

# NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

## **SAWMILL TOUR PLANNED FOR APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Our Chapter will visit the Ames True Temper sawmill and processing plant at 29 Clifton Street in Unadilla on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The origins of Ames True Temper date back to 1774, and they are now the largest manufacturer of non-powered lawn, garden and hand tools in the world. The Unadilla facility processes more than two million board feet of kiln dried, wood handle material each year – most of it from Ash.

We will assemble at the plant at 12:15 p.m. to listen to an orientation about operations while the machinery is shut down for the lunch break. Our tour will start after 12:45, when operations resume, but the noise level will make communications to a group difficult. Participants should consider bringing ear protection if concerned about the noise level. The tour should conclude at approximately 1:30.

Directions: Take Exit # 10 from Interstate 88 toward Route #7 Unadilla. Go 1.5 miles and bear right on Route 7 Main Street. Go .3 mile and turn left on Clifton Street.

For those interested in an early lunch before the tour, there is a MacDonald's at Exit 9 from I 88. Anyone interested in carpooling can meet in the parking lot at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Binghamton at 10:30 a.m. It is a 45 minute drive to Unadilla and we will plan to stop at MacDonald's on the way.

The tour group will be limited to 30 people. Call 648-2941 to reserve a spot (or spots).

## **CHAPTER MEETING MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>. PROGRAM: "RESTORING OUR FORESTS"**

A 2010 study conducted by Cornell concluded that 70% of New York's forestland is not successfully regenerating itself. We all know the reasons for this: excessive deer browsing, interfering and invasive vegetation and, in some cases, a history of high-grading harvest practices. Is your woodlot among the fortunate 30%? Come to this meeting and share the secrets of your success. Are you in the 70% majority? Come and learn about some management techniques to restore the health and diversity of your forest. Jerry Michael will discuss the Cornell study in the context of the history of our second-growth forests during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He will also summarize a recent Penn State Webinar entitled "Regenerating A High-Graded Stand".

Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Kevin Mathers will discuss the impacts of invasive and interfering vegetation, and deer browsing on forest regeneration.

Consulting Forester Michael Gray will discuss various options for controlling interfering vegetation with herbicides, including foliar application with a powered mist blower, and basal stem, cut stump and "hack & squirt" treatments. There will be plenty of time for questions and sharing of experiences, and coffee, cider and donuts will be available.

This meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton. Take Exit #5 from I 81, and drive north on Route 11 (Front Street) about .2 mile. CCE is on the right, just before Applebee's. Bring a neighboring forest owner!

### References:

For the Cornell study "Barriers to Regeneration" go to:

<http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/pubs/HDRUReport10-2.pdf>.

The Penn State Webinar is archived and can be viewed anytime by going to:

<http://extension.psu.edu/private-forests/tools-resources/webinars> You will have to register the first time you access this site.

## **Upcoming Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chenango County Workshops:**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8 p.m., "Using Map and Compass to Find Your Way"

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m., "GPS for Beginners"

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m., "Tree Identification for Beginners".

Call (607) 334-5841 for more information, or to register for these workshops.

## **Game of Logging classes at Cornell's Arnott Forest**

Level 1 – May 7 or May 19

Level 2 – May 8 or May 20

Level 3 – June 16

For more information or registration, go to the [ForestConnect.com](http://ForestConnect.com) website and click on "Workshops"

## **Did You Know?**

NYFOA will celebrate its' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013. The Board of Directors is planning events to mark the occasion, possibly including community-wide woodswalks to celebrate the importance of New York's forests to our quality of life and to educate the public and politicians about forest health issues.

## **A Word (or two) About Glyphosate**

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup™ and many other branded herbicides used to control unwanted vegetation in forested and other environments. Many forest owners are well-acquainted with glyphosate and know how indispensable it is for restoring a healthy, diverse, and sustainable forest. For anyone, either within or outside our community who has safety concerns regarding glyphosate, the following information should be of interest:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measures the toxicity of chemicals with the metric "Lethal Dose 50", or "LD50". The LD50 is the dose, in milligrams per kilogram of body weight, that would be fatal to 50% of the test animals (rats). The toxicity of glyphosate is an LD50 of 4,873. In other words, it would require 4,873 milligrams of glyphosate per kilogram of body weight to kill 50% of the test rats. In comparison, the LD50 for caffeine is 192, so it would only require 192 milligrams of caffeine per kilogram of body weight to kill 50% of the rats. Do the math and you will see that caffeine is 25 times more toxic to animal life than glyphosate.

This is not intended to get you to give up coffee, tea or coke. It would take about 114 cups of a caffeinated beverage to kill a human weighing 175 pounds. Neither are we suggesting you should try drinking Roundup™, although non-potable water in the product mix might be more harmful than the chemical. Why is glyphosate so relatively non-toxic to animals? Because it is formulated to interfere with the internal processes of life forms that have chlorophyll in their veins, not blood. Glyphosate also has no action in the soil.

Although the Penn State publication "Herbicides and Forest Vegetation Management" refers to glyphosate as "practically non-toxic", it does carry an EPA "Caution" designation on the label, and can be harmful if gotten in the eyes or on the skin, inhaled or ingested, especially in concentrated form. Applicators must wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, socks & shoes. Although not required on the label, a respirator and eye protection should be worn when applying glyphosate with a mist blower.

In summary, glyphosate and related herbicides will be indispensable in restoring forest health. We should respect it, but not fear it. Always follow label instructions, and remember, it is non-selective. Any plant it touches will be killed or compromised.

## **Message from the Chapter Chair**

We had a great turnout for the annual pot luck dinner with the Southern Tier Christmas Tree Growers Association. The food was great and the atmosphere was friendly. I was very pleased to find out that some of you were willing to drive so far to get to the meeting. Justin Gansowski was our keynote speaker. He educated us on the history of feral swine in the US and how the USDA APHIS Wildlife Service deals with them in New York. It was interesting to learn how they feed the swine to build the herds confidence. Over a period of weeks they increase the length of the fence that surrounds the food. They capture the entire herd by closing the gate. If any of the herd escapes it's very unlikely that they will ever be captured.

Dave Williams and I made it to the NYFOA meeting at the Syracuse Farm Show. Jerry Carlson from the NYS DEC Bureau of Private Land Services was the keynote speaker. He gave a presentation on Forest Health and Protection. Topics covered included the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorn Beetle, Giant Hogweed and Oak wilt. One of the points that I would like to pass on to you is the danger of moving firewood. The Emerald Ash Borer normally moves a little over 200 yards per year. If it was not for the movement of logs and firewood the EAB might take several hundred years to reach us.

General info. on the EAB can be found on the Internet at <http://emeraldashborer.info>  
The NYS EAB website is: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>  
The Emerald Ash Borer Management Response Plan for New York can be found at:  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/eabresponseplan.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/eabresponseplan.pdf)

Thirty five percent of the members of the Southern Tier Chapter live outside of the Southern Tier. This makes it difficult for those members to attend our events. If there is any way that I can help you with the management of your property please call me at 607-862-9152. You may also email me at [Stephen\\_Kutney@yahoo.com](mailto:Stephen_Kutney@yahoo.com). That's an underscore between the n and the K.

With the unusually warm weather I was active working on my woodlot this past winter. I was able to build several new trails to the back section of my property. My favorite place to deer hunt is the most difficult to get at. It's located on the steepest hillside on my property. If I'm successful at getting a deer I can't bring the deer uphill by myself. I do not have a four wheeler. I use a simple cart designed to transport deer. I've engineered these trails so that I can remove a deer from the woods by taking it downhill and out through my valley. These trails also make it easier to do timber stand improvement and allow visitors a more enjoyable way to view some very large oaks and ash.

We are still looking for a volunteer to edit this newsletter. Please call me if willing to serve. I hope to see you at our April sawmill tour and our May meeting.  
Steve

The NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter (SOT) includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego Counties. SOT sponsors several workshops and woodswalks each year, usually in cooperation with county CCE associations. SOT publishes a Fall, Winter and Spring Newsletter to announce programs and other educational information for members.

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**SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER**

**Sawmill Tour April 25**

**Chapter Meeting May 17**