

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2008

Volume 22, Number 1

Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer

Cornell University Cooperative Extension recommends these steps for private forest owners:

Work with professionals to evaluate your need and desire to manage the impact and extent of mortality associated with EAB relative to your ownership objectives. Your ownership objectives influence the following recommendations. Be calm and deliberate in your decision making.

If you actively participate in forest operations (e.g., cutting, skidding, etc.) use appropriate personal protective equipment and learn appropriate techniques such as directional felling.

Determine the current status of EAB in New York and identify any revisions to management recommendations. EAB status may change more than once each year. Consider geographic location and the need for timely actions.

Assess the abundance and age of ash in your forest.

Continued on Page 7.

The Emerald Ash Borer

On January 16th, 2008 WFL members were treated to the insights of Dr. Douglas Allen, forest entomologist at SUNY-ESF. He spoke about invasive insects of interest to forest owners. His article about sugar maple decline in the November/December 2007 issue of *The New York Forest Owner* is his 90th in a series of articles relating to the health of New York forests.

Invasive insects often arrive on our shores in wooden crates used for packaging. Dr. Allen believes some sort of fumigating program in the source country would help to alleviate the problem. However, many of our imported goods come from Asia, particularly China, and such a program has political implications so little to nothing is done. With invasives arriving almost daily, our future flora and fauna will have a different look.

When an invasive insect arrives in packaging material, it is rarely accompanied by its natural enemies. In the absence of natural predators and controls the invading insect gets a foot hold and goes about its business.

The current “hot button” invasive insect, at least in the northeast, is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Dr. Allen describes the adult as “... a beautiful bright green with a brassy to golden cast, slender and .4 to .7 of an inch long.” A lovely insect to look at but one that aggressively attacks healthy trees and has been identified near Pittsburgh and Toronto. It’s not yet known to be in New York although it’s probably impossible to keep out.

Continued on page 7.



An adult Emerald Ash Borer.

Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan SU

~ Upcoming Events ~

Woods Walk at Genesee County Park

October 4th, 2008

Peter Smallidge, New York State Extension Forester, has been conducting several research projects at the Genesee County Park. On October 4th we will have a woods walk there to learn about these projects and see some of the results. The projects involve testing flame-weeding and herbicide techniques to reduce undesirable vegetation in a woodlot. Dr. Smallidge and Genesee County Park Supervisor/Forester Paul Osborn will describe the techniques they have been studying, the results they have seen so far, and how these techniques might be applied to other woodlots.

Watch for complete details in upcoming newsletters.

Empire Farm and Field Days

August 5-7

Seneca Falls

For more info visit:

www.empirefarmdays.com



Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk

April 19th, 2008, 11am to 2pm

This will be the 6th Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow in East Springwater, New York. Chuck Winship will lead a visit to a 6 acre 4 year old hardwood plantation of intermixed sweet sugar maple and black cherry. Hardwood plantations can be difficult to establish, so first hand information on what works and what doesn't can be valuable and the cherry seem to be doing quite well! In addition, Pam Masterson will be the guide for a wildflower walk so we can learn to find some spring beauty in our woodlots. At the end of the tours we will serve pancakes for lunch with fresh syrup (donations are encouraged). We hope to see you again this year!

Directions to Sugarbush Hollow Sugar House:

- From the north or east take New York State Route 21 south through Naples, New York. Go one mile past North Cohocton, New York staying on Route 21. Turn Right on to County Route 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go six tenths of a mile and turn left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.
- From the west, south or south east take New York State Route 21 north from Interstate 86 (Route 17) through Wayland, New York. About 6 miles past Wayland turn left onto County Road 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go six tenths of a mile and turn left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

For more information contact Chuck Winship at 585 943 3475 or cew9@cornell.edu.

New York State Maple Weekend

March 29-30th, 10am-4pm daily

About 110 of the finest maple producers throughout New York State, from Buffalo to Albany, Rochester to Binghamton and Jamestown to Plattsburgh, will open their sugarhouses to demonstrate the making of maple products "from the tree to your table." The event is free to the public. Visitors can see all aspects of maple making, from the tapping of the trees to get the sap, to the boiling of the sap into syrup. Some producers will also demonstrate the making of maple syrup into other products including maple cream, maple cotton candy and maple sugar. Most sugarhouses will allow people to sample the products. Visit www.nysmaple.com/mapleweekend.html for more information.

~ Upcoming Events ~

Working Lands: an Agroforestry Sampler

Saturday April 12th, 9am - 6pm

Registration and exhibits begin at 8:30am.

135 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Learn how to:

- Combine trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock to diversify products, markets, and farm income;
- Improve soil and water quality while reducing erosion and non-point source pollution and enhancing wildlife habitats;
- Benefit from using multi-cropping, multi-story practices, including silvopasture, forest farming, riparian buffers, alley cropping, wind-breaks, and other agroforestry practices.

Who should attend:

Farmers, forest and land owners, fruit and nut growers, conservation, environmental and agricultural agencies, non-profits, and interested individuals will gain valuable information for enhancing land and water stewardship and increasing farm viability.

This workshop will provide an overview of agroforestry practices and also the Root Production Method as applied to agroforestry with specific case studies highlighting the environmental and economic benefits of agroforestry to the landowner or farmer. Agroforestry research from the Center of Agroforestry and others will provide updates on current findings and future research initiatives. Presentations and a tour of the Cornell MacDaniels Nut Grove will showcase the opportunities for forest farming in New York and the Northeast.

Dr. Harold "Gene" Garrett, Director, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA), and Wayne Lovelace, developer of the Root Production Method (RPM), and partner of RPM Ecosystems LLC, will offer their hands-on experiences and the latest research on a wide array of agroforestry practices.

Sponsored by RPM Ecosystems LLC, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, Cornell Agroforestry Resource Center, Cornell Agroforestry and Private Woodland Management Program Work Team, and the Cornell Ecoagriculture Working Group, Chemung Canal Trust Company, and the New York Forest Owners Association.

Registration: \$95; \$75 for additional participants from the same organization, farm, family, or agency. (Partial scholarships are available with application) Student registration: \$35

Registration includes workshop sessions, tour, morning & afternoon refreshments, lunch, conference packet and resource materials. For more info contact RPM Ecosystems at (607)844-9590 or info@rpmecosystems.com. Download registration forms at www.rpmecosystems.com.

WFL Chapter Meeting

Pond Maintenance for Homeowners

Wednesday, May 7th, 2008

8758 Main Street
Honeoye, NY 14471

This upcoming chapter meeting will be held at the United Church of Christ in Honeoye, New York. The church is located just west of the only stop light in Honeoye, and on the north side of route 20A. The program will begin at 7:30pm.

Bob Fahy, owner of Upstate Applications, Inc., in Wayland, New York, will discuss pond maintenance strategies. His company has provided advice to pond owners throughout western New York for the past twelve years. He will include information about biological and mechanical means for algae and weed control.

*Kieth Maynard
Program Director*

BOD Meeting

April 30th, 7pm

6274 East Avon-Lima Rd.
(Rts. 5 & 20)
Avon, New York

The WFL Chapter Board of Directors will meet at the NYSDEC A-frame. All are welcome to attend.

~ Upcoming Events ~

DEC Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale

Seedlings are available to citizens and free tree seedlings are available to schools.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) annual sale of tree and shrub seedlings is underway and will continue through May. DEC's Saratoga Nursery produces over 50 species of trees and shrubs, many native to New York, for planting on public and private land. The objective of the program is to provide low cost planting material to encourage landowners to enhance New York's environment for future generations. The minimum order for conifers and wildlife shrubs is 100, for hardwoods 25, and for container stock 50. Mixed packets of 30 - 100 wildlife shrubs are also available for homeowners to attract wildlife.

Species should be selected based on soil type at the planting site. Conifers transplant easily from the nursery to the field and require minimum care after planting. Hardwood varieties are more difficult to establish and require annual care after planting. Wildlife species such as witch hazel and red osier dogwood provide food and shelter for birds and mammals and make a good buffer between open and forested areas.

Landowners can get planting advice from their nearest DEC forestry office or private forestry consultant. The bulletin *Trees and Shrubs* is available from the nursery (518-581-1439) or any DEC office and contains helpful

information on tree planting and a list of available species and prices.

Schools across the state can receive free seedlings for spring planting through the program. The program provides 50 tree seedlings or a mixed packet of 30 wildlife shrubs to any school that would like to participate. The seedlings can be planted on school grounds or other community space. Teachers and students are encouraged to plan the project ahead of time by discussing the values trees contribute to the environment to determine the objectives of the planting such as erosion control, wildlife enhancement, windbreak and other conservation practices.

Planting 50 seedlings will require approximately 1,800 square feet, while the shrub planting will require about half that space.

A listing of available tree species and packets can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9391.html>

To order seedlings, call Saratoga Nursery Seedling Stock Ordering, weekdays between 8am and 4:30pm at (518) 587-1120. Call early for best selection. Mail orders are also accepted and can be sent to the Saratoga Tree Nursery, 2369 Route 50, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866. Orders may be placed through the month of April. Seedlings are shipped in mid April to mid May. For participating schools, orders must be received at the nursery by March 31. Schools should contact the Nursery, or the nearest DEC regional forestry office and request a School Seedling brochure that contains all the information necessary to place an order.

Tree Tubes for Sale

	Member Price	Non-Member Price
4 foot tube	\$3.80	\$4.30
4 foot tube with stake	4.35	4.85
5 foot tube	4.25	4.75
5 foot tube with stake	4.85	5.35

Contact:

Ron Reitz, *Treasurer*
 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater, NY 14560
 (585)367-2847 • rrrlpr@aol.com

Member Survey Results

I would like to thank everybody who responded to our recent survey. Special thanks go to those people who took the time to suggest topics we had not thought to list and to those who included other notes and suggestions. Between the returns from the last newsletter and the questionnaires filled out at meetings we received responses from more than 50 people, which is nearly 15% of our membership. If you did not fill out a survey it is not too late; send it along and I will incorporate it into the results. Or, as always, feel free to contact any board member – names and addresses are listed on the back of every newsletter – to talk about what we are doing, what we should be doing, or any other topics.

The basic structure of the chapter seems pretty sound. Most people like the newsletter, although we will try to incorporate some more specific how-to articles in the future. Most people want 3 or 4 meetings per year, as well as 3 or 4 woods walks. That is in line with our usual practice and so we probably won't make any major changes in that area.

The hands-down most popular topic was sustainable management practices, and in general people seemed more interested in conservation issues than commercial or income-producing topics. Also high on the list were topics related to property taxes and property rights.

We will keep these priorities in mind as we organize events in the coming months and years, with woods walks focusing on conservation and management for goals other than commercial timber production, and workshops highlighting sound forestry practices. We will also continue to be opportunistic in scheduling events; when a topic is readily accessible or a speaker is available we will consider including it in our schedule even if it is not something that was specifically indicated on the survey (see, for example, the October woods walk announcement on page 2).

Paradoxically, maple production was not a very highly-rated topic on the survey, but our annual woods walk at Chuck Winship's Sugar Bush Hollow consistently draws a large crowd. Perhaps the food might be at least part of the explanation for that; our members might be a lot more interested in eating maple syrup than in producing it. Finding and marking property boundaries was one of the popular survey items, and we hope to incorporate some information about that along with the pancakes at Chuck's woods walk in April (also on page 2).

The most popular topics on the survey were: sustainable practices and best management practices, Forester For a Day, property rights, property taxes, marking trees for thinning, boundary line determination, wild turkeys, timber sale contracts, tree tax, small scale timber operations, managing for (un)wanted wildlife, and white-tailed deer.

Mike Seager
Director

Welcome New Members

Todd & Pam Anderson
Naples, NY

John Colgan
Rochester, NY

John Dodge
Rochester, NY

Brian Doyle
North Rose, NY

James A. Felice
Rochester, NY

Corey Figueiredo
Naples, NY

Nathan Herendeen
Gasport, NY

Wolf Juekoff
Rexville, NY

Martin & Jayne Kresinske
Conesus, NY

Dan Lacy
Arkport, NY

Lawrence Letteney
Naples, NY

Gary Mattice
Avoca, NY

Edward McNey
Conesus, NY

Robert D. Robinson
Bath, NY

Robert Schenkel
Lima, NY

Mike Tierson
Ontario, NY

Richard Vance
Hilton, NY

Chuck Vandenberg
Victor, NY

Ruminations on Invasive Insects

The following thoughts were stimulated by hearing the comments of Dr. Douglas Allen at our January 16th general meeting. Dr. Allen believes invasive insects probably arrive via infected wooden crating used to package goods destined for our shores. He further states if the countries of origin would fumigate their crating materials our problem with invasive insects would be greatly reduced and perhaps go away. So simple.

Since Asia, particularly China, is often the source of our imports such a debugging program carries political overtones. So, little is done and our forests reap the whirlwind. Will the Emerald Ash Borer remove that tree from our forests? I suspect the answer is yes unless there is some silver bullet on the horizon that didn't materialize for the elm, beech or chestnut. I have a few ash in my small woodlot and I'm already starting to grieve for them. It's beautiful wood and has made us some very nice flooring. In my opinion, ash is under valued by the wood products industry.

Ash makes up nearly eight percent of all trees in New York State. It is estimated that over nine billion dollars is added to the state economy each year through all forest based activities. That's a nice chunk of change and removing ash from our forests will certainly have a negative impact on that number.

I wonder what would happen if we went after invading insect terrorists, if I may call them that, with the same fervor we devote to their human equivalent. Would it

not be better to combat the insect terrorists on their home turf as Dr. Allen suggests rather than fighting them after they arrive on ours? So simple.

The DEC recently announced formation of a new office that will coordinate efforts in the fight against invasive species. On February 11th The Nature Conservancy, with some assistance from NYFOA, approached our legislators in Albany to educate and inform them about invasive species and the need to eradicate them. Dr. Allen pointed out we have eradicated the Mediterranean Fruit Fly at least four times. Perhaps we need to redefine that word. As part of the February 11th effort in Albany a request was made for \$7,500,000 to help in the invasive fight. That's a lot of

money but pales when compared to our war on human terrorists.

So something is being done at our state level. But my ash trees will probably still be introduced to the "emerald beetle" at some point in time and what can be done to prevent it? Will the \$7.5 million, if awarded, spare my ash trees? I doubt it. Are we ignoring the philosophy that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? Probably.

The fight to get insect free imports, like any good rumble, needs a rallying cry. I propose, "If you don't comply, we won't buy". When all else fails withhold some money and you've got instant attention. I always did like the K.I.S.S. model of doing things.

*Dick Starr
Chairman*

DEC Forestry Staffing Update

Private landowners are often encouraged to call a DEC Forester for assistance in managing their property. The WFL NYFOA area has recently seen some changes in regards to state forestry staffing. The listing below will assist owners when contacting the NYSDEC.

- **General numbers:** Avon 585-226-2466, Bath 607-776-2165
- **Regional Forester - John Gibbs** Bath 607-776-2165x35
- **Service Forester Assignments:**
 - Jim Bagley - *Chemung, Yates & Schuyler* Bath 607-776-2165x26
 - Mark Gooding - *Wayne, Monroe, Orleans & Genesee* ... Avon 585-226-5466
 - Brice June - *Livingston, Ontario & Seneca* Avon 585-226-5330
 - Greg Muller - *Stueben* Bath 607-776-2165x31
(*GV Greenway and Wood Utilization & Marketing*)
- **State Lands staff** Bath 607-776-2165
 - Gretchen Cicora, Andrew Drake, Joel Fiske and Mark Keister

Emerald Ash Borer

Continued from cover page.

Probably entering the U.S. at Detroit, the EAB was first discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. It is now in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario and poised near the southwestern border of New York. Once confirmed, the usual approach is to fell, chip and burn all remains, including sawdust, to disrupt the life cycle. Dr. Allen stated millions of dollars have been spent in such a program in Toronto to try and contain



An adult Emerald Ash Borer.

and destroy the invader. Since gaining entry five years ago, it is estimated that 20,000,000 ash trees have died from the EAB. Mature larvae are about 1.5 inches in length and over winter beneath the bark in shallow chambers hollowed from the sapwood. They emerge as adult beetles from mid May through June. The exit hole has a decidedly “D” shaped profile of about 1/16th of an inch wide. After mating the female deposits eggs on bark surfaces and crevices. Once free of the egg, larvae chew through the bark and feed on tissues essential for transport of water and nutrients within the tree. In so doing they girdle the tree or branch and death results. Larger populations of larvae mean quicker death for the tree, typically 2 to 4 years.

Larval frass, a mixture of wood particles and fecal material, is not ejected from the larval gallery which can be fifteen inches long. Thus there is no external

evidence such as sawdust or wood chips that a healthy ash tree has a “worm” hiding beneath the bark that is eating its life blood.

The first evidence of trouble is discolored foliage and dead branches in the outer most margins of the crown. This is called crown die back. However, crown die back is also a symptom of ash decline, a common problem in New York forests. For crown die back to be the result of EAB infestation, there must be larval galleries beneath the bark and the characteristic “D” shaped exit holes of the adult beetle.

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Another adult Emerald Ash Borer.

Reviewed by Dick Starr

Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer

Continued from cover page.

Consult with a forester to learn how ash abundance in your woodlands, relative to other species, will be affected by the potential complete loss of ash.

In young forests or those that have low ash density, you could harvest or kill the ash that compete (shade) with other desired trees. This will retain some ash that are not competing and will ensure that a mixture of species is thriving in the event that EAB arrives and affects your forest.

In mature forests or those with high densities of ash, identify potential markets and harvest ash trees to capture current values. The arrival of EAB into NY will likely result in quarantines that restrict access to a variety of markets.

Call Before Your Cut: Consult with a forester, DEC or Cooperating Forester, prior to making decisions to cut or not to cut.

Membership Opportunity

The WFL Chapter Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to fill two positions on the board: Publicity Director, and Membership Coordinator. This is a great opportunity to get involved and help us reach out to other forest owners! For more info contact Dick Starr or any board member.



New York Forest Owners Association

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Terms run January to December, except Activity Directors are September to August

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The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the boys and girls of today. For information on becoming an NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.