

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

November/December 2014



Member Profile: Jim and Barbara Minor

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FOREST OWNERS
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In This Issue . . .

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JIM MINOR..... 3

ASK A PROFESSIONAL

PETER SMALLIDGE..... 6

NEW YORK STATE TREE FARM NEWS

ERIN O'NEILL 8

THE TIMBER GROWING CONTEST

CHARLES STACKHOUSE 9

WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS

KRISTI SULLIVAN..... 10

IF YOU BELIEVE IN NYFOA...ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

DEAN FAKLIS 12

WOODLAND HEALTH: DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD, IT BUGS ME!

MARK WHITMORE 14

MEMBER PROFILE – JIM AND BARBARA MINOR

JEFF JOSEPH 21

**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 6

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$45.

This publication is printed on Finch Opaque, Smooth, 70 lb. text paper. Located in the beautiful Adirondacks, Finch has long understood that the viability of our business relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources. Finch papers are made with renewable energy, post-consumer recycled fiber and elemental chlorine-free pulps. In addition, Finch Paper was the first integrated paper mill in the US to received both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Jim and Barbara Minor with grandson, Andy Kolberg on their farm, Summer 2000. For member profile see page 21. Photo courtesy of Jim Minor.

From The President

Late this past summer I moved my home office to a second floor where I now look out at some of the trees which I mentioned planting in my last column. In early fall I was astonished to see how many acorns were in the branches of a particular 30 year-old red oak whose branches extend to about fifteen feet from my window. Sure enough, in late September they came down by the (literally) thousands. Visitors had to be



warned not to park under the tree unless they wanted their cars to be rained on with acorns by the score with the slightest breeze.

Other red oaks on my property have not been as prolific so it seems to be a tree-by-tree seasonal thing. Some have speculated that this phenomenon is a natural selection process. Trees tend to have several years where they are not prolific, thus keeping the numbers of acorn eaters in check and then have a year where they “shower” an abundance so the animals will have plenty to eat now and will be encouraged to bury many more for future consumption. Right now my squirrels are busy doing both.

Postscript. Subsequently, still leaving plenty for the squirrels, I raked/swept five bushels of acorns up from this one tree. I contacted **Mike Echnert, Forester at the DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery.** Mike said they had already planted some 50 bushels of red oak so far this fall and they expected to plant about 50 bushels

more. Per Mike, it appears to be a banner year for red oak across the state.

Please share this magazine with a neighbor and urge them to join NYFOA. By gaining more members, NYFOA’s voice will become stronger!

The nursery (www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html) accepts nuts/seeds from the general public (contact them at (518) 581-1439). Accordingly, I made arrangements to get my 5 bushels to them. Our Allegheny Foothills Chapter has a history of nut collection drives for the nursery as a money raiser for their chapter. Mike wanted to remind readers that the nursery has their spring sale of seedlings running from January - May.

I’m delighted to report that board member **Charles Stackhouse**, has stepped forward to be our Vice President with the expectation that he’ll offer his name to be put up for nomination as President when elections are held at our annual meeting next March. To facilitate this transition, **Ron Pedersen** has graciously stepped down as Vice President. Ron has served NYFOA for many years in many capacities, has been a past recipient of the NYFOA Service Award and, more recently, the Heiberg Award. We thank Ron for his continuing active support of NYFOA.

continued on page 5

Join! NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York’s forests.

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The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS’s trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

RNYW T-shirts.

The Restore New York Woodlands T-shirts have proven very popular. We have placed a second order and, if you missed out on getting yours last time, you have a second chance now!

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From the President (continued)

We're now constructing the ballot for **candidates for the NYFOA Board of Directors** to be voted on prior to our spring meeting next March. The ballot has to be completed by the first week in December so it can be posted in our January/February, 2015, *Forest Owner*. Here's an opportunity for you to get more involved in our organization. If you are interested please contact **Charles Stackhouse** (see, he's already on the job!) per the contact information given on the inside front cover. Charlie can give you more information on the responsibilities of board members and how to get your name on the ballot. If you'd rather volunteer closer to home, your local chapter chair (www.nyfoa.org -> Chapters -> Chapter Information -> *your chapter*) would be happy to have you on his/her steering committee.

The paper used in issues of *The New York Forest Owner* for all of 2014 (and several years previous to this) was donated by **Finch Paper** (www.finchpaper.com). Finch Paper continues their history of generous support of NYFOA by pledging to donate the paper for all our 2015 issues. A very sincere THANK YOU to Finch as this represents a **substantial** savings for NYFOA.

NYFOA's Membership Challenge.

Do you have a neighbor whom you ask yourself, "Why isn't he/she a member of NYFOA? They would have their eyes opened if they saw how they could better unlock the potential of their woods." Alternatively, do you have a friend or relative who you think could have a better appreciation of what your woodlot projects are all about and why you are so happy to be out working/playing in the woods?

NYFOA wants to help you resolve these issues by having a special offer and a membership challenge. For just \$25 you can give them a 1-year gift membership in NYFOA, a \$45 value.

Read more about the challenge in Dean Faklis' article on page 12 and use the form found on page 13 in this issue to reduce your gift-giving worries. Or, you could save yourself all those trips to the copying machine by going to www.nyfoa.org and using the on-line form linked there. Note- this is **not** a standing offer. It will expire Feb 28th so don't delay.

Our Website. NYFOA continues to seek ways to make our website, www.nyfoa.org, more useful to our members and to the general public. We welcome any ideas that you may have on this. Please direct your suggestions to **Ron Pedersen** at rwp22@nycap.rr.com or (585) 785-6061. This is yet one more example of Ron's commitment to supporting NYFOA.

Acknowledgement. Being an all-volunteer organization means we rely on members making contributions in everything we do. I'd like to take this opportunity to single out **Bob Manning** who has been a stalwart supporter of NYFOA over the course of many years. His latest, ongoing, contribution has been to be administrator of the NYFOA Facebook page. A sincere **Thank You** to Bob for all he has done and continues to do to advance our message of good forest stewardship.

Finally, NYFOA is now registered with the **AmazonSmile** program. If you use Amazon.com for purchases you can sign up for this program and identify NYFOA (New York Forest Owners Association Inc) as the target of your contributions. Thereafter 0.5% of the cost of your purchases will be donated to NYFOA at no additional charge to you.

-Jim Minor
NYFOA President

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Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE AND BRETT CHEDZOY



Peter Smallidge

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt, check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.forestconnect.info

Selecting Desirable Trees for Thinning

Question

I want to pick trees to thin around for increased light. What do I look for to judge a desirable versus an undesirable tree? (Steve, AFC)

Answer

Thinning your woods is analogous to weeding your garden; you remove undesirable plants while providing more sunlight to the desired plants. In most northeastern woods, sunlight is the environmental variable that most limits tree growth. Trees that grow well are more competitive with their neighbors and better able to recover following stress events. Water and soil nutrients are important, but typically these don't limit growth. Providing adequate sunlight to a tree is also easier than trying to increase water or soil nutrients. Faster growing trees also typically produce more tangible outputs such as timber, fruits and nuts, and wood volume for firewood.

The process of thinning requires some amount of equipment and work. All equipment has safety considerations that warrant attention. Chainsaws are a common tool and necessitate the use

of chainsaw chaps and protection for your head, ears, and eyes. The Game of Logging (www.gameoflogging.com) is a particularly useful training program before felling trees. Some owners will use herbicides to kill undesired trees. All herbicides (a type of pesticide) have labels with useful information about

mixing ratios, timing of treatment, amount of product to use, and personal protective equipment.

Thinning is essentially an investment of sunlight in those trees and other plants that are retained. Because trees grow slowly and take years or decades to mature, the investment should be carefully planned to optimize the return. Thinning also provides sunlight to other plants that remain in the woods, and some, like interfering plants, may also respond with increased growth or abundance. Be alert to all the plants that might benefit from the increased light.

There are two components to selecting desirable versus undesirable trees. First, consider the characteristics of certain species based on ownership objectives. If the identity of a tree is unknown, post a high quality picture of foliage, buds, and bark in the forum at www.CornellForestConnect.ning.com, contact a MFO volunteer, or review the tree identification webinars at www.youtube.com/ForestConnect.

Most owners have an interest in healthy trees, and only trees growing



Upper crown class trees, such as the deciduous hardwood on the right, have large crowns and are capable of responding favorably to increased sunlight. Misshapen crowns, such as the conifer on the left indicate a tree that has been competing for sunlight. Lower crown class trees are shorter than their neighbors.



A weak fork often has a flared ridge below the fork. The flared ridge results from callus tissue the tree produces in response to stress on the wood tissue of the fork. The bigger the flared ridge, the greater and longer the stress. Wood decay, as seen in the cross section, often accompanies weak forks.

in suitable soils maintain their health. Therefore, a common ownership objective would be to ensure that trees favored for retention during a thinning are suited to the soil conditions. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has their online Web Soil Survey that can be used to identify soils in the area of the thinning and lists of species that grow well on those soils. The county Soil and Water Conservation

District can also provide assistance with soils. Other owner interests might include some combination of timber production, wildlife, or aesthetics. The US Forest Service Silvics Manual, available online, lists all our trees and their utility for various owner objectives. Thus, start by reviewing the tree species present in your woods, determine if they are suitable for your soils, and determine which have qualities that match your interests.

The second component of the selection process, after identifying a tree species, or groups of species of interest to the owner, involves three aspects of the tree. These three aspects relate to the tree's ability to respond to the investment of light through a long potential life and with increased growth.

The Crown – The crown of the tree is the leafy portion. The leaves photosynthesize and produce the starches and sugars used by the tree for growth. The crown is one of the most important attributes of a tree to judge. The crown of a desirable tree will be in the upper crown class, a position of height equal to or greater than the tallest trees in its vicinity. An upper crown class tree will have a wide crown that is directly exposed to sunlight. Lower crown class trees tend to have smaller crowns, often tapered towards the top, and indirectly receiving sunlight. With increased sunlight, upper crown class trees may grow three to eight times faster than lower crown class trees. The crown should not have evidence of dieback or dead branches in the upper portions, and if foliage is present the foliage should be of normal color and form. Finally, crowns that are distinctly forked at a main branch, especially when the fork is subtended by a flared ridge, may be prone to breakage. Crown dieback, lower crown class trees, abnormal foliage development, and weak forks suggest trees that may have limited longevity and thus are not good investments.

The Stem – The stem of the tree is often the focus of owners with a timber interest, and for good reason. However the stem of the tree, when viewed from a perspective of longevity, is limited mostly by conditions that might compromise the structural integrity of the tree. Stem cankers, insect activity, weak forks as described above, or damage from nearby falling trees are all examples of problems. These problems might directly reduce the stem's structural integrity or contribute to its decline as a site of entry for decay organisms. Trees with multiple stems are

continued on page 18

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Forest Certification; NY Tree Farm's upcoming Audit

NY Tree Farm, as many of you know, is a certified forest management system. It is time once again for our audit process to commence. Every few years, members of an independent third party organization come to New York and we have an opportunity to show them all the positive things forest landowners have been doing. I thought I'd take this opportunity to give you a little refresher about certification and what we'll be showing off this spring!

As consumers, businesses and governments become more concerned with their environmental footprints, markets for certified paper and wood products continue to grow. As you know, certified wood and paper products come from responsibly managed forests. With third-party forest certification, an independent organization develops standards of good forest management, and annually an independent group comes to see

if you're following the program. In our case, The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) will be conducting our audit. PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management.

PEFC sets the highest standards for forest certification and sustainable forest management in line with society's understanding and expectations. According to their website, PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks are based on broad consensus expressed in international, intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder processes and guidelines involving thousands of interested parties.

Forest certification programs typically require that forest management practices conform to existing laws. Obtaining PEFC Sustainable Forest Management certification demonstrates that management practices on the ground meet the set requirements for best practices in sustainable forest management.

While the auditors are on site this spring, we will talk about how our woodland owners promote biodiversity of forest ecosystems; that the range of ecosystem services those forests provide is sustainable while simultaneously providing food, shelter, clean water and wood fibre. We will further discuss that they are a key part of the water cycle, acting as sinks which capture and store carbon, and prevent soil erosion. These woodlands provide habitats and shelter for people and wildlife; and they offer spiritual and recreational benefits. We will also talk about our partnership with the Empire State Forest Products Association and that local employment is encouraged.

If all this sounds like something your management plan says and you want us to show off your forest, just remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away. 🌲

Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.

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Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The New York Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org).

You will receive an email every two months that includes a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

The Timber Growing Contest

CHARLES L. STACKHOUSE

Despite the enthusiasm of several participants in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest (see *The New York Forest Owner* 51:2, p.12). I was reluctant to take part. The thought of getting out into the woods with tape measure and clipboard to measure and record hundreds of trees was daunting. I estimated this would take many, many hours. Besides, the woodshed wasn't filled yet. However, veteran "tree measurer" and Timber Growing Contest co-developer Dean Faklis convinced me that the tree measuring should take four hours or less, and he even offered to come over and help. I couldn't refuse.

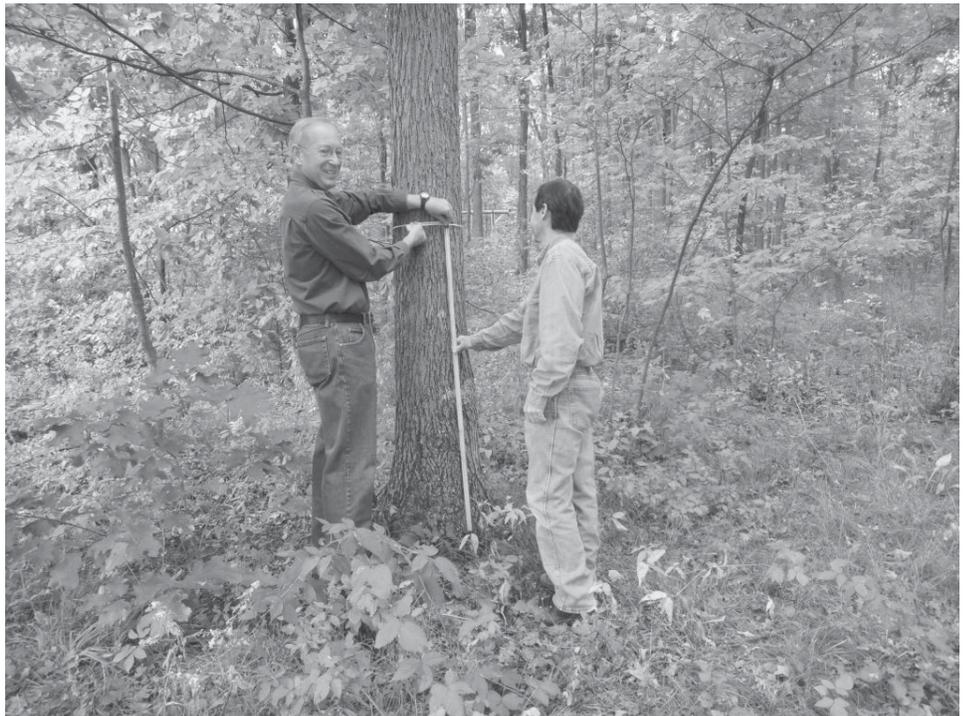
The production category I chose to enter was "basal area increment." To prepare for the actual measurement, I bought 200 pre-numbered aluminum tags (www.benmeadows.com), borrowed my neighbor's handheld laser range finder and downloaded the appropriate submission sheets from www.TimberContest.com. I reread our Forest Management Plan and selected the stand where we had the best trees, some of our better soils (Lordstown and Manlius soils) and had already completed TSI and invasive plant control. The stand was moderately sloped and faced towards the west.

Dean arrived on a beautiful August day with a 4½ foot measuring stick in hand. Before heading down into the woods, we convinced my wife Sarah to take part. Besides being very interested in our woods and being very active in The New York Forest Owner's Association, she tends to be organized and has neat handwriting. It turns out that three people is the perfect number to make the measuring go very quickly.

After walking around a bit, we selected three plots that were a few

hundred feet apart. Each plot was 0.25 acre or within a 58.9 feet radius. With Sarah standing at the center of the plot with the laser rangefinder and submission form clipboard, Dean and I headed around in a circle while going back and forth to each tree in turn. The laser rangefinder told us instantly if a tree was in or out of the plot. If it was in, an aluminum numbered tag was nailed to the bottom of the tree just above the ground using aluminum nails, the measuring stick was held vertically with its bottom end resting on the aluminum nail, and the tree diameter was measured at the top of the 4½ foot long measuring stick. We used a tape that was linear on one side and had diameter in inches, 10ths, and 100ths on the other side (www.forestry-suppliers.com). While Sarah recorded the diameter, Dean and I selected the

continued on page 17



Charles Stackhouse (left) and Dean Faklis (right) measuring a tree.

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John Triana, Regional Water Authority, Bugwood.org

“Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?” This is the familiar call of the barred owl defending its territory or attracting a mate. If you live in or near a heavily wooded area with mature forest, particularly if there is also a stream or other body of water nearby, this sound is probably familiar. Barred owls are the most vocal of our owls, and most often are heard calling early at night and at dawn. They call year-round, but courtship activities begin in February and breeding takes place primarily in March and April. Nesting in cavities or abandoned hawk, squirrel, or crow nests, the female sits on a nest of 1-5 eggs for 28 to 33 days. During this time, the male brings food to her. Once the eggs have hatched, both parents care for the fledglings for at least 4 months. Barred owls mate for life, reuse their nest site for many

years, and maintain territories from 200 – 400 acres in size.

Barred owls are strongly territorial and remain in their territories for most, if not all, of the year. However, in times when food is scarce, these birds have been known to wander in search of prey. Barred owls are opportunistic predators, eating small mammals and rabbits, birds up to the size of grouse, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates, including crayfish. They sit and wait on an elevated perch, scanning the area for prey, then swoop down silently and grasp their prey with their talons. An owl’s stomach absorbs the nutritious parts of its prey and regurgitates the indigestible matter (hair, feathers, bones, claws, insect chitin) as round pellets about seven hours later. These owl “pellets” can be found on the ground under roosts, and

The barred owl is a large bird, up to 20 inches long, with a wingspan of 44 inches. It is gray-brown in color, with whitish streaks on the back and head, brown horizontal bars on its white chest, and vertical bars on its belly. This owl has a round face without ear tufts, and a whitish facial disk with dark concentric rings around brown eyes. Males and females look similar, but females can weigh about one third more than males.

dissecting these pellets is a fun way to learn about an owl’s diet.

Barred owls prefer large, unfragmented blocks of forest. They are most often associated with mature and old growth forests of mixed hardwoods and conifers due to a greater availability of potential nest sites. In addition, mature forests have a lower density of branches in the lower levels of the forest, which may make hunting easier. A closed canopy also provides protection from the elements and from mobbing by other birds.

If you are a landowner hoping to encourage or maintain barred owls on your property, characteristics to pay close attention to are the size (number of acres) of forest, the age or maturity of the forest, and the number of large diameter snags or cavity trees available for nesting. Barred owls are seldom

present in areas with tens of acres of forest, but are common in forests that are hundreds or thousands of acres in size. Therefore, if you live in a region with small patches of forest, it is unlikely that you will be able to attract barred owls to your land. However, in heavily forested regions, you can encourage barred owls by maintaining mature forest stands with two or more trees per acre that are 20 inches in diameter or larger, to allow for the development of cavity trees or snags (dead trees) suitable for nesting. You may also help create a snag or two by girdling a couple of large, live trees. Leaving dead wood on the ground

can also enhance habitat by providing cover for amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals that in turn provide food for barred owls. By focusing on just a few habitat elements, you can continue to enjoy the characteristic sounds of the big woods. To hear the call of the barred owl, visit http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Barred_Owl.html

Kristi Sullivan works in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. She is Co-Director of the Conservation Education and Research Program, and Director of the New York Master Naturalist Program.

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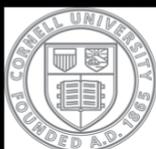
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Got Trees? Got Questions?

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to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across New York



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If You Believe in NYFOA... Accept *The Challenge!*

DEAN FAKLIS

According to DEC, there are 687,000 private forest owners in NY paying taxes on 14,400,000 acres of trees. Assuming an assessed value of \$1,500/acre and a property tax rate of \$35/\$1,000 assessed value, that's \$756,000,000 in annual tax. This note is certainly not about taxes, but I wanted to illustrate our level of "buying power."

More numbers: NYFOA has 1,800 members and dues revenue of about \$60,000. Approximately half of that goes toward creating the fine publication you're reading and your chapter newsletter. The other half is used to undertake a wide range of crucial tasks, including addressing landowner concerns with our representatives in Albany. That's less than 2,000 NYFOA voters in a state of almost 20 million people and a \$30,000 investment to help determine the outcome of our \$756,000,000 in annual property taxes paid by private woodland owners. Forest owners continue to "pick up the tab." In Albany, numbers talk, and right now, Albany really doesn't need to listen to our concerns. In addition, most of the private forests in NY need work! So what can we do?

The answer is simple: NYFOA must include more of the remaining 685,200 NY forest owners. Therein lies *The Challenge*, but I'm getting ahead of myself; please read on.

NYFOA Leadership is stacked with smart and determined folks. They understand all aspects of the problems we're facing as forest owners. They're structured to bring deep technical, financial, and legal expertise to the table. And... they also understand that an important part of being a member is having fun through stewardship. For example, NYFOA's Restore NY Woodlands initiative is great fun and it's taking broad based and comprehensive

action to help solve some extremely important forest health problems.

Another new NYFOA initiative that is taking shape is Camp Woodlot, which is a combination of web-based tools and hands-on programs to help NY forest owners manage their woodlands sustainably. Camp Woodlot can lead to a huge improvement in the NY forest because it has been designed to appeal to large numbers of active woodland owners. These active stewards are provided with the right training to get the job done, one private forest at a time.

In addition to important initiatives, the fact remains that membership does matter and we need more members to fulfill the mission. The health and productivity of the NY forest is essentially in private hands, 687,000 of them. We must have more NY forest owners practicing sound management techniques and voicing their support of sustainable forestry practices.

The Challenge:

Can we, as a NYFOA-member team, create 360 gift memberships by February 28, 2015? That's an immediate 20% jump in membership. They're only \$25 each and you can order these gift memberships using the order form on the next page or visit www.nyfoa.org to order online. Pay by check, credit card or via PayPal.

- Perfect holiday gift for your next-door neighbor. Potential for contiguous management.
- Great for the young couple just getting started in town. A hand up.
- Appropriate gift for the landowner that lets you hunt her land. You care deeply about her land.
- Thoughtful gift for a friend, that's heard about NYFOA from you.
- Meaningful gift for your long-standing client that owns forest land.

- Encouraging gift for your friend that dreams of owning forest land some day.

If you believe in NYFOA.....Give a Gift!

It's vital to our mission that we increase our numbers and it's only \$25 (e.g. two dinner "entrees" at McDonald's or 90 miles worth of gas for the pickup). You'll introduce a friend, neighbor or family member to the benefits of NYFOA and put them on the road to more enjoyment and greater value from their woods. Be sure to tell us where to send the nice gift card announcing your kindness.

As an extra twist, "fabulous prizes" from the NYFOA Store will be given to the NYFOA member who gives the most gift memberships, and the NYFOA Chapter that creates the most gift memberships will receive recognition and great accolades in the *Forest Owner*. All NYFOA members that give gift memberships, as well as the winners, will be listed in an upcoming *Forest Owner*.

I'd like to emphasize, if you can afford to do it, please join me and the NYFOA Board and give multiple gifts. We'll keep the NYFOA homepage up to date on where we stand on *The Challenge*.

Also, please consider the additional gift of your experience. Your new NYFOA member will have some questions. Please help them with your knowledge or help them find answers so that they can realize the full benefits of membership. They're part of the NYFOA family and we want them to be most welcome and stay awhile.

The Challenge: Goal 360! So....Go out on a limb and leaf no landowner behind!

If you have any questions or would like to make a special or distinguished pledge, please contact me at dfaklis@frontiernet.net. Let's work together on this and make it happen! 🌲

Dean Faklis is a tree farmer and MFO in Springwater, NY. This initiative is fully supported by the NYFOA Board of Directors.

If You Believe in NYFOA... Accept the Challenge!

The challenge is to introduce a friend, neighbor or family member to the benefits of NYFOA membership. During this holiday season, we are offering a special rate of \$25 (a \$45 value) for gift memberships.

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If you believe in NYFOA.....Give a Gift...or two! As a current NYFOA member, you may purchase as many gift memberships as you like. Recipients must not have held NYFOA membership during the past three years. Gift rates are good for the first year of membership only.

Offer expires February 28, 2015.

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Be sure to include your name and address. NYFOA will send a gift card, welcoming letter and new member information to each gift recipient. Questions? info@nyfoa.org or 1-800-836-3566

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Please list additional gifts on a separate sheet. THANK YOU!



Woodland Health

*A column focusing on topics that might limit the health, vigor
and productivity of our private or public woodlands*

COORDINATED BY MARK WHITMORE

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD, IT BUGS ME!

BY MARK WHITMORE

I was working on an article about Locust Leaf Miner when I got this photo from my friend and colleague, Peter Smallidge. He suggested it might be good to write something about firewood movement and I can't agree more. Since the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) instituted the ban on moving untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its point of origin, the vast majority of comments I've heard reflect a lack of understanding about why this is so important and how it will impact our forest resources. I get it. Firewood is important to me too. I burn three cords a year and could not live without a wood stove in the house. Any threat to this way of life concerns me. However, from a forest health perspective this regulation is a critical first step in our struggle to slow the spread of invasive non-native forest pests. It's important that we recognize that the movement of any kind of untreated wood will enhance the spread of these pests and make their management more difficult.

The NYSDEC enacted the firewood regulations in 2009 not only because of the perceived impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle, but also because these aren't the only threats out there. A recent



Photo courtesy of Peter Smallidge shows firewood being transported.

paper looked at the impacts of invasive non-native forest pests and in addition to throwing out some hefty numbers came to the disturbing conclusion that “Given observations of new species, there is a 32% chance that another highly destructive borer species will invade the U.S. in the next 10 years.” (Aukema et al. 2011). These are some of the top entomologists in the country speaking. The arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle was a poignant wakeup call about the catastrophic impacts of invasive non-native pests in our forests and since that time entomologists have been paying close attention to potential newcomers to our shores. Allow me to discuss just a few of the pests that we have knocking at our door.

Of course you know about Emerald Ash Borer and that as far as we can tell will kill most if not nearly all of our three ash species. Ash is important ecologically as well as being a valuable timber species. Yet the largest economic impacts will be felt by homeowners and communities that need to protect the public and valuable infrastructure from falling dead trees. Just take a look at all the ash lining our rural roads and leaning toward powerlines then think about the impacts of this forest pest. New Yorkers are just beginning to understand how important it is to plan ahead to minimize economic impacts. Moving infested firewood speeds the spread and I frequently see ash firewood stacked near the roads in infested areas.

Millions of well spent dollars are going towards eradication of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) which likes red maple, sugar maple, birches, and many other species. Imagine our forests without maple. Then there is the Citrus Longhorned Beetle, a close relative of ALB, which likes not only the species that

ALB eats but also members of the citrus family and the rose family: apples, peaches, cherries, and black cherry just to name a few. Citrus Longhorned Beetle comes from eastern Asia and is now established in central Italy. It was recently found at a site in Washington State but was quickly eradicated by USDA APHIS PPQ, Thank you!

Speaking of longhorned beetles, the Brown Spruce Longhorned Beetle was first introduced around the container port in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It has been gradually spreading through the spruce forest and recently detected in New Brunswick. We might be lucky with this insect because it does not appear to kill all the spruce in a stand, just most of them.

Thousand Cankers Disease of black walnut actually comes from the region where New Mexico and Arizona meet the Mexican border. You could argue that this makes it a native, and some do, but it originated far from the area where Black walnut is native. It first found its way onto walnuts in the western states and now is established in eastern Tennessee, central Virginia, and Bucks County Pennsylvania. This is a disease

carried by a specific bark beetle, similar to Dutch Elm Disease. It kills Black walnut rapidly by infecting the inner bark. Suffice it to say that the value of standing Black walnut in the US is huge.

Another “native” insect originating in the Arizona/New Mexico/Mexico border area is the Golden Spotted Oak Borer. This buprestid beetle, closely related to Emerald Ash Borer, recently found its way into the live oak forests in the coastal mountains near San Diego, California. It has been causing widespread mortality amongst the live oaks and is spreading rapidly. Live oaks are part of the red oak group and there is some thought about the possibility of other members of this group also being vulnerable.

The Sirex woodwasp was first found in North America near Owego, NY. This European wood boring wasp has been killing pine trees planted in the southern hemisphere for years. In New York it appears to thrive only in weakened and suppressed pines, primarily Scotch pine, but has been found in

continued on page 16

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Woodland Health (continued)

our native species as well. The big question is what will happen if it gets into the extensive pine forests of the south and west.

These are just a few of the pests we are currently facing that can be transported in firewood and the

scope of the impacts to our forests and communities is daunting. We need to use any and all methods to minimize these impacts and slowing their spread gives us valuable time to develop novel management strategies. Moving firewood speeds

the spread, reducing the amount of time we have to act. We need to own the issue and change the way we have been thinking about firewood movement. It's our forests that are at stake. International commerce and containerized shipping have changed our lives and will not be going away anytime soon. The bugs will keep coming. It's up to us to play it smart. ▲

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Resource:

Aukema, J.E. et al. 2011. Economic Impacts of Non-Native Forest Insects in the Continental United States. PLoS ONE 6(9):

Mark Whitmore is a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council.



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MISSING:

Past Issues of the *Forest Owner*

NYFOA is looking for various issues of the *New York Forest Owner* from the 1970s-1990s.

If you have any extra copies please contact Liana Gooding at:
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Timber Growing Contest (continued)

next tree. Trees under 6" diameter at breast height were omitted.

We were done with all three plots in about three hours. The process went smoothly, efficiently and was actually fun. Plot one contained 32 trees, with shagbark hickory, sugar maple and oak (red, black and white). Plot two contained 40 trees of the same species plus pignut hickory (we think). Plot three contained 44 trees of the same species.

With the measurements in hand, the next step was to enter the data into the correct spreadsheet found at www.timbercontest.com. The basal area for plot one was 39.86 square feet, for plot two was 38.74 square feet, and for plot three was 40.42 square feet. We were surprised at how the three plots were nearly identical in basal area at about 160 square feet per acre. This was higher than we had expected based on the initial inventory done to prepare our Forest Management Plan. That plan, done in the winter of 2008, listed the basal area in this stand at 100 square feet. A moderate intensity Timber Stand Improvement project in 2011 had been completed with the goal of cutting basswood and white ash around potential crop trees which was expected to reduce basal area to 80 square feet. It will be interesting to compare our results with the data in our five year plan update, which has not yet been released.

Next year it will be easy to remeasure these trees and calculate the increase in basal area. Win or lose, it was fun getting out into the woods, identifying the trees and picking what looked like the best trees. It was a pleasant few hours, now if only the woodshed could be filled up quickly. 🌲

Charles Stackhouse is Vice President of the NYFOA board.

NYFOA Awards

At the annual membership meeting each year, NYFOA presents several awards:

The **Heiberg Memorial Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York.

The **NYFOA Outstanding Service Award** recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership and furtherance of NYFOA's mission.

NYFOA's **Chapter Activity Award** thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area. Each Chapter is urged to name one volunteer individual or couple each year for recognition by the state membership at the annual meeting in 2015.

Please send the name of your nominations for awardees, and any suggestions on individuals who might be interested in serving on the State Board to Ron Pedersen by January 1, 2015.

Ron Pedersen
22 Vandenburg Lane, Latham, NY 12110
Email: rwp22@nycap.rr.com

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Wanted: Landowners for Member Profiles!

As many of you know, we include a member landowner profile in each issue of the *Forest Owner* magazine. The next several issues of the *Forest Owner*, especially in 2015, will be highlighting various aspects of forest regeneration or restoration. Do you have any experiences related to your efforts, successes, or failures with forest regeneration? If so, we would love to hear from you and any others that would be interested in being interviewed for the profile. If interested, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OwnerProfile> and we will be in touch. The time commitment is only about 30 minutes for the interview.

Even if you don't have any stories to tell about regeneration we are still interested in hearing from you if you would like to be profiled for the *Forest Owner*. Any questions? Please contact me at the number or e-mail below.

Jeff Joseph
529 Prospect Valley
Willseyville, NY 13864
(607) 659-5995
jeffjosephwoodworker@gmail.com



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Ask a Professional (continued)



Insects such as sugar maple borer, and many decay fungi, cause deformities in stems that weaken the stem and increase its susceptibility to breaking during wind or ice storms. While these stems may last many years, trees eventually fail, and have competed with potentially better trees during that time.



Damage at the base of a tree from old logging or firewood harvesting activity, or other mechanical injuries, may support decay organisms in the stem or the roots. Roots are hidden, but an essential part of a healthy tree.

often not as desirable as single stem trees, but other factors may warrant favoring a multiple stemmed tree.

The Roots – We can't see the roots, but we can look for symptoms that might indicate a compromised root system. A compromised root system is a predisposing stressing condition that would be compounded by subsequent stressors. Trees can usually manage single stressors, but multiple stressors often lead to significant reductions in growth or outright mortality. Indications that a root system might have been subjected to stress include scar tissue or a "cat face" at the ground level, a significantly flared butt of the stem, or a tree growing adjacent to a historic skid or tractor trail suggesting roots damaged by compaction. These historic wounds can be compartmentalized fairly well by some species such as sugar maple, but not well by species such as red maple, aspen, or beech. Compartmentalization slows the spread of decay into other parts of the tree.

Selecting acceptable trees worthy of an investment of sunlight will require some practice. Start with a written list of owner objectives, know what species are suited to your soils, and look for signs of healthy crowns, stems and roots. It is often more productive to focus on releasing desired trees from competition for sunlight than it is to cut all trees that lack desired qualities. 🌲

Response by: Peter J Smallidge, NY Extension Forester, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY. Pjs23@cornell.edu, 607/592-3640.



For information related to the Restore New York Woodlands Initiative, visit the NYFOA webpage at www.nyfoa.org Also, visit and 'like' RNYW on Facebook



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Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members (who joined since the publishing of the last issue) to NYFOA and thank them for their interest in, and support of, the organization:

Name	Chapter
Ken Balling	AFC
Jeremy Bean	LHC
Gary Blough	WFL
Karine Bouis-Towe	CDC
Marie DeRosa	WFL
Robert & Stella Dewey	AFC
Jason Dewey	SOT
David & Rosa Fox	WFL
Chad Harris	SOT
Richard and Helen Hart	WFL
Michael Kader	WFL
Christina Kolberg	WFL
Melissa Lapadula	SOT
Mark Lawn	AFC
David & Joann Minor	WFL
Thomas & Mehrnoush Minor	WFL
Paul & Judy Minor-Bennett	WFL
Michael & Sheila Mumford	WFL
Chet Opalka	CDC
Vic Ovale	NAC
Beaver Meadow Lake Club	SOT
Ron Van Wagenen	CNY
Dennis Walker	SFL
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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the January/February Issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

Deadline for material is December 1, 2014



Member Profile:

Jim and Barbara Minor

JEFF JOSEPH

Jim Minor is likely a familiar face to most NYFOA members, having served the organization in many capacities over the past 20 years, including most recently—and currently—as its president. Born and raised in Batavia, NY, Jim received a PhD in engineering from Brown University, and subsequently took a job as a mid-level manager at Kodak in Rochester (where he currently lives) from which he retired in the year 2000. His experience as a woodland owner began in 1994, when he and his wife Barbara purchased an undeveloped 211 acre property in Alpine, NY.

Having done some research into the settlement history of Schuyler County, Jim was able to determine that the property had originally been settled in 1840 (see photo) and was only farmed for approximately 50 years before the fields were abandoned and began to

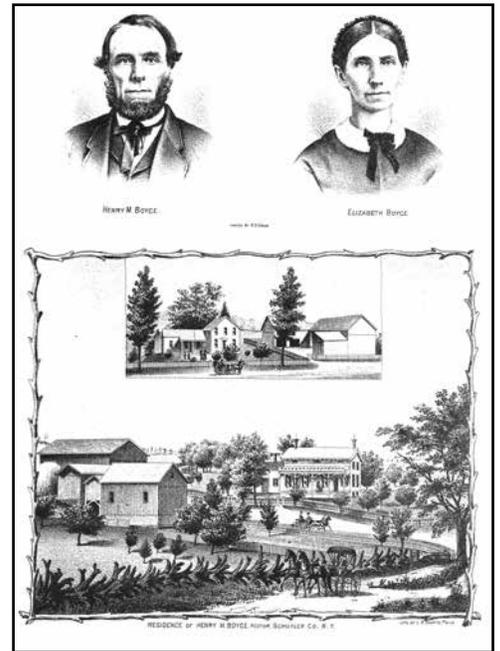
revert back to forest cover. Today the land is a patchwork of forest and fields, with approximately 60 acres being actively farmed by a neighbor. The forested portion of the acreage (approximately 50 acres) consists of a mix of hardwoods and white pine that unfortunately had been subject to high-grading prior to Jim and Barbara's tenure.

Like many new landowners, Jim recalls that he and Barbara started out with strong intentions of becoming good stewards of their land, but had very little practical knowledge of how to carry out that intention. In the process of seeking advice, they learned of NYFOA, and soon thereafter became members and began participating in Western Finger Lakes (WFL) chapter events. Encouraged to develop a management plan for their land, in 1996 they contacted forester Bruce Robinson, and with cost assistance from the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) program, worked jointly with him to determine their management objectives and wrote their Forest Stewardship Plan.

A strong early emphasis of their management plan was to enhance wildlife habitat on the property. In assessing their acreage from this standpoint, Bruce had noted that the land had limited water resources, and that nearly all of the cover was around the periphery, so early on they decided upon planting a centrally located 15 acre patch of Norway Spruce for cover, and constructed three ponds, two



Satellite view of the Minor's property showing the 15 fields, some of which are still actively farmed. 50 Acres of woods are on the periphery.



Henry and Elizabeth Boyce, original (1840) settlers of the Minor's farm property. Their home (below) and connecting roads were abandoned over 100 years ago." Source: "History of Schuyler County, New York, 1879.

directly adjacent to the spruce planting. Additional activities at this time included filling gaps in the hedgerows between fields to create contiguous cover and wildlife travel corridors, engaging in some timber stand improvement (TSI) to release promising red oak stems, as well as planting red oaks within the hedgerow corridors, as in addition to its value as a mast crop, this species was determined to be particularly well suited to the site. The management plan also included creating a trail system on the property.

Sadly, in 1999, Barbara was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, which necessitated an abrupt shift in priorities, as Jim became (and remains) her full-time caregiver. As a result the land received minimal attention until 2006, when some hunters inquired about the possibility of offering help with upkeep and improvement of the parcel in exchange for hunting access. As Jim had gained much experience in caring for Barbara by this time, it had also become feasible for him to again allot some time and energy toward actively managing their land.

continued on page 22



Mowing in progress as part of the field reclamation effort. Smith Valley, in distance to the north, is part of the St. Lawrence River watershed. Behind camera the field slopes to be part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Granddaughter Krista Kolberg trying out the new tractor.

Soon thereafter, he purchased an ATV and a 48" tow-behind mower, which allowed him an efficient means of mowing paths as well as simply traveling around and staying connected with the entirety of the property. He subsequently acquired a tractor and brush hog that have allowed for the restoration of the fields that had been overgrown with Multiflora rose, European buckthorn, and other common invasives. The fields are now managed on a 3-year rotation.

Another significant improvement occurred when Rick Hart, one of the hunters utilizing land, built a barn for the Minors on the property.

Other activities Jim has undertaken more recently include accurately surveying and marking the property boundaries, installing trail cameras, and initiating another Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) harvest. An unique objective of Jim's is to attempt to shift the pasture-woodlot edges from

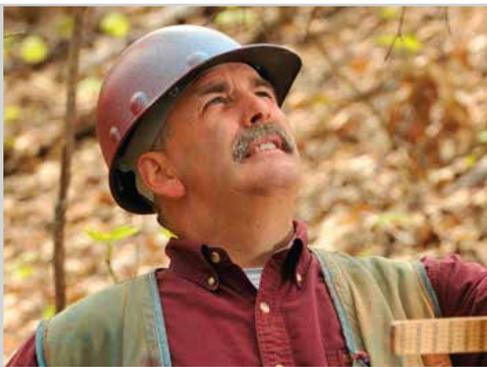
their current straight line borders to a more aesthetically pleasing and natural contour, utilizing the influence of landscape designer Frederick Law Olmstead.

As for Jim's relationship with NYFOA, I asked him to recount his contributions and received a very impressive list: two terms on NYFOA's board, from 1999-2001, and again from 2009 to the present; NYFOA vice president in 2001, and president from March 2011 to the present. Jim has also been very active in his chapter over the years (WFL), serving from 1995-98 as newsletter editor, and currently as newsletter publisher. Jim has also served as NYFOA's *de facto* webmaster for many years, and most recently has undertaken to scan and post the entire 50 year back catalog of the Forest Owner magazine on the website, a painstaking endeavor that is now nearly complete.

As of March 2015, Jim will have reached the limits of his terms both as president and board member. Thankfully, he plans to remain actively involved within his chapter and in the organization as a whole. When asked for his thoughts reflecting on his experiences as a woodland owner and NYFOA member, Jim offered the following: "Never stop learning. You never know what you don't know, or what problems, solutions, or possibilities there are until you dive in. NYFOA and especially the chapter events are a great resource for learning and sharing."

When asked for his vision of NYFOA's future, Jim stresses the ongoing and vital need for proactive, engaged volunteers at both the chapter and board levels, as well for continuing efforts toward reaching a much wider audience of forest owners, many of whom—much like himself and Barbara long ago—share NYFOA's aspirations toward stewardship of their woodlands, but may require assistance that we as NYFOA members are uniquely positioned to provide. 🌲

Jeff Joseph is co-chair of NYFOA's editorial committee.



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