre in order to show what you do to the land over the long haul, if your goal is solely production of maple syrup. The Jenks produce a great deal of syrup each year, not commercially but for family and friends. It's surprising the different decisions one makes when you're looking at a black cherry tree or a white birch tree that may affect the growth of a young sugar maple tree. You cut the down the cherry and the birch.

Steve covered some stresses he could see in a few of the trees around us, including the maples. This led into a discussion of how a (good) forester always listens to what the landowner wants, which in turn gave one of our participants on the woodswalk a chance to ask many questions about getting started with forest management. How and where does one get a forester, for example. Forest management is a broad subject, and Steve summarized it well.

Taxes and assessments came up, in particular the use of the state-controlled 480a plan for owners of forested acreage. John Sullivan, who has considerable experience with this, spoke up saying that it has worked for him in reducing his taxes, or specifically the assessment of the property. But he stressed that 480a is not for everybody.

We then left the defined one-acre, walking a bit farther into the woodlot. Jane pointed

out where one can still see the results of a sudden wind shear in 1998 that flattened a swath in their forest, not something one finds easy to clean up. We then continued on and found the obligatory collection of automotive wrecks no honest woodlot would be caught without. Upon returning to our cars but still within the woodlot, Laurel Gailor, CCE educator out of Warrensburg, saw a good example of the invasive ornamental plant, barberry, and spoke of how one can (and should) control its spread. Control is not hopeless and is very important.

As has been common in the past, this fall woodswalk included the Chapter's annual potluck picnic, for which we headed back to Jane and Dave's house. One wonders how so many different, and good, dishes show up, uncoordinated, and with little duplication, and certainly much enjoyed by all. After the meal, those who wished drove back to a different entrance to the 268 acres, reached from a different road. I did not stay for the afternoon program, but Bob Manning supplied photos, such as this one showing Steve Warne explaining some of his observations.



An expert's eye: Forester Steve Warne points out signs of maple borer in the Jenks' grove

JOHN SULLIVAN'S KIPP TREE FARM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2010

For last fall's woodswalk reprise, the SAC Chapter teamed with *Protect the Adirondacks* to host a tour of the Kipp Tree Farm near Chestertown New York. For the better part of three hours on Saturday, October 9, the 20-plus participants were treated to a lively mixture of woods lore, local history and modern forestry practice, while enjoying crisp fall weather amid an attractive mix of hardwood and softwood scenery. The well-balanced leadership team included Chris Gearwar of Lake

George Forestry, woodlands advisor for the Kipp property for some 30 years; *Protect's* Consulting Forester Dick Johnston; and respected conservationist John Sullivan, owner of the 450 acre site.

The two woodswalk sponsors brought rich but contrasting backgrounds in conservation and forest stewardship to the event, offering participants a unique balance of expertise and perspective. A well-known advocate for the Adirondack Region's natural and human resources, *Protect* and its predecessor, the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, have offered local land owners an internationally recognized forest certification program for over 10 years. The program currently includes some 16,000 acres of certified woodlands, with parcels ranging from 25 to more than 3,000 acres. NYFOA, a long standing and well-respected voice in New York's non-industrial forestry community, is a veteran supporter of sound woodland stewardship, public education and advocacy for the Empire State's forests and forest owners.

The Kipp property has been in John Sullivan's family since 1875, when it was mostly farm fields and pasture supporting cattle, sheep, hay and grains. The ever-resilient Adirondack woods reclaimed the land when farming ceased in 1915, eventually resulting in the heavily-stocked forests of today. A true landmark of that process is an old-field white pine measuring more than 50 inches in diameter and nearly 100 feet high.

Since 2002, Kipp has been certified and managed according to principles of the Forest Stewardship Council, the international certifying body for *Protect's* Adirondack Stewardship Program. Kipp is also a certified Tree Farm, having attained that status in 1978.



John Sullivan delivers a Kipp Farm history lesson in glorious fall sunshine

Answers: McIntyre Quiz

Algonquin: 5115'

Wright: 4587'

Iroquois: 4843'

Marshall: 4380'

AND NOW...THE LATEST IN FORESTRY WEBINAR PROGRAMS

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Available at www.ForestConnect. Click on the *ForestConnect* home page.

Live Presentations: Offered monthly on third Wednesday, Noon and 7pm. Mid-day conferences are recorded for later viewing. See above website for registration details, and a complete schedule of scheduled and saved conferences..

Winter offerings: crop tree release; woodland wild things; forestry estate planning*; controlling Lyme Disease through vegetation management.

(*See "Your Land, Your Legacy", this issue.)

Penn State University

Available at www.PAForestWeb. Click on *PA Forests Web Seminar Center*.

Live Presentations: Monthly on second Tuesday, Noon and 7pm.

Winter Offerings: grouse and woodcock; herbicides and vegetation management; woodland amphibians and reptiles; forest insects and diseases.

EAB University

Available at *emerald ash borer university* (the real title!). Click on same title. Jointly developed by Michigan State, Purdue and Ohio State Universities, this new offering provides comprehensive coverage of the latest EAB news, plus timely discussions of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Asian Longhorn Beetle other important forest pests.

Live Presentations: 11 am on various dates; 2-3 topics each month; above website includes complete schedule for January through June 2011.

Cornell Sugar Maple Research & Extension Program**

Available at maple.dnr.cornell.edu/webinar. Click on *Cornell University Maple Program Homepage*.

Live Presentations: Monthly on first Thursday, 7pm.

Website includes monthly schedule August through December 2010, plus news about maple schools and workshops; research on maple consumers & producers.

AND STILL MORE WEB-BASED LEARNING TOOLS

Forest A Syst (www.forestasyst.org) Pre-recorded educational videos covering a wide range of topics, from timber and wildlife management to soil and water quality. Each segment includes a voice-over commentary, accompanied by written materials. Final item in the series ("Profile Your Land") allows you to pinpoint your property's location by State and County, using satellite photos and maps, then build your own aerial and soils maps. Amazing stuff!

Forest and Range (www.forestandrange.org) Includes three modules: Forestry, Wildlife and Range Land. Forestry option covers 15 topics, including forest certification and estate planning, each with a variety of web-based learning tools.

Forest Connect Woodland Owners' Forum (www.forestconnect.info/forum) Exchange ideas, information and questions with forestry experts and other land owners, using this new, easy to use blogger's network!

**EVENTS CALENDAR
WINTER 2010-2011
SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK CHAPTER
NY FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
2011 New York Farm Show*	NYS Fairgrounds Syracuse New York	Feb 24-Feb 26 8:30am-4pm
NYFOA Statewide* Annual Meeting	NYS Fairgrounds Arts & Home Building	1pm Sat Feb 26
Winter Woodswalk**	Toad Hill Maple Farm 151 Charles Olds Road Athol New York	9:30am Feb 26
Northeastern Woodworkers' Showcase	Saratoga City Center Saratoga Springs New York	10am-5pm March 26-27
Forestry Awareness Day	Legislative Office Building Empire State Plaza Albany New York	9am-4pm Monday, May 2

*See article, page one

**For directions & details, call Donna Welch @ 518-861-6038 or 518-225-0629

**DEC IMPLEMENTS NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR STATE-OWNED WOODLANDS**

Those of us with ties to the Adirondacks usually think of publicly owned woodlands in terms of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, with its three million or so acres subject to the "Forever Wild" provisions of the State Constitution. But what about the nearly 800,000 acres of state forests outside the 'blue line', which include over 400 parcels and are found in every part of the State? Last Fall, DEC announced a new management plan for this critically important resource, the first of its kind in the State's history. Based on internationally recognized standards for such practices as timber harvesting, protecting species diversity, guarding against soil erosion and combating invasive species, the new plan will help State foresters develop individual management plans for all forestry units outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, emphasizing forest health, conservation, economic benefits, recreation and sustainable management.

You'll find the new plan, under the heading "Strategic Plan for State Forest Management", at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2401.

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Adirondack High Peaks McIntyre Range

*Can you name the four peaks in the McIntyre range?
How about in elevation order, from highest to lowest?*

(Answers Inside)