



The Overstory

Volume 36 Issue 3

Fall/Winter 2025

SAC OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Reuben/Cynde Smith, Chestertown

William Wilson, Gloversville

Neil Morse, Sushan

Jared Woodcock, Cambridge

David Falvo, Caroga Lake

Ronald Peters, Greenwich

ADIRONDACK STUMPPAGE PRICE REPORT

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

NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

Our Picnic at Red Pines

By Diane Corvetti and Kristie Edwards

Photos by Gail Cushing

We have been fortunate to have beautiful weather for our annual picnic for at least 15 years running and this year didn't disappoint.

Diane Corvetti, our hostess, runs Red Pines Bed and Breakfast located right on Lake Pleasant, in Speculator! You can't get better surroundings than being lakeside on a beautiful fall day in the Adirondack Mountains.

Diane and Richard Corvetti purchased 51 acres on Lake Pleasant in 1984.

In the early 1990s, a neighbor, asked Richard to help her. The Town of Lake Pleasant was taxing her on land that the State of NY claimed they owned, but her father had always said her family owned it. Richard did extensive research and felt that the neighbor should actually be the owner. An agreement was made that if Richard hired a lawyer and paid all expenses; the neighbor would sell him the land if she won it back.



We stopped for a group photo before the walk

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In 1997 after the legal battle had been won, the Corvetti's were able to purchase 204 acres from their neighbor. Diane found forester, William Pokon to manage the forest and they applied for the NYS 480-a program. At a later date, they purchased another 65 acres from the neighbor's family and added that to the Corvetti 480-a land.

Since 2005, Diane has been managing the forest with William Pokon continuing as her forester. In 2024, Ben Pokon began taking over his dad's forestry accounts. Ben has seen first hand the benefits of spot clear cuts for healthy regeneration of forests. He has encouraged Diane to try this method with some 5-acre clear cuts scattered on her property. After attending the NYFOA, Audubon and Lyme Timber woods walk last year, Diane has become convinced that this method would be good for her forest.

Forester Ben Pokon led the way on a very interesting woodswalk explaining the benefits of the scattered small clearcuts and showing us some different areas where they have been working. Our walk started off as a pretty good climb but soon leveled off. After about an hour we returned to the lake property to enjoy our picnic.



Many of our members took the time to check out the sandy beach just a few steps away or took a short relaxing nature walk that wraps along the lake. We were very fortunate that Diane invited us to Red Pines, it is a serene piece of paradise. Some of the guests of the bed and breakfast joined us for our picnic. Our members always do a great job bringing delicious food for the picnic. It is always so good to get together, catch up and spend a great day outdoors with friends!



Above: Ben Pokon fields questions from the group

Below: Enjoying the beautiful day and our picnic



Debra L. Wentorf, 63, of Johnsonville, NY, passed away on February 16, 2025 due to an aggressive cancer, a day before she was to return home under hospice care.

She attended SUNY Potsdam and completed a degree in Computer Science. Deb worked at RPI as a computer operator for the engineering Center for Interactive Computer Graphics, she was encouraged to enroll in the Technical Writing master's degree program, and after completion was promoted. Deb was very happy in her career.

Deb is survived by her husband of 38 years, Rolf Wentorf, and a cousin, Laura Clark. Her parents predeceased her. She volunteered at the Johnsonville Ambulance, the local VFW, and other charities. She was an avid fan of the band Genesis and interviewed founding member and keyboardist Tony Banks. Deb loved animals, the Adirondacks, independent films, and taking walks.

Deb supported sustainable forestry practices, was a past secretary of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter and attended many NYFOA events. In lieu of a donation, do something nice for an animal or plant a tree.

2025 Fair Update.....

Washington County Fair

Another fair season has come and gone. The Washington county fair was a huge success for the SAC of NY FOA. There were several new volunteers and we hope they had a great experience and will answer our call to assist with the booth in 2026.

Thank you to all the volunteers:

Lou and Jean Inzinna

Kurt and Kristie Edwards

David DeLaMater and Mary Marchewka

Jim Lieberum

Joe and Jane Swanson

Jack and Gail Phelan

Jane Jenks

G Robert Baker

Corrina Aldrich

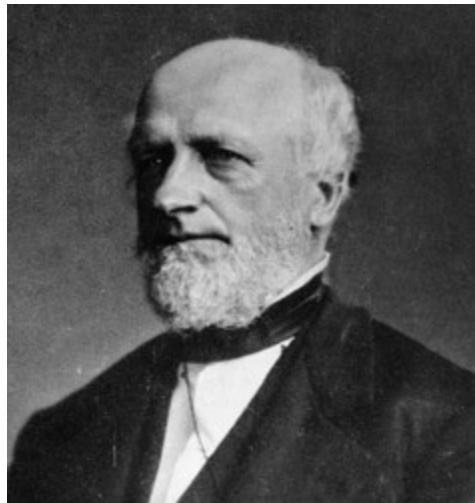
Aaron Gabriel

Scott Sopczyk

Erik Mavien

Thank you to NY DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery, Brayton Pendell for providing the Norway & White spruce trees. Families look forward to planting the trees they get from the fair every year. Many say it has become a family tradition.

A special thanks to Bruce and Gail Cushing for help setting up the booth and adding the living trees with labels. There were several comments on the chainsaw safety chaps. What a great display! Bruce fills in all the time slots that are not filled by volunteers and he spends a great deal of time helping and visiting the volunteers that are working the booth. We appreciate the Cushing's service to NYFOA. See you all at a woods walk!



FRANKLIN B. HOUGH

1st Chief of the U.S. Division of Forestry, 1881-1883

Franklin B. Hough (1822–1885) was trained as a physician but had a long-standing interest in botany, mineralogy, and nature. After retiring from his medical practice in 1852 to pursue his literary interests (he published a couple of histories on the Adirondack region of New York, where he lived), he served as superintendent of the New York State census in 1855 and again ten years later. When looking at data for the 1865 census, he recognized a declining trend in the availability of timber. He confirmed this with data from the 1870 national census. This discovery caused him to take up forest preservation as his life's work.

Hough presented a paper at the August 1873 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His paper, "On the Duty of Governments in the Preservation of Forests," presented the case, first articulated by George Perkins Marsh in his book *Man and Nature* (1864), that the Mediterranean countries had overused their resources—especially trees—and caused irrevocable harm to the environment. He proposed that the federal government take action immediately—even outlining plans and laws to be enacted—to prevent the same thing from happening in the United States. Impressed, the association petitioned Congress to fund a position to study the situation. Three years later, Congress approved \$2,000 for the job and Hough received the appointment as special forestry agent. On August 30, 1876, he became the first federal expert on forestry with the duty to investigate the forest and lumbering situation in the U.S.

By then, Hough had spent five years gathering data from around the U.S. and from countries around the world. He compiled the data into the massive *Report on Forestry*, the first of four reports highly critical of contemporary attitudes and practices. The reports laid a solid foundation for serious discussion of American forest conditions at the height of the Industrial Revolution. In 1881, the position of federal forestry agent was elevated to division status, and the U.S. Division of Forestry (the predecessor to the U.S. Forest Service) came into being. Yet his repeated calls for the management and withdrawal of the remaining forest land within the public domain continued to be ignored.

Hough pressed on, turning out reports and books, even launching the short-lived *American Journal of Forestry* in 1882. In 1883, Hough was demoted back to forestry agent and replaced with Nathaniel Egleston by Commissioner of Agriculture George B. Loring, a fellow physician who personally disliked Hough. Hough remained with the division, and though unhappy continued to do stellar work. Two years later he stepped down shortly before his death. Hough continues to be regarded as the first leader of the American forestry movement and is sometimes called "the father of American forestry."

"The experiences of pioneer life, as regards the timber, present little that can be commended and much that can be blamed. It has been observed in all countries and at all periods, that trees furnishing products demanded by commerce, or standing in the way of cultivation, become an object of inconsiderate waste, and not unfrequently to such degree that the markets are overstocked, and ruin is brought upon the greedy but thoughtless adventurers in a business liable to bring an over-supply."

FRANKLIN HOUGH

Annual Meeting Officer Elections

With the upcoming meeting and officer elections we invite anyone willing to fill the office of secretary, which will become vacant in the coming year to let us know their intentions. It is important for our members becoming active in our organization. The secretary will take notes of our annual meeting and steering committee meetings (usually 2 per year) and provide a typed copy to the officers and steering committee. Please notify Kristie Edwards (info on back of newsletter) if you are interested and would like to be nominated in our upcoming election.

2026 Coming Events.....

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 24th
Warrensburg CCE Building
377 Schroon River Road, Warrensburg

10:00 am - Business meeting begins
11:30 am - Pot luck lunch (please bring a dish to share)

1:00 pm - Presentation by Scott Moxham (Supervising Forester in Private Lands, Utilization, Climate section, NYS DEC)

Topic: Private Landowner Opportunities/Programs
An overview of forestry programs available to landowners through DEC. Topics to include Regenerate NY, Forest Stewardship, 480-a Forest Tax Law. Scott will also discuss how landowners can utilize the above programs to manage invasive species.

Brayton Pendell will give a 30 minute or so overview of pesticide laws, rules and regulations as they pertain to private forest owners.

Spring Events

Fruit Tree/Bush Pruning

Sunday, March 29th
Hosted by: Ed and Donna Welch
105 Dankers Road, Johnsburg
Questions call Donna: 518-225-0625
1-3 pm Pruning Demonstration
Mike Basedow Tree Fruit Specialist -
Cornell Cooperative Extension

Save the Date

PACK Forest Woodswalk
Saturday, May 16th
At SUNY ESF's Demonstration Forest in Warrensburg we will tour new projects recently completed.
More information to follow.

Spring Tree Sales:

DEC Tree Sale: The Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery produces tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on public and private lands using New York seed sources when available. The annual seedling sale is open to New York residents and residents of bordering states. The Annual Tree and Shrub Sale is open from January 5 until May 13, 2026. Call 518-587-1120, Monday through Friday, 8AM—4PM to place an order. Some species sell out quickly, so order early.



Bing images

Brochure URL address: <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/saratogaseedlingbrochure.pdf>

Warren County: Pre-order deadline: Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

2026 Seedling Order Form URL:

<https://warrenswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Tree-and-Shrub-Flyer-Print-Version2.pdf>

The websites for Washington, Fulton, Saratoga and Hamilton counties are not updated with the 2026 information at this time.

Members Corner.....

A Walk Through The Woods

By Megan Reis

Wiley walked through the woods; it's a lovely day, the birds are singing, the light is playfully dappling through the leaves. The forest seemed almost magical that morning. But Wiley Vann's sour mood would not be swayed by the trees and their majesty.

Wiley, you see, was having a very rough morning. Instead of staying inside in his nice air conditioning playing games or even reading, he was out on this solo hike to "Build character" as his parents said. The whole hike he was mocking this and dragging his feet, knowing that if he went home he'd get in massive trouble, so he walked and walked and walked some more.

During this drag of a walk something caught his eye. What looked like nothing but a stump seemed to... move? He plodded over to the mystery stump and the stump toddled away, quite rapidly one might observe. Wiley chased after the strange thing, stumbling over roots and branches going way off the beaten trail.

"Hey come back!" All the stump, or creature did was giggle.

Wiley continued to chase after the little creature but despite its stubby legs the chase was unrelenting... Until Wiley tripped.... Now this wasn't a stumble kind of trip, he had a full head-over-tea-kettle, face in the dirt, trip. The small creature stopped, it waddled over to the now dirt covered boy and tilted its head curiously. From out of the woodwork more followed bringing with them little bugs and flowers in hopes to cheer up their new friend.

Wiley had never been happier. When he got home covered in mud, flowers, and little bugs of his own, Wiley was so full of excitement. All he could talk about was his new friends so much so that that's all his parents heard him speak about for weeks. It's safe to say he was never unhappy in the woods again!

FIN

Editors Farwell and Thank You

Since 2012 I have enjoyed working on the NYFOA SAC newsletter. At first I worked as part of a team getting to know the ropes. Over the years that team has dwindled to one, myself. I have always loved the challenge and creative part of my volunteer position. I have worked with many very talented and interesting writers. At one time we had a very talented designer, she brought all the class to our newsletter. I was able to invent many different areas of interest to bring to this little publication. I enjoyed my creative autonomy. Thank you to all of the many authors of all the articles that have been printed, all the photographers of the pictures included and all the members that have shared something of importance in our members corner. A very special nod to a top-notch proofreader that saved me embarrassment many times. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

The great news is that we have a new volunteer excited to take over. I am pleased to announce that Aaron Gabriel will continue to produce the Overstory. Aaron retired from Cornell Cooperative Extension where he worked as an agronomy educator for 26 years. He lives in Easton, Washington County on a small farm with about 90 acres of woodlot, where he has been learning how to grow culinary mushrooms on aspen logs and hopes to set up a little bandsaw mill this year. It is my wish for all of you that were so helpful to me will also support Aaron with his undertaking.

Kristie



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



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

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