



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

NYFOA/SAC Annual Woodswalk and Picnic

The Overstory

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carl Lindberg, Granville, NY
Scott McManus, Charlton, NY
Ryan Robinson, Glens Falls, NY
Mark Sullivan, Washington, DC

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

Imagine a late September day, bright sun, temperature in the low 70's, having a glorious forest bathing experience. Or as we forest owners call it, taking a nice walk in our woods. What could be nicer? Sharing that walk with 24 other forest owners, two speed demon dogs, and professional Forester, John O'Donnell. Then follow that up with a pot luck picnic put on by those same forest owners, who repeatedly provide delicious food offerings for our get togethers.

This autumn's woodswalk and picnic were held at Ed and Donna Welch's 420-acre property in Johnsburg, Warren County. People gathered for coffee and goodies at the Welch's log cabin (the Lodge), located a mile beyond their house, and deep into the woods. Of course, some GPS programs don't find the property, so Bruce and Gail Cushing remained at the house driveway to reassure people that they had found the right place, almost, and just needed to drive another mile to the Lodge.

With good company, a beautiful sunny morning, and lots of coffee, tea, and baked goods, it was hard to motivate ourselves to begin the walk. But eventually, we made the walk or ride a half-mile back to the start of the walk at an old hemlock forest. The woods are bounded on either side by long wetlands, creating a long oval trail on an inviting peninsula of primarily hemlock trees allowing shafts of sunlight to break through.



Left: Forester John O'Donnell leads the walk explaining plans for the coming thinning.

Right: Some of the group stops to listen including Charlie.

HWA Workshop Report

By Theresa Hajos

Introduction

The HWA Workshop: Eastern Hemlocks, Forest Health, and Threats to the Future, sponsored by the Warren and Washington County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Lake George Land Conservancy, and the NYS Conservation District Employee's Association, was held on September 21, 2024, at Camp Chingachgook in Kattskill Bay, NY. Forty-four individuals signed up to attend the workshop from various agencies, including the Essex, Warren, Washington, and Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Lake George Park Commission, the Lake George Association, APIPP, the Lake George Land Conservancy, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. We had thirty-seven attendees, seven of whom were seeking continuing education credits. The continuing education credits offered were through the International Society of Arboriculture, the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Society of American Foresters, and NYSDEC. Various resources and supporting materials were provided, including information on identifying and managing HWA, Spongy moth, Oak wilt, Southern Pine Beetle, and Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), information on managing forests for resilience and controlling invasive species and terrestrial forest pests, integrated pest management practices, and invasive species priority lists. The workshop focused on managing our forests for adaptation and resiliency while exploring known threats affecting the health of these ecosystems, including Hemlock Wolly Adelgid and Beech Leaf Disease. The workshop aimed to help participants increase their understanding of HWA and BLD, the impacts of invasive species on the forest ecosystems, and the important role forest professionals, landowners, and municipal employees play in maintaining sustainable Hemlock and Beech forests.

Session One

Kristopher Williams, Coordinator for the Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM), discussed forest resiliency, health, and productivity and the importance of incorporating climate change adaptations into forest management goals. He also discussed the importance of native species in supporting biodiversity and the impacts invasive species have on the health of our forested ecosystems. Kris did an outdoor presentation on



Session 2



Session 1

the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines of the CR-PRISM for controlling invasive species and terrestrial forest pests, including describing and explaining different IPM practices and demonstrating how to properly use various tools for chemical and physical management.

Session Two

Dr. Mark Whitmore, forest entomologist and Director of the New York State Hemlock Initiative discussed the importance of Eastern Hemlocks in our forests as a foundation species. He explained the basic biology of the HWA, including its life cycle, how it feeds, and its distribution in New York and other states.

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John O'Donnell talked about the composition of the forest, and explained that the blue paint blazes, primarily at the perimeters of the woods, are for a thinning that will take place in the next several months. Along the way, he talked about the hemlock wooly adelgid, which has not been found in this forest so far. He also pointed out various trees that showed signs of damage caused by weather, bugs, or animals. Along the walk, he also was able to identify three red spruces that are not prevalent on this property, and spoke about when it would and would not be helpful to open up around those younger trees.

John also explained his approach to having a thinning harvest. This involves his identifying those trees that have the potential to become more valuable, and opening up around them to let in more light and promote better growth. This differs from other thinning techniques that rely on an estimated stocking goal of a specified number of remaining trees per acre.

Although John had finished marking trees for the thinning by last summer, the work has not yet taken place. A growing problem in this region is the decrease in both loggers and truckers. The thinning for this part of the property is appropriate for a smaller logging operation rather than a larger operation with more substantial machinery. Typically, smaller logger operations have to contract with a trucker, rather than having their own trucks.

Throughout the walk, our two faithful canine companions, Charlie and Snowy, entertained us with their high intensity charges through the woods, only to return for treats and praise. Charlie was far more reliable at returning to the group in a reasonable amount of time, so we all appreciate the good influence he had on Snowy.

After the half-mile walk/ride back to the Lodge, we were treated to a fantastic lunch that contained way too much food, and even way, way too many tempting desserts. The high point of the brief, formal meeting was the awarding of two Chapter Service Awards, in a surprise undercover move orchestrated by Mary Marchewka and Donna Welch. The first plaque was awarded to Bruce Cushing in honor of his unflagging efforts on behalf of our chapter for numerous years, including continuing in his role of Chapter Chairman for six years. The second plaque was awarded to Kurt Edwards, who had served as President, from 2012 to 2014 and then has continued to provide leadership and endless hard work organizing events for our Chapter.

We benefit endlessly from the efforts of both these members, and we are so grateful.



Clean up from the picnic was done by a large group of our members, and Donna and Ed really appreciate how much easier this made hosting the event for them. During the cleanup, there was a side discussion with Dave DeLaMater who in addition to the forest he and Mary own, he is a professional chef. Keep your eyes open for a possible upcoming event where Dave would give a cooking lesson using some of the foods we grow or forage on our properties.

Above: Jean, Jane and Mary pause for a photo.

Left: Before our walk Donna and John explain what we will see.

Washington County Fair 2024

By Mary Marchewka

It was an interesting and educational summer at the Washington County fair. Added to our display this year were several branches of differing trees, nuts, seeds & plants. The branch from the White cedar caused quite a discussion Thursday evening with G Robert Baker on genus species, no it wasn't *Arbor vitae* like I thought and had always called it. The scientific name I learned is *Thuja occidentalis* good thing I didn't take that bet.

Bruce Cushing had brought a couple of potted spruce trees for displaying. These were difficult to guard after the trees from the Saratoga tree nursery were quickly dispersed. 100 trees were handed out in less than 24 hours. We heard from many families that they have the trees from previous years and they always stop at the booth each year to get a tree to plant and see what is new. It seems to have become a tradition of sorts for many families.

Which brings me to exclaim that the crowds at the fair were like pre-pandemic times. Record numbers of people showing interest and having questions about forestry, nature, invasives, wood products, mushrooms and having MFO visits. No masks, lots of hand shaking, lengthy conversations and a few hugs. It was wonderfully exhilarating and exhausting at the same time!

Kudos to Kristie Edwards for the interactive kids corner! It was a blast for the young & us older (kids at heart). I laughed so hard watching David try to stump the kids & some adults with what's in the box. All through our shifts David kept saying "Use your mind's eye to figure it out" Anyone we worked with got a chuckle after the umpteenth time he said it. The kids got to choose a woodland tattoo for playing any of the games or just for showing interest in the NYFOA booth. They were delighted with the adorable woodland critters & pretty leaves. What surprised me was how fast the two invasive insect tats went!! I donned a lovely mushroom tattoo on my forearm all week like a tough forester chic!

We had several members watch the booth for the first time & some members returned after hiatus-thank you! We hope you volunteers enjoyed the interactions at the fair & working the SAC NYFOA booth as much as we did. It was wonderful to catch up with Jane Jenks & the Phelans. Bruce had a great time orientating Ellen Graf as I did with Joe Swanson. Jane was pleased to meet and work with Murray McHugh. Let's mention the dependable NYFOA SAC member regulars that answer YES to the yearly plea the the Cushings, Edwards, the Inzinnas, the Kratkys and G Robert Baker!

Many hands make light work & create enjoyable times.



Additionally, he discussed various IPM practices that have been used in attempts to control its spread, including the use of Dinotefuran and Imidacloprid as chemical controls, the use of silviculture as a mechanical control, and the use of various beetles and flies as biological control measures. He also discussed the basic biology of the BLD nematode, the signs and symptoms of infestation, and the unknowns regarding the disease.

Session Three

After lunch, there was a forest observation and training session in which participants hiked to the Buck Mountain trailhead to look for HWA in an area known to be infested. During this training session, Kris Williams discussed forest regeneration or lack thereof and further discussed options for supporting regeneration. Dr. Whitmore and Kris Williams also mentioned the importance of diversity in our forests to promote resilience. With the assistance of staff from the Lake George Land Conservancy, participants were able to see the Hemlock Wolly Adelgid on an infested tree and learn how to report invasive species sightings through NY iMap Invasives.



Conclusion

Upon completing the workshop, a survey was sent to gauge the participants' overall feedback and recommendations for future workshops. The feedback was good, and participants enjoyed the field aspects in addition to the PowerPoint presentations. Additionally, the participants appreciated the additional materials and resources provided. For future workshop topics, a participant suggested Forest Lot Management.



Coming Events.....

Annual Meeting

January 25th, 2025

Warren County Cooperative Extension Building
377 Schroon River Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885

10:00 am - Business meeting begins

11:30 am - Pot luck lunch (please bring a dish to share)

1:00 pm - Presentation by Ryan Robinson, Why Knot Services LLC

Ryan has experienced and dealt with many different types of plant base and insect based invasive species. He will present solutions (if available) to combat invasives. Ryan is a licensed commercial applicator with NYSDEC and performs science-based treatment plans compliant with state, local and federal regulations.

Spring Event

PACK Forest Woodswalk

April 26th, 2025

Arrival: 9:30—10:00 am (walk will begin at 10am)

Lunch: approximately 12:00pm

(please bring a bag lunch and your own beverage)

At SUNY ESF's Pack Demonstration Forest in Warrensburg, NY we will tour recently completed timber harvests for white pine, red oak, hemlock and northern hardwood management. We will also visit marked timber sales specializing in hemlock resiliency as hemlock wooly adelgid approaches and climate adaptative silviculture.

Chapter Service Award Presented by Bruce Cushing

Kurt Edwards, where do I begin? I've only been at the position of chapter chair for a few years; a few years more than I planned, but Kurt has poured years of himself selflessly working to move the Southern Adirondack chapter of NYFOA forward.

I first crossed paths with Kurt and learned about the organization at a NYFOA meeting about Feral Swine held at Crandall Library. It was a great program by the way. I learned a lot that night, but little did I know then that Kurt and I would be working together for years to come.

If you have been to any SAC NYFOA event; annual meetings, woodwalks, county fair, whether as a member or nonmember, Kurt has been instrumental in setting up the when, where, how and that includes moving the tables and directing the traffic.

I don't think anyone who went on the great tour we had of the baseball bat factory will forget it. The Saratoga Tree nursery was another one of Kurt's projects. I have been trying to reestablish trees into a plot that has been chopped and chewed; cut for logs and then new growth eaten by an overpopulation of deer; so that tour was especially informative for me.

The annual meetings and every steering Committee meeting since I've been involved with NYFOA Kurt has been there to help. If there is an informational table to set up and supervise, Kurt is always there to help, wherever it is, whenever it is, bringing awareness to the public about who we are as a group, benefiting the public and the chapter. This fall Kurt helped set up and take care of a table at the Warrensburg 4 H gathering; lots of young kids in a field, then off to Amsterdam for NY Outdoor news to talk with sports writers about all the important work we do as a group. Helping anyway he can, setting up and maintaining the important events that keep this organization functioning by bringing members and nonmembers together to meet and learn from each other is what Kurt does. (He may be quiet and unassuming but) he is a bedrock of this chapter, holding us together and I appreciate working with him. Since I started with NYFOA, from my first feral swine meeting, one constant has been Kurt. I know I can always count on him and his wife Kristie to keep me on track. From myself and NYFOA members I say thank you for all you have done through the years.



NYFOA/SAC Outreach....

NYFOA attends New York Outdoor Writers Association Meeting

By William S. Burke, Secretary NYFOA/SAC

An informational presentation by NYFOA members to the New York Outdoor Writers association was conducted at Frank's Gun Shop on September 13th, 2024.

Following lunch, provided by NYFOA, a presentation on the origins and later history of NYFOA was given by Craig Volmer, NYFOA Executive Director, NYFOA. The attendees were treated to a very comprehensive informational power point. Followed by a Q&A session. I think all attending learned a lot of the reasons for an association like NYFOA its aims and the status of today's New York forests .

A second presentation by Warren and Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation organizations was conducted by Jim Liberum and John Persch. I think the attendees were quite surprised to learn what these organizations are tasked to address.

The list involves much more than what is implied in its title. Given this presentation it would seem that those attending will draw from their resources in the future. Some attendees already have resorted to their expertise and services.

Members of NYFOA who stepped up to make this a successful effort are Dan Ladd, Bruce Cushing, Kurt Edwards and Hugh Canham. Special thanks to Dan Ladd, Editor of the New York Outdoor News for arranging the site and including us in the annual program of the writer's Conference.

Kudos to Frank's Gun Shop for their hospitality. I visited the shop after the meeting and was very impressed with what this emporium has to offer. I recommend a visit.

Chapter Service Award Presented

By Mary Marchewka and Kristie Edwards



Bruce Cushing has been selected to receive the SAC Chapter Service Award which is a testament to his remarkable dedication and expertise. In 2019, with a bit of arm twisting, Bruce stepped up to fill a three-year vacancy as our chapter chairman.

As a knowledgeable and passionate advocate for community service, Bruce has made significant contributions through his work with the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA). His commitment to sharing his extensive experience in managing his own woodlot has benefited countless individuals, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of sustainable forestry practices. Bruce's selfless service and unwavering dedication to improving his community exemplify the spirit of the award and inspire those around him to follow in his footsteps. So many, including David and myself, have been encouraged to do more to assist with NYFOA because of Bruce's influence, enthusiasm and gentle prodding.

Bruce stepped up to help David and I with the Rensselaer County CCE Farm days. He is very knowledgeable about the Maple sugaring aspects of forestry management.

We were invited to visit his boiling operation in Greenwich. Bruce was very happy to demonstrate, let us pitch in and explain his set up and answer our many questions. Bruce generously gifted us with a bottle of the syrup we helped him make.

Bruce hosted a wonderful, woods walk and let us bring Esther, a newly born cashmere goat that was being bottle fed. We were amazed at the difference Bruce was making with the understory battling invasives like honeysuckle on his property in the Adirondacks.

Vice Chairman Brayton Pendell presents Bruce with his award plaque

county fair and many other events. Bruce fills in the gaps the whole week with the schedule to watch the booth. The NYFOA SAC booth won an award for best booth the year Bruce and Gail creatively enhanced the booth and brought in labeled live tree samples and a terrarium.

Bruce's wife, Gail, has supported the organization helping at the NYFOA conventions volunteering at the welcome table. Bruce and Gail helped with the setup of the NYFOA booth at the Washington

Bruce appears to be always thinking of NYFOA and how to promote the organization. His two-year term as chairman turned into a six-year run because of his dedication to our organization and private landowners. Thank you, Bruce, this wooden plaque doesn't do justice to thank you for all you have done for our SAC chapter and NYFOA!

Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?

Do you have a suggestion for a chapter event?

If so please contact Kurt Edwards, event coordinator,

at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at edwardsk922@gmail.com



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New York Forest Owners Association

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