The Overstory

New York Forest Owners Association Southeastern Adirondack Chapter

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Summer 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Ambrosino

Bernard W. Brock

Konrad Edwards

Christina Fortunato

James Mack

Mary Marchewka

Valerie & John O'Donnell

Richard Ogden

Gregg Slezak

Melissa Mazzarelli

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- 2012 SAC Service Award
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ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

MEMBER'S CORNER

Reading the Regional Landscape

By Erwin Fullerton Photo courtesy of Erwin Fullerton

Each spring just as soon as the snow is gone and before the leaves break, I enjoy taking a walk to see the signs of wild life left in the forest. This becomes somewhat of a sentimental time, as the surface of the land tells a story about how our ancestors lived many years ago.

I leave my forty-year-old house to go by an old house cellar hole by old rose bushes and a lilac bush. A large sugar maple, over four feet in diameter, is nearby. Having been an open land tree it is large for its age. Broken branches show the ice storm damage of 1998. I can imagine children playing beneath this tree. The brick house was vacated about 1886 because this hill could no longer support a family. There is evidence of an old well near the cellar hole where the lady of the house got water for laundry and the livestock.

I next pass into wet woods and shallow rooted spruce, white birch and ash with a few old apple trees telling me this was the apple orchard planted where it was too wet to cultivate. Just above the wetland the ground is smooth with rows of spruce that shows it was once cultivated. About sixty years ago someone set out tiny spruce saplings in even row. Further along there is another stoned-up well about six feet deep.

This was probably located in a water vein by a dowser with a stick. Undoubtedly the well was used for drinking water, as it is about 150 yards above the house spot. Beyond the well there are two walls about twelve feet apart. They are built of small stone that was probably picked after harrowing the field. This stone was called the "first crop." There are two shallow depressions where the sheep and cattle walked and maybe a wagon passed through here on the way to a walled pasture above. These walls were laid up before the Civil War; well before wire fencing became available.

It is getting steep now as I trudge up an old sled road by a well-built wall, a monument to the past,

Lane where Carlos Adams drove his sheep from 1870-1882

four feet high that would still hold sheep. No doubt it was built by a professional mason. On one side there is a sugar maple forest and on the other side spruce and white birch trees grow. One often asks why the trees are this way. Well, on one side the farmer probably favored maple trees for sugar and on the pasture side were the spruce grew that cattle would not eat.

After passing through the wall I see there are remains of about seven old maples among a stand of young maple trees. This tells me this land became pasture for a time, and after the sheep and cattle were removed the young maples grew. If you look around carefully you can see the foundation stones half hidden in the leaves with a pile of stone in the center showing the base of a long gone sugarhouse and an arch made for the old flat pan-type evaporator.

Next I step out at the top of the hill and see the sun shining under the spruce trees at the mossy, stony soil with shadows in the humps and hollows where it has never been plowed. To the east under the sun are the New Hampshire Mountains and Mount Ascutney looms to the south against the deep blue sky.

I swing back down the south side of the hill and stop by a small stoned-up cellar hold hidden in the brush. There is no sign of a chimney. It is in an

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Invasive Species
What Is Being Done?

By Laurel Gailor Photo courtesy Cornell Cooperative Extension

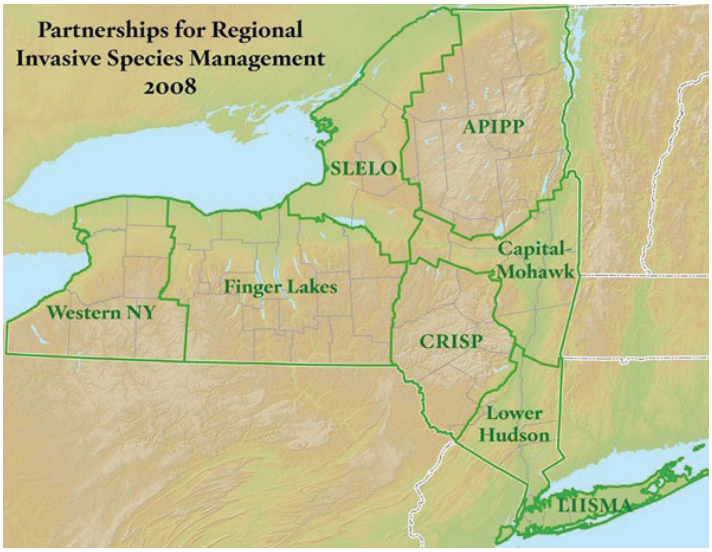
You may be wondering what the invasive species hype is all about. Yes, most everything that is here today has been introduced from one place or another; including livestock, most food crops, pets, and garden flowers. However the difference is that not all introduced species are benign to the environment, economics, and human health.

An invasive species is considered a specie that is non-native and has the potential of causing or has caused major economic loss in forestry, agricultural crops, livestock, and other portions of the economy; major losses in ecosystem management and in biodiversity of landscapes; and lastly, harm to human health. In a report that was developed at Cornell University in the late 1990's, it was estimated that the cost to the United States was adding up to over $138 billion dollars per year from the environmental damages and losses caused by invasive species (Pimentel et al. 1999). At that point in time, it was also estimated that about 42 percent of the species that have been placed on the 'threatened or endangered species' list was due to the effect of invasive species.

Invasive species aren't really new to the scene, those that we might think about historically are Dutch Elm Disease, American Chestnut Blight, Beech Bark Disease, Water Chestnut, European Water Milfoil, House Sparrow, Starling, and Norway Rat just to name a few. However, with the increase of globalization, this will also increase the number of invasive species, as well as increase the rate of spread.

As established populations of harmful invasive species increased throughout the country, there was pressure put on the Federal government to develop a coordinated effort in the control and management of invasive species throughout the Country. In February of 1999 Executive Order 13112 was put in place creating the National Invasive Species Council. Prior to this effort, in the early 1990's, various Acts/laws were implemented at the Federal level, and often were specie specific. The management and eradication of an invasive species was generally handled on an agency by agency basis, and not as a coordinated effort. Additionally during this time, the earlier regulations focused primarily on the aquatic invasive species (AIS). Currently, most every state has an invasive species task force that generally includes state agencies and partners that represent agriculture, natural resources, transportation, parks, to name a few.

In New York State, an Invasive Species Task Force was formed in 2003. This task force was organized to explore all invasive species issues throughout New York State and to provide recommendations to the Legislature and Governor by November 2005. The document in its entirety can be found at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/istfreport1105.pdf From this information, the Invasive Species Council was formed in 2008, this Council is regulated under Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Title 17, Section 9 and is a coordinated effort of multiple state agencies including Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Markets,



Map showing PRISMs within New York State

Department of Transportation, Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, New York State Thruway Authority, Canal Corporation, Adirondack Park Agency, Secretary of the State, and Educational Institutions. The Council has an Advisory Committee that includes up to 25 members from stakeholder agencies and organizations. At the local level, Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) groups have been formed or are currently being formed. The local PRISMs are generally made up of agencies and organizations within that given area, as well as not-for- profit groups and private citizens to address the invasive species within that given region.

Each PRISM is designed to organize invasive species management within their given area/region, including coordinating partner efforts; recruiting and training citizen volunteers; identifying and delivering education and outreach program; establishing early detection monitoring networks that include an inventory of invasive species by priority; and implementing direct eradication and control efforts, if necessary. The NYFOA Southeastern Adirondack Chapter actually falls into two different PRISM areas—Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Capital Mohawk (CAP/MO). APIPP PRISM has been funded and going strong for over a decade under the leadership of the Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley. The CAP/MO PRISM has been meeting informally, and with a volunteer coordinator for about five years. Last fall, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation had a request for proposals for the PRISMs that were not currently funded; the CAP/MO funding has been recently awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Saratoga County. In the near future, CCE Saratoga will be able to hire a full-time coordinator for the PRISM, and begin to organize the various interested organizations and groups including NYFOA to address terrestrial and aquatic invasive species within their region.

Invasive species may not seem much of a concern on your woodlot, but it doesn't mean that it isn't a concern to a woodlot near you, or one in the next county over. Let's join together in education and early detection of invasive species in order to be able to manage them before they get out of hand and spread further.

Looking for the Birds May Lead You to the Bug

Woodpeckers and Emerald Ash Borer

Article supplied by NYFOA

Emerald Ash Borer

S-shaped galleries and wood pecker damage

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. It probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. In New York it is found in Erie, Monroe, Cattaraugus, Steuben, Ulster and Greene counties.

Since its discovery, EAB has:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in the States and Ontario, Canada.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

EAB attacks all species of Ash (White, Green, Black,). White Ash is native and most common in New York. It is estimated that in New York's woodlots one in ten trees is Ash. Green Ash is very common in urban areas. In order for an individual to look for the bug, one must know what Ash trees look like. A quick search on the internet can help one find out how to identify an Ash tree. Once you know what an Ash tree looks like the next step is to look for signs or symptoms pointing to EAB.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a member of a family of insects called metallic wood-boring beetles (Buprestidae). Adult EAB are a bright metallic emerald green color and can be found from late May to mid-August. Adult EAB average 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch long and 1/6 inch wide. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of Ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree.

It is extremely difficult to determine whether an Ash tree is or is not infested with the EAB because tree decline is usually gradual. Early symptoms of an infestation might include dead branches near the top of a tree or wild, leafy shoots growing out from its lower trunk. D-shaped exit holes 1/8 inch wide or smaller and bark splits exposing S-shaped galleries are significant signs of EAB. Woodpecker activity might also indicate the presence of EAB.

Now! is the perfect time to look for woodpecker damage in Ash trees. The smaller woodpeckers—Downy, Red Headed, Red Bellied—are the ones going after EAB larvae. Woodpecker damage has been very useful in pointing the way to trees infested with EAB. The damage is particularly obvious now and for the next couple weeks as wood peckers are searching for EAB larvae beneath the bark .While searching for the insects the woodpeckers cause the outer bark to fall off the tree, revealing whitish patches of inner bark. Peeling the bark away to the dead wood will reveal S-shaped galleries, a characteristic exclusive to EAB. If the galleries are not s-shaped then the larvae is not EAB

Emerald Ash Borer is on the move and we must be on the lookout for it. It is very important for citizens to become aware, educated and vigilant. Now is a great time to get out in your yards and woodlots and look for that woodpecker activity on your Ash trees. Go online learn more about this insect pest. Talk to your local Cooperative Extension or DEC Forester.

For more information go to: www.nyis.info, www.dec.ny.gov, www.cce.cornell.edu, or call the EAB Hotline at 1-866-640-0652.

Reading the Regional Landscape, continued from page 1

ideal spot, protected from the north and west wind and above the wetland. There are several old apple trees nearby and a year 'round spring at the base of a large tree at the end of a wall. They did not usually build walls across swamps so this must have been wetland back then. This shows me that a homesteader built a log cabin here. When sawmill lumber became available he most likely built a new home out on a road that is now 'thrown up." There is evidence of that road by the stone walls on each side.

I stop and sit on an old log to rest and look about and wonder how this spot might have looked in the 1800's, back when they cleared the land and raised grain and crops, made charcoal for iron work, potash to sell for cash, and used trees for lumber and heating. I've been told that one large elm would make enough money from potash to buy two acres of land. It's time to "hoof it" back home. I follow a road cut in the side hill which in the 1930's they used to sled out firewood for home heating and making maple syrup. Then I pass through an old stone wall "bar way." The wall is only about two feet high on the upper side but is four feet high on the downhill side. This indicates that they plowed the soil downhill over many years when this old hillside was farmed years ago.

The stones making up the wall are large which tells me that this wall was made in the early years when the land was first cleared. Nearby there is a large pile about fifteen feet in diameter of small stone probably picked from the fields into a dump cart after harrowing and just dumped there. I now return to my home without finding a deer antler shed, walking cane or an animal skull. I am satisfied though, just to get some exercise and read the landscape where my great, great grandparents, Carlos and Luna Adams, lived in the 1870's. I remember him before he died at the age of 94. I was about seven years old and he looked so old with a full beard. His hand shook as he ate with a knife as was common in his day. He had been born in 1840 and was brought up near Biscuit Hill.

Our Trek Through Historic Pack Forest

By Donna Welch Photo by Jill Burks

Bruce Breitmeyer, Adirondack Forest Property Manager for SUNY ESF, details the history of Pack Forest

March 9 was a perfect late winter day, when eighteen of us gathered at Pack Forest in Warrensburg for our winter woodswalk. The Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest was established in 1927 by Charles Lathrop Pack, a second-generation timberman who became one of the wealthiest men in America prior to World War I. Pack donated the land to the New York State College of Forestry, now known as State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), although he never set foot on the land during his lifetime. The 2,500-acre parcel is used by SUNY ESF for teaching, research and demonstration of forestry and forest management.

It was pretty chilly when we first arrived but by the time we'd finished coffee, the sun was higher and quite warm. Since the walk route was along woods roads that had been plowed earlier, most of us carried our snowshoes. The warm sun softened the snow, and after carrying snowshoes for about 45 minutes, one-by-one we decided to stow them in a roadside snow bank. Our host and guide was Bruce Breitmeyer, Adirondack Forest Property Manager for SUNY ESF. Bruce gave us a fascinating tour of the property, including both forestry and historical information about the property.

Along the way, Bruce pointed out several test plots where, over the years, the college has tried various approaches to growing and harvesting timber. Some have been more successful than others, and Bruce pointed out one stand of red pine trees that has not grown into an adequate cash crop over the decades, and in the future will be converted to white pine. He also pointed out several different growing environments along the walk, and talked about their impact on the timber that would grow on the site.

The final stop along the walk was at a site that was heavily thinned this past year to provide greater crown expansion for the remaining trees and more sunlight. Tops and branches were mostly left on the ground, which led to a discussion about the nutritional benefits they provide for the soil and how they protect seedlings from deer damage.

Bruce interspersed the forestry information with much interesting social history of the Pack Forest lands. Margaret and John Woodward settled on the Pack Forest property early in the 19th century. As part of the walk, we were able to see the outsides of the early Woodward home and nearby, a larger, later house that is still being used as office space today. A delightful story about the Woodward family involves the Grandmother Tree, a white pine that stands at 150 feet tall and is more than 315 years old. Apparently, John wanted to cut down the tree and use the money from the lumber to buy Margaret a set of the then popular pewter dishes. When Margaret learned of the plan, she wouldn't allow it, saying she'd rather go without the dishes than lose the tree. There appears to be no record of whether she ever did get those pewter dishes. However, the tree is in a protected 50-acre area, consistent with Margaret Woodward's wishes, and still can be visited today.

As for Charles Lathrop Pack, another story regards the fact that he bought and gifted the Pack Forest property without ever setting foot on it. But he requested of his sons that he be buried there in a grove of large white pines. We visited his grave on the walk, and saw the large boulder with its bronze plaque. During a fairly recent blow down, several white pines from the grave site fell down, but the boulder gravestone was intact.

Coming Events...

July 16–21
SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR
NYFOA SAC Booth
organized by Bill Burke

August 19–25
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR
NYFOA SAC booth
organized by Jane Jenks

September 14th
ERIC & BEVERLY LAWSON WOODSWALK
Joint SAC/NAC woodswalk in Kindervolk
Arrival at 10:45
Lunch at 11:15
(Hotdogs, hamburgers & cold drinks provided. Please bring a dish to share.)
Walk begins at 12:30

October 5th
SAC ANNUAL PICNIC AND WOODSWALK
Phil & Sue Di Benedetto's 312 CR 125, Bleecker
Coffee and snacks at 9:30
Walk begins at 10:00
Pot luck picnic lunch to follow (Hamburgers provided. Please bring a dish to share.)

NYFOA's Restoring New York Woodlands

woodswalk in Fulton County

By Carl Manning Photos by Bob Manning and Kristie Edwards

Kurt Edwards explains the recently completed seed tree regeneration project.

On Saturday, May 18, Kristie and Kurt Edwards graciously hosted a woodswalk on their wooded property in Mayfield, Fulton County. They offered two activities. The morning activity was a woodswalk through a thriving mixed deciduous forest with 14 kinds of trees to identify. In the afternoon there would be a chance to experience planting Tamarack seedlings, part of their two-step plan to restore a pine forest for harvest by a future generation.

A meter-sized white roadside sign guided attendees to turn away from West Main St. onto Beech St. and a smaller sign marked the dirt access road. The large NYFOA banner across the access road on the far side of a field showed where to park on the property.

Kristie invited participants into the registration desk under a tent roof. Nearby, a larger tent roof protecting 3 picnic tables was set up, and a fire was already started, promising lunch. A home-made semi-portable outhouse was also set up nearby. Our hosts showed off the attractive Restore New York Woodlands logo on grey custom t-shirts and several attendees asked where they could purchase one.

While we waited for the walk to begin, two sets of posters encouraged browsing. One poster invited participants to refresh their tree-identification skills for the tree identification contest that would take place during the woodswalk. It displayed a labeled photo of each of the 14 trees that would be in the contest.

A second poster described the planning behind the Tamarack seedling planting activity that would take place on the front part of the property after lunch. It showed the previous thick dark pine forest with little or no understory growing beneath the canopy. The uniformly-aged stand was harvested last autumn in a seed tree regeneration cut. The poster also described the history of uses for tough, rot-resistant Tamarack (Larch) wood, including snowshoes and corduroy road pavement.

The woods walk was led by Kurt Edwards and the Edwards' forester, Erin O'Neill (who is also Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee). As we walked by the harvested section, we learned that the plan was to regrow white pine, which was well suited for the acidic soil there. However, white pine saplings in an open clearing may fall prey to weevils. The weevil is a beetle that is attracted to the tallest leader of a young sunlit conifer, particularly pine, spruce, or fir. After weevil larvae kill a pine tree's leader, one or more side branches take over, resulting in a deformed tree with much less commercial value than a straight one. The plan is to plant Tamarack (Larch) now, before the pines have started. As

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Guests help to plant 150 Tamarack trees. (Inset) Konrad Edwards helps his daughter Khloe plant a tree.

Restoring NY Woodlands continued from page 5

the tamaracks and pines grow over the next few years, any beetles may be distracted by the taller shading tamaracks and pass over the pines. The plan calls for harvesting the tamaracks in 5 or10 years, maybe for fenceposts, after the pines are large enough that they no longer attract weevils and can benefit from the increased sunlight. (Weevils do not attack trees that are taller than 20 feet.)

In the mixed deciduous forest, Kurt pointed out an example of a Beech tree infected with Beach Bark Disease, evident from scarring on the bark. Erin described how the disease is caused by a fungus. A beech scale insect pierces the bark for feeding, enabling the fungus spores to invade. The fungus forms a canker that scars the bark and can weaken the wood. The treatment was to not only cut down the scarred trunk, but also apply glyphosate (round-up) that would kill the roots of the infected tree. All around the tree were Beech "whips", sprouts from the root system of the tree. With the whips alone, infected Beech roots can survive even without the trunk. But glyphosate applied soon after the trunk is cut will be drawn down into these roots and kill their whips as well.

Kurt and Erin showed us one of the quarter-acre plots that they have set up for the NYFOA Northeast Timber Growing Contest. We saw several fine-looking red oaks marked with aluminum nails and tags at the base of each tree. (The aluminum tags will last many years and the aluminum nails will avoid damaging loggers' saws.) They have entered both the hardwood basal area growth and hardwood timber volume growth contests for their soil type. In the future, they may also set up plots for the conifer seedling height growth category, in the recently harvested area of the property where planting would take place that afternoon.

Kurt later pointed out a bushy maple sapling that had lost its leader, probably due to deer browsing.

At one point the path crossed an old stone wall which extended quite a ways in both directions. Although the forest seemed quite old, this was proof that the land had been farmed in the past.

The tree identification contest was a challenging matching quiz with 14 kinds of trees to identify. Each of the contest trees was marked with a number, and each contestant was given a card with the names of each kind of tree, so they just needed to write the number next to the name during the walk. The trees included several kinds of maple, oak, birch, cherry, etc. as well as pine and fir. The winner, an avid user of firewood for heating, only confused two.

Bob Ambrosino measures a tree with his arms-gives new meaning to "tree hugger"

After a nice lunch of hotdogs cooked on the fire, chips, a bountiful fruit salad, and chocolate desserts, the afternoon's planting began.

While landscape tree planting can involve large holes and heavy equipment, and smaller but tasty maple plants may require installing translucent protection from deer, the hand-length finger-thick refrigerated Tamarack seedlings needed much less digging. Kurt and Kristie had already planted 150 seedlings using a yellow string to create straight rows. Kurt created additional holes by sinking a heavy crowbar straight into the ground, and participants inserted the seedlings and packed the ground around them. The ground was still rough and covered with slash from the clear-cut last fall, all the better to hide the seedlings from animals. They were so hard to find we had to be careful not to step on them ourselves. The work went quickly, so soon we finished a few more rows and another 150 seedlings were planted to help Restore this New York Woodland.

The woodswalk has resulted in five new NYFOA memberships.

Carl Manning prepares to plant a larch tree

Attendees participate in a tree identification contest

We would also like to thank

Erwin & Polly Fullerton for hosting a RNYW woodswalk in May. Watch for that story in our Fall *Overstory*.

Restore New York WOODLANDS
A NYFOA Initiative

2012 SAC Service Award

Ed and Donna Welch were extremely important to the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA during a difficult period of an aging membership and volunteer burnout. This long-overdue Service Award is extended to them with heartfelt appreciation for their joint and highly successful work in the Chapter.

Ed had been an at-large board member for Warren County, and in January 2008 was elected SAC vice-chair. By November of 2008 he had been asked to represent the chair when needed, and by the next April had taken on a major part of the responsibilities. In addition Donna enthusiastically helped with whatever needs became evident. Examples included scheduling the woods walks, and working with the membership list. She recognized that a number of owners of land in the Adirondacks lived elsewhere, and may not have known of our organization.

Both Ed and Donna were involved in the organization of the county fairs, and held what was likely the first winter woodswalk at their property in Johnsburg. They also hosted an additional woodswalk for MFOs. Ed always kept us informed on the activities of the State NYFOA, from his attendance at their meetings, and in conference calls. He continues today with chairing a committee looking into the possibility of hiring a director.

Typical of Donna's contributions were imaginative ideas such as another woodswalk that included the detailed study of a 1-acre plot within the larger woodlot, her cheerful willingness to tackle evolving needs (the Click2Mail, for example), and her perceptive skills in recognizing and encouraging guests at SAC programs to become members. As a result we gained new younger members.

Kurt Edwards, Chairman (left) presents the 2012 SAC Service Award to Donna and Ed Welch

For the year 2011, no candidates came forward to be Chair or Vice-Chair. Ed gamely continued on for another year. Throughout his tenure, Ed always supplied thoughtful written material concerning the Chapter's problems—and possible solutions.

Reflections from the Chair

Finally, I just finished planting 500 tamarack seedlings one by one. It actually went very well and we got them in just before all the rain. The trees (plugs) I got are really good looking trees and are doing well. We had help from our RNYW attendees (we planted 150 that day) and we greatly appreciated all their help. We had a great day for the Restore NY Woodswalk and couldn't have asked for better weather. We were all surprised as to how much natural regrowth we had in our seed tree regeneration cut that we just done last fall. Scattered everywhere are oak, cherry and maple seedlings, now if we can keep the deer from them. We had 5 new members join NYFOA, had many great questions and felt it was a very informative day for all. We did wish for a larger turnout, but those who were there made for a great day.

I became a member of Tree Farm which I am very excited about and we entered the NYFOA Northeast Timber Growing Contest. We spent one afternoon selecting plots and measuring trees and I learned a great deal. It helped us really get to know our new foresters better. I can't wait to see just how much my forest grows each year. The more I work with Erin (O'Neill) and Mike (Federice) I know I made the right choice. It wasn't easy replacing Mike Greason but I think he would be happy with my choice; we all seem to think a lot alike.

I do think of Mike Greason often when I am in the woods and how he changed my life. His great passion for the forest has really rubbed off on me. He would have been a great supporter of our Restore NY Woodlands initiative. Let us not forget him, I am thankful for his friendship and that he touched my life.

I don't remember a more beautiful spring than this year. The lilacs, tulips and fruit tree flowers were spectacular! I am hopeful for another great growing season.

Kurt Edwards

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