



New York Forest Owners Association

Central New York Chapter

COVERING CAYUGA, HERKIMER, MADISON, ONEIDA,
ONONDAGA & OSWEGO COUNTIES

FEBRUARY 2018

UPCOMING events

February 17, 9:30 am to noon - the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA is sponsoring a program on maple sugaring and also winter wildlife signs. SEE

<https://www.nyfoa.org/events/southern-finger-lakes-events/sfl-2018-peter-levatich-memorial-seminar-rural-landowners>

February 22- 24 NYFOA will again sponsor free forestry programs at the 2018 NY Farm Show - *See schedule in email attachment, in the NYFOA magazine OR at nyfoa.org/events/statewide-events/2018-nys-farm-show*

Kristina Ferrare from Cornell Cooperative Extension is looking for volunteers for the NYFOA display area or the Seminar Area at the Farm Show. Please contact her if you can help out - email kaf226@cornell.edu or 315-424-9485 ext 231

March 2-3, 2018 -Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium -a unique 2-day event with a roster of engaging speakers - "In 2009, Upstate New York was brought its first Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium, and the conference has continued to annually curate a wide array of educational talks for all committed to creating sustainable natural environments." Details at www.ithacanativelandscape.com

March 17 or 18, 10am -2 pm, Come when you can to see Carl Stearns sugar bush/maple syrup operation at 3568 Stearns Rd. Erieville - Might be postponed to following weekend if conditions warrant (315-446-6634)

April 21, 2018 - The state-wide NYFOA 2018 Annual Meeting will be held at the ESF campus in Syracuse, NY.

For details check <https://www.nyfoa.org/news/statewide-news> Note that there are plans again for a fund-raising auction of member donated goods or services at that time as well. Consider donating either and notifying

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UPCOMING events - continued

May 5 - Habitat Gardening in CNY and Baltimore Woods Nature Center are co-sponsoring a seminar on Saturday, May 5 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. There will be two presentations by Kim Eierman, an Environmental Horticulturist, founder of EcoBeneficial specializing in ecological landscapes and native plants. the first topic is "boosting the ecosystem in your own yard" and the second is "dealing with climate change in your landscape" See details at <https://www.hgcny.org/spring-workshop/>

June 2 - NY State Forestry Field Day to be held Morrisville College... An all day event including a certified Tree Farm Forest Stewardship Workshop and other events. More details to follow in May newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Walt Friebe at 315-202-4027

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Looking forward to spring planting? Check nearby Tree and Shrub Sales

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District Sale
<http://www.cayugaswcd.org/annual-tree-shrub--groundcover-sale.html>

Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District Sale
<http://www.cortlandswcd.org/sertreesale.htm>

Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District
http://www.herkimercountyswcd.com/Tree_and_shrub_info_and_order_form.pdf
NOTE that they also sell Plantra tree shelters (which may be like those Mike Gorham uses

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Sale
http://www.madcoswcd.com/uploads/2/8/1/4/28145137/tree_sale_order_form_2018.pdf

Oneida County SWCD - NO tree sale information found

Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sale
<http://www.ocswcd.org/tree-sale.html>

Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree and Shrub Sale
<http://www.oswegosoilandwater.com/tree%20form%202018.pdf>

The NY State Tree Nursery also takes orders for tree and shrub seedlings at
http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/treenurserybrochure.pdf

Density

By Daniel Zimmerman

The concept of density is an important concept for us landowners who are constantly striving for a better understanding of what is “happening” in their woodlots and what we should do to better our objectives as Stewards! The concept itself is easily grasped but the underlying supporting techniques and resulting forest management decisions can be complex and best left to the trained Forester. The purpose of this writing is to introduce forest landowners to some of the fundamentals of density.

Just what is a stand? A stand is essentially a contiguous group of trees sufficiently constant in species configuration, organization of age classes, condition, and uniformity to be a distinguishable unit. It should be recognized that forest stands change over time due to complex dynamics and changing ownership objectives. Even stand boundaries and uniformity are subject to change. A forest can be thought of as a collection of stands over a specific amount of land or property. In forestry and in ownership, the forest stand is the basic “building block” for managerial attention. The size and number of stands recognized depends on the intensity of practice, inherent value (both monetary and ecological), ownership objectives, and diversity of site conditions.

Stand or forest density can be considered a measure of tree numbers or “stocking” occupying a predetermined unit of land or forest area. Is your forest stand fully stocked, understocked, or adequately stocked? The forest owner’s objectives should be considered here. Most forest management theory and implementation focus on optimal procedures for the production of viable timber crops. If that is the owner’s objective, then stand density is an important concept to grasp. Stand density can impact other possible objectives such as wild life, recreation, esthetics, and water quality.

Perhaps the most important density factor affecting tree health, growth and vigor is crowding which is a natural occurrence found in many stands, especially non-managed stands! Naturally occurring regeneration or reproduction usually results in a high number of individual trees which experience a remarkable mortality through time, resulting in a small percentage of those trees growing to maturity. Hence, understanding crowding and density is fundamental to achieving forest management goals.

Density is a measurable characteristic of a forest stand that indicates tree competition with implications for the usage of resources of a growing site: water, nutrients, space, and light. Measures of density can be found expressed in one form or another in trees per acre, cords per acre, board footage, and basal area.

Forest stands that are dense, where most growing space is occupied, display crowding, lower growth and less vigor. Poor growth and vitality result in less resistance to adverse conditions such as insect and fungal infestations and less resistance to disease and wind, ice, and temperature damage. These stands exhibit higher mortality (higher frequency of dead trees in the canopy), a higher occurrence of very pronounced dominant individual trees, a lower live crown ratio (length of crown to tree height), a darker overall appearance due to less penetration of sunlight which also results in less regeneration and a park-like appearance.

Whether a stand is adequately stocked, understocked, or overstocked can be ascertained by forest measurements and applying the information to a stocking chart. These charts can be found in numerous forestry publications and typically are in graph form with some having basal area on the vertical axis and number of trees on the horizontal axis. Average tree diameter can be found within some of the graphs. From the proper applied measurements a good approximation can be ascertained as to stocking levels.

Important density measurements include "basal area" and "basal area factor". The first is defined in the U.S. Forest Service glossary as "the area of the cross-section of a woody stem, inclusive of bark, at breast height (4.5 feet or 1.37 meters above the ground) most commonly expressed as square feet per acre or square meters per hectare. The "basal area factor" is the number of units of basal area per acre (or per hectare) represented by each tree. The formula for basal area = $(3.1416 \times \text{DBH}^2)/(4 \times 144)$. This formula simplifies to: basal area = $0.005454 \times \text{DBH}^2$. 0.005454 which is called the "foresters constant", and converts square inches into square feet.

Basal area measurement can be used to determine a site's ability to grow a forest tree species accrued over the tree age in years. As basal area increases over time, research has shown on growth "curve" graphs indicate a slowing in growth according to species' growth and yield charts. These charts, are in many ways a comparison to other like optimal stands. A commercial harvest or thinning is then made to reduce the basal area to a point where remaining trees regain the ability to maximize growth toward a final, mature, valuable forest product.

Another factor affecting density is site quality. Site quality can be defined as those factors affecting tree growth. Some factors include soils, topography, hydrology, and aspect. Site quality defines the potential productivity that a parcel of land can yield over time. It can be expressed through "site index", which is a function or comparison of optimal tree heights to those of the stand being appraised.

There are many aspects of forest density, stocking, and site quality not discussed here. They can be complex subjects. This introduction is to provide the forest owner with an additional view of the forest landscape, perhaps encouraging a more careful consideration of ownership objectives. Ideas generated here, further research and information gathering can serve as a foundation for action. Obtaining professional assistance before undertaking any substantial task or investment is always recommended. Forest or stand density can be a very interesting topic and understanding its importance can have a dramatic, visual result!

BREAKING NEWS

As a NYFOA member, you should have received an email from the State NYFOA organization, alerting you to the "NY Timber Harvest Notification" that has been proposed to be incorporated into the Empire Forests for the Future Initiative (EFFI) legislation. Dan Zimmerman, our chapter chair would like to emphasize that members should contact their state representative directly (phone or letter, not simple email) before February 12 to oppose this notification requirement. See sample letter at <https://www.nyfoa.org/news/statewide-news/nyfoa-president-charles-stackhouse-urges-members-write-state>

***Call Dave Valesky at 518-455-2838 or by mail at
NY State Senator David Valesky
Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247***

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Timber Harvest Notification proposal... see the following background from the The Empire State Forest Products Association, (a member organization of the forest product industry)

The Empire State Forest Products Association,has told members that under "the Timber Harvest notification "

Landowners, or their agents, would be required to provide notification to the Department (of *Environmental Conservation*) prior to engaging in any commercial timber harvest 6NYCRR Part 199 e)of a merchantable forest crop from 10 or more acres of privately-owned forest land in any given year. Such notice shall be in a manner and format prescribed by the Departmentand, at a minimum, shall include:

- i. Name and address of the landowner;
 - ii. Name and address of any authorized agent of the landowner conducting forestry related activities, such as a forester, land manager or logger;
 - iii. Location and acreage of the area to be harvested and planned points of access to public road or roads;
 - iv. Approximate start and end dates of the harvest;
 - v. Approximate volume to be harvested;
 - vi. Products and species to be harvested;
 - vii. Whether the harvest is being conducted pursuant to a written forest management plan under section a or a program under 480 -b of the Real Property Tax Law c
- The Department shall share timber harvest notifications with any municipality that requests such notifications, in writing, for harvests in such municipality. The bill would also preempt any local law or ordinance governing timber harvest notification"

Lighter Reading Corner

Planting Trees To Save The Planet Is Turning Into Big Business in Fast Company 1/18/18

https://www.fastcompany.com/40517287/planting-trees-to-save-the-planet-is-turning-into-big-business?utm_source=EHN&utm_campaign=86de4ad2ce-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8573f35474-86de4ad2ce-99401645

You may also want to check out another intriguing article in the same publication
<https://www.fastcompany.com/40468479/these-goats-arent-just-cute-theyre-also-helping-to-restore-brooklyns-last-natural-forest>

Forest Carbon Works Update from December 2017

<https://mailchi.mp/3802c4ab826d/forest-carbon-works-update-december-2017?e=c41c564172>

c/o Randi Starmer
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CNY-NYFOA

We are still looking for a volunteer for the Vice Chairman position. Also, if you have announcements, photos, articles, suggestions etc. of general interest to share, please send them to danielzimmerman57@yahoo.com OR to randi.starmer@gmail.com OR any of the steering committee. In addition to officers listed on the left, Ralph Meyer and Carl Stearns are also Steering Committee members.