

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people who care about New York's trees and forests

January/February 2010



Member Profile: Keith Maynard

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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 1

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$35.

This publication is printed on Finch Opaque, Smooth, 70 lb. text paper. Located in the beautiful Adirondacks, Finch has long understood that the viability of our business relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources. Finch papers are made with renewable energy, post-consumer recycled fiber and elemental chlorine-free pulps. In addition, Finch Paper was the first integrated paper mill in the US to receive both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Keith and Marianne Maynard, members of the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA, on the front porch of the home in Bristol, New York. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Maynard's.

From The President

The next major NYFOA event is our annual meeting, held in conjunction with the New York Farm Show at the state fairgrounds in Syracuse in February. As usual, we will have a speaker, award presentations, and elections for new members of our board of directors. Following the annual meeting is a meeting of the board of directors, which



all members are welcome to attend. The Farm Show makes a great backdrop for our meeting as there is a lot going on – equipment on

display, seminars, food and lots of other excitement. I urge all of you to attend if at all possible.

Thanks to the Central New York chapter once again for setting up a series of forestry-related seminars throughout the weekend. They have also lined up DEC wildlife biologist Jeremy Hurst to give a talk at our general meeting on the deer population and how they try to manage it. You can find details of these seminars elsewhere in this issue.

NYFOA is in a state of transition, and that makes this election to the board of directors even more important than most. The new board will have to decide how to handle the position of our executive director – whether we should keep the position the same and hire a new director to fill it, or redefine the position and hire somebody for it, or do away with the paid position and run the organization entirely with volunteers. There are pros and cons for all these positions and there is already

a lot of discussion, but it will be up to the new board to make a final decision.

In that vein, I want to remind everybody that your input to the board is valuable and valued. Those of us on the board try to keep ourselves informed of the opinions of the members, since we are acting on your behalf. We recently conducted a survey of our members on line, and we try to solicit input from members on a personal basis. But

Join us at the Annual
NYFOA Meeting during
the NY Farm Show.
See pages 7 and 13
for details.

members have some responsibility to make their voice heard without waiting for somebody to ask. Voting for board members is one way to do this; volunteering to run for the board or to serve in some other capacity is another. Less formally, I would like all members to feel that they can contact board members to share their opinions. Each chapter has at least one representative on the board, and the contact information for all board members is available in this magazine and on the web site.

I believe NYFOA is a great organization, and you can help make it better by offering your suggestions. Please don't be shy about doing so, and I hope to see many of you at the Farm Show. 🌲

–Dan Cleveland
NYFOA President

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Letters to the Editor

Editor, *New York Forest Owner*

I appreciate the article by Carl Wiedemann in the November/December 2009 issue of the *New York Forest Owner*. In my most recent years as an MFO, I have seen quite a few woodlots that have fallen far short of sustainability, by any definition. Some of the failures were guided by people who call themselves foresters.

Two years ago, I asked a past Chair of New York Society of American Foresters, in front of a meeting of MFOs at Panama, NY, why NYSAF has been reluctant to publicly distance itself from high-grading and diameter limit cutting. He claimed that the issue is complicated and required more study.

I think not. The issue has been studied enough (see past articles by Ralph Nyland for starters). In calling for woodland owners to manage their timber crops, Wiedemann is on the right track, but SAF is reluctant to provide leadership on this important silvicultural issue. Shame on them.

It would also be a good time for SAF to revisit the issue of forester licensing, so that we could rein in the scalawags referred to in my third sentence above.

—Charles P. Mowatt
Former member of NYSAF
Franklinville, NY

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org). You would get an email every two months announcing when the current edition is available for download; and be given the URL for a webpage where you can go and get a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.



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From Feast to Famine and Beyond:

*A Status Report on the Market for Forest
Carbon Offset Credits in the United States*

MATT SMITH AND JON POMP

If you have been wondering what happened to “the carbon credit thing” lately, you’re not alone. Over the past few years, forest owners and managers have been bombarded with information about the emerging markets related to forest carbon sequestration. There have been articles, speakers, advertisements, and workshops on the subject seemingly everywhere we turned in the past two years. It seems as though almost everything short of banners behind airplanes have been used to promote the new promise of environmental markets for forest carbon (most of which have been used by the authors!). Over the past year or so, however, the excitement and the message on forest carbon markets has changed significantly, leaving many wondering what is happening, whether or not this new market is or was real, and what they should or should not be doing now and in the future. Although not all of the answers are known, in this article we are going to try to shed some light on what has been happening with markets for forest carbon offset credits, as well as what the future may hold.

If you’ve been following this emerging market, you know that market development in the US has included multiple overlapping efforts including voluntary markets such as the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), voluntary standards (or protocols) such as the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), as well as emerging regulatory markets such as those developed in California (via AB 32) and the northeast (The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative). This rapidly evolving (and slightly confusing) new area has spurred a new age of innovation, investment, and debate, not to mention its contribution to policy makers debating the need for Federal climate change legislation.

Realizing the significant role that forests play in carbon sequestration and storage

globally, and thanks to the devoted work by several professionals and groups across the country to make a place for forestry, US programs, unlike their European predecessors, have included multiple provisions for forestry offset projects. As exciting as this is, the real opportunities in the US are quite variable, with the keys to success lying in details that are mired in the policy jargon and fine print of carbon program and or market rules. Fortunately though, the emergence of this new market has opened new doors for some qualifying forest landowners to realize new returns from forests. Understanding who qualifies for which program and how to develop a successful project remains a real challenge however. Realizing income from carbon depends heavily on numerous factors including a landowner’s willingness to both commit to positive sequestration through growth for some period of time and to employ forestry activities that were additional to their previously chosen management activities.

The Feast!

Over the past few years, the CCX has represented the most forestry friendly, low cost, and well-defined carbon reduction program in the US. As such, most of the program promotion to private forest landowners has been for CCX approved pooled projects, such as those available from groups like FORECON EcoMarket Solutions, LLC, The Delta Institute, The National Carbon Offset Coalition, as well as others. With historic CCX market prices averaging near \$3.50 and spiking at over \$7.00 per tonne in July 2008, many of the early forestry projects provided positive financial results for landowners. As a result, project developers and forest owners alike were encouraged at the prospect and benefits of this exciting new market.

It was during the 2008 spike of CCX market activity last summer that the promotion of carbon offset markets for forestry credits reached its peak. Interestingly it was also during this time that the political activity in the US was heating up as Senators Barack Obama and John McCain were vying for the title of Commander-in-Chief. Both candidates would ride the “green” theme, making promises of America moving towards clean energy, a “green” economy, reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, battling global climate change, and employing a cap-and-trade system. This undoubtedly played a key role in the spike of CCX market activity by strengthening consumer confidence and suggesting that the US would soon have Federal GHG regulation. Meanwhile, the Chicago Climate Futures Exchange (CCFE) was also seeing elevated market activity for Carbon Financial Instrument (CFI) futures contracts, the first tool for directly hedging exposure under a potential mandatory US GHG trading program; contract settlement prices were hovering right around \$12. We did not know however, that challenging economic times would soon be on the horizon.

The Famine!

The global economic crisis came to a head in late 2008, significantly affecting carbon trading activity and prices in a negative way. This was evident as both price and trading levels started their downhill descent last fall. Not surprising, considering nearly all of the markets on Wall Street were at levels not seen since The Great Depression. As a result of this crisis, carbon programs and offset credits became somewhat of a feel-good luxury item which would have to take a back seat to survival measures for many emitters. It was also around this time that many sectors began placing the newly developed forestry offset protocols of The CAR, The VCS, and others on a pedestal as higher in quality than The CCX. Many of these groups and individuals felt that these protocols provided them with the long-lasting vision of quality climate benefits they were searching for from an offset

continued on page 16

Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt, check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.forestconnect.info

Question

What educational resources are available to help woodland owners learn more about their property?

Response

As a member of the NY Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) you are connected to a great resource through your involvement with one or more of the 10 chapters. Each chapter operates a bit differently, but all will have some level of involvement with educational efforts such as newsletter, woodwalks, social gatherings and conferences. Several chapters partner with other groups to host events and broaden the variety and depth of topics they offer. Many woodland owners gain a great deal by interacting with other woodland owners in these rather informal meetings. You will learn from other woodland owners through their experiences, which you can compare to your experiences, and allow you the benefit of learning from their successes and failures. In fact, research has shown that this type of interaction is a powerful educational process. You can see the chapter representatives at www.NYFOA.org

The Master Forest Owner volunteers, or MFOs, are another group

of woodland owners, like you, but who have been trained at Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Their training is not as a forester, but perhaps more importantly as a peer to be able to share their knowledge and experience in guiding you to the sources of technical assistance, such as foresters. The MFOs will typically

make a visit to your property and listen to your interests. If they learn about your interests before they arrive for a visit, they may be able to bring some fact sheets or other educational resources specific to the questions you might have. Otherwise, they will be able to get you connected with the right people in your area. You can learn more about the MFOs at www.CornellMFO.info

You can contact your county office of Cornell Cooperative Extension to learn what types of educational programs they, or neighboring counties, have to offer to woodland owners. Each county office of CCE designs their programs based on input from people in the county, so you can likely find a variety of opportunities in your immediate area. Some county offices of CCE jointly support a natural resources educator. The CCE office will have a current list of MFO volunteers or can connect you with the region's MFO coordinator.

The NYS DEC has regional offices throughout the state. Although they primarily serve to assist woodland



Bill LaPoint, chair of the Northern Adirondack NYFOA Chapter, introduces the theme of a woodwalk on his property for chapter members and guests. This woodwalk covered flame weeding technology, invasive plants, and fern identification. CCE of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties assisted with the woodwalk.

owners with technical assistance, such as developing a stewardship plan, each office also has a variety of educational pamphlets. Also, you can contact the public service forester that serves your county and schedule a visit to inspect your woods and discuss your options for managing to meet your goals. During the visit, you will have the opportunity to discuss and learn about your questions.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension supports the ForestConnect program. This program depends on its integral relationship with the CCE offices to assist woodland owners in the state. ForestConnect operates through campus-based and county-based educators and specialists who use knowledge generated through research to support sustainable woodland management of private lands. Some of the educational resources provided by ForestConnect and available throughout the state include workshops and woodswalks jointly sponsored with CCE and NYFOA, demonstration and applied research sites to show appropriate practices, fact sheets, MFO training and refreshers, and several of the articles in each issue of the *New York Forest Owner*. Other educational resources are also available on the internet at www.ForestConnect.info These include monthly webinars, all the fact sheets, extensive collections of recent and historic documents, articles for the general public, and links to other academic institutions and groups that also assist woodland owners.

Finally, if you have access to the Internet, there are numerous organizations and sites that offer information. Given the wealth of information on the internet, you can comfortably use that provided from reputable sources. ▲

Prepared by: Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY 14853. pjs23@cornell.edu www.ForestConnect.info

NY Farm Show 2010

Helping Farmers Produce More from Their Woodlots

JAMIE CHRISTENSEN

Got Trees?

The New York Forest Owners Association, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will present a series of **free forestry programs** on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday February 25, 26, and 27 at the New York Farm Show annually held at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

The Farm Show has many exhibits displaying information, equipment, and items of interest to landowners as well as farmers. Landowners who own woodland as part of their property can get information on many subjects that will help them enhance the value of their woodlots for timber, wildlife, and recreation. The following **seminars** will be presented in the Arts and Home Center Building. People are free to attend whichever seminars interest them. The speakers are knowledgeable in forest and rural land subjects and come from university, government, private industry, and volunteer organizations.

Forest Management Seminars Thursday, February 25

- 1:00 *Wild Turkey Biology, History, Management, and the Role of NWTF*
- 2:00 *Conservation Easements for New York Farmland*

Friday, February 26

- 10:00 *Your Woodlot Is An Asset, Make It Work For You*

- 11:00 *Silviculture as it applies to Three Invasive Pests (Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long Horn Beetle, & Hemlock Woolly Adelgid)*
- 1:00 *Managing Beech in Woodlots*
- 2:00 *Getting the Most in a Down Market*
- 3:00 *Importance of Stewardship & Management Plans for Your Woodlot*

Saturday, February 27

- 10:00 *Timber Value: The Market, Present and Future*
- 11:00 *Wild Canines of New York: Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves*

There will also be a joint New York Forest Owners Association, NYSDEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF **Forestry Information Booth, I55**, in the International Building each day of the Farm Show. Before or after the seminar presentations, people can go to the booth and talk with knowledgeable Forest Owners Association volunteers, DEC Service Foresters, CCE Extension Foresters and with Master Forest Owner volunteers. Free information (brochures, publications, people, organizations, and resources) will be available at the booth. People can sign up for more information or for a free visit to their woodlot. The International Building has many forestry related exhibits for landowners. For further information contact: Jamie Christensen 315-472-5323 kchriste@twcny.rr.com, or John Druke 315-656-2313 jcdruke@twcny.rr.com.

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Ahh, winter...

The snow is falling and each day offers a fresh new view of your woodlot. Sometimes you can see so much more without the leaves on. Animal tracks or a stream that runs crisp and clear all year long or a skid trail a logger used last year that is now a great X-country ski trail.

When you look out your window, what do you see? A forest full of carefully tended sawlog trees that you know someday you'll see the full potential of their value at market? Do you see a vast expanse of hunting ground where the deer are prevalent...maybe you see a pond or a rose garden that is your pride and joy. All of these things can fit neatly into a management plan and co-exist in a multi-use Tree Farm that can be in your family for years to come.

Don't believe me? Picture this...a carefully constructed harvest schedule



designed to grow and care for the most valuable trees on your woodlot to their maturity and provide regeneration of the forest from these superior parent trees; an ATV trail around the perimeter of the property

for your grandkids to enjoy and ease of access for you to maintain the boundary lines; foot trails maintained on a skid trail network interior on the woodlot with wildlife food plots planted at the intersections, and an uncut buffer on a brook that doesn't freeze creating a deer run for you and your son or daughter to hunt; and, in addition to all that, right now, you are warm and cozy, eating a cucumber sandwich prepared from veggies out of the garden you had growing in the spring and burning in your woodstove is firewood that came from your own property.

So, how can you achieve this Nirvana? By becoming a Tree Farm of course! The experience of the forester

assisting and advising you can make this story yours. The management plan will be made from your own goals and objectives and based on your individual property. Additionally, the Tree Farm logo and sign are an outward symbol of good forest management and sustainability to your friends and neighbors. When they ask you "what's that for" you can tell them it's your contribution to maintaining environmental viability for future generations, you're keeping forests as forests and contributing to carbon offsetting of big businesses by maintaining a continuous stretch of trees and forested land. You can tell them, "I'm doing my part." (Then ask them if they are!) Like I always say, just think of the possibilities as you consider being a Tree Farmer.

If you'd like more information about becoming a Tree Farm, remember... a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away. 🌲

Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.



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Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, (address on page 2) and it may end up on this page!

Forests and Fire: Wildfires and Prescribed Fires

You've probably heard Smokey Bear say "Only you can prevent wildfires," but what exactly is a wildfire? There are two basic types of forest fire: wildfire — fires accidentally or intentionally set that cause unwanted damage or harm in a forest, and prescribed fires — fires set in specific habitats and forests as a management tool.

Prescribed fires are used all over the country, even here in New York. We have some special habitats that require fire for desired trees and understory shrubs and plants to grow. These plants create food and habitat for specific wildlife. Prescribed fires are also used to manage deadwood build up on the forest floor, which helps prevent and slows the spread of wildfires. In New York, one of our most famous fire habitats is the Albany Pine Bush. The Albany Pine Bush is dependant on fire to keep the pitch pines growing and supports the lifecycles of many animals including two special insects—the endangered Karner blue butterfly and the rare

Inlands barrens buckmoth. There are only 19 others like our pine bush in the world! You can learn more about the Albany Pine Bush Preserve at <http://www.albanypinebush.org/>.

Wildfires are neither good nor bad. They are part of our natural system, with many started by lightning each year. But, unfortunately most are started by our carelessness—out of control campfires, sparks, cigarettes, or intentionally set by humans. In the big picture, fire does not destroy the forest. In time the forest recovers and new life abounds. There is even a type of wildfire referred to as wildland fire use. These are naturally occurring fires, from lightning, that are left to burn to benefit the environment. But, wildfires can cause thousands of dollars of damages to homes, buildings, roads, and can injure and kill people. This

is why we spend millions every year trying to stop the spread of unwanted wildfires. Wildfires can also change the management plans of forest owners, who may have to set new goals after an unexpected fire.

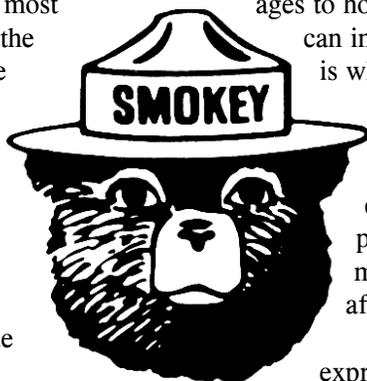
You might have heard the expression "fighting fire with

fire," and it's true. One of the best tools to combat fires is fire. Smaller fires are strategically set ahead of the large fire and burn back towards the advancing large fire. This clears out the fuel (deadwood, plants, and trees) that could have fed the large fire, stopping it in its tracks. More often, equipment such as bulldozers, chainsaws, helicopters, and hand tools are used by trained forest firefighting crews to manage the fires.

Consider working with forest fires as a career. The USDA Forest Service, NYS DEC Forest Rangers and other state's land management organizations hire individuals especially for forest fire work. Some local volunteer fire departments and the government offer trainings for volunteers to become forest firefighter qualified.

Learn how you can prevent wildfires. Smokey Bear has many fun on-line games and activities, and lots more fire information at his web site: <http://www.smokeybear.com/>, including profiles of firefighters, the tools they use, and a map of the large fires that are currently burning in the US. 🇺🇸

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.



Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

MANAGING FOR BIRDS ON YOUR LAND

New York State is home to 454 species of birds, 242 of which have bred in New York. Some species, such as black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice, are permanent residents and live here year-round. Others breed in New York during the spring and summer and migrate to sunny South or Central America to spend the winter. These birds, such as the wood thrush, ovenbird, and warblers, are called “Neotropical migrants”. Other birds, such as the American robin or rufous-sided towhee, breed in New York and migrate to a more southerly state for the winter. Such birds are termed “short-distance migrants”. A number of species, such as the tundra swan or black-bellied plover, migrate through New York on their way from their winter grounds to their breeding grounds and simply use the State as an occasional rest area. Once in a while, an individual bird or flock of birds that have no official place in New York are blown off-course en route to their destination and we are fortunate enough to be able to view them. Such birds, like the northern wheatear and yellow-billed loon, are termed “accidental” and are a rare site to behold.

New York has a variety of landforms with a diversity of topographic and climatic conditions. Because of the diversity of New York’s physical environment, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, the coastal lowlands of Long Island to the high peaks of the Adirondacks, the state supports a variety of vegetation types and provides habitat for many different kinds of birds. If you want to view the whole host of species that reside in New York, you will need to do some traveling. However, your backyard, forest land or open field may support dozens of bird species and provide endless opportunities for observation without leaving home at all!

Guilds

A guild is a group of animals within a community (e.g., deciduous forest, mead-

ow, emergent wetland) that uses similar resources in similar ways. Birds are often placed into guilds based on their food preferences or feeding habits. For example, some birds eat seeds (granivores), some are insect-eaters (insectivores), and others are fruit-eaters (frugivores). Some insectivores glean insects from the foliage of vegetation, while others “hawk” insects from the air. Some birds feed at ground level, while others feed in the forest canopy or sub-canopy. Birds are also placed into guilds based upon their nesting habits. For instance, some birds build their nests on the ground, some locate their nests in the forest canopy, some nest in shrubs, and others nest in tree cavities. Thinking of birds in terms of the guilds that they belong to helps us to understand the reasons that a particular bird or group of birds may or may not be present in a particular habitat.

Habitat Types

Your property may contain a variety of habitat types including forest, shrubland, grassland, or wetlands. The habitat type will largely determine the kinds of birds that live there. For example, red-eyed vireos, scarlet tanagers and black-throated green warblers live in the forest. Indigo buntings, gray catbirds and song sparrows prefer shrubland. Grassland, such as hayfields, pastures, and fields at airports, support species such as the eastern meadowlark, vesper sparrow, savannah sparrow, and bobolink.

Habitat Structure

In addition to the type of habitat that is present, the structure of the habitat also will influence the kinds of birds inhabiting an area. For instance, within grassland habitat, eastern meadowlarks prefer grass-dominated fields with thick layers of dead grass and scattered shrubs and forbs for

perches. Bobolinks nest in older grassland where vegetation is sparser and dominated by grass and there is a mix of forbs and small shrubs. Grasshopper sparrows prefer fields with short bunch grasses, patches of bare ground, and shrubs or fences for perching. Each of these species prefers grassland habitat with a slightly different structure.

Likewise, vertical structural diversity and patch diversity are very important considerations in managing for forest birds. Vertical structural diversity refers to a forest with a well-developed overstory, understory, shrub, and herbaceous layer. Maintaining vertical complexity within the forest allows a variety of birds to coexist. Many birds divide habitat vertically. For example, ovenbirds, scarlet tanagers, and chickadees are all found in mature forests, but ovenbirds feed mostly on the ground, tanagers prefer the canopy top, and chickadees like intermediate heights. More species are able to coexist in a forest with multiple layers than in a forest where all the trees are the same height. Vertical diversity is greatest in forests with a large variety of trees of different ages. Within similar forests, vertical diversity is greater in areas with fewer deer. In areas where deer are overabundant, they often browse and remove the lower layers of vegetation.

Horizontal diversity, or patchiness, refers to the variety, size, and shape of both living and nonliving organisms across an area. Typically, the greater the horizontal diversity, the greater the diversity of birds. Patches can be created by groups of trees of different age and size classes, stands of different types of trees (coniferous versus deciduous), or openings in the forest canopy. Patches may be created naturally (e.g. fire, wind-throws), or they can be created through active forest management.

Other special features within a habitat can provide additional elements that benefit birds. For instance, rotting logs on the ground attract insects and fungi, providing food for birds. Standing snags provide cavities for nesting and additional feeding sites.

Area Requirements

Many migratory songbirds require very large areas of habitat. Such birds are termed area-sensitive species. Typically,

area-sensitive species are thought to be forest inhabitants. However, some grassland species, such as the upland sandpiper or Henslow's sparrow, require grassland areas of 100 acres or more. Most area-sensitive grassland species in New York have declined significantly over the past 30 years, due to a decline in the amount of large, contiguous acreage of grassland habitat available for nesting. This loss of habitat was predominately due to changes in agricultural technology including earlier and more frequent mowing, reversion of farmland to forest, and suburban development.

Area-sensitive forest songbirds, such as the ovenbird, red-eyed vireo, and scarlet tanager, may be absent from small forest patches and reach their greatest abundance in forested areas greater than 250 acres. When larger forests are fragmented into several smaller forests, the habitat needs of these species may not be met, and they may become less abundant or absent altogether. Forest fragmentation results primarily from human modification of the environment. When large forests are fragmented into several smaller forest areas by suburban development or agricultural activity, several changes occur. First, the proportion of edge habitat increases. Subsequently, densities of nest predators such as the American crow, common grackle, raccoon, and opossum increase. These species prey upon both eggs and nestlings. Populations of the brown-headed cowbird, a brood parasite, also increase. Cowbirds never build their own nests but instead lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, which often raise the cowbird young at the expense of their own. Because the cowbird is a relatively "recent" immigrant from the midwest, many eastern forest songbirds have not evolved behavioral strategies to be able to cope with brood parasitism.

Habitat Mixture

Although some species require extensive areas of forest, others need a mixture of habitat types. The wild turkey requires several habitat types and a flock of turkeys may use thousands of acres during the year to meet its needs. For example, they display in fields or open woods during the spring breeding season. Turkeys often nest in brush piles created from

logging harvests or blow-downs. During the spring and summer, turkeys feed on grasses, forbs, seeds, and insects found in fields and forest clearings. However, in the fall, they feed in mature forests containing mast-producing trees, such as oak and beech. Fruits of dogwood, grape and black cherry also serve as fall food for turkeys. During winter they rely on fruits and nuts left over from fall and on green plants and insects found in and around spring seeps, where groundwater emerges at the surface along hillsides and lower slopes.

Observing Birds on Your Property

As noted, the types of birds that will inhabit your property will depend upon the type of habitat, habitat structure, and size of the area. As time goes by and plant succession progresses, bird communities will change. Species that were once common may no longer be present or may be less abundant. New species will appear. Habitat management can help to maintain habitat for a specific species or groups of species. For example, periodic mowing or burning can be used to keep fields from succeeding to shrubland. Timber harvest can be used to create early successional forest or forest openings. Timber stand improvement can be used to allow more light into the forest floor, encouraging the growth of shrubs and understory trees, and increasing vertical diversity. Snags can be left whenever possible to provide homes for cavity-nesting birds.

To safeguard habitat for area-sensitive species, you can avoid creating edge habitat. For area-sensitive grassland birds, fields can be maintained in a shape that will minimize the amount of edge. For instance, square fields have less edge than long, thin rectangular fields. When clearcutting, manage in large blocks of 40 acres or more, if possible. Many species that inhabit early-successional shrub/sapling habitat do better in large clearcuts, and one large clearcut will create less forest edge than several small clearcuts. When large clearcuts mature, they then provide large blocks of habitat for mature-forest birds.

One of the easiest ways to improve bird habitat on your property is to favor trees and shrubs that produce seeds or fruit. Juneberries, dogwoods, sumac, elderberries, cherries, grapes and blueberries all produce fruit that will be eaten by birds. Birch, alder, and hemlock are just a few species that produce seeds eaten by birds. Food-producing trees and shrubs can be planted or, if they are already present, can be encouraged to grow. Most fruit-producing shrubs require some sunlight to produce fruits. Thinning of mature trees can allow more sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor or understory, thereby increasing fruit production.

Summary

There is no one correct way to manage for birds on your property. An unlimited

continued on page 17

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NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by February 12, 2010 or vote in person at the Annual Meeting on February 27, 2010.

Dr. René Germain – *Syracuse, NY*

René Germain is an Associate Professor where he works in the area of sustained yield management, parcelization of private land, water quality issues, diffusion of innovation and sustainable forestry systems. He has taught a variety of courses including Forest Operations and Principles of Management. René wants to work with NYFOA to focus on promoting forest management on family forests throughout the state. He believes that this is best achieved through strong chapters serving their regions. The state level activities, including the NY Forest Owners, should serve as a support mechanism for the chapters. It is through the chapters that NYFOA can increase membership in the organization.

Robert C. Morrison - *Voorheesville, NY*

Bob has a life-long personal and family attachment to the Central Adirondacks, where he currently own about 25 acres in the Southern Essex County Town of Minerva. The property supports a variety of forest cover, ranging from 20 year-old natural regeneration to medium-age and older conifer-hardwood stands. Bob's goals include ancillary forest products, promoting old-growth features, preserving biodiversity, and enhancing recreational access. Bob brings a variety of skills. These include: good communication skills, particularly writing and public speaking; effective analytical skills; understanding, appreciation and application of sustainable forestry practices; and finally, aptitudes for diligence and perseverance. He is particularly interested in using his passion for sustainable forestry to work with the board and increase membership, through application of his teaching, training and public relations skills.

Ronald W. Pedersen - *Latham, NY*

The Pedersen's own 200 acres in Deposit, NY – a hill dairy farm which began its transformation to a Tree Farm when purchased by his parents in 1944. Following degrees in agricultural and land economics at Cornell, Ron was employed by NYS government, primarily in areas of policy and program development. Previous service on the NYFOA Board ended in 2002 and he is currently on its Planning Committee. Ron would like to see expanded statewide outreach alerting woodland owners to their options and sources of further information and advice—programming beyond what chapters can and are doing on their own. He believes that understanding and addressing the motivations and needs of our members, chapters, partners, and all woodland owners will strengthen NYFOA's effectiveness.

Christopher B. Tcimpidis - *Livingston Manor, NY*

Chris entered into the field of forestry in May of 1993 as a forest technician for the USDA Forest Service, Serving as an inventory specialist on the East Wide Database field team, working out of the Liberty Field Office. In December of 1993 Chris moves to the Adirondacks to become Head Forester (only forester) for a logging firm based in the eastern Adirondacks. In June 1994 Chris moved back to the Catskill Region to work as a subcontractor to various Consulting Foresters. After a year or so of such work landowners started consulting directly with Chris. That was the beginning of Bevan Forestry, a consulting firm that has grown to include several employees and geographic area that spreads from the southern tier of New York through the Adirondacks and West to the Finger Lakes. Bevan Forestry became the first New York Based Consulting operation to be FSC Certified. Bevan Forestry started out offering simple Forestry services in 1994 to offering a full range of forestry services and GIS/GPS service to the natural resource community. Chris' approach to forestry has always been to present the stewardship option first to the forest community and educate landowners about forest stewardship. Chris is interested in seeing NYFOA being a resource that can investigate and inform forest landowners about the changes in the political, economic and ecological that effect forests and forest management.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Dr. René Germain ()

Robert C. Morrison ()

Ronald W. Pedersen ()

Christopher B. Tcimpidis ()

Write-in candidate _____ ()

_____ ()

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter / Affiliation _____

Send ballot to: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 *or* via email at: lgooding@nyfoa.org

48th Annual NYFOA Meeting

The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting, in conjunction with the three-day New York Farm Show, on Saturday February 27, 2010, at the New York Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

The annual meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and be held in the Arts and Home Building.

At the meeting the Heiburg Memorial Award, the Outstanding Service Award, and NYFOA's Chapter activity awards will all be presented.

The meeting will also feature guest speaker Jeremy Hurst from the NYSDEC's Big Game Unit. He will be discussing aspects of their program that may be of interest to NYFOA members and some of the DEC's goals related to deer impacts on forests.

For more information, contact Liana Gooding at 1-800-836-3566.

NYFOA Awards

At the annual membership meeting each year, NYFOA presents several awards:

The **Heiberg Memorial Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York.

The **NYFOA Outstanding Service Award** recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership and furtherance of NYFOA's mission.

NYFOA's **Chapter Activity Award** thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area. Each Chapter is urged to name one volunteer individual or couple each year for recognition by the state membership at the annual meeting in 2010.

Please send the name of your "Chapter Activity" awardee, and any suggestions on individuals for the statewide awards to Liana Gooding by January 30, 2010.

Liana Gooding
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Emerald Ash Borer is Now in New York: An Update

MARK C. WHITMORE AND MELISSA K. FIERKE

Are you getting Emerald Ash Bored to death? If so, you should rise again because there is good reason for the fuss. This is one of the most destructive forest pests to hit North America since Chestnut Blight and if you don't know anything about it, you need to. If you do know about it, then you'll be interested in the latest developments. This tiny metallic green beetle was detected in NY early last summer and will be causing millions of dollars of damage to rural and urban forests throughout the state in the upcoming years. It is not a question of "if" it will arrive in your neighborhood, but "when".

The emerald ash borer (EAB), a native of eastern Asia, was first detected in North America in Detroit in 2002 after ash trees started dying around the city. It has since killed tens of mil-

lions of ash trees in 13 states and two Canadian Provinces, from Southeastern Missouri to Montreal and from Suburban Maryland to St. Paul, MN. EAB is a strong flier, but its greatest dispersal agent is through movement of wood... by people! This is why the NYDEC recently enacted regulations prohibiting import of firewood into NY unless it has been heat treated and limits transportation of untreated firewood within the state to less than 50 miles from its source.

Anyone familiar with ash knows they frequently look pretty ragged. Ash yellows disease has been around NY for awhile and declining ash are a ho-hum site for many. So how do you know if you have the EAB instead of ash yellows? This is one of the biggest problems with EAB - they are very difficult to detect at early stages

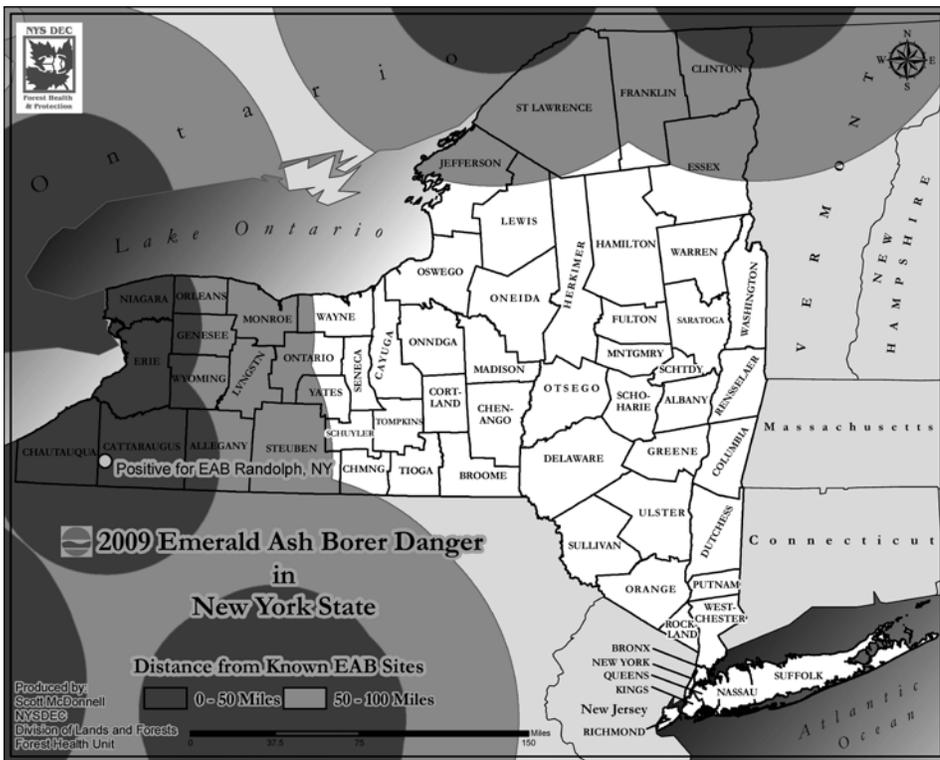
of infestation, so here are some of the clues. They like sunny open-grown trees and they like to start at the top and work down. Often there will be water sprouts, or epicormic sprouts, that form along the bole of the tree. As upper branches are girdled by larvae feeding just under the bark, they die back one at a time. Ash yellows, in contrast, causes a general canopy decline and usually does not kill just one branch at a time. When you look more closely at the bark of an EAB infested tree there will be "D" shaped exit holes, and peeling the bark will reveal the serpentine larval galleries. Perhaps one of the better ways to find EAB is to simply take a walk in your woodlot in the still of a winter's day and listen for woodpeckers. You can hear them from a great distance in winter and see the bark chips lying in the snow. If they have been working in the tops of ash trees then you should investigate more closely for other signs of EAB just described.

With these symptoms etched in their minds, on June 14, 2009, two Cornell USDA ARS researchers on their way to work on EAB in Michigan stopped at a freeway exit in the Town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County, where they had noted suspiciously declining ash on the earlier trip. Upon investigation, they immediately noticed hundreds of EAB flying around a few ash trees adjacent to the westbound exit ramp. Confirmed shortly thereafter by a USDA entomologist, this first detection of EAB in NY set off a flurry of activity. An incident command structure was put in place and State and Federal agencies immediately set about the task of determining how many trees were infested, how long EAB had been there, and how far it had spread.

The team quickly identified 39 infested trees and chipped them into 1 inch squares to kill all EAB larvae. The next step was to determine how far EAB had spread. The team deployed over 2000 purple sticky traps in a circular area around Randolph with a radius of 7 miles around the purported introduction point. This was a remarkable logisti-



Emerald Ash Borer larva and gallery under ash bark.



Map of areas most in danger of Emerald Ash Borer in New York. Dark Gray is a 50 mile radius around known infestations and lighter gray is a 100 mile radius.

cal accomplishment considering it was done in just a couple weeks. Over the next several months, crews continued to examine nearby ash for signs of EAB infestation and well-attended informational meetings were held for the public and stakeholders in the forest

products industry. In late July 2009, quarantine was established covering Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties regulating movement of ash wood, wood products, and nursery stock.

Over 200 suspect ash trees in the Randolph area have been identified and destroyed. With samples cut from the most heavily infested trees, USDA scientists estimated that EAB had been there at least two years and probably for several more. At this time, we still do not know the full extent of the infestation, however, we do know that EAB is still present as two suspect trees recently cut and peeled revealed several overwintering EAB larvae.

There has been much research on methods to control or slow the spread of EAB, however, area-wide treatments for forests basically do not exist. Research is continuing to establish biological control and examine ash

resistance but efforts are still years away from any meaningful implementation. Systemic pesticides have been found to be effective but require frequent application which limits their economic viability only to urban situations. Silvicultural treatments have been investigated and have not been shown to be effective. Unlike some other wood-boring pests, these beetles take down ash whether they are big or small, healthy or unhealthy; however, as Yogi Berra said, it ain't over until it's over. The ash forests of the Midwest are different from those here and we won't know what will happen until the EAB hits the heart of ash in New York.

Needless to say we are all concerned about the potential loss of these valuable tree species, both in our urban/suburban areas as well as in rural uplands, wetlands and riparian areas. Our only hope is that with education and involvement of the public, we can detect EAB infestations at an early stage, such as in Randolph, and slow their spread. We need to buy time so that research can find a solution to the EAB problem. ▲

Web Resources

Emerald Ash Borer: www.nyis.info/Insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx

Firewood Regulations: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html

Quarantine Regulations: www.dec.ny.gov/docs/regions_pdf/eaborder.pdf and

www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/eabagmkt.pdf

Pesticide treatments: http://www.nyis.info/Insects/PDF/Insecticide_options.pdf

Silviculture: <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/FC%20factsheets/silviculture%20&%20invasive%20insects%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Mark Whitmore is a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council. Melissa Fierke is a forest entomologist and an Assistant Professor on the Faculty of Forest Biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



An adult Emerald Ash Borer placed on a penny for scale. Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

From Feast to Famine (continued)

because their protocols were much more rigorous (and restrictive) than those of other programs like the CCX. The expansion of the market space to include CAR, VCS, and other programs combined with the economic crisis, concerns related to the emerging Federal program, and the lack of a long term commitment from the CCX would significantly change the market wide outlook for 2009. As a result, prices have changed dramatically, with CCX prices reduced to around \$0.25 per tonne, while VCS and CAR credits have been stable at between \$4.00 and \$10.00 per tonne. The current economic realities for the CCX has lead to a virtual standstill in interest from forest owners in offset project development from the private sector, while interest in other markets and or programs is stable or even increasing.

And Beyond!

It appears that the market is currently stuck in a "pre-regulatory rut". Until there is a clear understanding of what will and will not be allowed under the eminent Federal cap and trade program, little forward momentum is expected in the forest offsets sector. We have essentially entered a somewhat painful transition period from the open voluntary markets to a defined regulatory market in the US. What will it take to return to the growth phase of the carbon market? Well, several things could happen to improve our current status. First, the completion of the Federal program, second, an announcement from the CCX on its continuation as a market past 2010, and third,

an improved synergy amongst carbon program rules (i.e. uniform definitions on additionality, permanence, and leakage). With the Senate due to vote on the future of Federal cap and trade in September, all we can do is hope and advocate that this transition phase is short and that reasonable, scalable, and effective rules and policies are agreed to and that they treat forest offsets well.

So, what do we do in the mean time? It goes without saying that this is a time of cautious optimism. In fact it's hard to argue with a position to "wait and see" what the Feds deliver on in 2009 or 2010 before moving ahead with a forest offset project. Currently, the CCX is still the most forestry friendly program, and although prices are ridiculously low right now, interested landowners willing to take some risk, have many options available to them. With this in mind, CCX project development and market entry should currently be approached with a good understanding of the risks involved. An announcement of the addition of a Phase III (beyond 2010) would undoubtedly bolster consumer confidence and increase offset demand on the CCX as emitting members would have an additional GHG reduction target, but we'll have to wait awhile to get it

For other forest landowners with longer term objectives and eligible forests, the most financially attractive opportunities for forestry offset projects appear to be with The ACR, The VCS, and The CAR. These programs and or standards allow forest owners to generate offsets under

more restrictive and longer term requirements, attributing a perception of higher quality and value to the credits generated. One drawback to these more restrictive standards would be that eligibility for forests is highly dependent on project characteristics and scenarios for ownership, resulting in a smaller role for forests in their programs. Although speculation exists amongst all programs today, many feel as though the few offsets that will be generated under these more stringent programs have a higher likelihood of being recognized under an impending Federal cap-and-trade program. Although the costs of preparing and managing a project under these rules are higher than the CCX, and the contract commitments longer, some landowners may see these options as optimal solutions for their forests.

Despite the recent ups and downs in the primary market for forestry carbon offset

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credits in the US (The CCX), there is no risk that the initiative to control greenhouse gas emissions is going to disappear anytime soon. Imminent Federal legislation, coupled with increased confidence in other programs suggests an outbreak of activity and opportunities for forests and forest landowners alike in the upcoming years. This Fall will be an interesting time to watch the debate on climate change as it will largely define the future of carbon market access and new revenue streams for forests that produce marketable carbon credits. In the mean time, we suggest you carefully weigh your decisions to move on with project development, prepare to enter the market, or make investments in the realm of carbon. Although we have many reasons to be optimistic about the further development of this new market, forest owners need to recognize that there are now and will be abundant opportunities and risks in this new space. ▲

Matt Smith is Director of Ecosystem Services and Jon Pomp is Ecosystem Services Analyst at FORECON EcoMarket Solutions, 1890 East Main Street, Falconer, NY 14733, 716.664.5602.

Wild Things (continued)

number of options exist, none of which will benefit all species. Management practices that encourage some birds will discourage others from using an area.

If your property contains habitat that is of special value to birds, such as a 100-acre grassland field, a wetland, or other habitats that are rare or unusual in New York, focus on maintaining those areas. Of the bird species that are decreasing in the northeastern United States, 76 percent inhabit grassland or shrubland habitat. Since the early 1900s, a great deal of farmland has been abandoned and much of the open land that once existed has grown into forest. Therefore, if your property contains grassland or shrubland habitats, you might try to maintain them. In addition, you could manage your property in the context of the surrounding region. For instance, do you have the only large, contiguous area of forest in the area? Although the amount of forest land has increased since the beginning of the century, suburban development has fragmented our forests into smaller habitat islands. By maintaining large, unfragmented forests, you can contribute to the regional diversity of birds by carefully managing your forest to minimize fragmentation.

Consider the needs of birds in your timber plans. For instance, maintain snags and downed logs whenever possible, and encourage vertical diversity when practical. Manage stands to include a diversity of tree species to provide a variety of food and nesting options. By considering the needs of bird when you manage your property, you will be rewarded with endless opportunities for observation, the ecological benefit of insect pest control, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to safeguard the future of New York's birds. ▲

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at www.arnotconservation.info

Got Trees? Got Questions?

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<http://ForestConnect.info/forum>

to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across New York.



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Timber Theft and How to Prevent It

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

New IRS Reporting Rules for Timber Sales

The following article appeared in the Empire State Forest Products Empire Envoy and while it is directed at loggers it has much relevance for forest owners. This new regulation will help to further curb timber theft. Failure of the logger to furnish a 1099-S to the owner lends more suspicion to possible theft.

Purchasers of standing timber in a lump-sum transaction are now required to report the sale or exchange of the timber to the IRS using IRS Form 1099-S (Proceeds from Real Estate Transactions) and to provide the completed form to the seller. The decision makes no distinction on who purchases the standing timber (mills, brokers, or loggers) and brings lump-sum sales in line with existing regulations for pay-as-cut (contingent) payments.

The change resulted from confusion, changes to Internal Revenue Code Section 631(b) allowing long-term capital gains treatment for lump-sum sales, and strong evidence that a significance percentage of timber revenue was not reported by sellers. The IRS changed the rules through the regulatory process. The requirement

applies to all forms of timber acquisition on and after May 28, 2009.

Form 1099-S, "Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions, Copy B" must be furnished to the timber seller by January 31st of the year after payment is made; "Copy A" is filed with the IRS at the same time. Completion of the form for each purchase requires the buyer to obtain the seller's taxpayer identification number (TIN). The IRS instructions for 1099-S provide specific language that should be used in mailings to the seller if they are not willing to provide their TIN at the closing.

As a general rule payments are reported by the buyer for the year in which they are made. This is the case for lump-sum contracts since the total amount to be paid is known at the closing. For example, if the contract calls for \$30,000 at the closing in 2009, and final payment in 2010, or when logging starts, the \$30,000 payment would be reported in 2009 even if logging doesn't start until 2010. The final payment is reported in 2010 in this case. If payments are based on volume actually cut, payments are reported in the year made.

This professional opinion was prepared for the Empire Envoy by Purdue

University Professor of Forestry William L. Hoover, PhD; additional information on this and other issues is available at his website www.timber-taxadvice.com 

Hugh Canham is a retired professor from SUNY ESF and a member of NYFOA's CNY chapter. Ron Pedersen is a past President of NYFOA and is a member of the Capital District chapter.



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Initial certification requires individuals to complete workshops in chainsaw safety and productivity, ecology and environmental protection, and first aid/CPR. Certification is valid for 3 years, during which time participants are required to take an additional 3 days of training in subjects of their choosing. TLC has become the benchmark for loggers in New York State, and meets or exceeds SFI standards for professional training and education. Many companies, landowners, and consulting foresters encourage or require in-woods personnel to be TLC.

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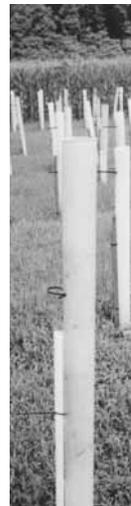
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Member Profile: *Keith Maynard*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

From the age of one, when he lived on his grandparent's tree farm, Keith Maynard has been involved in forestry activities throughout New York. Though he worked in the computer industry as a systems engineer and manager for many years, Keith took an early retirement and began an income tax preparation business. Now, Keith, an enrolled agent, and Marianne, his wife of 34 years, are partners in the business. As partners in Maynard's Tax Service, they handle all types of tax returns, including timber tax. Both Keith and Marianne are members of the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA and serve on the Board of Directors as Program Directors. Keith is also a Master Forest Owner Volunteer and often advises forest owners on tax planning strategies and issues specific to their situation.

With help from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Keith and Marianne recently organized the seminar, Ties to the Land,

for their chapter of NYFOA. During the two-part pilot seminar, Dr. Shorna Broussard Allred, from Cornell, discussed the logistics of how to pass on land to future generations, including the benefits, disadvantages and tax ramifications of such transactions. As Program Director for the Western Finger Lakes chapter, Keith hopes to hold additional Ties to the Land seminars in the future.

In addition to helping to initiate a novel seminar for NYFOA members, Keith and Marianne have also hosted a well-attended NYFOA woodswalk at their Bristol, New York property. Prior to commencing a commercial thinning, the Maynards asked their forest consultant, Bill Morris, to describe why he marked certain trees for harvest as opposed to others. Morris, a long time veteran of forest consulting, who has worked with the Maynards for over 20 years, marked and managed the 2003 thinning, which resulted in over 400

trees being sold. Having conducted only one major commercial thinning since purchasing the property, the Maynards intend to initiate another thinning within the next five years and hope to host a follow-up woodswalk as well, in order to demonstrate the effects of the harvest.

Since November of 2005, after their last child graduated from high school and left to attend college, Keith and Marianne have spent the majority of their time living on the Bristol property. A 110 acre property, their Bristol home is a diverse array of mixed hardwoods and evergreens, including white and Norway spruce. While not on the scale of a commercial thinning, Keith regularly goes about the property thinning and pruning trees and brush in order to maintain the area's access roads and to obtain firewood. The Maynards heat their home with the firewood harvested from this property and their children also cut firewood for their homes. Though he does the minor thinnings without a consultant, Keith makes sure all activities are consistent with the Maynard's forest management plan. As a Certified Tree Farm since 1999, the Bristol property requires a long-term management plan, which the Maynards have drawn up in conjunction with the DEC and the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In addition to the commercial thinning, the Maynards also contracted the construction of a one-acre pond on their Bristol property. Installed 20 years ago, the pond continues to function as a fire control resource and wildlife reservoir, similar to the property's existing pond. Keith weeds the ponds each year in order to keep them free of overwhelming cattails. Both ponds provide ample fishing opportunities for all those who visit and are visited regularly by many types of waterfowl, and an occasional bald eagle.

The Maynards not only fish on the property, but they also hunt, hike, cross-country ski and observe wildlife. While their children were growing up, they did a great deal of camping there, including many Boy Scout troop



The Maynard's son, Keith II, with his wife, Sueann, and their young daughter, Lauren.

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John, the Maynard's youngest son, in front of the cabin he helped to construct on their Oswegatchie property in the Adirondacks.

campouts. Keith and Marianne have placed bird feeders and nesting boxes all around the property, which attract a variety of bird species year-round. Marianne and Lauren, the Maynard's granddaughter, are avid bird watchers and spend much of their time replenishing the bird feeders. Lauren, 22 months old, is also a big fan of the trees and deer on the property and is becoming

more involved in forestry with each wildflower she picks.

Lauren, the daughter of the Maynard's oldest son, Keith II and his wife, Sueann, takes after much of the family with her interest in the outdoors. Keith II, along with the Maynard's two other sons, Marty and John, built their father a groomer to maintain the ski trails during the winter. Marty competes in



Marty, one of the Maynard's three sons, pictured on the biathlon shooting range he constructed on the Bristol property.

biathlon and has constructed a biathlon shooting range on the property. Not only have the boys constructed equipment for their father and helped out with forestry activities over the years, but they are interested in becoming more involved in the management of the properties as their time allows. The Maynard's are planning to pass their forest properties on to their children, and hope to keep the property in the family for many years to come.

When not on their Bristol property, Keith and Marianne can be found on their 25-acre Oswegatchie, New York property, where they live for a few months of each year. Originally Keith's grandparent's property, the 25 acres were part of a larger parcel of land purchased during the early 1900's. When his grandparents passed away, the Adirondack property was transferred and divided among their children and Keith eventually acquired a small portion for himself. In the future, he hopes to expand his 25 acres by acquiring some of the property that belongs to his Dad.

At the time Keith acquired his Oswegatchie property it had been logged of the best trees. The remaining trees had no significant value. He estimates that another 20 years, at the very least, will have to elapse before any trees can be harvested and sold. In the meantime, Keith thins only what is necessary to maintain access to the property as well as a couple of pine stands. Keith, Marianne, and their youngest son, John, have also kept busy by constructing a cabin on the property. Made mostly of materials from the family lands, the Maynards gradually completed the rustic cabin in 2003, complete with running water and electricity.

Though the Maynards do not spend as much time on the Oswegatchie property as they do in Bristol, they enjoy each equally. Marianne, who grew up in suburbia, finds it exceptionally satisfying to see their efforts cumulate in two healthy and well-maintained forest properties. 

Alexandra Silva is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the March/April Issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



Deadline for material is February 1, 2010

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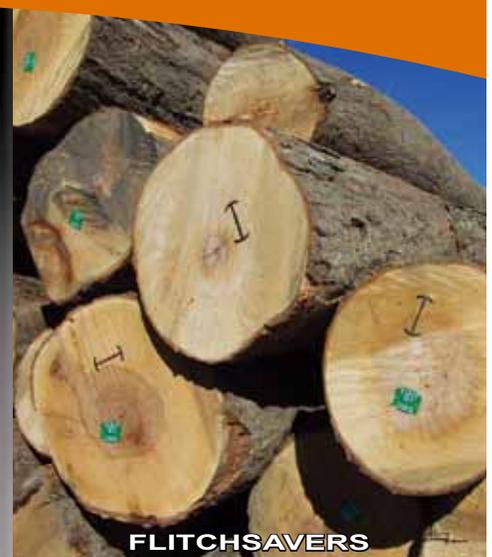
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