



# NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

## The Overstory

Volume 28 Issue 2  
Summer 2017

### SAC OFFICERS

**Chair:** Vacant  
**Vice-Chair:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Bill Burke  
**Treasurer:** Bob Manning

### NEWSLETTER

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Cara Pilch & Peter Green, Salem, NY  
Michael Kratky, Northville, NY  
Rich & Maria LaTorre, Glenville, NY

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New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
[www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

## Forest Measurement

By Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Cornell University  
Reprinted from *The Forest Owner*, Mar/Apr 2006

Measuring your forest can be a fun and useful activity, but the challenge of taking accurate measurements is more daunting than most forest owners will want to undertake. Forest measurements will require skill with math, compass and pacing, tree identification, and some basic forestry tools. Accurate forest measurements, collected by you or a forester, will help gain a better understanding of the forest you own, help you make decisions about what you can do with your forest land, let you monitor changes in your forest over the years, and help you describe your forest to others. In the following paragraphs, I will provide you with a basic understanding of how to conduct a forest inventory. Note, however, that the methods I provide here, even if followed diligently, will not produce perfect results for most forest owners. To attain a high degree of accuracy in your measurements, you are best off working with a professional forester.

The most important decision in forest measurement is to know what characteristics or value of your forest you want to describe and how accurately you need to describe it. The methods I provide here are intended for the measurement of detailed characteristics, such as species lists, can be obtained by regularly walking your forest and keeping track of the trees you see or the birds you hear.

To measure forest vegetation, first divide your forest into units that have similar characteristics. These units, called stands, might show pine plantation, former sugarcorn, an old pasture gone to young saplings, dry oak ridge, lowland red maple, or mature cherry hardwoods. Draw the boundaries of these stands onto a map or aerial photograph. The stand boundaries will often match with soil type boundaries or match with historic land uses. This activity is called "stand typing" and "stand mapping".

Within each stand, you will want to take measurements at a number of points. Taking  
*continued on page 2*



Collecting data on tree growth and tree size can help a forest owner understand which species dominate a stand, how fast they are growing, and what future management options exist.

Forest Measuring, *continued from page 1*

measurements at several points, rather than measuring every tree, is called sampling. The number of points needed to accurately describe a stand depends on the variability of what you are measuring. A reasonable rule of thumb for our purpose here is to use a minimum of 10 points per stand, plus one additional point for each acre over 10 acres. If your stand is more than 40 acres, you can reduce the density of points per acre. You will want to locate your sample points without bias. The most straightforward approach is to locate your points on a grid of approximately 200' by 200' to equal about 1 point per acre. Points will need to be closer together for stands less than 10 acres. Also, the grid does not need to be square; if your stand is more rectangular then adjust the grid to conform. You can mark your grid onto your map, or on a clear overlay, to help you visualize your path in the woods.

You will use the grid of points in one of two ways. The most straightforward approach is to establish a circular plot around the point. A ¼ acre plot has a radius of 58'8" while a 1/10 acre plot has a radius of 37'3". The larger plot is appropriate for sampling a mature forest and the smaller plot for sampling an immature forest. Within each plot you record the species and diameter for each tree, plus any additional information about that tree such as defects, number of logs, etc. Each measurement on the ¼ acre plot will eventually be multiplied by 4 and the measurements on the 1/10 acre plot will be multiplied by 10. Thus, use caution in estimates of tree volume and size, because all errors are magnified. The second way you would use the grid is for

the points to be the center for prism or angle gauge sampling. However "point sampling" techniques require a more exhaustive discussion than is possible here .

Once you have collected your field data, it is time to crunch the numbers. Actually, you will want to collect data for a couple plots (or use fabricated numbers) and then practice number crunching to make certain you are collecting the information that is useful to you. The mathematics and details of formulas necessary to provide estimates of vegetation characteristics per acre are more than I can cover here. In general, determine the average for a value on all plot stands, for example, number of trees, then divide the average value by the plot size (0.25 or 0.10) to obtain the value per acre. Other values you might desire include basal area, board foot volume, and cord wood volume. Alternatively, become familiar with the NED-2 software mentioned below that will provide the calculations for you after you have carefully specified the inventory methods.

Now, the obvious question to conclude with: would you feel comfortable making decisions with the measurements you determine? Some forest owners would, others might not. If you want simple numeric descriptors of your forest, then this process will work. If you will make important decisions based on the results of the sampling you may want to contact a forester for assistance.

A useful website to help with your sampling process is: [www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ffws/fi.htm](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/ffws/fi.htm)

## NYFOA Chapter Service Award Presented

The Southeastern Adirondack Chapter would like to recognize Jane and Dave Jenks, by presenting them with the NYFOA Chapter Service Award. They have contributed many long hours to our chapter for many years. Jane is SAC's long time chapter historian; she has preserved our memories in the form of event photo albums. She has also taken on the daunting task of chairing our nomination committee, spending many hours canvassing the membership for volunteers to fill our slate of officers. Jane is the more visible of the two, but Dave provides the behind the scenes work that makes the two of them such important contributors to our chapter. Together, Dave and Jane are an amazing team at organizing the Washington County Fair. It takes a lot of organization and dedication to pull off this event. Their eye catching display usually brings a yearly ribbon awarded by the fair committee. Jane again hits the phones and has a knack for filling up all the time slots with willing volunteers to staff the booth. Dave



Kurt Edwards (left) presents the NYFOA Chapter Service Award to Jane and Dave Jenks.

and Jane are also valued members of the SAC Steering committee, and we are very glad we are able to show our appreciation for all their hard work.

## Coming Events...

**August 21 – 27**

### WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

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

**September 23rd**

### ANNUAL PICNIC AND WOODSWALK IN FULTON COUNTY

Hosted by Kurt and Kristie Edwards  
411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY  
9:30 – Coffee and refreshments  
10:00 – walk begins

*We will review a seed tree regeneration cut done in fall of 2012.*

*Picnic – hotdogs, burgers and drinks provided.  
Please bring a dish to share.*

*We will hold our annual raffle to support our mailings.  
Please bring a raffle item.*

*Please RSVP by phone or email (518) 661-5685 or  
edwardsk922@gmail.com*

*Directions will be posted on the NYFOA website or call if needed.*

**October 14th**

### SAC FALL EVENT

Hosted by Bob Manning  
Oven Mountain, Wevertown, NY

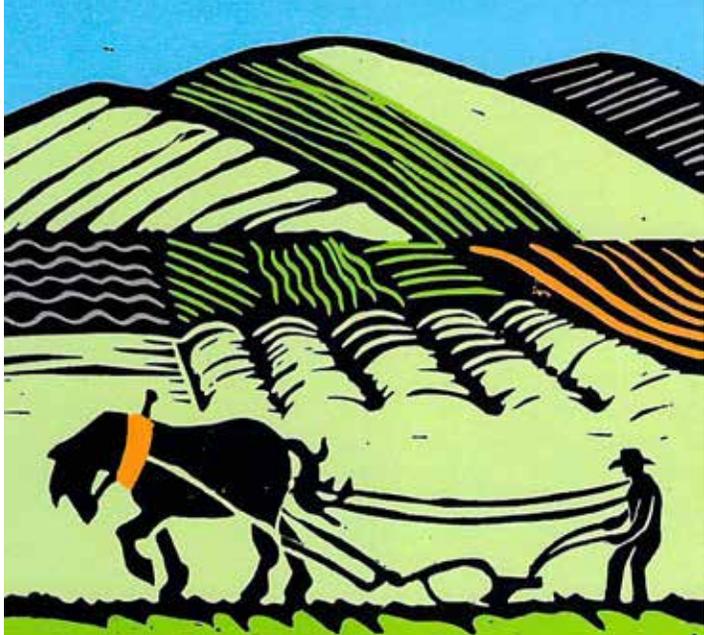
10:00 – Meet at the North Creek Ski Bowl Park  
10:10 – Carpool to drive up the road on Oven Mt.  
(SUVs or Trucks preferred)

*We will hike Oven Mountain which offers overlooks East, West  
and North. The total distance is about three miles and the ascent is  
roughly 600 feet. We will eat lunch on top.*

*Bring your own lunch, water, hiking boots and hiking sticks if you  
use them. There are no restrooms after we leave the park.*

*Directions to the park: Take the Northway to Exit 23 and turn left  
toward Warrensburg. Go north through Warrensburg until you  
reach a “Y” intersection with a small bandstand on the left. Turning  
left onto Hudson St. continue until you come to a “T”. Turn left  
onto Route 28 and follow it until you reach North Creek. Ski Bowl  
Road will be on your left soon after you see a small swimming pond  
on your left. (If you come to the North Creek Health Center you  
have gone too far.) Drive straight in to the pavilion. For GPS use  
“Ski Bowl Rd. North Creek”.*

**Rain date - October 15th**



**DRAFT ANIMAL-POWER  
FIELD DAYS**  
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2017  
CORNISH FAIRGROUNDS, NH

*Celebrating 10 Years Together*

## DRAFT ANIMAL-POWER FIELD DAYS

Joined by the American Suffolk Horse Association

### FRIDAY

Intensive workshops and training for  
beginning and advanced teamsters.

### SATURDAY

Lots to see for everyone. Timber framing,  
blacksmithing, horses and oxen.  
Logging, horse training, and much more.

### SUNDAY

Obstacle course, teamster challenge,  
raffle & auctions



draftanimalpower.org  
suffolkpunch.com

**DAPNet**  
Draft Animal-Power Network

802-763-0771 · dapnetinfo@gmail.com

**MEMBER'S CORNER**

# New York State Forests for the Non Forest Owner

Shared by member Eric Lawson

Maybe its human nature to gravitate toward people, objects and topics that we are familiar with. That may explain why when I volunteer at the NYFOA booth at county fairs or at the Annual Woodworkers Conference in Saratoga Springs, people often tell me that since they don't own any forest land they have no interest in a forest owner's association like NYFOA. However, whether acknowledged or not, New York's forests directly affect non-forest owners' lives in many ways.

Consider that our state covers about 30 million acres<sup>1</sup>, 18.9 million of which, or 63% is forest land. So it's likely that even if you don't own forest land, you drive through or by forests regularly. Inevitably forests are part of everyone's environment, an intimate part of the quality of life. Sure, it's obvious that a walk through a forested park provides recreation and relaxation, a pleasant diversion from unforgiving pavement or the glare of the mall shopping center but forests affect the non-forest owner in so many other ways.

New York forests provide just under 500 million board feet of logs each year, lumber to build our homes, furniture, recreation equipment and myriad other products. Pulpwood and wood chips drive the paper industry and supply renewable fuel to heat

homes and factories and operate boilers. A quarter of forest products harvested in New York are exported and constitute a portion of the more than 14 billion dollars of forest products used in manufacturing and related services in New York. All of this activity generates millions of dollars in tax revenue and supports thousands of jobs.

As important as these considerations are, forests world-wide play a vital role in the health of the planet. They sequester 1 trillion tons of carbon and are therefore essential in efforts to contain global warming. Rainforests alone supply 40% of the world's oxygen; try living without that! Forests are part of the interdependence of all living things on the planet. When managed in a sustainable manner, forests can continue to contribute toward the quality of life of all of us.

New York State's forest owners and its non-forest owning population all have a strong interest in working together to preserve and enhance this natural and renewable resource.

*1--All figures taken from NY State Department of Environmental Conservation publications.*



**MEMBER'S CORNER**

## View

Shared by member  
Bob Manning

Join us on  
October 14th  
to hike Oven  
Mountain  
and enjoy this  
breathtaking  
Autumn view.  
(Details on  
page 3.)

.....  
*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](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com) or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.*

# SAC Woodswalk to Toad Hill Maple Farm, Thurman NY

By Lou Inzinna

During the late winter and early spring of 2017 areas throughout Warren County and many areas of New York were very wet with snow melt and spring rains. Many of us have to deal with the time we affectionately call “Mud Season.” Access to homes and woodlots can be tricky negotiating dirt roads and driveways. Those of us that need to get in the woods to work our woodlots struggle to travel through this quagmire of mud, slush and overflowing streams.

On June 10, 2017 members of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association visited the Toad Hill Maple Farm in Thurman New York. During this beautiful spring day about 21 members got to tour the farm on a hay wagon and on foot. This farm owned by the Galusha family has been in the family for many generations. They have been “Sugaring” as well for many generations. Randy Galusha learned about sugaring from his grandmother when he was 10 years old. He has stuck with it and has turned a hobby into a business.

Randy and his wife, Jill, spend many hours a day during Maple Season taping trees, collecting sap, boiling the sap (40 gallons of sap to 1 gallon of syrup), bottling, making maple cream, candy, granulated sugar and many other products. They host three weekends of Open Houses in March welcoming visitors from around the area and the world. Of course all of this would not be possible without the help of Randy’s dad Jim Galusha, their adult children Lindsey and Nate, and family friends. Throughout the rest of the year there is much work that must be done including bottling, making candy and such. They fill orders for their store, web orders and local retailers.

Toad Hill is currently one of the larger Maple Syrup and Maple Product producers in Warren County. Randy started out



**Top:** Randy Galusha describes the need and use of the various pieces of equipment (in second photo) for trail building and maintenance.  
**Middle:** At one point the trail was so steep and muddy it took help of a skidder to pull the tractor and wagon.  
**Bottom:** Randy discusses the trail building process and the need for ditches and culverts.

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Toad Hill Woodswalk, *continued from page 5*

producing maple syrup in a small “Sugar Shack” and in 2010 built one of the nicest post and beam Sugarhouses with all the wood cut from their property.

Building the new sugarhouse was the first part of the business expansion. The farm includes over 800 acres. Currently the sugarbush is about 75 acres which has had about 1600 maple trees tapped. Over the last few years Randy and his dad have spent a huge amount of time in the woods preparing roads and selectively clearing trees to allow access for many more existing maple trees to be tapped. He hopes to have over 6000 trees tapped in the coming years.

Landowners can attest to the fact that building trails in the woods is not an easy task. Building roads on a steep mountainside is even harder. It takes the right equipment to do the job right. Randy has invested in what he thinks is a good selection of vehicles to access these roads. Randy does most of the logging himself so a skidder is necessary. He has to drag the logs to his header. Doing this he must cross many streams. They have added 43 different culverts. Some large culverts required appropriate permitting. Of course to install these culverts a medium sized excavator with a thumb was needed along with a surplus army truck to move dirt and boulders. A small bulldozer was added to his fleet to level out the roads. Finally a RTV was needed to get to the miles of roads and trails giving them access to tubing lines in the sugarbush during all seasons. Many of these pieces of equipment require specialized training to run. Randy’s dad Jim and son Nate are qualified heavy equipment operators so they make a dangerous piece of equipment look easy to run. Just to add more things to do, these pieces of equipment require lots of maintenance and breakdowns are common.

During our tour through the woods Randy stressed that the key to building and maintaining woods roads is keeping the water off the roads. A road that has a nice crown or pitch to the side can shed the water. Even adding a ditch to one side may be necessary when there is a lot of water to remove. Sometimes gravel fill may be needed to be brought in to fill a section of road. However snowmelt in the early spring or a heavy rain during the summer can wash out a road in an instant. Skidding logs can also do a lot of damage to these roads. Trail and road maintenance is an ongoing job in the woods.

Our hay wagon was pulled by a four wheel drive tractor driven by Randy’s dad Jim. As we traveled along the road, Randy discussed many of the repairs to the roads we were on. In fact one of the sections was very steep, wet and slippery so Randy’s son Nate helped get us through it by pulling the tractor with their skidder. It added to the fun of the whole ride. As we traveled through the woods we saw many of the culverts that they had installed. Randy told us that estimating the size of these culverts was not always easy. He recommended a web site <https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/stewardship/accessroads/stream.htm> that discusses stream crossings and sizing pipe culverts. It gives a good description on the different types of crossings and water handling. We also had the opportunity to walk alongside a beautiful stream with waterfalls. When we reached the bottom



**This newest addition to the Toad Hill Maple Farm was constructed from their own timber. Visitors enjoy the hay wagon ride over the covered bridge.**

of the trail we came out on a header that Randy uses to bring the logs he cuts. There they can be cut to size, limbed and cut into boards as necessary. They also generate their own firewood for the wood fired evaporator.

Some of us then hopped back up on the hay wagon to head back to the sugarhouse. Along the way we saw Nate using their excavator to build a large bolder retaining wall near Randy and Jill’s house. These boulders, some weighing nearly a ton, were being fit together like a puzzle. It seemed so easy but it takes a lot of skill and patience.

Finally we headed to their newest water crossing, a covered bridge. Randy told us as they are expanding their maple operation they are focusing on their retail business and Agro-tourism. The three Maple Weekend tours in March and Fall Farm Tour in October bring tourist to their remote town of Thurman. Anything that can attract customers is a benefit. This new covered bridge with the wood cut from their property was a hit with the people that came this past March. Hay wagon rides across the covered bridge and into the sugarbush was a unique feature that brought people to visit and purchase their products.

We then wandered back to the sugarhouse and enjoyed our lunches. We were treated to one of everyone’s favorite product, maple covered popcorn, mmm good! We were also happy to present our annual service award to Jane and Dave Jenks for their continued support to our chapter over the years.

Seeing beautiful places like this keeps things in perspective. The Galushas work hard trying to improve their operation but all the time they love their woods and the sweet benefits it brings. We as landowners enjoy being in our woods as well and also enjoy sharing these sights and experiences with others.

For more information about the Toad Hill Maple Farm:

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toad-Hill-Maple-Farm/134410356609049>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaFGh5QpysU>
- <http://toadhillmaple.com/>
- <http://www.adirondacklifemag.com/blogs/2013/03/05/toad-hill-maple-farm/>
- <http://360dacks.com/toad-hill-maple-farm>

# Online Forestry Resources

## Immerse Yourself in a Forest for Better Health:

Most of us sense that taking a walk in a forest is good for us. We take a break from the rush of our daily lives. We enjoy the beauty and peace of being in a natural setting. Now, research is showing that visiting a forest has real, quantifiable health benefits, both mental and physical. Even five minutes around trees or in green spaces may improve health. Think of it as a prescription with no negative side effects that's also free.  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90720.html>

**How Plants Run the Carbon Cycle:** What is carbon? Carbon is the black charred stuff on the grill. Carbon is graphite, a soft slippery mineral used for pencil leads and lubricants. Carbon is diamond, the hardest substance known. Carbon is element number 6, a comparative lightweight on the periodic scale of elements. Carbon makes up one half of the dry weight of wood. Carbon combined with oxygen is the atmospheric gas, CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide, a key component of the Earth's atmosphere.  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41794.html>



Sandra Jensen/Cornell University/Bugwood.org

**DEC Announces Summer 2017 Oak Wilt Management Actions in New York State:** State Encourages the Public to Report Oak Trees Losing Leaves in July and August.  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/110478.html>

**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](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com),  
 and she will forward your interest to the steering committee.



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