

NYFOA POLICY ALERT

The Governor's Executive Budget sets forth an ambitious agenda for the next fiscal year. It is important that legislators recognize the importance of private forests across New York State as the major sequester of carbon in the fight to control global warming and the many goods and services that our forests and woods produce (clean water, wildlife, sustainable wood products, etc.) Within the budget are 3 items of particular interest: Freshwater Wetlands, Extended Producer Responsibility, and the Environmental Bond Act. In particular, the current exemption of silvicultural activities on wetlands should be maintained. Producers of wood products, especially paper, should not bear the complete responsibility for recycling costs but consumers should also pay. The Environmental Bond Act contains funding for several programs that aid forest owners and the wood-using industry. Contact your local state Assemblyperson or Senator and talk with them or their staff about your woodlot and the role it plays in our State's environmental health.

Forestry Awareness Day is coming up and like last year, meetings with State legislators will be held virtually over Zoom or similar platform. The Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) has invited members of the New York Forest Owners Association to participate in these meetings to be scheduled for the first week in March. If you are able to and interested in being a member of the 3-4 person contact group for a legislator, please let me, Hugh Canham, know by email (hocanham@esf.edu) with your phone number. I will forward names and information to Muriel Church at ESFPA, and she will contact you to see if you are available at specific times.

