

# Treelines



Winter 2017-18

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, December 6,  
2017**

Tim Day, DEC  
Services for Private Land  
Owners

**Wednesday, January 24,  
2018**

Thomas D. Seeley  
Cornell University  
"Following the Wild Bees"  
Pot Luck Dinner

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

Chris Tcimpidis  
Bevan Forestry  
EQIP Regeneration Programs

All programs are held at  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
840 Upper Front Street  
Binghamton, NY

### **SOT Chapter Program DEC, Programs for Private Land Owners**

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm

DEC Foresters located throughout the state are available to help landowners to get started managing their land by creating a basic stewardship plan and providing technical assistance at no cost.

Forests depend on adequate regeneration of tree species to be healthy and sustainable. Limited

regeneration is an economic concern in many areas of the State.

Tim Day is now the service forester for the NYS DEC working out of the Kirkwood office. Tim will be talking about the services offered by the DEC to private land owners that are designed to encourage sound forest management and the importance of regenerating our forests. Bring your questions. Doors open at 6:30 PM and the program will begin at 7PM.

### **SOT Chapter Program**

#### **Pot Luck Dinner**

#### **"Following the Wild Bees"**

Wed., Jan. 24, 2018, 6:00 pm

A membership favorite. Please bring a dish to pass, and your own plate and tableware. This event has brought out some great recipes made by members with products from their land.

The program will be "**How wild honey bee colonies choose their homes in the woods**" presented by Thomas D. Seeley, from the department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University.

### **SOT Chapter Program EQIP Regeneration Programs**

Wednesday March 21, 2018, 6:30pm

Chris Tcimpidis of Bevan Forestry will be the featured speaker. Chris is a Consulting Forester, Wildlife Specialist and Certified Pesticide Applicator serving all counties in our Chapter's geographic region. Chris will discuss how to integrate the

control of invasive and interfering vegetation with silviculture and deer management in a plan for forest regeneration. His talk will also include how to apply for cost share funding under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to help pay for such treatments. Doors open at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:00. Light refreshments will be available. The public is welcome so bring a neighbor!

### **Changes are Coming!!!!**

Starting with the Fall 2018 issue we will be changing to our new digital color format (e-mail). This will allow us to provide greater content in regard to local & regional forestry issues, as well as more information on upcoming and past chapter events. It will reduce costs, which will allow us to provide for more chapter events, and speakers for our memberships' interest. Help us with this effort by making sure your e-mail information is up to date. Please update any e-mail changes to: [lgooding@nyfoa.org](mailto:lgooding@nyfoa.org) Anyone without e-mail should call Ken or Sharon @ 607-204-0101 so we can arrange alternative delivery.

## Calling for Volunteers

How would you like to make new friends with other woodland owners from all regions of the state? Would you find satisfaction in helping to chart the course for NYFOA in these changing times? Would you like to work with other leaders to inform and influence the DEC, legislators and other landowners and youngsters? Are you at a point in your life where you can spare a few hours each year to really make a difference? If so, we have a rewarding opportunity for you to consider.

Dave Williams, our current delegate to the NYFOA State Board of Directors, will be vacating his post on the board as of the annual meeting next spring. He has served two three year terms and, according to the By-Laws, cannot seek a third term. Therefore, our Chapter is responsible for appointing a new delegate to begin serving at the 2018 annual meeting.

The following is a brief job description. A director shall strive to:

1. Be an active member of NYFOA.
2. Attend three board meetings each year.
3. Participate in committee meetings and functions, some of which will occur as conference calls.
4. Be informed about NYFOA's mission, services, policies and programs.
5. Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
6. Actively serve on at least one board committee.
7. Inform others about NYFOA and encourage them to join.
8. Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the

board and the organization.

9. Keep current on forestry issues.
10. Be visible and involved in your local chapter activities.

If you think that you might be interested in serving in this capacity or if you would like more information, contact Steve Kutney, Jerry Michael or Dave Williams.

### Message from the Chapter Chair

If you have trees that meet your criteria for size, volume and quality and you have a willing buyer I believe that now is a reasonably good time to consider selling timber. I do not work in the lumber industry nor have I talked to anyone who does. This is my opinion based on the information below. It's a good idea to consult a forester and a lawyer before you enter into a contract.

The Saturday, October 28, 2017 edition of the Press and Sun-Bulletin had an article titled, New home sales highest in a decade. The article stated that new home sales jumped 19 percent in September 2017 to 667,000 homes. This the highest number in a decade. The number may have been influenced by hurricanes in 2017. In the south sales were up 26 percent. The non hurricane areas of the northeast had a 33 percent increase in sales, while in the west sales were up 3 percent. Recent forest fires in the west may increase demand going forward.

Lumber futures have hit a new high settle price on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange of \$450.90 per 1000 board feet for the November contract as of market close on October, 27, 2017. This new high exceeded the previous market high of \$440.50 set in August of 2004. The lumber futures contract is for random length lumber that is used for building. Lumber prices in the U.S. are mostly based on the

strength and demand for domestic home building. It's my understanding that futures contracts are not directly related to hardwood stumpage prices but there is a general relationship. Futures contracts may be higher because of a ~20% tariff that was placed on softwood lumber imported from Canada. The U.S. Commerce Department issued a finding that Canadian softwood lumber is being unfairly subsidized and dumped on the U.S. market.

The October 30, 2017 issue of Investor's Business Daily reports that the building residential and commercial construction group of stocks is the strongest in the market. This group of stocks is up 83.2% since the beginning of 2017. Apparently Wall Street is bullish on the building group and new home sales.

New York State reports stumpage prices at this web address: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html). On that page you will find a link to the current price report. I've been saving these reports since 2006. I've compared prices in the 2017 July report to the 2012 January report because at that point prices started an upward momentum compared to the lows of the recent recession. I record the Western/Central Doyle Rule prices in an Excel spreadsheet. NYS reports prices in three ranges (low, medium and high) and averages the prices in each range. If you have lots of ash you will be glad to know that ash stumpage prices are up over 57 percent compared to the 2012 January report. The 2017 July report shows higher stumpage prices for all species compared to the 2012 January report except for white pine and hemlock. Cherry and hard maple are up 15.28% and

60% for all ranges compared to the 2012 January report but are down compared to the July 2006 report. The prices for beech, white pine, hemlock and red pine are very low, below \$100 per thousand board feet. On the high end black walnut is \$1730 per thousand board feet.

If you have the proper soil, it might be beneficial to plant a few black walnuts. If you have questions on soil speak with your forester, or a DEC representative. Seedlings are available from the NYS Saratoga Tree Nursery.

I hope to see you and your guest at upcoming chapter meetings.

-Steve

### **Texas Schoolhouse State Forest Woods Walk**

During the Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Woods walk, participants from the SOT and local residents enjoyed a first hand view of the planned sale of a 350 acre tract being offered by the NYS DEC for timber sale next year through a



bidding process on the various stands of Red Pine & Norway Spruce. The plan will provide the stands to be released over a 20 year period at 5 year intervals. Foresters Nathan Funk and Scott Moxham of the DEC presented an overview of the planned sale, and addressed some of the preparations, and concerns associated with the sale. As part of the woods walk Nathan and Scott led the group along newly opened trails that were part of a

recent voluntary stewardship agreement between the DEC and the local town of New Lisbon. Discussions included some of the measures being taken to help alleviate deer browse concerns for reforestation efforts, as well as information on the use of glyphosate, and out in an environmentally friendly way to help control the growth in the under story of invasives like fern, diseased beech, and striped maple.

Participants had the opportunity to take in some interesting and beautiful views of a pond located on site that was home to beaver dams, and great blue heron nest. Our thanks to the DEC, and Stacey & Jeannine Kazacos, for making this tour possible. For more information and photos from this tour and others, please visit the NYFOA.org website and check out the SOT events section.



### **Unalam Tour**

During the October 17<sup>th</sup> tour of the Unalam manufacturing facility in Sidney, NY members of NYFOA, and the Catskill Forest Association were given a first hand view of a unique structural fabrication process that produces wood beams, & trusses for construction, produced primarily from Southern Yellow Pine and Douglas Fir. There is also a growing interest in the possible use of local Black Locust for use in the manufacture of these wood components. Currently nearly 85% of the wood used in the manufacturing process comes from

Southern Yellow Pine.

Our host for the tour include 6<sup>th</sup> generation members of the Van Cott family who explained their long history, and how it developed over the years to its current path. Our tour guide, Zoë Vandermeulen, Executive VP, explained how her grandfather first started with the construction of local Unadilla silos, and proceeded to grow the business to its current state that employs 35 manufacturing jobs, and 10 office jobs, in the small Delaware County village of Sidney.

Lumber is first delivered by flatbed, and sorted by grade for use in manufacturer of the beams and components. Higher grade lumber designated as "0" is used for exterior beam surfaces for reasons of aesthetics and are generally free of knots. Lumber not visually relevant, or containing minor imperfections are laminated to the exterior pieces using phenol-resorcinol glue which is waterproof, and meet many environmental concerns. All structural members are ANSI certified, and meet the requirements of the "American Institute of Timber Construction".



The tour included stops at the various steps in the production process including the air drying of the boards, and the project inception area in the template loft were the first to be visited in the

tour. The joining area where lengths of timbers were glued together to arrive at the necessary lengths to produce pieces some over 125' in length offered a unique view of the dimension of some of these projects. The planing process, as well as the bending process, which was devoid of steam, was also explained.

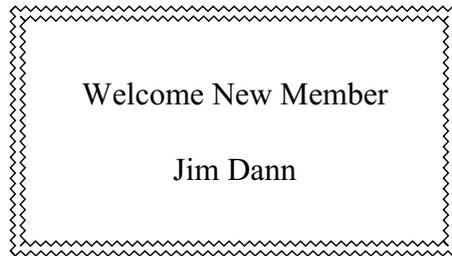
The plant has produced for the local area not only jobs, but some very unique and beautiful sites such as the Downsville Bridge, and will soon host some of its products at the soon to open water park in Monticello, NY. Typical construction using this type of fabrication adds little cost over similar post and beam construction, and is as structurally sound as steel and is more visually appealing.

Many thanks to our host and the employees of Unalam for bringing us yet another area for "Alternative Wood Products".

For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org), or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566.

Annual membership is \$45 and includes: subscriptions to Treelines: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

Be sure to check out the NYFOA website at <https://www.nyfoa.org/> for up to date information.



## **Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee**

### **Chair**

Steve Kutney 607-862-9152  
[stephen\\_kutney@yahoo.com](mailto:stephen_kutney@yahoo.com)

### **Co-Vice Chairs & Newsletter**

Ken & Sharon Semanovich  
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### **Treasurer**

Larry Lepak 607-786-5892  
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### **Program Co Chairs**

Kevin Mathers [kjm8@cornell.edu](mailto:kjm8@cornell.edu)  
Jerry Michael 607-648-2941  
[GoTreeGo80@gmail.com](mailto:GoTreeGo80@gmail.com)

### **Delegate to State Board**

Dave Williams 607-563-3156  
[kdwillmill@gmail.com](mailto:kdwillmill@gmail.com)

### **Members At Large**

Gary Sergio, Gerry Kachmor &  
Les Lovelass

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