

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

TWO FOR ONE PROGRAM PLANNED FOR APRIL 18th MEETING !

Here is a meeting for all who own and operate chain saws. Chuck Oliver, of Oliver's Sales and Service in Nineveh, will discuss and demonstrate chain saw safety and maintenance. (Does anybody still operate a saw without a chain brake? Anybody still using 87 octane fuel in their saw? How about ethanol-free?) Hear everything you need to know, or be reminded of, before you take to the woods to harvest next year's fuel or tackle some timber stand improvement.

The second half of our meeting will be devoted to how we utilize the world's oldest fuel. New designs in wood stoves and boilers offer greatly increased efficiency and much lower emissions compared to older designs. Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Kevin Mathers and Chapter member Dave Williams will discuss the new technology applied to indoor/outdoor boilers and wood stoves that make these units the best wood burners ever.

This meeting will be held in the auditorium at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Front Street, Binghamton. Doors open at 6:30 and the program will start at 7:00. Bring a neighbor!

NYFOA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2013 !

Southern Tier Chapter Schedules Four Woodswalks in Four Counties !

In conjunction with our 50th Anniversary, NYFOA has launched the "Restore New York Woodlands" (RNYW) initiative to bring critical forest health issues and solutions to the attention of all forest owners, other forest stakeholders and the general public. Details about the RNYW initiative have appeared in the last three issues of the New York Forest Owner magazine, and the guest editorial shown on page 2 will begin appearing in daily newspapers this week. Statewide, more than thirty woodswalks will be conducted during the weekends of May 11th and May 18th.

The Southern Tier Chapter is hosting woodswalks in Broome, Chenango and Delaware Counties, and co-sponsoring a woodswalk in Ulster County with the Catskill Forest Association. Details about these woodswalks can be found on page 5, and on the NYFOA website. Go to NYFOA.org and click on the RNYW panel to find a map and description of all the woodswalks throughout the state. We will be publicizing these woodswalks broadly to encourage public participation because public support will be necessary for the management actions required to restore our woodlands to sustainability. Please select a location most convenient for you and bring a neighbor, a teacher, a politician, and your kids or grandkids. If you can help with the logistics of hosting these woodswalks, please call any member of the Steering Committee (page 6) to volunteer.



New York's Forests – An Endangered Species?

Recent studies by Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy concluded that up to seventy percent of our state's forestland is not regenerating. Since our current second-growth forests are entering the last quarter of their life cycle, this is a crisis that should concern every New Yorker.

Our forests provide critical services to the ecosystem, including the purification and holding of water and the prevention of soil erosion. A single mature tree can sequester 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and produce enough oxygen to meet the needs of two people. Forests provide habitat for countless species of wildlife, and recreational opportunities and aesthetic values that contribute to our quality of life.

Forests also provide important economic benefits to the state. The forest products industry employs more than 60,000 people and contributes almost nine billion dollars per year to the state's gross annual product. Forestlands cover 65% of our state and losing them would be a tragedy.

Most of our current forests developed when farmland was abandoned starting in the late 1800's. During the last half of the 20th century, in the absence of natural predators, deer populations expanded to levels far exceeding the carrying capacity of the forest. In many woodlands the deer consumed the entire understory of the forest, including seedlings of desirable tree species. In some cases, the natural understory has been replaced by undesirable vegetation not eaten by deer, and this vegetation is so well established that it prevents the germination of tree seeds.

Aggressive management action will be required to address this problem before the seed trees are gone. Deer populations will have to be significantly reduced in some areas, or the deer will have to be fenced out of woodlands where forest regeneration is being attempted - an expensive alternative. Broad use of EPA-approved forest herbicides will be necessary to control interfering vegetation. Heavy thinning of the existing forest may be required to admit sufficient sunlight to establish the future forest. Eighty percent of New York's forestland is privately owned, and forest owners will need the public's understanding of the measures necessary to establish the next forest. They will also need cost-share assistance from established state and federal programs in order to succeed.

The New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is a non-profit organization of private woodland owners whose mission is to promote sustainable forestry practices in NY State. In conjunction with our 50th anniversary, NYFOA has announced the "Restore New York Woodlands" (RNYW) campaign to engage and educate other forest stakeholder organizations and the general public about the regeneration problem and solutions. NYFOA's ten regional Chapters will be hosting public woodswalks in May to celebrate the many benefits our forests provide and discuss the threats they face. Watch for announcements of RNYW woodswalks in your area, or go to our website at NYFOA.org to find more information about the forest regeneration crisis and the locations of woodswalks planned throughout the state.

Guest Editorial for release April 1, 2013

James Minor, President, New York Forest Owners Association

RESTORE NEW YORK WOODLANDS

Woodswalks sponsored by the NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter

All woodswalks will feature a discussion of the history of our state's second-growth forests, their many benefits to the environment, the economy and our quality of life, the critical threats to forest health and sustainability, and the actions that will be required to ensure the forests will endure for future generations. Tree identification will also be covered and there will be contests for children. Woodswalks will be led by Master Forest Owner Volunteers with Cornell Cooperative Extension and/or professional foresters. Woodswalks are free, unless otherwise noted, but please register for logistical planning purposes. Visit NYFOA.org, & click the RNYW panel for additional details.

May 11, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., 217 Sherder Road, Endicott, NY 13760 Broome County.

The woodswalk location is Molyneaux's Christmas Tree and Blueberry Farm and the hosts are Dick and Gene Molyneaux. The property includes more than 200 acres of hardwood forest where the Molyneauxs have practiced timber stand improvement and self-harvesting of sawlogs for two generations. The walk will include a stand of approximately 100 acres protected by a deer enclosure fence with resulting good hardwood regeneration. It will also include unprotected stands where regeneration has been impacted by deer browsing. Moderate terrain, good trails, some wet areas. Call (607) 648-2941 or Email GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com to register.

May 12, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., 2088 Hornbeck Road, Harpersfield, NY 13786 Delaware County.

This woodswalk is hosted by Master Forest Owner Volunteer John Murdock in his own woodlot. The site is a 56 acre property managed primarily for wildlife. It includes a 15 acre meadow which is strip-mowed to provide coarse browse and specialized bird habitat. Timber stand improvement was recently accomplished on 5 acres of hardwoods. White and Burr Oaks have been planted for mast and many apple trees have been released from competition. Interfering vegetation has been controlled but deer browsing is still impacting regeneration of hardwoods. Call John to register on (607) 652-1112, or Email at jhnmurdock@yahoo.com.

May 18, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., 189 Park Road, Greene, NY 13778, Chenango County

This woodswalk will be held at Gaius Cook Park, located approximately three miles east of Greene, NY, off Route 206. Take Stein Road off Rt. 206, then proceed on Park Road. Watch for signs. The woodswalk will be led by Master Forest Owner Volunteer Dave Williams. The site is a 180 acre Chenango County park, including an 18 acre lake. There is a wide variety of tree species present and the woodswalk will include a mature conifer plantation as well as varied hardwood stands. The management plan for this site was prepared by the Regional DEC Office. Call Dave to register on (607) 563-3156, or Email at kdwillmill@gmail.com.

May 18, Sat. 10:00 a.m. Vernooy Kill Falls, Sundown Wild Forest, Tn. of Rochester, Ulster County

This woodswalk is sponsored and hosted by the Catskill Forest Association in cooperation with NYFOA's "Restore New York Woodlands" initiative. It will be led by CFA Staff Forester Ryan Tripani. When we think of a forest, many of us think about larger, older trees. However, this is only one type of forest, and one aspect of it. There is another layer and age class of forest that often goes unnoticed – the forest underneath which includes younger trees! Join CFA on a walk through the woods to see what's growing below the canopy and what we can do to provide a healthier future forest.

To register & for more information call CFA @ (845) 586-3054 or e-mail: cfa@catskill.net. Note: This is a Catskill Forest Association (CFA) woodswalk. CFA is a private, non-profit, forestry education organization that serves the Catskill Region. CFA & NYFOA members free, other participants \$5. Sturdy shoes required, no restrooms. See NYFOA.org website for detailed driving directions.

The NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter (SOT) includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego Counties. SOT sponsors several workshops and woodswalks each year, often in cooperation with county Cornell Cooperative Extension offices. SOT publishes a Fall, Winter and Spring Newsletter to announce programs and other educational information for members.

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SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER
April 18 Program, May Woodswalks

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIRMAN - STEPHEN KUTNEY

Recently I went to Hershey PA to help a friend move his aunt's car back to the Binghamton area. As we were travelling along route 81 I began to notice the trees. Once we got past Scranton I could see that the hillsides contain mostly pioneer species such as white birch. Every so often I would see a few young oaks. In the summer motorists will see green hillsides. Most will think that the forest is doing just fine. It will be a long time before northern hardwoods grace the hills in this region. The situation in PA is the result of coal mining. The state has been covering the coal waste with topsoil to encourage green growth. The sight of those coal waste hills reminded me of visiting relatives in Taylor PA when I was growing up. The house that my aunt lived in is near a coal waste hill that was created by a coal breaker. The waste glowed from burning during the night and gave off a sulfur smell that I will never forget.

This lack of foresight in PA got me thinking about the NYFOA Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) initiative. When we drive around in the summer we see lots of green. Looking a little closer you will find what Gary Goff from Cornell University calls "The Big Green Lie." Our woodlots contain lots of native and non native species that are crowding out the quality timber. The problems with New York woodlands are the result of over browsing by deer, high grading of timber and interfering vegetation. The interfering vegetation can be of the native kind such as beech and ferns or a non native invasive such as multiflora rose.

Jim Miner, the president of NYFOA and avid webmaster has updated the www.nyfoa.org website with information about the Restore New York Woodlands initiative. Jim has setup a dedicated webpage that includes written documentation, webinars and a map of the locations of woodswalks around the state. If you're a Facebook user you can click "like" on the Restore New York Woodlands page and The New York Forests Owners Association page. You will get updates on your home page as new information is posted.

The SOT chapter has scheduled four woodswalks in May. The leaders for these woodswalks will show you how to identify the problem and what you can do to improve the timber quality of your woodlot. If you have kids bring them along. All woodswalks will include tree identification education.

Jerry Michael was presented with the 2013 SOT Chapter Service Award at the NYFOA annual meeting in Syracuse on March 23rd. The Southern Tier Chapter is very fortunate to have Jerry as a member. He is involved in the Master Forest Owners Program and helps to recruit new members when he is on MFO visits. He has championed the Restore New York Woodlands program and wrote an article called "The Forest's Future is Our Legacy" which appeared in the Forest Owner Magazine. He was also recently featured in the Forest Owner Magazine in the Member Profile section. Jerry has served as Co-Chair of the Chapter Program Committee and as newsletter editor since joining NYFOA in 1989. Please join me in congratulating Jerry.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

John Briglin, Sherburne; Mike Dionne, Bainbridge; Lynn Finch, Port Crane; Patricia Gambitta, Fly Creek; Ken Smith, Binghamton; Charles Taylor, Cooperstown; William Thompson, Montague, N.J.

Hope to see you on April 18th or a future woodswalk.

Steve

The Story of a Beetle and a Firewood Box

By Kevin Mathers, Staff Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome County

What do a beetle, fungi and firewood box have in common? These seemingly unrelated things came together to make an interesting addition to our home. Let me start with some background. After installing a woodstove my wife and I looked at options for conveniently storing a day's worth of firewood inside. We considered the metal racks, but thought a wooden box might be a more practical way to go because it would catch all the pieces of bark and other debris that come in with the wood. My wife specified the box had to be attractive, which was a polite way of saying she didn't want me to build it. Fortunately I knew a local woodworker, and he graciously agreed to build a simple storage box despite the fact that he usually works on elaborate projects like custom doors, cabinets and stair cases. To keep the price reasonable he said he would put it together with wood left over from another job.

In about a weeks time I got the call that the box was ready. The woodworker is known for his creative and unique style, and somehow he managed to stay in character building what I expected to be nothing more than a well build wooden box. What makes the box unique is the wormy soft maple he used to build it. Wormy soft maple has bold dark staining and very small holes that were once the galleries of wood boring ambrosia beetles. Sometimes sold as ambrosia maple, it can fetch a higher price than clear soft maple. In the lumber industry the notation worm holes no defect (WHND) is used to describe sound wormy soft maple.

After a bit of detective work I was able to learn more about ambrosia beetles. There are more than one species of ambrosia beetles, and the one responsible for the staining on the firewood box may be the Columbian Timber Beetle (*Corthylus columbianus*). This small wood boring insect also has an appetite for trees other than maple including oak and birch. Interestingly, the beetle does not feed on wood; instead it bores deep into the tree to create galleries which it then inoculates with fungi. The female beetles then lay eggs and the larvae that emerge feed on the fungus growing on the gallery walls. Columbian timber beetles have a special structure that helps them carry spores to establish this fungal food source. The staining in the wood is caused by the trees reaction to the fungi. The stains run above and below the beetle galleries, tapering to a point on each end. A close inspection of wormy maple will reveal small holes, often in pairs, made by the beetle.

So in addition to a practical wood storage box, we got a fascinating tale of a beetle that farms fungi. For the curious reader who would like to learn more about ambrosia beetles visit the NYS DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ambrosia.pdf for the article "Ambrosia Beetles – a study in symbiosis" by Doug Allen, or if you keep old issues of the Forest Owner you can find it in the July/August 1995 issue.