

# The Overstory

Volume 26

Issue 3

Fall 2015

New York Forest Owners Association Southeastern Adirondack Chapter



## HIGHLIGHTS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert and Joan Gerring  
Castleton, NY

Tom & Joyce Tuffy  
West Chester, PA

Mark Ward  
Diamond Point, NY

### INSIDE

- Seeds for the Future
- Ash Seed Conservation
- Annual Picnic
- Online Forestry Links
- Letter from the Chair

### ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Dept.  
of Environmental  
Conservation

[www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

### Save the Date

January 30  
ANNUAL MEETING

Crandall Public Library,  
Glens Falls, NY

Complete details will be available on the NYFOA website and mailed/ emailed at a later date

## The White House Tree

by Dick O'Donnell



*I recently acquired a collection of "old" forest owner magazines. In them I have come across a number of articles previously printed, but well worth another look. I thought a "Remember When" section would be a good addition to The Overstory. This one seemed fitting with the holidays right around the corner. Enjoy!*

*—Kristie Edwards, Editor*

**Without a doubt,** Teddy Roosevelt was America's most colorful president. Among other things, the 26th chief executive was a big game hunter, an explorer and an author and editor. He was a war hero too. During the Spanish-American War, he led the famous Rough Riders in their legendary charge up San Juan Hill.

He was also a man of peace. In 1905, Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in ending the war between Russia and Japan.

Most of all, Teddy Roosevelt was a man of his word. He was a politician who did his level best to keep his promises to the voters.

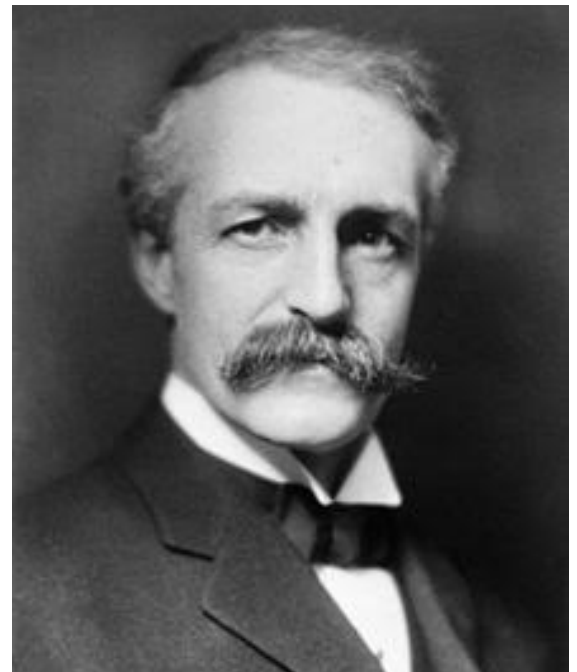
When he was campaigning for re-election in 1905, Roosevelt told the voters: "I pledge to do everything I can to save our nation's forests. Greedy men are destroying them to make money."

In November of that year, Roosevelt was returned to office by the voters. He was re-elected by a healthy margin – two million votes more than his opponent.

Nowadays, a two million vote victory may not seem like much in a presidential election. But it must be remembered, back then, the population was much smaller, and the female half of the nation did not have the right to vote. So, all things considered, those two million votes amounted to a landslide victory for Roosevelt.

As soon as the votes had been counted, the president invited the White House press corps to his office.

He informed the press: "We are not going to



Forestry Expert Gifford Pinchot.

have a Christmas tree at the White House this year." "Why not, Mr. President?" inquired one of the surprised reporters.

Said Roosevelt: "I made a campaign promise, and I'm going to keep it. I'm going to do all in my power to save the nation's forests."

Another reporter asked: "How will not having a Christmas tree at the White House save the forests, Mr. President? After all, it's only one tree."

"Other Americans will follow my example," President Roosevelt pointed out. "And that way, thousands of pine trees will not be chopped down. Trees belong in the forests, and not in the homes."

Word of Roosevelt's decision spread across the nation. To be frank about it, most Americans were shocked by the news. All things considered, Roosevelt probably lost that two million vote majority that swept him into office when he banned Christmas trees at the White House.

Two young Americans who happened to live at

*Continued on page 2*

*The White House Tree, continued from page 1*

the White House were also alarmed by the President's ruling. They were Archie and Quentin, the President's young sons.

"We've always had a tree," said Quentin. "It just won't be Christmas without one this year."

However, Archie, the older of the two, had an idea. "Let's sneak a tree into our room." He said. "Father will never see it. He never comes into our room."

The two boys did just that. But no sooner had they decorated the tree than their father entered the bedroom looking for Archie to run an errand. Naturally, he was more than slightly annoyed by what he found. In fact, he was so annoyed, the President of the United States, right then gave his two sons a paddling.

"Get that tree out of the White House!" he ordered. "And don't let any of the newspaper people see you carrying it out."

Normally, a presidential command is obeyed without question. Nevertheless, Archie and Quentin were determined to keep their tree, if they could. Thus it was that Archie had another bright idea.

"Let's go see Mr. Pinchot," he said. "What for?" his brother wanted to know. "He's father's chief advisor on how to save the forests," said Archie slyly. "Maybe he can think of something to help us out."

Later that same day, forestry expert Gifford Pinchot visited the President in his office.

"Mr. President," he said, "I think you should allow the boys to keep their tree."

"It's a family matter, Gifford," responded Roosevelt. "I can't have the boys disobeying my orders. Besides, I've given my word

to the voters. I've promised them I'd save the forest. You know that, Gifford. I can't go back on my word to them."

Pinchot, it should be noted, was away on a trip when Roosevelt held his press conference, and had not returned to Washington until that morning.

"Mr. President," he said, "you won't save the forest by refusing to have a tree in the White House. Crop rotation is the way to save the woodlands."

"Crop rotation," said the puzzled President. "What's that?"

"It is simply planting new trees to replace the trees that have been chopped down," clarified the expert. "That way you'll have a fresh crop of trees ready to chop every year."

President Roosevelt flashed one of his happiest smiles. "Bully!" he exclaimed.

The next day, the press was summoned to Roosevelt's office again. The reporters were told a system of crop rotation would be established in the nation's forests immediately.

"I am also lifting the ban against Christmas trees at the White House," the President added. "We're having one this year."

He flashed one of his famous toothy smiles. But it was a weak one.

Thanks to Gifford Pinchot, the Roosevelt boys did have a Christmas tree in 1905. And there has been one on display at the White House during the holiday season ever since.

*From the Northern Logger and Timber Processor (Dec 1988) and the NY Forest Owner (J/F 1993)*

## Seed for the Future: Our Grandchildren's Trees

by Kristie Edwards 🌿 Photographs by Kristie Edwards

**The health and future of our woodlots** face so many threats. Just as in the past when the American Chestnut and Dutch Elm trees fell victim to disease, we wait knowing that our forests demise will come in the form of the hemlock wooly adelgid, oak wilt, or the emerald ash borer to name a few. The most frustrating part is the knowledge that a tiny bug is on its way to destroy part of your forest and you can't stop it! Our thoughts, my husband Kurt and I, then went to what can we do? We had heard of ash seed collection workshops, which caught our attention. If we cannot save the trees, we can save their seed for the future. Being farmers and avid gardeners, we know about planting seeds and growing things from seed. Saving for the future seemed the best way to go.

We were able to attend an Ash Seed Collection Workshop this summer presented by Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARSB) and sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Capital

*Continued on page 3*



Our granddaughters, Paige Jackson and Khloe Edwards collecting white ash seeds.



*Seed for the Future, continued from page 2*

Mohawk PRISM. We learned how to distinguish between white, green and black ash using the leaves, leaflets and seed for identification. Other distinctive characteristics we can use to determine one ash tree from the other are the bark, leaf scarring and buds. We were also taught what to look for to determine when the seeds were ripe and ready for harvesting. The collection process was explained, we were given tools, instruction and online support to help us complete the seed collection. The training sessions are part of a three year grant received from the U.S. Forest Service, in an effort to bank ash seeds from across New York State, as part of a Seeds of Success (SOS) program. The importance of collecting seeds from local areas is called in situ conservation (in its original place). This is part of a national Seeds of Success program of collecting, storing, and saving seeds to be replanted in their native ecoregions. This process prevents a plant species from becoming eliminated completely from its natural habitat. New York State alone has nine ecoregions and several sub-ecoregions within each of the nine.

Our first collection was of the elusive black ash, a species that is less common than green or white ash. We were lucky to come across some trees which grow on moist wooded slopes. The hardest part of collection is being able to reach the seeds, as the mature trees that bear seeds are quite tall and out of reach. We found a low hanging branch which we had to saw off with a pole pruner after spreading a tarp to catch any seed that may fall off when the branch hit the ground. That one branch was enough to make one collection, which is 3 inches of seed in the bottom of a paper grocery bag. We had a data collection sheet and photos to take to complete our record of the collection. It was a beautiful fall day and we had a great time. We decided that at the next collection we needed to include other family members that may be around to plant them in the future. As far as we know no one is quite sure how long the ash borer will be around and when it will be safe to replant the native species again.

So when our white ash seeds were ripe and ready for harvest we invited our son and grandchildren. We wanted them aware of what we were doing and to be part of the process. At this point in our lives we may



**Kurt Edwards, Kolton Edwards and the girls all working to collect white ash seeds.**

not be around when the threat from the emerald ash borer is past and it will be safe to regenerate the forest with the preserved ash seeds. They need to know that at some future point they can contact the seed bank and request that some of our seed be returned to them to plant.

Our grandchildren already love playing in the woods we live in so this was a great opportunity to teach them more about sustainability, or for them planning for the future of our forest. We taught them about the little green bug that would eventually kill all the ash trees around us and that one way we could help, was to collect ash seeds to be planted sometime in the future. They were very eager to help. We had one particular tree that would be an easy collection for them that we had saved for this very day. Although they all argued over who did what, in the end they took turns holding the branch, holding the bag and picking the seeds. Hopefully they will remember the day they picked the

seeds and one day they will help to restore the species back into the forest.

After completing the fall harvest our seeds were shipped off to the MARSB seed lab in Staten Island. A portion of every collection will be submitted to the Seeds of Success program to be stored and curated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service's National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP) and Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS). The remainder of the seed will be stored at the Greenbelt Native Plant Center's active seed bank.

We really gained so much knowledge about tree species identification through this process. We also felt an immense feeling of accomplishment in such a simple task. In our mind, a glimmer of hope for the native ash trees species. It makes us wonder if we can be of some help to the Hemlock, Oak or Maple trees, they are threatened too!

# Ash Seed Conservation

By The Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, Staten Island, NY 🌿 Photographs by Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

## Threats

The Emerald Ash Borer is causing one of the worst ecological disasters in recent history. By boring into the cambium layer of ash tree species, it is causing the death of all three ash species found in New York State. Mortality is near 100%. On average, the basal area of Ash makes up over 7% of NY forests, and in some areas more than 25%. Losing ash species from our forests will result in an unpredictable shift in our ecosystem as new species will move in to fill the void.

## Preserving Genetics

Collecting seed is a fast and inexpensive way to preserve germplasm. By conserving the genetic diversity of ash species that exists in local populations before those populations are lost, we create several novel conservation tools that can be used to more fully restore the species back into the original ecosystems if a successful biological control is found. Additionally, banked seed can be provided to researchers looking for ways to control the EAB and geneticists and breeders developing resistant populations.

## What You Can Do

The easiest way to help is to look for populations of ash trees! MARSB needs help locating trees that are easily accessible for collection. You can look for ash trees in State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, rural roadsides and your own property! (Trees must be from natural populations, not horticultural stock). Additionally, you can attend a seed collection workshop to be trained as a scout and in the collection protocol so that you can make collections. If you find ash trees, are interested in attending a workshop, or for more information please contact Seed Collection Coordinator Clara Holmes at [clara.holmes@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:clara.holmes@parks.nyc.gov) or 718-370-9044.

**/// We anticipate making over 150 collections of green, white, black and pumpkin ash from Queens to Rochester, to Keene Valley this year, with the help of over 70 dedicated volunteers! This program will have a real and tangible impact on the future of ash conservation in our state and throughout the northeast. ///**

—Molly Marquand, Ash Collection Manager, Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank

## Types of Ash Species



### Green Ash

#### *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*

**Habitat:** Poorly drained soils, along stream banks in bottom lands and throughout wet woods

**Features:** Usually 7 leaflets, but can range from 5-9; leaflets are not sessile (closely attached) to the rachis (central stem); pointed, narrow seeds born in tight panicles



### Black Ash

#### *Fraxinus nigra*

**Habitat:** Poorly drained sites such as swamps, streams and riverbanks; often found growing with green ash

**Features:** 7-11 leaflets sessile to the rachis; flat seeds born in loose panicles



### White Ash

#### *Fraxinus americana*

**Habitat:** Uplands sites, often in moist but well drained soils; commonly growing next to green ash but not black

**Features:** Usually 7 leaflets, but can range from 5-9; lighter green underside; leaflets not sessile to the rachis, round seeds borne in loose panicles





## Online Forestry

### Rehabilitators Caring for Injured Wildlife

If you find a wild animal in need of assistance, a contact list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators is offered here for your convenience.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83977.html>

### Tips to Eliminate Wildlife Conflicts

General tips intended to help landowners REPEL or prevent and control problems with wild animals.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/89522.html>

### Protect Fish, Wildlife and Open Space

Habitat destruction and competition from invasive species are two of the most significant threats to New York's natural biodiversity.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43609.html>

## Office Nominations

At our next annual meeting we will have our membership vote for new officers. A nomination committee will be formed to secure candidates for all offices. The position of chairman and vice-chairman will be open and will need to be filled. We welcome members to get involved with our chapter board operations. All offices are open to any member wishing to become more involved in our organization. We also welcome members to become involved with the steering committee.

This could include coordinating events, updating our county fair booths, member education, member recruitment, community outreach, chapter archives, chapter representative to the state organization, etc. Your new ideas and participation are always welcome. If you have any interest in any of these offices, please contact Lou Inzinna at (518) 257-2807 or at [louinz.sac@gmail.com](mailto:louinz.sac@gmail.com)

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### You Never Know

By Erwin Fullerton

**Each year just after the snow melts, before the greedy bugs hatch out, and before the leaves come out I walk over our Adirondack woodlands to re-explore and to investigate what happened there since last summer. Now with the trees bare and leaves packed down the wildlife signs show and trail work is planned and cull trees easily seen to flag for removal.**

Now the thick brush is gone. The overhead canopy closed in a pleasant primeval forest landscape reveals the rock strewn hillside by green mossy ledges above vernal pools, and a trickling stream with water tumbling and spilling down over the slippery rocks through little pools as it starts on its way to the sea.

I experience a kind of nostalgic and sentimental feeling as I remember the first walk here in May 1967, only now there are memories and learning experiences seen through the windows of time. Now I can walk anywhere and perhaps find a deer shed antler, turtle shell, stick for woodworking into a cane, or some old iron artifact left from the lumberjack days of long ago.

I will never forget the day when Gary, my oldest boy, and I stumbled onto this old rock with a pile of bark on it up on the ledged side-hill beyond the seven-acre mosquito swamp. A kind of mystery until forester John Hastings remarked "it's probably some bark they missed when sledding out the bark to a tannery about three miles away back in the 1800s."

On the land of many rocks that we don't want, don't need, and wish weren't there, sometimes there is a special one that brings back pleasant memories. Once such rock I left on the side of a trail while bulldozing for a "sit down" rock. It has a flat top eighteen inches high. Now I use it as a resting spot when hunting the evasive whitetail bucks. This is where the skid trail twists and turns on a rare level solitary, quiet spot up the steep side hill about a mile from a town highway, away from the modern, noisy world.

I will always remember the time I was looking back down the trail of time about fifteen years ago when I was passing the "sitting rock" on an early May morning when a few bright rays of sun squeezed through the hemlock trees lighting up pea-green birch tree buds and some lighted spots on a large cracked rock covered with dark green moss and grey lichens. I parted the brush and stopped over to this over-grown stone, probably left by a glacier when it melted. How in the world, after traveling and working on this skid road, had I not seen this picturesque rock with its jagged fracture creating two sections as if it had been hit with a giant hammer? Now it is just a landmark not to be forgotten as it overlooks the sitting rock.

A stone throw away from where I often sit I found a piece of sled stake iron chain with a hook made by a blacksmith. It was partly grown into a small beech tree. Lying in the leaves by the road I also found a two-quart Virginia Dare wine bottle with a rusty cap indicating the old time lumberjacks needed some spiritual help at times.

You never know what you may find on a quiet spring day while exploring the serene, majestic forest we call a tree farm.



The glacier rock with its jagged fracture creating two sections.



Forgotten bark possibly harvested in the 1800's.

This member's corner is open to anyone willing to share something with the other members. Submissions can be mailed or emailed to Kristie Edwards at [edwardsk922@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com) or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.



# Our Annual Picnic near the Batten Kill

by Jack Phelan 🌿 Photographs by Bob Manning

**On September 12**, the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter held its annual picnic and a woods walk at the tree farm of Jack and Gail Phelan in Salem, Washington County.

The 60 acre property is on both sides of State Route 29 near the Batten Kill and is generally level with some hills. Approximately two thirds is wooded and the rest is farmed by a local dairy farmer. Much of the property has been in the family since about 1960 and there have been several

timber harvests along the way. Each harvest aimed to also improve the health and value of the remaining forest. The Phelans are now in the process of determining how to proceed with the next harvest as the forest is not experiencing a lot of regeneration of the existing mature trees and the canopy has largely closed in. The group toured a section of the woodlot with both white pines and mixed hardwoods.

Laurel Gailor, of Capitol/Mohawk PRISIM, was in attendance to discuss the ex-

istence of some invasive species and what methods would be effective to control them. We also had retired forester, Steve Warne, and forester Casey Buckley were available to make observations and field questions and as we toured the property.

Following the woods walk the annual potluck picnic was held in the Phelan's yard. We had a raffle to help support the mailing of event notices and held a short chapter business meeting to discuss upcoming events.



Laurel Gailor discusses some invasive species found and methods to control them.



This tree with only a single girdle regrew to bridge the wound. Double girdling is more successful.



Jack Phelan describes the layout of his property and their future plans for its use.

# Reflections from the Chair

**Well, Fall 2015 is finally here and as the leaves start to change** colors and cover the ground we can reflect on the past few months.

Members of SAC have gotten to share their pride and joys on woodswalks. During June we visited Larry and Jill Burks property in Cambridge, Washington County. They shared their energy efficient home and beautiful hillside property with us. During September Jack and Gail Phelan hosted our chapter's annual picnic and shared their more gradual sloping property in Salem, Washington County. We thank the Burks and Phelans for sharing their property and experiences with the group.

July was the Saratoga County Fair and August was the Washington County Fair. Many thanks to Bill Burke and Jane Jenks for coordinating these efforts. I also want to thank the many volunteers that manned the booths and shared with the public the benefits of NYFOA.

The temperature swings of this past Summer have come and gone. It is time to start thinking of where we put our wool clothing and blankets. It is also time to start planning future events. The chapter steering committee will be planning winter woodswalks and the Annual Meeting. We are also planning

our annual elections. Details on these events are included in this newsletter.

Update on the deer exclosure project our chapter started in June 2014. This summer the CCE of Saratoga provided our project with two interns to survey our site and provide a summary of the plants within the exclosure at the 4H forested site in Ballston Spa. The data is still being analyzed. We expect over time we will see a difference in plant growth and species. As this experiment unfolds we all hope to learn more about deer browse and regrowth of our woodlands.

As always if members have any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me. Our chapter is always looking to recruit new members. A good way to do this is to let your friends, neighbors and family members know the benefits of being a NYFOA member. We are all stewards of our forests let's all become stewards of our chapter and encourage growth.

Thanks and enjoy the Fall!

*Lou Inzinna*



## Wanted Woods Walk Hosts

SAC members willing to host a woodswalk in 2016,

Please contact Donna Welch at (518) 225-0629

or email her [trautwei@gmail.com](mailto:trautwei@gmail.com)

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Owners Association**



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**Vice Chair: Vacant**  
**Secretary: Bill Burke**  
**Treasurer: Bob Manning**

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