

The Overstory

Volume 27

Issue 1

Spring 2016

New York Forest Owners Association Southeastern Adirondack Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

I Ting
Gloversville, NY

Bruce E. Cushing
Greenwich, NY

Gabe Russo
Pawlet, VT

Diane Corvetti
Lake Pleasant, NY

INSIDE

- Annual Meeting Report
- Remember When
- Upcoming Events
- Online Forestry Links
- Letter from the Chair

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

Shrub Willow Can Be a Productive Option for Open Land

by Justin Heavey, Senior Research Support Specialist, SUNY-ESF 🌿 Photographs courtesy SUNY-ESF Willow Project

With over one million acres of idle open land in New York State, a large resource base and opportunity exists for sustainable rural development. Much of this land is considered marginal in terms of its economic value for traditional crop production. Some of this land can be actively managed for recreation and open space, or could be converted to pasture, but many areas often go unmanaged and can become riddled with invasive plant species. Shrub-willow crops represent an alternative land-use option that can tolerate some soil conditions such as poor drainage that limit the production of other crops. Shrub willow can make productive use of open land to generate income for the landowner, while also producing other environmental and rural development benefits.

Shrub willow is a fast growing short-rotation woody crop that produces a hardwood biomass feedstock at about ten times the rate at which wood grows naturally in hardwood forests in the Northeast. Shrub willow is grown on open land, using a combination of traditional and specialized

agricultural equipment for site preparation, planting and harvesting. Shrub willow is different than agricultural crops, however, because it is a woody, perennial plant that requires less intensive management. Willow is harvested every three to four years with minimal maintenance in non-harvest years. Shrub willow is harvested in the dormant season (late fall through early spring) and regrows a new crop from the cut stools (stumps) in spring, so one planting can be harvested up to seven times over 20+ years. Each harvest produces about 25 green tons of wood chips (45% moisture content) per acre, enough to fill a tractor trailer.

The characteristics and quality of the biomass feedstock produced by shrub-willow crops are similar to biomass produced from forest residues, a byproduct of logging operations (chipped tree tops, limbs, and other logging slash). These feedstock quality indicators include chip moisture, ash and

A willow crop in early summer following coppice (second growing season) in Northern New York State.



Continued on page 2

Shrub Willow, continued from page 1

energy content; chip size; and variability. These characteristics of shrub willow have been measured at SUNY-ESF and have shown to be similar to forest residues. Over 5,000 tons of willow chips have been used successfully by commercial end users in New York State to generate renewable power and heat. Shrub-willow chips can be a complimentary fuel to forest residues that helps end users manage their feedstock supply by providing a reliable, predictable and consistent source of woody biomass that is easily integrated into existing supply chains. Advanced conversion pathways that are likely to emerge on a commercial scale in the coming years can deconstruct the components of woody biomass to create multiple products, including sugars which can be converted into liquid fuels, high-value chemicals, and wood pellets that have a lower ash content and other characteristics that exceed market standards for premium-grade pellets such as water-resistant (hydrophobic) properties.

In addition to being a locally produced, sustainable energy source, shrub willow can also provide numerous environmental and other benefits that are not possible from other forms of renewable energy such as solar or wind. Shrub willow can generate constant and necessary baseload power to compliment intermittent renewables when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining. Studies on the full (22-year) lifecycle of a shrub willow planting show that it is a climate-neutral fuel, meaning that all the resources and operations required to grow, harvest and utilize shrub willow do not add any additional greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, as the willow plants are constantly sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere throughout the growing season and storing carbon in aboveground stems and belowground roots which decompose back into the soil. Substituting a climate-neutral fuel like shrub willow for a carbon-intensive fuel like coal or other fossil fuels reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Shrub willow has very low pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer requirements relative to annual crops, lessening the impacts on environmental and human health compared to alternative land use options. Shrub willow provides shrub-land habitat that is rare in the region and



Above: A shrub willow crop in central New York at harvest showing three-year-old stems.



Left: Harvesting shrub willow in New York State using a New Holland forage harvester and specialized woody-crops cutting head.

increases the abundance and biodiversity of birds, small mammals and beneficial soil organisms that promote good soil health. Shrub willow is also an abundant source of early spring flowers for bees and other pollinators. Furthermore, shrub willow can improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, remediate degraded or former industrial sites, and produce numerous benefits from a single planting. The unique attributes of shrub willow that make it an ideal short-rotation woody crop also make it ideal for alternative applications such as vegetated buffers, stream bank stabilization, and living snow fences.

Shrub willow also offers several advantages from a rural development

perspective. Studies estimate that for every 10,000 acres of biomass energy crops planted, about 50 full-time jobs and additional indirect jobs are created in the production, transport and end use of the crop. The amount of energy produced nationally from biomass is expected to increase substantially over the next 30 years, an emerging industry for young professionals interested in environmental science, natural resources and renewable energy. There are currently 1,150 acres of commercial willow crops in New York State, and biomass from these shrub-willow fields is being utilized at two facilities owned and operated by ReEnergy Holdings LLC, where the

Continued on page 3

King George Did Pine for Pine

Reprinted from the *NYFOA Forest Owner* Mar/Apr 1977



What could the king want from the colonies that could scarcely raise enough food for the tea and rum that must be imported? King George III wanted what he did not have at home – the tall white pines of New Hampshire.

In 1634, when the first cargo of white pine masts arrived in England for the sailing ships of the world's foremost navy, they quickly replaced Riga fir from southern Baltic shores. The fir

was a fairly short tree so that often two had to be spliced with a joining spindle to make a serviceable mast.

New Hampshire pine was tall enough to equip ships whose mainmast might be forty inches in diameter and 120 feet tall and weigh up to eighteen tons. White pine weighed 25 percent less than Riga fir and was often unblemished from bottom to top.

In 1722, at the behest of the king, all white pines fit for masting the Royal Navy were declared reserved for the king by the New Hampshire General Court. In 1722 it passed a law making it a crime to harvest trees a foot or more in diameter. The governor, appointed "surveyor of the king's woods," employed many deputies who spread throughout the countryside looking for sawmill yards that might be breaking the law. They confiscated suitable logs, burned settlers' sawmills, and used spies and informers to locate illegal logs.

The response was violent. The New Hampshire Pine Tree Riot in 1772, three years before the Boston Tea Party, resisted the seizure of some 270 logs, seventeen to thirty-six inches in diameter, from Clement's Mill Yard in Weare, New Hampshire.

When the sheriff and deputy arrived to enforce the law, they were thoroughly beaten by twenty men with faces blackened and switches in their hands. The lawmen's horses, with manes clipped and ears cropped, carried their owners out of town with "jeers and shouts ringing in their ears."

The British militia soon arrived to find the woodsmen had fled into the forest. When they later surrendered they were fined only twenty shillings each by a Judge Mesheck Weare, who thought it prudent to demonstrate his regard for public sentiment rather than the sheriff and the pine tree law.

At Lexington, when the colonists shouldered arms in resistance to the Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and high duties on tea, they had the example of the men of Weare before them. The revolutionist' first flag was the famous pine tree banner, a green tree on a white field, with the words, "An Appeal to Heaven." This was the flag used at Bunker Hill, and used by George Washington when he dispatched two vessels to intercept two English munitions ships.

The tall white pines of New Hampshire are gone, as are the sailing ships that made such good use of them. They served to set a pattern for resistance to the Crown that ultimately freed the entire country.




Chris M. Morris/Wikipedia

Shrub Willow, continued from page 2
shrub willow is combined with other regionally sourced biomass feedstocks such as forest residues. RenEnergy is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and employs about 80 people in New York, while supporting an additional 300 related jobs, most of them in the forest.

Despite the possibility for sustainable energy and multiple benefits, challenges remain to growing shrub willow as a profitable commercial venture, such as the high startup costs and long payback period, but these challenges are being addressed by ongoing research through university and industry partnerships, and by innovations from commercial growers and end users. Harvesting is the largest cost component of the system, and a recently completed project at SUNY-ESF, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), developed a commercially viable harvesting cutting head now available from New Holland and reduced harvesting costs by 35%. A second research grant is now aiming to reduce these costs even further by optimizing both the harvesting and the biomass collection and delivery system. SUNY-ESF and partners are also providing extension services to the growing shrub-willow industry in New York State and the Northeast, with support from NYSERDA and the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA), helping producers to implement best practices that will reduce costs and increase biomass yield and revenues. At the same time, Cornell University is working to expand the current base of shrub-willow cultivars and this breeding work is expected to increase yields 20-40% in the near future. With growing demand for renewable energy, the availability of abundant land resources, and the additional environmental benefits that shrub willow can produce, it is likely to become an important source of sustainable energy in New York State and beyond. For more information on shrub willow, please visit our website (www.esf.edu/willow) or contact us by phone (315 470-6775) or email (willow@esf.edu).

Taller

By John R. Greenwood  rainiguanas.blogspot.com



It was the last Saturday in March and I needed a lift.

Although it was a generic winter by Northeast New York standards, it still took a toll on me. My weight was up. My spirits were a little damp. Although there were exciting things approaching in the weeks ahead, I still needed a, “good swift kick in the pants.” I decided an early morning walk was in order. I threw on a warm hat and gloves, grabbed the camera, a small writing pad, and my driver’s license (just in case a texting terrorist happens to use me for morning target practice) and out the back door I went--in search of a sign of spring. I knew I needed something special to ignite my soggy mood. I began to think about my friend the mocking bird. The mocking bird who inspired me to write one of my first published pieces, *Life Is Where You Look*. I couldn't think of a more appropriate sign than to see and hear some tree top tunes.

I was a quarter mile down the road when I took a right hand turn into the office complex where my feathered friend likes to sing from the light pole tops. That's when I caught a hint of music. It wasn't Lady Gaga coming from the Honda Civic that scooted by, it was coming from above and beyond. I tilted my head and lifted my ear to the sky. Sure as sprouting crab grass I heard it. It was a song mix that could only come from Disney magic or a mocking bird and all signs pointed to my friend.

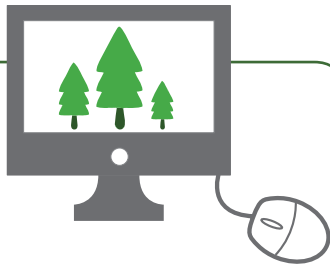
I am in some unexplained way convinced that this spring ritual of visiting the mocking bird at the end of my road is some affirmation from mom high above. In some warm and personal way I have taken it as a sign that her and dad are okay and that I should continue on my midlife journey with youthful exuberance. It's a simple way to reenergize my heart and my spirit. What happened next took this little story to another level. Trust me when I tell you this bird never flinched when I approached. In fact mocking birds seem to take great pleasure in entertaining anyone who will watch or listen. As I stood there leaning against

the adjacent light pole I put away my camera and pulled out my pad to jot down the notes I used to create this post. At that exact moment, that white bellied bird took flight and set itself to dance. It soared in and out of the trees like a small kite in a brisk wind. She swooped and darted, she flitted and circled. Around and around a small group of trees she danced. You could see the joy in that birds flight and as I watched the choreographed performance play out, the joy in my heart swelled like a bucket of sponges. There was something extra special about that ninety-second display. Then something strange happened. I slowly pulled out my camera to capture the moment, and the second I brought the camera up in front of me the dance ended and she flew back to the top of the pole and stared down at me. She looked right at me as if to say, "I knew what you needed. That dance was for you and no one else." I tucked the camera back inside my coat, tipped my head in respect and walked away with just what I needed, and much, much more.

As I left the parking lot of Community Care Pediatrics I heard a different chorus being directed my way. I looked up and saw the fattest, reddest, happiest robin I have ever seen, singing her big fat heart out. Singing backup on the right was the brightest, proudest, most energetic cardinal I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Both birds seemed to be saying goodbye. It was as if the whole group had gathered in this highly populated place to take a stand and let everyone know how much joy there is left in the world. It was as if all three were sending me the same message.

There is beauty throughout the world. You can find it when you want to. You need to trust your instincts and never hesitate to follow where your heart tries to point you.

On the last day of March I was reminded of this and how it turned a short walk down the road into a 'growing' experience. On my home my lungs and my heart were replenished and my stance; well let's just say I was walking a little taller...



Online Forestry

It's tax time.

Have questions or concerns about timber tax laws?

The following websites can be very helpful.

USDA-Timber Tax Tips for Landowners

http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/education_docs/publications/Tax%20Tips%20for%20Forest%20Landowners%202015-F-1.pdf

US Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

National Timber Tax Website

<http://www.timbertax.org/>

NYS – 480a Forest Tax Law

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5236.html>

Annual Spring Tree Sales

Saratoga Tree Nursery-DEC Spring

Tree Sale: The Department of Environmental Conservation operates the State Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs, which produces tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on public and private lands. Native New York seed-sources are used when available. Trees can be ordered starting on January 2 thru mid May. For complete ordering information and a printable brochure go to the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html>

The County Soil & Water Conservation

Districts also hold a spring tree sale in each county offering bare root seedlings. The 2015 Conservation Tree, Shrub and Plant Program order deadlines range from March 13th to April 6th, all orders are filled on a first come first serve basis.

Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation

District: Will not be having their annual tree sale this year.

Hamilton County Soil & Water

Conservation District: The Hamilton County SWCD deadline is March 25th, they are now accepting online orders. To place an order or print

an order form, visit their website at www.hcswcd.com. Their office phone is (518) 548-3991.

Saratoga County Soil & Water

Conservation District: The Saratoga County SWCD deadline for tree and shrub orders is April 6th, an order form can be printed from their website <http://www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district/>. You can also call their office at (518) 885-6900 or send an email to TreeandShrub@gmail.com.

Warren County Soil & Water

Conservation District: The Warren County SWCD will accept orders until the second week of March. Contact information for Warren County SWCD is phone (518) 623-3119, email: Rhonda@nycap.rr.com, website: www.warrenswcd.org.

Washington County Soil & Water

Conservation District: The Washington County SWCD ordering deadline is March 25th, their order form can be printed from the website at <http://www.washingtoncountyswcd.org/treeandshrub.html>. You can also contact the office at (518) 692-9940, ext. 3 or send an email to lori.sheehan@ny.nacdnet.net.

Coming Events...

Monday, March 21st

SAC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

CCE Office of Saratoga County
50 W. High Street, Ballston Spa
6:00pm

All members are welcome!

April 1st & 2nd

SARATOGA WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE

Saratoga Springs City Center
10am – 5pm

NYFOA booth co-staffed by SAC and CDC

April 23rd

SAC SPRING EVENT AT MAPLELAND FARMS

Hosted by owner Dave Campbell

Dave's Sugar House

647 Bunker Hill Road, Salem, NY 12865

www.maplelandfarms.com/index.asp

10am

Dave will show current use of small vacuum pumps, various maple products, and other points of interest to be decided. Afterwards we will travel to Bean Hill Farm just down the road on Joe Bean Road owned by Brittany Hastings and Eric Jenks.

Here we will see a recent installation of small diameter maple tubing on a hobby class producer.

Directions and final details will be emailed, mailed and posted on the NYFOA website.

July 19 – 24

SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR

If you would like to volunteer to work the NYFOA SAC booth please email Bill Burke at liamsb46@gmail.com

August 22 – 28

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

If you would like to volunteer to work this event call Jane Jenks at (518) 532-1825

SAC Annual Meeting Report

[Based on meeting minutes]

On January 30th the SAC Annual Business Meeting was conducted at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls. Chairman, Lou Inzinna called the meeting to order at 9:30. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Plans are under way for a spring event at the sugar bush of Brittany Hastings and Eric Jenks in Salem, date not yet determined. Fall event plans include the SAC Annual Picnic slated to take place at Joe and Cathy Tennyson's in Chestertown and also Randy Galusha will be offering an event focusing on building log roads and a sugar bush operation. Both dates are yet to be determined.

A prime focus of the meeting was on modernizing our display for the fair booth. It was decided that we would purchase a TV/DVD unit to present videos to showcase our activities and emphasize forest owner interests and concerns. Another active discussion focused on the 480A changes that are being discussed with DEC and

the legislature. We are looking into more detail about this and are hoping to hear from DEC about how these changes will affect current and future participants. The state organization is also pursuing involvement in this matter. A number of other important topics were discussed among them were membership, donations, MFO program changes and state level related issues.

The meeting ended with officer nominations and elections. We currently have vacancies for the Chairman and Vice Chairman seats. Our treasurer, Bob Manning will be remaining in that position and Bill Burke will continue as our secretary. The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break. We had an afternoon program, which was open to the public, on Woody Biomass and Bioenergy presented by Justin Heavy, Sr. Research Support Specialist, SUNY ESF (see headline story for details.)

MEMBER'S CORNER

Watching the Tamaracks Grow

By Kristie Edwards

Tamarack, *Larix laricina*, also called a Larch tree is a shade-intolerant pioneer. Under favorable conditions, tamarack is the most rapidly growing boreal conifer until it reaches about 40-50 years old. A few years ago we had a seed tree regeneration cut done on a pine plantation of approximately 4-5 acres. Although natural regeneration was our goal we wanted to help the process along. After discussing our options with our forester we decided to plant some Tamarack trees, the idea was that they would grow quickly and shade the white pines as they began to grow, possibly preventing the pine weevil from attacking the leader on the young trees. We planted 500 tamarack trees in the spring of 2013 and have enjoyed watching them grow. Only two growing seasons has produced some amazing results, we wanted to share these photos.



May 2013: Our son Konrad and his daughter Khloe planting a 9 inch Tamarack seedling.



Spring 2014: Our grandchildren Kolton, Khloe and Paige with a 2 foot tall tamarack.



August 2015: Kurt with one of those tamarack seedlings, now as tall as himself.

Not only have the tamarack trees sprung up, but we are real pleased with the natural regeneration. The white pine has gotten off to a slow start but the oak, maple, and cherry trees have really taken off.

This member's corner is open to anyone willing to share something with the other members. Submissions can be mailed or emailed to Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.

WANTED: Volunteers to Help Chart the Course of Our Southeastern Adirondack Chapter

Chapter Elections were held at our SAC Annual Meeting on January 30, 2016. Bob Manning has remained as Treasurer and Bill Burke has remained as Secretary. The position of chairman and vice-chair remain open. It is critical that we find someone for these positions. As chairman, I have enjoyed working with all of you while in this position but my term was over in January. Our bylaws stipulate that the chairman is limited to a maximum of two years. I will stay on as a Steering Committee member and will act as a mentor.

We need members to get involved with our chapter board operations. This includes coordinating events, woodswalks, community outreach, education, recruitment, etc. Our Steering Committee meets 3 times per year. We all lead busy lives and are reluctant to volunteer our time, concerned that we may be overwhelmed by the position. Have you ever heard the saying

“Many hands make less work?” The position could be co-chairman and two people could share the job making it a much easier task. Consider teaming up with a friend to keep our organization going strong.

We are also in need of someone (or a committee/team) to organize our events. That position is also vacant.

Our chapter is always looking to recruit new members. A good way to do this is to let your friends, neighbors and family members know the benefits of being a NYFOA member. We are all stewards of our forests let's all become stewards of our chapter and encourage growth and participation.

Lou Iuzinna



**Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?
Do you have an suggestion for a chapter event?**

If so please contact Kristie Edwards, newsletter editor,
at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at edwardsk922@gmail.com,
and she will forward your interest to the steering committee.

**New York Forest
Owners Association**



PO Box 541
Lima, NY 14485
1-800-836-3566

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Bill Burke

Treasurer: Bob Manning

**NYFOA/Southeastern
Adirondack Chapter**

Kristie Edwards, Editor
411 Beech Street
Mayfield, NY 12117

This edition had been prepared by:
Kristie Edwards, Editor
Jill Burks, Graphic Design

To submit articles for publication
please e-mail Kristie Edwards:
edwardsk922@gmail.com