

The Overstory

New York Forest Owners Association Southeastern Adirondack Chapter

Volume 26

Issue 1

Spring 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*William Bryant
Moriah, NY*

*Lou, Inger & Sven Curth
Lake Placid, NY*

*Evan Curtis
Albuquerque, NM*

*Bryan Curtis
Wilton, NY*

*Charles W. Fedler
Cambridge, NY*

*Randy Galusha
Athol, NY*

*Tom Hyde
Saranac Lake, NY*

*Brittany Hastings &
Erick Jenks
Salem, NY*

*Michael Pond
Saranac Lake, NY*

*Greg Way
Galway, NY*

INSIDE

- Protect water quality
- Spring tree sales
- Master Forest Owner Program
- Forestry links
- Letter from the Chair

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Dept.
of Environmental
Conservation

[www.dec.ny.gov/
lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

Getting the Bark Out

John Hastings 🌿 Photos courtesy John Hastings



The tanning industry relied heavily on the lumberjacks and woods workers who cut and hauled the bark and logs for the mill. Most lumberjacks were of French-Canadian ancestry, especially in the northern section of the county.

Felling and peeling of hemlock trees usually took place from late May through August, when the bark could be easily removed. At first, after peeling, the logs were left to rot in the woods. However, after 1850 they were hauled out of the woods and floated to the saw mills. The peeled bark was stacked in the fall, and then hauled to the tannery during the winter, when the lakes and ground were frozen and covered with snow, which allowed easier movement by sleds. William F. Fox

states in his History of the Lumber Industry on the State of New York that the best “axmen were detailed for the felling of the large hemlock. Others with their axes girdle the fallen tree trunks at intervals of four feet, and these followed by men with “spuds,” an iron tool with which they peel or pry loose the bark. The first “ring” at the base of the tree is taken off before the tree is felled: otherwise, the cutting of the stump would spoil this piece of bark (see photo). Another gang works as “swampers,” or in piling or ranking the bark ready for hauling. With the approach of autumn the sap ceases to flow; the bark consequently sticks to the tree, and the work of peeling is ended that year.” The men who peeled the bark from the trees would

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Protect Water Quality During Harvests

Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University 🌿 Photo courtesy David Stephens/Forestry Images

Harvesting wood from forests can produce poor water quality if not done correctly. In order to ensure that you protect water quality during harvests, you should follow the water quality Best Management Practices, or BMPs. Whether it is a really dry or wet season, BMPs are super important to both maintaining forest health and improving the quality of water downstream. The people and communities downstream from you will agree that water is one of the most important products your forest produces. Below I provide insights into how to think about harvesting practices that best preserve water quality.

Let me first start with some background information on forests and water. Forests provide the best water filter of any land use. That said, however, the cutting of a tree does not in itself cause erosion of soils. Rather, it is disturbance to soil that creates the potential for erosion. If soils are left exposed and unstable they can erode and cause water quality problems. Soil erosion also results in the loss of soil fertility and water holding capacity, both of which negatively affect forest productivity. BMPs are designed to avoid, control and slow water movement during forestry practices to minimize erosion.

Because most forest land disturbance happens during a harvest, it might help some forest owners to think about BMPs as they would occur sequentially during the harvest. Specifically, think about BMPs before harvest, during harvest, and after harvest.

Forests provide the best water filter of any land use.

The details of a sequential approach to BMPs are available at www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp. To assist you with BMPs for forestry activities, don't hesitate to contact your local office of the NYS DEC or discuss options with the forester who is supervising the harvest. Please note that at any one property, or during any one harvest, not all BMPs will be used.

Before a harvest, the activities that help protect water quality depend upon getting information and then making use of it. The tools for gathering information start with a pre-harvest checklist and include reviewing your forest management plan, reviewing drainage patterns on a topographic map and soil survey map, and including appropriate BMP clauses in the timber sale contract. Prior to harvest, it will be helpful to identify control points, or areas of special concern that require added attention or avoidance during the actual harvest. Examples of control points include stream crossings, abrupt changes in topography, large rock outcrops, and trails near water bodies.

Planning also has an economic benefit by allowing efficient and stable access to your woods. Although you may be eager to initiate the harvest, there are hidden costs to not pre-planning. These include skid trail locations that don't serve other property needs, added costs for equipment maintenance and repair, extra permitting fees, down-time during marginal weather, and added costs to restore poorly planned trails and roads following harvest.

During a harvest, the emphasis shifts to the golden rule of BMPs "controlling small amounts of slow moving water". The



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Getting the Bark Out, continued from page 1



The bark at the base of the tree is removed before the tree is felled.

pile the bark into one-half to two cord stacks at various locations throughout the woods.

The bark scattered throughout the woods had to be “ranked” out to the skidways which were located on the woods’ roads. From here it was hauled to the tannery. The bark was fitted snugly into stacks containing from two to forty cords. A “wood-shod” sled was made to draw the bark, which was about eight feet long, three feet wide, and drawn by one horse. Two men could rank out 10 – 15 cords per day.

Hauling was usually done on sleds which could haul one to four cords of bark. A typical day consisted of getting up around four in the morning, doing the chores, which included getting the team ready, and being ready by five. The men would usually get in the woods where the bark was, some 15 to 20 miles from home, around nine or ten. Loading of the sled would take about an hour and a half. During this time the teamster would feed his horse, as well as “get a bit” himself. This consisted of three to four slices of bread, and fat pork (raw or cooked, and often frozen)!

Sitting on top of the bark, the teamster headed for the tannery, arriving there around four in the afternoon or later. Here he would unload his bark and finally head for home. The trip might be over 30 miles long and result in a day’s wages of 75 cents.

MEMBER’S CORNER

Large Tree Burl

By Eric Lawson

Tree burls occur on trees

above and below the ground.

They are formed from a deformity on the tree caused by irregular branching, insect infestation or by convolutions in the tree’s growth pattern

such as a branch which turns back toward the main stem. Burls are usually covered by bark and often develop on one side of the tree stem, branch or root.

Recently I discovered an unusually large burl on a maple tree on land in Essex County. The burl completely encircles the main stem of the tree, a hard maple. It is 26 inches measured horizontally (parallel with the ground) and 22 inches measured vertically. Its size and the relative symmetry of the burl make it quite distinctive

We have been advised to allow the burl to cure slowly before cutting it, so in about one year we will cut the burl in half horizontally. Our hope is to use the two pieces to make matching end tables although we are aware of the possibility that once cut, we will find rot.



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 or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.

Coming Events...

March 28 & 29th

**SARATOGA
WOODWORKERS
SHOWCASE**

**Saratoga Springs City Center
10 am – 5pm**

*NYFOA booth co-staffed by
SAC and CDC*

**Tuesday, April 14th
SAC STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**CCE Office of Saratoga County
50 W. High Street, Ballston Spa
6:30pm**

All members are welcome!

June 6th

WOODSWALK

Uphill House

**978 Chestnut Hill Rd,
Cambridge, NY**

beginning at 9:30am

Brown bag lunch

July 21 – 26

**SARATOGA
COUNTY FAIR**

*If you would like to volunteer
to work the NYFOA SAC booth
please email Bill Burke at
liamsb46@gmail.com*

Protect Water Quality, continued from page 2

easiest way to accomplish this is to avoid concentrating water or allowing it to accelerate on hills and slopes. Erosion happens because water comes in contact with exposed mineral soil. Mineral soil will be exposed when logging equipment is used on any but frozen ground or ground covered with snow or slash, so precautions are warranted to offset the effects. By careful placement of skid and haul roads, the amount of water that gets onto a road is reduced. Also, the water that gets onto a well-planned road moves slowly, is quickly drained from the road and reduces the amount of soil it transports. During the harvest, think about water control at landings, on skid trails, where trails cross streams, where trails are near streams, and when adverse weather patterns arise. Timing is also a critical issue. Pay attention to the weather forecast and prepare in advance for major rain events. BMPs should also be implemented if timber harvesters will temporarily leave the site, or after completing a section of the harvest area.

If you pre-planned and monitored activity during the harvest, after the harvest your efforts will be straightforward. The

focus now is on putting to rest the disturbed soil to ensure that it doesn't erode in the future. Your sale contract should have stipulated the use of BMPs to accommodate the New York or local forest harvest BMP guidelines. Now is the time to install any water control structures along trails and roads that weren't put in as the logger progressed through the timber harvest area. Because some water control structures, such as water bars, are not appropriate during the harvest, have the logger working a large harvest complete a section and put it to rest before moving to the next section of the harvest. While you have equipment on site is the best time to get the work completed. A final step is to seed areas of exposed soil, although in many situations seeding isn't required to get plants established.

BMPs will require you to invest some time and money in activities you might not have initially considered. However, your long-term costs will be reduced, your impacts on the environment will be minimized, and you will be left with property that continues to provide personal, environmental, and financial benefits.

Annual Spring Tree Sales

Saratoga Tree Nursery-DEC Spring

Tree Sale: The Department of Environmental Conservation operates the State Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs, which produces tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on public and private lands. Native New York seed-sources are used when available. Trees can be ordered starting on January 2 thru mid May. For complete ordering information and a printable brochure go to the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html>

The County Soil & Water Conservation Districts also hold a spring tree sale in each county offering bare root seedlings. The 2015 Conservation Tree, Shrub and Plant Program order deadlines range from March 13th to April 6th, all orders are filled on a first come first serve basis.

Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District: The Fulton County SWCD deadline for tree orders is April 6th. To receive an order form contact their office at (518)762-0077 or you can email your request to Hollenbeck11@live.com.

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District: The Hamilton County SWCD deadline is March 25th, they are now accepting online orders. To place an order or print an order form, visit their website at www.hcswcd.com. Their office phone is (518) 548-3991.

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District: The Saratoga County SWCD deadline for tree and shrub orders is April 6th, an order form can be printed from their website <http://www.saratoga-countyny.gov/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district/>. You can also call their office at (518) 885-6900 or send an email to TreeandShrub@gmail.com.

Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District: The Warren County SWCD deadline is March 13th, which may have passed before you read this. If you

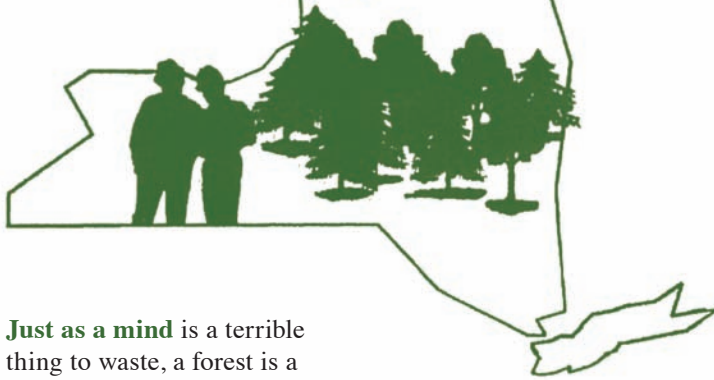
missed their deadline contact them to be added to their mailing, or email list for next year. Maybe you can place an order in your neighboring county. Contact information for Warren County SWCD is phone (518) 623-3119, email: Rhonda@nycap.rr.com, website: www.warrenswcd.org.

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District: The Washington County SWCD ordering deadline is March 25th, their order form can be printed from the website at <http://www.washingtoncountyswcd.org/treeandshrub.html>. You can also contact the office at (518) 692-9940, ext. 3 or send an email to lori.sheehan@ny.nacdnet.net.



Forestry Images/Rachel McCarthy/5458347

NY Master Forest Owner Program



Just as a mind is a terrible thing to waste, a forest is a terrible thing to squander! Over 13 million acres of woodland in NY State are privately owned by approximately 500,000 families. Just a fraction of those lands are purposefully managed despite the variety of educational programs and technical services available. The NY Master Forest Owner volunteer program provides free, on-site visits to private forest owners.

In effort to help forest owners develop their forest ownership objectives and find the assistance needed, the NY Master Forest Owner Program was established in 1991. Since then, over 400 volunteers have been trained through Cornell Cooperative Extension. These volunteers have collectively visited over 1,200 neighbors throughout the state. Currently, there are over 200 active volunteers across the state ready to provide encouragement and information to their forest owning neighbors.

These volunteers are available for a free, no-obligation visit to your woodlot to discuss whatever management concerns you have. They are not professional foresters, but most manage their own woodlots. Their experience, complemented by the 4-day training provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension, makes

them a valuable member of the community.

At the training workshop they participate in classroom and field exercises on topics such as timber and wildlife management, forest economics, forest ecology, communication techniques and a visit to a logging job and sawmill. In addition to the topics listed above, Master Forest Owners learn how forest-owner needs can be met with the assistance of public and private agencies and organizations, as well as the services of professional resource managers, such as foresters.

The NY Master Forest Owner Program is sponsored by: New York Forest Owner Association, Robert H. Wentorf Foundation, Inc., USDA Renewable Resources Extension Act, and Cornell Cooperative Extension with cooperation from NYS DEC's Division of Land and Forest.

If you, a friend or a neighbor have forest ownership questions and want to schedule a visit you can contact the Regional director, Laurel Gailor, at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, phone (518) 885-8995 or email lrg6@cornell.edu. Or contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office.



Restore New York WOODLANDS

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

“The Future of New York Forests at Risk - Working Toward a Comprehensive Solution”

Saturday, April 25, 2015
SUNY ESF Syracuse

Forests cover 63% of New York State's land area and provide critical environmental, economic and quality-of-life benefits to society. Most of our current forests are entering the final third of their natural life cycles but, in many parts of the state, are not regenerating the desirable tree species and native understory vegetation that will serve the needs of citizens, wildlife or the forest products industry in the future. Participants and speakers, through discussion and interaction, will assess the capacity of current knowledge, techniques and policies to assure the regeneration of native New York forests.

Who Should Attend?

Any business associated with the forest products industry, environmental organizations, land trusts, maple syrup producers, consulting foresters, farmers whose agricultural interests are impacted by deer, those who value healthy & diverse woodlands as bird and wildlife habitat, organizations interested in forest recreation, including hunting, businesses dependent on tourism, state, county and municipal park authorities, state legislators and the media.

Registration

Registration fee is \$15, which includes refreshments, lunch and handout materials.

- Register online by going to: www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/2015/nyfoa/
- To register by mail, send a check for \$15, payable to: SUNY Research Foundation and mail to: SUNY, ESF Outreach, Attn. Terry Webb, 1 Forestry Drive, 235 Gateway Center, Syracuse, NY 13210. Please include your name, affiliation and email address with the check.

For more a full schedule and more details:

http://www.nyfoa.org/time_sensitive/rnyw_symposium_flyer.pdf

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Life Is Where You Look

John R. Greenwood 🌿 Photos courtesy Caleb Slemmons/Forestry Images

As a leftover milkman, it's in my blood to be up early in the morning. On a recent morning in June 2009, the anniversary of my birth over a half century earlier, I decided to take an early morning walk as a gift to myself.

I have lived in Saratoga County all my life. I grew up in Greenfield Center, attended school in Saratoga Springs, and raised a family in Wilton. I have witnessed all the growth and development this area has experienced over the past few decades. In my little corner of the world on Waller Road in Wilton, I am surrounded by hundreds of homes where once there were forest, field, and farmland. In some ways that is sad, but it has been a great place to grow up with my family. We have nice people all around us. I have a good steady job close by. Saratoga Springs has a great school system. There are churches of all kinds, a wide variety of stores, and so much more. The history and quality of life this area provides are two of its finest components.

Well, as I took my birthday walk I also spent some time reflecting about life in general. What's in store for me? What's next on life's shopping list? As I came to the end of my road, where Waller meets Route #9, I stopped to listen to the chorus of songbirds and quiet that surrounded me in this now highly developed area. After all, it was 6am on a Sunday morning. It was then that I heard the most beautiful songbird singing high atop a light pole in a

nearby parking lot. I approached it slowly. I could not believe what I was hearing. The sounds were crisp and distinct, but rapidly changing, as if mechanical. Chirp, chirp, chirp, whistle, whistle, caw, caw, caw, the concert grew louder and more intriguing. Was that the sound of a kitten's meow? I swear I heard a cricket on top of that light pole. For a brief moment, I hear the cry of a seagull, but there are no seagulls in sight. One of the most amazing creatures I have ever experienced, the mockingbird, was providing this medley of animal and insect sounds. If you have never witnessed this display of talent, you will not believe your ears. My heart raced, I wanted to capture nature's personal birthday gift to me. No one would believe what I was listening to right smack dab in the middle of new homes, townhouses, and offices. We can despise or embrace technology and growth, but just as I was about to go down that path of longing for the good old days, I reached into my back pocket and pulled out life's most revered technological wonder, a cell phone. It was just a few days old and has more options than a new Toyota. As I researched its abilities, I remembered seeing an audio icon with the word recorder listed below it. Could I actually use this phone to tape record these sounds? Now, if I can just figure it out before the concert ends. With slightly more technological skill than a cement block, I was able to push record and taping began.

This feathered master of imitation, the mockingbird can recreate sounds that you cannot imagine. Here are just a few I was able to identify: robin, bullfrog, whip-poorwill, chipmunk, crow, nuthatch, and as I mentioned previously a kitten's meow. Just when I thought I had watched enough Animal Planet and National Geographic Channel to see and learn everything humanly possible about wildlife, it happened. I opened my birthday gift from above. The most amazing sound to ever echo through the treetops came from that little bird of black, grey, and white, a sound that will make any man, woman, or child stop dead in their tracks and listen, the piercing shrill of a modern day car alarm. I cannot replicate the sound with words but that mockingbird, the size of a quart of milk, blasted off a half dozen shrills and whistles unmistakably identified as a human manufactured car alarm, and I just recorded it on my cell phone.

There are many gifts in life; a beautiful wife, healthy warm-hearted sons, harvest moons, and Cape May sunsets, but this was something special. I have a newfound appreciation for technology and I have a new mantra for my second fifty, "Life is where you look."

RAPTOR FEST

March 28th & 29th

SEE exciting NEW Live Bird of Prey programs and "free-flight" demos starring some of our most majestic raptors! **LEARN** about endangered Short-eared Owls, threatened Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Snowy Owls, American Kestrels and many other owls, hawks and falcons!! **MEET** the raptors up close in the Exhibitor Barn where you can take pictures and talk to the educators. Learn more at <http://www.winterraptorfest.com/>



Forestry Images/Vern Wilkins/5458885

Reflections from the Chair

This winter has brought us a good amount of snow and sub-zero temperatures. However, the increasing sunlight every day is very encouraging. Soon we will be spending more time in our woods, tapping maple trees, beginning spring projects and looking for ways to replenish our wood piles. This hard work is very rewarding. Our forests are a great resource not only for ourselves but for the wildlife that share it with us.

Learning how to be better stewards of our forests is one of the most important benefits of NYFOA. Your membership not only helps keep you connected to your neighboring forest owners but to members across the state. We all have similar likes and concerns. We can learn from each other's experiences both good and not so good. Woods walks are a great way to meet members and share first hand their experiences and expertise. A schedule of the upcoming woods walks can be found in this issue. Our SAC newsletter *The Overstory* (one of the best around) as well as *The New York Forest Owner* publication are a wealth of information that keep us connected and always highlight interesting topics or people. I know I personally have learned many important aspects of being a forest owner through these interactions. This kind of experience cannot be found in any book. Archives of these publications as well as many other activities can be found on the NYFOA website, www.nyfoa.org.

Our annual meeting was held on January 31, 2015 at the Cran-

dall Public Library in Glens Falls, NY. After our business meeting and an enjoyable lunch at the Davidson Brothers Brewery we were pleased to host Dr. Paul Curtis from Cornell University. Dr. Curtis' presentation discussed how detrimental deer impacts on forest ecosystems are evident across a range of deer densities and forest habitats in New York State. This insightful presentation highlighted the growing population of white tailed deer and their effect on forest regeneration. Many thanks to Dr. Curtis for his presentation. We hope to be able to participate in his research in the future.

Elections were held at our annual meeting. Bob Manning was again re-elected as Treasurer, Bill Burke as Secretary and myself as chairman. We are still in need of a Vice-chairman. I encourage members to get involved to help set our course. New ideas and points of view are welcome. If you are interested please contact me or one of the officers.

As always if members have any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me. Our chapter is always looking to recruit new members. A good way to do this is to let your friends, neighbors and family members know the benefits of being a NYFOA member.

Sincerely!

Lou Inzinna



Thank you!

We would like to thank Braley and Noxon Hardware of Warrensburg, NY
for their generous donations to our chapter events.

This year's winner received a chain saw chain.

Thanks again for your continued support!

**New York Forest
Owners Association**



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Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Bill Burke

Treasurer: Bob Manning

**NYFOA/Southeastern
Adirondack Chapter**

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