

New York Forest Owners Association Capital District Chapter Newsletter

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Chair's Message



It's never too late to learn... and boy did I get an education the past few months! Our acquisition of knowledge started with the TELE Workshop, hosted by Yale School of Forestry, held in Corning, NY. Laura (CDC's Secretary) and I represented

NYFOA-CDC, partnered with CCE-Columbia and Greene County and WAC, and learned how we could better engage landowners through the use of the mywoodlot.com website.

We attended Peter Smallidge's Woodwalk and Lecture, in Posten Kill, N.Y., to learn more about why Oaks are not regenerating the way we need them to, and what can be done about it. (There is more info on this in this edition of the newsletter.)

We also attended a Forum on the same topic, at the Cary Institute in Millbrook, NY. Not only were we interested in learning more about this regeneration problem, but we also wanted to get more involved in the Lower Hudson Chapter area of NYFOA. We would like to learn more about how we could help bring assistance to this chapter, and the woodland owners who live in that area.

Speaking of LHC, Laura and I met a couple of the members at the Cary Institute Forum. One gentlemen in particular, we met at the end of the lecture, found our newsletter very interesting and appeared eager to learn more about the activities our chapter has to offer. I cannot recall his name, so I am reaching out to him here. We started a conversation but we weren't able to finish it, due to the volume of people we needed to talk to, and the lack of time to do this in. If you would e-mail me or Laura, we would like to speak with you more about what NYFOA CDC can do to help your chapter. As a matter of fact, we invite any NYFOA LHC member to contact us at CDC, as

well. Let us know what topics or programs would interest you. Perhaps, we could host some Woods Walks, Timber Talks, or Game of Logging classes, in your area, or any other program we offer through NYFOA, such as growing Mushrooms or Making Maple Syrup.

Our goal is to give the members of LHC, the information and learning experiences they pay for, through their dues and support of NYFOA. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, at CDC, to air your thoughts and needs.

Our annual picnic, at the Thatcher State Park in Voorheesville NY., will be on Sunday, July 24th @ 12:00. All of the LHC members, family, and friends are more than welcome to attend. I realize it is a bit of a drive for you, but the chicken dinner is well worth it! As an extra incentive, I will personally buy the first 10 dinners, for any LHC members that decide to make the trip. Please RSVP to my Secretary, Laura, ASAP.

Jason

Join Our Email List

The chapter maintains an electronic mailing list of members. This helps to keep you up to date about new events, event reminders, schedule changes, etc. If you are not receiving messages but would like to receive updates from us this way, please go to the following address: <http://npogroups.org/lists/info/nyfoa-cdc-news> and click on **SUBSCRIBE** to be added to the list. Your information will never be used for any other reason than to try to keep you informed of NYFOA related business and events. Will you help us his way?

New Members

The chapter welcomes the following new members:

Bob Cooley	Scotia, NY
Robert Cook	Slingerlands, NY
Ellen Graf	Cropseyville, NY
Mary Trev Thomas	East Nassau, NY
George Woodzell	Schenectady, NY

Picnic and Woods Walk

Sunday, July 24, 2015 Noon – 3:00 p.m.

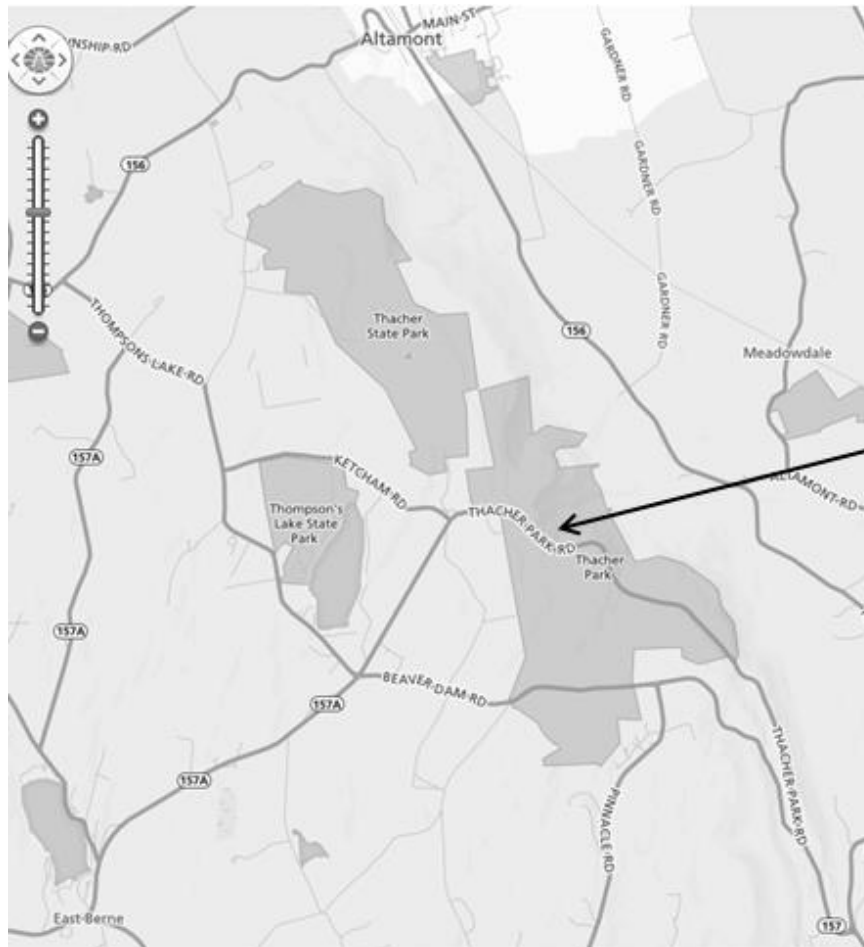
**John Boyd Thacher State Park
Glen Doone picnic shelter**

Our annual chapter picnic is being held at the Glen Doone shelter in Thacher Park. The site has spectacular views of the capital district from the Helderberg escarpment. The BBQ chicken will be served around 12:30 or so. Please bring a dish of your favorite picnic accompaniment to share with others. The cost: only \$6 per adult which includes the park admission, a chicken half, drinks and “dinnerware”.

After lunch you can join Phil and Carl for a “woods walk” to learn about measuring trees and how to calculate the annual growth rate of a woodlot. We’ll talk about the Northeast Timber Growing Contest - a new initiative sponsored by Cooperative Extension which is available to any family forest owner.



The CDC picnic – Don't miss it!



Location Map

Glen Doone
Picnic Shelter
Thacher Park

Sand Lake Workshop on Deer and Future Forests

The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance recently sponsored a workshop in Rensselaer County concerning white tailed deer and forests of New York State. Dr. Peter Smallidge, the state extension forester, led a woodswalk on June 9th followed by a workshop at the Sand Lake town hall.



Peter Smallidge shows how to establish a permanent sample plot in the Howard woodlot – Sand Lake

NY is dominated by woodlands, including 18 million forested acres. Today's forests began their growth cycle at a time when there were few deer, and virtually no invasive insect or plant pests. Today, more than 1 million deer in NY preferentially browse valuable tree species and herbaceous plants. Because the regeneration layer is essentially the next forest, failed regeneration will prevent future forests from providing the values and benefits currently enjoyed by NY citizens (fiber, fuel, ecosystem services).

Research shows that deer browsing is a key factor that inhibits tree regeneration. A method has been developed to assess regeneration that can be reliably associated with deer abundance and impact levels. Forest landowners can use this protocol on their own property. Called AVID (assessing vegetation impacts from deer) it is a way to measure deer-related damage to forest regeneration using permanent sample plots. Volunteers are being recruited to establish plots in woodlands and to measure herbaceous and woody plants. Annual re-measurements will indicate trends in the local deer population. The results will be shared with DEC to help identify areas where population levels are too high. Controlled hunting and nuisance deer permits can reduce deer abundance and associated impacts in localized areas. If you would like to get involved with the program contact Peter Smallidge through Cooperative Extension.



We Need Show-offs!

Have you been working in your woods to accomplish timber stand improvement, grow crop trees, nurture a crop of mushrooms, create special wildlife habitat, develop a trail network etc.? Why not share your experience and what you enjoy about your property by hosting a chapter woods walk? To volunteer, contact anyone on the steering committee and we will visit your site to plan the next step. Thanks. Carl Wiedemann, wiedeman@nycap.rr.com or (518) 707-6350

Assessing Deer Impacts

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) can significantly influence New York's forests. As selective browsers, deer prefer to eat certain plant species more than other less desirable species. Many of the tree species that deer prefer to consume are valued for timber, or as food producing trees for wildlife, for example oak and maple. Deer also eat many wildflower and understory plants.

The effects of deer browsing on plants in New York's woodlands can have long-lasting effects (also called "legacy" effects) that persist for decades even after deer impacts are reduced. In areas with a history of deer overabundance, regeneration failure – the failure of new, young trees to grow – is having a detrimental effect on woodlands and the potential to keep these areas healthy and diverse.

Evidence for the over-abundance of deer include one or more of these features:

- Park-like appearance in the woods
- An understory dominated by invasive shrubs
- An understory dominated by deer-resistant ferns
- An understory dominated by non-palatable woody brush
- A browse line
- Cropped or "Bonsai" tree seedlings
- An absence, or stunted, wildflowers such as Trillium, Indian cucumber, or Jack-in-the-pulpit.

It is difficult to measure the number of deer. Also, the number of deer is less ecologically important than the impacts of the deer. The AVID (assessing vegetation impacts from deer) protocol provides a simple index of deer impact by measuring plants in successive years to monitor changes in height. The data collected will be aggregated to help inform decision makers about the impacts of deer in communities and regions.



A healthy woodlot should have an abundance of desirable seedlings and saplings



An overpopulation of deer can eliminate both tree seedlings and wildflowers

Emerald Ash Borer

Continues to Advance

From 1904 through the 1920's billions of American Chestnut trees were killed by an introduced pathogen – the chestnut blight. Since 1930 American elms have been ravaged throughout their range by an introduced fungus – the Dutch elm disease. It's happening again. Currently the emerald ash borer, an introduced insect, is destroying the American white ash. This insect is now moving through eastern New York with most recent infestations in Ballston Spa and Waterford. This small greenish beetle lays its eggs under the bark of white ash trees. After hatching, the larva feeds on live wood under the bark and eventually girdles the tree. The tree dies after the larvae have pupated and emerged as mature adults. It appears that white ash will soon join American elm and chestnut as another important tree species that has essentially been eliminated from the eastern hardwood forest ecosystem in just the past century.

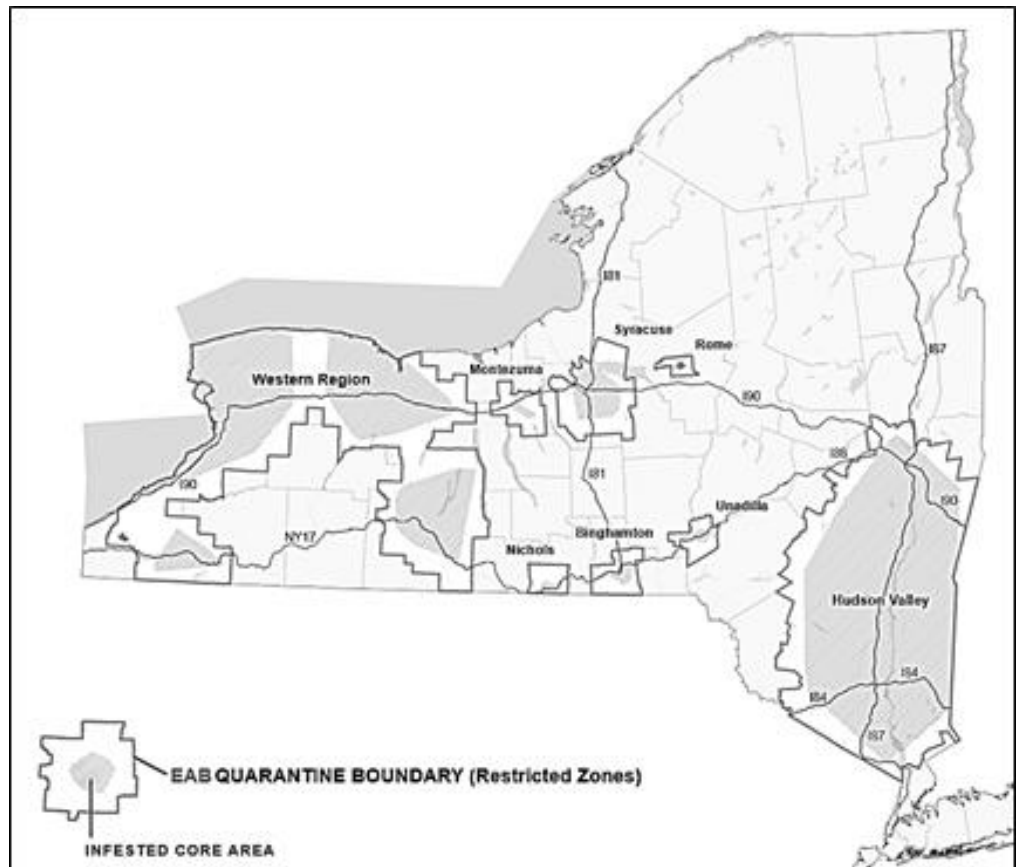
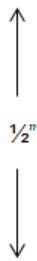
This exotic invader is native to eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and the Korean peninsula. It was first discovered in Michigan in June 2002, and has since spread to at least twenty-three other states as well as to two provinces in Canada. The initial detection of this pest in New York was in 2009.

The insect is considered a serious problem because the population is spreading across the natural range of white ash with no effective control. White ash currently represents 7% of the tree population in the state. The map below shows current quarantine zones. Transport of logs across the quarantine boundary requires a permit from the Department of Agriculture and Markets. For more information about permits visit the following website:

<http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/PI/eab.html>



Emerald Ash Borer



The Northeast Timber Growing Contest

Why should I enter?

By Phil Walton

I am not a competitive person. I set personal goals, enjoy learning new skills, but don't try to best others, i.e., contests generally aren't for me. When the timber growing contest was posted on NYFOA's website three years ago, I read the rulebook and my eyes glazed. But I have changed my mind about this contest!

At the NYFOA membership meeting in April, Dave Williams of the Southern Tier Chapter offered to meet Ron Pedersen and me at Ron's Deposit, NY farm to learn what the contest is all about. Dave brought with him the needed tools, blank tally sheets, and enthusiasm. After some collaboration in the woods, Ron quickly decided to enter the basal area increment category for hardwoods, one of six in the rulebook. In a short time Dave had three plots established and Ron and I were busy tagging and identifying species, then taking initial diameter measurements of all trees over 6 inches dbh within the three ¼ acre plots. (I count this new skill #1).

Once back home, the diameter data is plugged into an online program to compute basal area, and the results plotted on a Northern Hardwoods Stocking Chart to find out just how overstocked the plots are. You will most likely be shocked! If your forester happens to be available, get recommendations for thinning for best growth. Otherwise use your best judgment to select and remove the UGS (undesirable growing stock). As woodland owners we constantly thin, but rarely with the application of science. (Applying science to woodlot thinning: new skill #2).

The contest rules require using soil maps to determine a site index from the Forestland Productivity charts. The maps are found at your local Soil and Water Conservation District or online through the Web Soil Survey. This index creates for contest entrants an equal playing field, a handicapping system to account for variability in soil productivity, one property to the next. (Learning about the vast information included in the County Soil Surveys: new skill #3).

The field component is simple enough to include children and grandchildren and just might be a hook to get them involved in understanding the importance of caring for your woods. Taking measurements annually will get them outdoors with us to realize we can make a difference in what we do in the forest! (Benefit #4).

After helping Ron with his property, I entered too. **I'd like to help you enter also.** Using my NYFOA member discounts I have available the necessary tags, etc. to get your plots marked and your property entered into the contest. Email me pwalton518@gmail.com or call me at 895-5346 and we can talk more about getting involved.

I don't expect to win my category, but I got into the woods, learned lots, and had fun.



NYFOA Rewards its Members – With Cash!

By Dean Faklis

Thanks to an idea advanced by NYFOA's Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse, NYFOA now has a special program called NYFOA Rewards. The benefit program is designed to offer substantial discounts to members when they make purchases at participating organizations. It was launched in March 2016, and while it's still in its infancy, it's growing nicely.

There are now eight firms partnering with us and in the first three months of operations, NYFOA members have saved somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Not bad for just getting started! One of our partners, David Williams, is also on the NYFOA Board of Directors and has already provided cumulative member discounts approaching \$500. The members that have done business with Dave are earning discounts well in excess of NYFOA's annual dues payment....they are getting paid to be members.

It's easy for our members to participate in NYFOA Rewards. The details of the discounts are located on the NYFOA webpage at:

http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/about_nyfoa_docs/Business_Offering_Big_Discounts.pdf

That's a long link, and rather type it in, you can access it from NYFOA's Home Page at www.nyfoa.org.

NYFOA Rewards is small and we want it to grow. We're working to add more and more participating vendors. The NYFOA Membership Committee has set a goal so that our members can have access to discounts, which are more than sufficient to pay NYFOA's annual dues. Kind of a free lunch!

If you know of a business or organization that would be a good fit for our members, please send me a detailed note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) and I will reach out to them.

Please be sure to check the NYFOA Rewards webpage at least monthly for updates. And, to help us improve the program, tell us about your experiences, including how much you saved!

Steering Committee Members

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Carl Wiedemann, Member wiedeman@nycap.rr.com	ph 707-6350
Marilyn Wyman, Member mfw10@cornell.edu	ph 622-9820

Next meeting July 12th – 6:30 p.m. in Purling, NY

Join NYFOA

Help Support Sustainable Forestry

The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests. Please consider joining because your support helps make a difference. Regular annual dues are just \$45.00 for an individual or family.

Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 www.nyfoa.org
