

DESCRIPTION

Area was used for agriculture in the last 40 – 70 years for hay, crops, or pasture. There is a stone wall on its northern boundary. Some portions of this area contain thick stands of maple saplings measuring 1 – 4” (in diameter at breast height). The more mature portions have Scotch pine, red maple, and sugar maple pole-sized trees measuring 4 – 10” (in diameter at breast height). Scotch pine – unlike in the **WOOD PRODUCTS** use area – does not exhibit good form or healthy crown criteria. Deer browse is heavy due to (1) limited light conditions from crowded, young pole stands; & (2) the presence of unpalatable species such as fern and striped maple. Deer find these species either “bland” or nutritionally lacking, and leave them behind.

RECOMMENDED WOODLAND USE

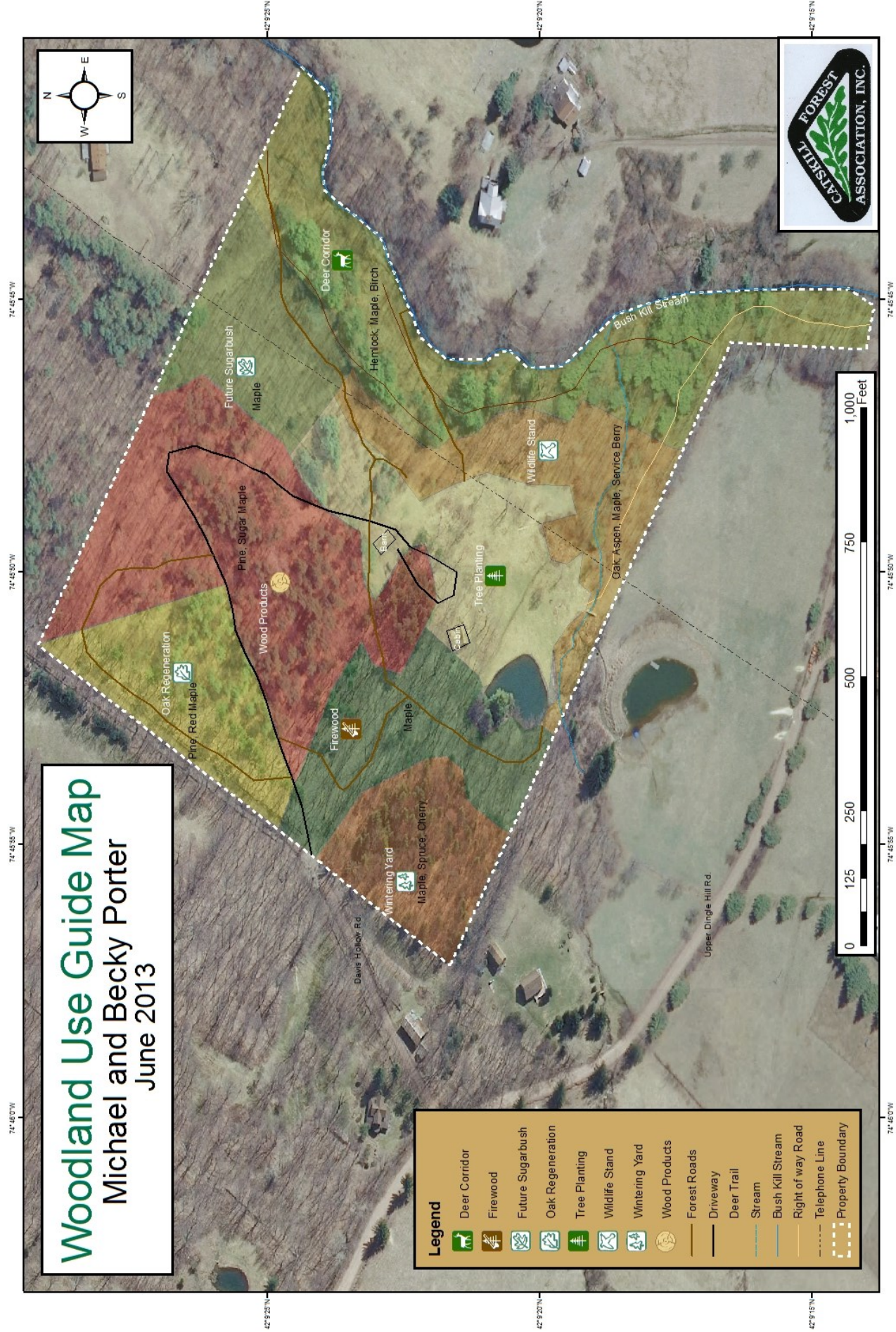
The recommended **WOODLAND USE** for this area is a **FUTURE SUGARBUSH**. Since Scotch pine does not exhibit good form, it and red maple can be girdled or felled in order to release healthy sugar maple. In the younger portions where cutting can be more tedious, simply remove any red maple and striped maple competing with sugar maple. The one disadvantage of having a sugarbush here will be transporting sap since it is located below the main access roads. However, this area does have the most sugar maple.



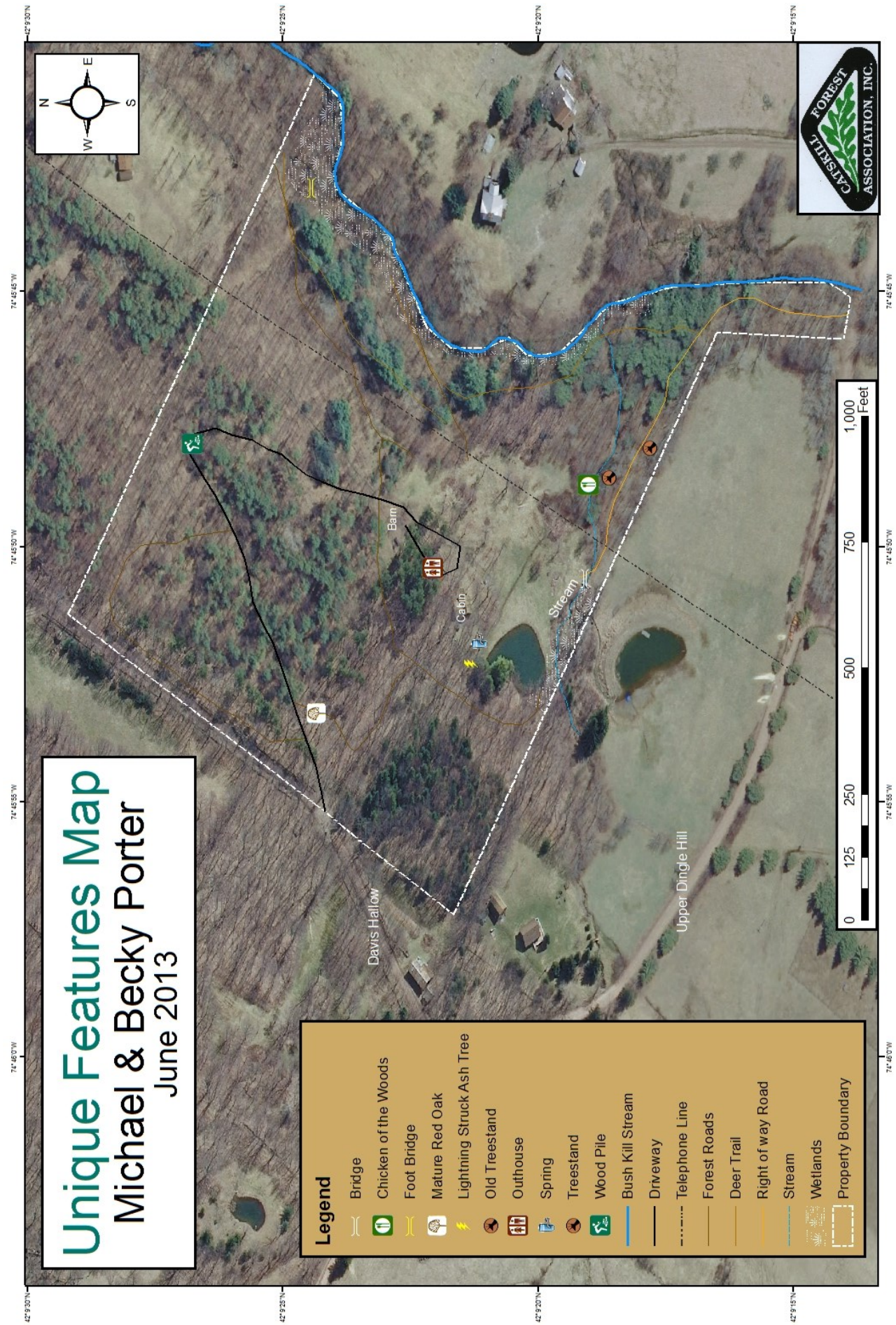
These two images show a stand of young sugar maple trees in this woodland use area near the telephone line. The healthier sugar maples should be released soon while they are vigorously competing for sunlight to enhance any possibility of a future sugarbush many years from now.



This is a map showing the woodland use areas on the property.



This is a map showing the unique features of the property.



This new program of CFA's will present small landowners with the existing land's qualities as well as its' potential attributes in a well written, professional manner. Maps will incorporate all features of interest on the property as well as pictures to apply visual representation to the features on the maps. **(see examples of the maps on pages 9 & 10)** With a completed guide, CFA can then give the landowner contacts of appropriate resources which the landowner can use to complete the woodland prescriptions described throughout the guide. CFA provides further advice after the guide is complete to all of its members, so the relationship between CFA and small landowners can continue for the entire duration that the client owns their property. CFA will gladly re-enter the property to mark trees that should be left or cut in order to meet the recommendations within the "Woodland Use Guide". This is a separate program that carries its own costs.

We hope that the availability of this type of product can allow smaller landowners to access forestry services specific to their management goals where previously they could not. Here at CFA, we would like to teach landowners about their essential role in the Catskill forest and help them to accomplish their management goals while also increase the overall use, value, productivity and health of the Catskill forest.

The Woodland Use Guide is now only available for properties 20 acres and smaller.

The follows cludes a year ship:



cost is as and in-free one-member-

Less than 10 acres = \$500
10 acres to 20 acres = \$650
Over 20 acres up to 30 acres = \$ 750

Call CFA at 845-586-3054, M-F, between 9am and 4pm to schedule the work!



CFA's Summer Intern,
John MacNaught

CFA hired an intern this summer to help develop the new **Woodlot Use Guide** project. (See description of this unfolded on pages 7 - 10 in this newsletter.)

John grew up in Delancy, Delaware County and attended Delhi Central School, where he was the Future Farmers of America Chapter President. He also took 11 credits of college level work at SUNY Delhi during his last two years of high school. He worked summers doing construction work and constructed a sugar house with the FFA. He volunteered at the Bovina Farm Day and Meredith Dairy Festival as well as the Ice Cream Run for Kid's Sake.

After graduating from Delhi Central School, he began coursework at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks. He expects to graduate in 2015 with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management with a Wildlife Concentration and two minors; one in biology and the other in Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

In the spring of 2012 John volunteered as an assistant biologist for the North Country Ecological Services performing endangered species surveys, wetland delineation and using GPS. During the summer of 2012 he was a nursery employee at Pinelands Nursery (One of the largest native plant nurseries in the US, supplying millions of plants for environmental restorations throughout the Mid-Atlantic States.)

He has 2 semesters in ArcGIS experience, many mechanical and small engine repair skills, operates machinery and has taken the Game of Logging Level 1 chainsaw training. Oh, did I mention that he has been intensely involved in a substantial sugar bush at the college and that he can't get enough of fishing and hunting?

Anyone see how he would make a good intern for CFA? His qualifications were ideal and he fits in well with the staff....I even think he might like us!

By: Jim Waters

CFA'S NEW WOODLAND USE GUIDE

Contributed by CFA's summer intern:
John MacNaught.

CFA's "Woodland Use Guide" is being developed by CFA in an effort to guide small landowners in developing their own management goals and implementing management activities to achieve those goals. The emphasis is on helping landowners to develop their own goals... not telling them what their goals are... and showing them the options that they have to accomplish this. Why did they obtain the property and how? What do they use it for now? How would they like to use it in the future?

CFA wants to connect people more closely with their woodlands so that they are being looked after – as opposed to being neglected. It is tremendously rewarding on many levels for a landowner to be involved in the molding of their ownership and the legacy that they will be leaving behind. Many things can be done to their woodland to change it....or maintain it.

The average parcel size in the Catskill Region is less than 17 acres. More than 2/3rds of the "Forest" is owned by small private, non-industrial landowners...we mean you! That's a big responsibility now that you think of it. Two thirds of the landscape is owned by those just like you...what we all look at...what many depend on for their livelihood... what we all depend on for forest products...and what is a tremendous economic engine and potential local source of green energy! Wow...what a burden and responsibility being put on you. But that is what life is all about.

This project is meant to be used as a management tool for the landowner that can be continuously referenced and is not just left on a shelf to collect dust. It is designed to present the landowner with all of their possible options on what they can do with their property, not what they should do. It incorporates a detailed outline of the property's environmental, educational, functional, and economic use values, as well as its cultural resources, recreational resources, terrain features, forest edibles, wildlife, maple syrup, and traditional timber inventories. It also contains several detailed maps and pictures to be used in conjunction with the plan to quickly and easily reference features within the property. It is designed so that it can be used to "show" the property to family, visitors or even for resale.

With this program and the helpful advice from the Catskill Forest Association, smaller wood-

lot owners can find a way to practically access forestry and land management services where primarily few existed before. It will be tailored to meet the individual landowner's goals and objectives in a simple and easily absorbed manner. It will ultimately fill a niche where characteristic forest management plans fall far short.

At the time of this article, CFA is doing a mock plan on board members' Mike and Becky Porter's 17 acre land parcel in the town of Andes. The Porters have a secluded log cabin and barn within the property constructed of timber harvested directly from the property. Because this type of guide was designed for helping the landowner achieve their personal management goals, an entire section of theirs' is devoted to promoting stand health improvement of pitch pine located on the property for further possible additions of buildings in the future.

This plan encompasses far more than direct timber harvest management goals. Mike and Becky enjoy making delicious maple syrup in the spring months, so we made sure to include in their use guide a section about a potential sugar bush on the property. The land holds a dense area of 2" to 4" diameter sugar maple saplings that would grow up to be a great sugar bush on the property in the future. We suggested thinning them now so the healthiest trees have a chance to be relieved of competition and grow into a well-developed sugar maple stand. If the Porter's land contained a potentially tapable sugar bush now, CFA would do an inventory of all of those trees and include in the guide how many trees could be tapped and what the economic value of a sugarbush that size would be.

These guides will include specific features within the property as a result of intense observation skills. Included will be wild forest edibles that are found on the property with both a picture of the edible, description of its uses, and a point on the map for visual reference to go find that forest edible. The same is done for all wildlife sign and structural features on the property as well. This includes old stone walls, foundations, bridges, and other unique features.

If wildlife habitat is a major aspect of the landowner's goals, a specific prescription will be described to teach the landowner how to selectively cut timber and provide habitat in order to attract certain wildlife species to their property. **(see example of this with a potential sugarbush on page 8)**

CFA's 3 wood stove
We made the switch to pellets.



year old
is for sale.

Vermont Castings "Encore"

Heating Capacity—Up to 1,800 sq. ft.

Max BTUs/hr—65,000

Burn Time—12 hrs

Log Size—22"

Ash Pan—Side-swing

Efficiency—78% at 1.5 g/hr (Non-Catalytic)

Rear interior casted heat baffle has a crack in it, but otherwise stove is fine. Come take a look at it on the porch of CFA's office. All accessories are included. (8" stove pipe)

\$600.00



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

CATSKILL
FOREST
FESTIVAL!



July 27th Catskill Forest Festival FREE ADMISSION!!

The 4th Annual celebration of our region's forests located at Margaretville Village Park Pavilion. Logging Competition, Arts & Crafts, Maple Products, Sawmill, Wood Products, Recreation Vendors, Forestry Equipment, Food & Beverage Tent, and Fun for the entire family.

August 3rd Ginseng Woodswalk

10am-12pm

American ginseng is revered throughout China for its medicinal attributes. Ginseng also grows throughout the Catskills, but oftentimes goes unnoticed. Come along and learn how to identify this long-lived herb in our own Catskill forest. **(CFA Members Free)** \$20 non-CFA members; sturdy shoes required. **Limit 20 participants;** Pre-registration required.

August 3rd Beginner Chainsaw Maintenance & Sharpening

2pm-4pm

Chainsaws are one of the most important woods tools one can own. Knowing how to properly maintain it, while keeping it sharp, not

only is safer, but will save you lots of money and make cutting more productive. Join CFA for a brief workshop on beginner chainsaw maintenance and sharpening. **(CFA Members Free)** \$10 non-CFA members; sturdy shoes required. **Limit 20 participants;** Pre-registration required.

August 17th Ginseng Woodswalk

10am-12pm

American ginseng is revered throughout China for its medicinal attributes. Ginseng also grows throughout the Catskills, but oftentimes goes unnoticed. Come along and learn how to identify this long-lived herb in our own Catskill forest. **(CFA Members Free)** \$20 non-CFA members; sturdy shoes required. **Limit 20 participants;** Pre-registration required.

September 14th Mushroom Woodswalk:

10am-12pm

Why buy Portobello mushrooms from the store when you can take a walk in the woods and pick your own for free? Learn about some of the easily identifiable & edible mushrooms found locally in our forests. Come prepared! We'll be walking in the woods. **Limit 20 participants. (CFA Members Free)** \$20 non-CFA members; sturdy shoes required.

Pre-registration required.

October 5th CFA's Annual Meeting

9:30am-3:30pm

@ Hanah Country Resort. Support the Catskill Forests & the work CFA does. An opportunity to exchange ideas with your peers, great conversation, lunch & auction! \$40 per person. **Pre-registration/pre-payment required;** all are welcome to attend.

October 12th Game of Logging Level 1

7:30am-5pm

Level 1 focuses on varying aspects of chainsaw safety and techniques for properly felling trees. Participants are introduced to open face felling, personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength.

Individuals will be responsible to provide their own chain saw, helmet, leather boots, chaps, safety glasses or face screen, ear muffs or plugs, and to dress for the weather. Participants should pack a brown bag lunch and enough water for the day. **CFA members pay \$135** & non CFA members pay \$150. **Pre-registration/pre-payment required.** Class is limited to 10 participants. For more information call CFA @ (845) 586-3054.

November 2nd Ties to the Land Workshop: Succession Planning for Forest Landowners

10am-3pm

Successful succession is a collaborative effort. Ties to the Land is a workshop committed to ensuring that the many individuals and associations that may be involved have access to the resources and support they need. The differences among family members in values, goals and lack of critical skills can lead to disaster. Ties to the Land provides the essential tools and resources that help woodland owners make the decisions necessary to achieve their objectives and pass their land to succeeding generations. Ties to the Land helps guide others through a successful land transfer. \$60/person includes lunch and workshop materials. Ulster County location to be determined. Pre-registration/pre-payment required. For more information call CFA @ (845) 586-3054 or e-mail: cfa@catskill.net.

ALSO BE SURE TO VISIT US AT SOME OF THE FESTIVALS WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN:

- * Catskill Forest Festival, Margaretville, July 27th
- * Margaretville Hospital Flea Market, Margaretville, Aug. 3rd
- * Blueberry Festival, Ellenville, Aug. 10th
- * Outdoor Festival, Margaretville, Aug. 24th
- * Cauliflower Festival, Margaretville, Sept. 28th
- *

Be sure to check the web site for changes and additions:

www.Catskillforest.org - events tab, then choose between festivals and workshops!

HOW THE CATSKILLS GOT SPRUCED UP!

by Michael Kudish



A red Spruce Forest. (Picture by Ryan Trapani)

“Spruced up” usually means made neat, clean, and tidy. But in this case, “spruced up” means how red spruce entered the Catskills after the Wisconsin ice sheet melted and helped create the landscape that we see today. If red spruce also made the Catskills look more neat, clean, and tidy, all the better.

I focus on red spruce (*Picea rubens*) only, not on any of the other spruces. Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) did migrate postglacially northward through the greater Catskills region; we know that because it left three or four extant populations behind in bogs. White spruce (*Picea glauca*) probably did migrate through, but left no trace behind and therefore we cannot be certain; it is commonly used as an ornamental and in plantations. Blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) has been imported by people from the Rocky Mountains and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) from northern Europe, beginning largely in the late nineteenth century.

The present distribution of red spruce (see map on pg. 13)

Red spruce’s present distribution in the Catskills is similar to that of balsam fir, but there are some distinct differences. The postglacial migration of red spruce into the Catskills generally resembles that of balsam fir, but there are again some salient differences (See “How the Catskills Obtained a Fir Coat” in the fall-winter 2012-2013 issue of *CFA News*, pages 12 through 14, for some detail on the present distribution of balsam fir and a hypothesis on how it entered the region).

Red spruce is most abundant in the eastern Catskills – from the Peekamoose region northward over Wittenberg Mountain, and also in Greene County on the Indian Head, Hunter, and Blackhead Mountain Ranges. I call these populations the “Spruce East Pathway” for reasons explained later.

Red spruce occurs also in the far western Catskills, mainly on the plateau between the West Branch Delaware and the Susquehanna Rivers. Here, this conifer is found not only in swamps and bogs, but also on well-drained sites, and even on abandoned farms in the towns of Harpersfield, Jefferson, and Summit. I call these populations the “Spruce West Pathway”, also for reasons explained later.

In between the Spruce East Pathway and the Spruce West Pathway is a spruce-less region, the watershed of the East Branch Delaware River. Hikers who know the Halcott-Vly-Bearpen Range, the ridgelines between the East and West branches of the Delaware (such as Plattekill, Pisgah, and Utsayantha Mountains), and the Dry Brook Ridge-Mill Brook Ridge-Beaverkill Range know that red spruce is nowhere to be found. I call this region the “Delaware Spruce Gap”.

The most likely postglacial migration routes into the Catskills (see map on pg. 13)

Like balsam fir, red spruce most probably entered the Catskills from the Poconos. Here, in northeastern Pennsylvania, the red spruce population may have divided into two streams in its march north, following the retreating Wisconsin ice sheet by about a millennium. One stream turned northeastward and crossed the Delaware River into what is now Sullivan County, New York. These spruces marched on farther to later form the East Pathway.



Red Spruce Cones (Picture by Ryan Trapani)

early) in order to provide more sunlight for the runty ones as well as the weeds. In this way, overall forest health would be reduced by this cutting, instead of enhanced.

Third, the “weeds” that would be left behind would also happen to provide far less benefit for wildlife. High quality oak trees were being marked for cutting, while trees like red maple which provide few food resources were left untouched. Oak trees provide an extremely valuable food resource for a plethora of wildlife in the form of acorns. Acorns serve as an extremely important nutrient storage for wildlife overwintering.

Fourth was that removing the marked trees paid little attention to future forest regeneration and diversity. Oak trees are already becoming scarcer in the Catskills. Like tomatoes, they require more sunlight than the surrounding “weeds” to gain a competitive advantage. Removing the best quality oaks obviously reduces the oak population. However, what really is reducing the overall oak population throughout the Catskills is the general manner in which many of our woodlands are being cut. This is where we once again pick up the chainsaw and get ready to add sunlight. The aforementioned marking did not cut heavily enough to perpetuate oak into the next generation. Even if all trees that had been marked were removed, sunlight conditions would not be sunny enough for younger oak trees to compete with shade-tolerant species like maple and hemlock. Therefore, high-grading not only removes the best quality oak trees, but also reduces the chances of oak seedlings from being established in the future forest.

The underlying theme is that cutting trees can be a good or a bad thing, but there can be many shades



of gray in between. CFA can help make a decision for the landowner who ultimately is the chief decision-maker since they own the land and pay the taxes. It is our responsibility and within our mission to make the landowner aware of which trees should be cut, and which should be left behind, which will greatly influence the track their woodland takes for the present and into the future.

In this case, the landowner did not choose a track where immediate income would have been realized, at the expense of the health of their woodland for decades. Instead they decided to forego cutting for now and allow for more growth. CFA further recommends that

most of the marked trees be saved, while **most** of the “weeds” be cut. The forest will be healthier, and future income should be greater as well. Just like any business, investments must be made for future growth. Ultimately, it is the landowner who decides which action should be taken. If you’ve got questions, contact CFA.

www.catskillforest.org

A New Deer Tick Borne Disease!

From: NEW YORK (CBSNewYork) — A new disease spread by deer ticks has already infected 100,000 New Yorkers since the state first started keeping track. As CBS 2’s Dr. Max Gomez reported, the deer tick-borne illness resembles Lyme disease, but is a different malady altogether – and it could be even worse.

The common deer tick is capable of spreading dangerous germs into the human bloodstream with its bite. However, Lyme disease is one of many diseases that ticks carry.

New York State Tick ID Card

Lone star tick–<i>Amblyomma americanum</i> Associated with human monocytic ehrlichiosis (HME).	
Deer tick/Black-legged tick–<i>Ixodes scapularis</i> Associated with Lyme disease, babesiosis, human granulocytic ehrlichiosis (HGE).	
American dog tick–<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> Associated with Rocky Mountain spotted fever.	
Woodchuck tick–<i>Ixodes cookei</i> Associated with Powassan encephalitis.	

Actual tick sizes shown above

Engorged tick

The latest disease is related to Lyme, and an infected person will suffer similar symptoms. “Patients with this illness will develop, perhaps, fever, headache, flu-like symptoms, muscle pains – so they’ll have typical Lyme-like flu symptoms in the spring, summer, early fall,” said Dr. Brian Fallon of Columbia University. “But most of them will not develop the typical rash that you see with Lyme disease.” Fallon, a renowned expert on Lyme disease at the New York Psychiatric Institute, said the importance of the new bacterium – called *Borrelia miyamotoi* – is

that it might explain cases of what looked like chronic Lyme disease, but did not test positive for Lyme. “The problem is that the diagnosis is going to be missed, because doctors aren’t going to think about *Borrelia miyamotoi* because they don’t know about it. And number two, if they test for Lyme disease, it will test negative, and the rash won’t be there,” Fallon said. “So they are not going to treat with the antibiotics, so the patient will have an infection staying in their system longer than it should.

While there is no test yet for the germ, the good news is that it appears the same antibiotic that kills Lyme disease also works – if it is given in the right doses and started early in the infection.

Remember, it takes a tick bite to get Lyme disease or the new bug, and the tick usually has to feed on your blood for at least 24 hours. If you have been outdoors, have someone else do a full body check, Gomez advised. Ticks are small – only about the size of a sesame seed.

(Editor’s note: Please do not let this inhibit you or yours from being out side .. The benefits of being out there far outweigh the risks!) aware of when you are out and about, but even more-so don’t stay inside!

To Cut or not to Cut – That is the Question

By: Ryan Trapani (pictures by Richard Cohen)



Jim, Ryan and John on an "On Site Visit"

hired a private Consulting Forester to mark the trees on over 300 acres for a timber harvest. Fortunately, the landowner wanted another opinion and called CFA. After walking the marked area, it was clear that the majority of trees marked for harvest were those that were the fastest growing, highest quality, and most economically valuable.

There were a few significant problems with the marking CFA witnessed that day. First, many of these trees had not reached economic maturity. Think back to the vegetable garden; a tomato is picked when one usually believes it is at its greatest size and where quality is not compromised. If these trees were cut presently, they would be picked too early and the opportunity cost would be the foregone economic value they could have gained had they grown in diameter. A larger tree is simply worth a lot more than a smaller one, assuming good quality and that it is a desirable species.

Second, the trees left behind were mostly the same age as the trees being cut. The difference was that the unmarked ones were the poorest quality trees. Adding sunlight to these trees would provide little benefit and would be akin to picking your best tomatoes (too

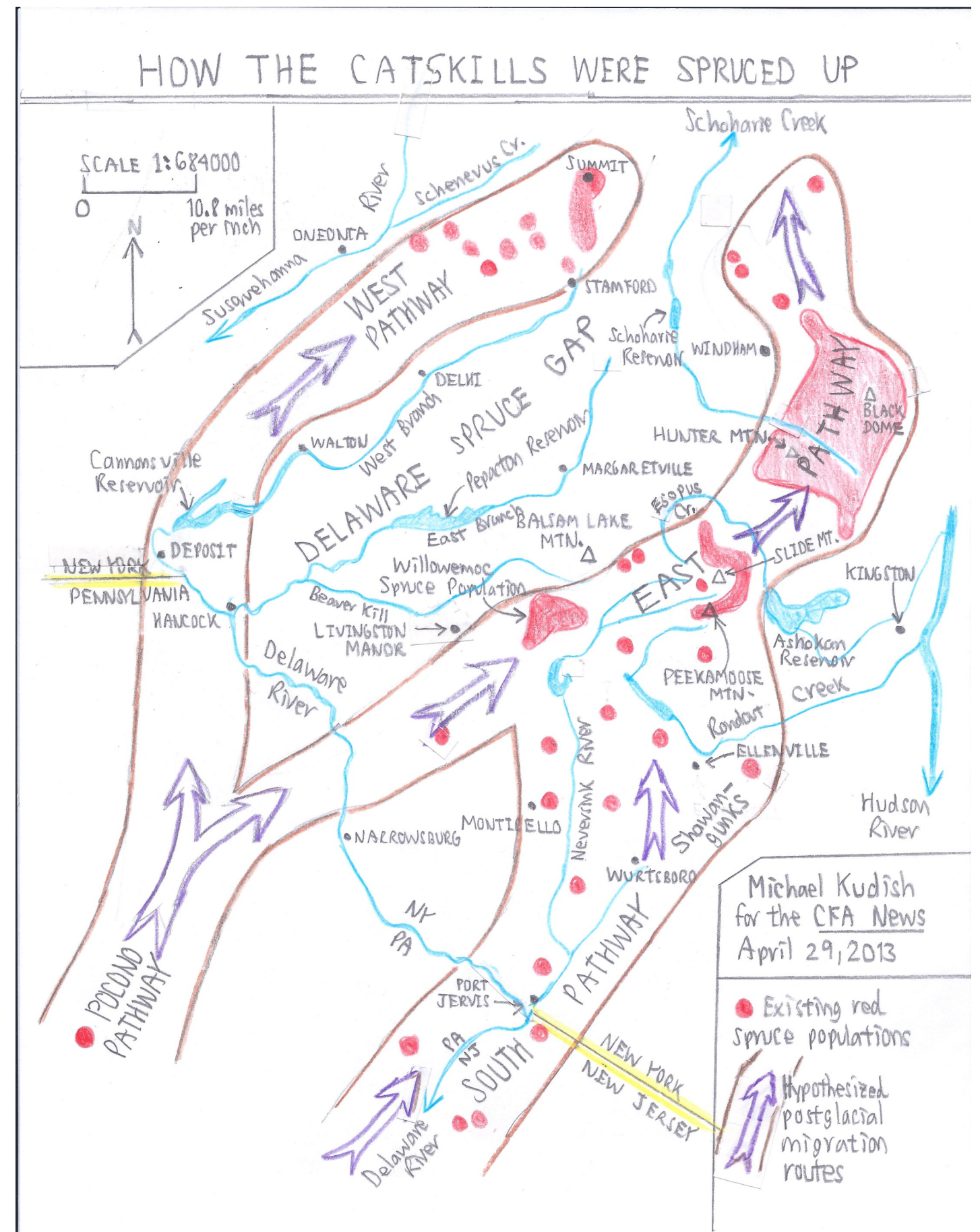


On this same visit near Woodstock we were able to observe severely infected white ash trees. After seeing the white sluffed-off bark indicative of woodpeckers feeding on Emerald Ash Borers, scraping the bark uncovered the borer's distinctive "S"-shaped, eighth-inch wide galleries.

The Catskill Forest Association (CFA) professes about cutting "the right trees" in order to create a healthier Catskills forest. CFA works mostly with private landowners in the Catskill Region since they own the majority of its forested acreage. One of CFA's services it provides is an **On-Site Visit** whereupon a landowner is inquiring about their woodland and how it can be improved. After this initial consultation, a landowner is often amazed at how many trees require cutting in order to meet a variety of potential management goals – wildlife habitat enhancement; biodiversity; health; timber; maple sugaring; and more. "I had no idea how much cutting is required," said one landowner. "I thought you guys were supposed to be tree huggers," said another. I often reply using an analogy to their vegetable garden, "Have you ever tried growing tomatoes in the shade?" At CFA, we like growing all types of woodland plant species – old, young, and species that also require plenty of sunlight. In order to provide the added sunlight, a human hand is often required. This is where the chainsaw enters the conversation.

Although most dialogs during and after a consultation, include cutting more trees, not all do. Sometimes, CFA stretches its arms out widely and fulfills its presumed role as tree-hugger. Part of CFA's mission is to improve the health of the forest, and prevent threats to the forest ecosystem – especially "high-grading." "High-grading" is the practice of removing most of the largest and fastest growing trees of the most valuable commercial species in order to meet short-term economic goals. This results in total disregard for the long-term viability of the forest stand or providing for future income and regeneration.

Recently, CFA performed an **On-Site Visit** at a member's property in Ulster County. The landowner had



How do we know? Look at the valleys of Willowemoc Creek and its tributaries, the Little Beaverkill and Fir Brook. Red spruce is abundant today in these watersheds, as relicts left behind as the conifer marched toward the Peekamoose region. Today, hunters know that an animal has passed before them by evidence left behind such as footprints in the snow and droppings; forest historians know that a tree or other plant species has passed before them by evidence left behind such as existing relict populations and fossil remains in peat bogs. The oldest red spruce fossils that I have found to date are 13800 years in Basily Road Bog in the Willowemoc watershed.

From the Poconos, the other spruce stream probably marched northward, crossing the Delaware River between what is now Hancock and Deposit, eventually forming the West Pathway populations in northern Delaware and southwestern Schoharie Counties.

The major difference between the red spruce and balsam fir migrations into the Catskills is that the fir entered from only the Poconos. The spruce entered not only from the Poconos, but from the south as well. A third stream of spruce followed the Kittatinny Ridge northward in New Jersey, marched through the Shawangunks, and entered into what is now adjacent southeastern Sullivan County. How do we know? In Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park in New Jersey, around Lake Awosting in the Shawangunks, and in several sites in southeastern Sullivan County there are existing stands of red spruce that were cut off from the main population and left behind. These small stands are mainly confined to swamps and bogs, where repeated burns for millennia by Native American peoples could not occur. The northern hardwoods forest in these regions were eventually replaced by oaks-chestnut-hickories-pitch pine-mountain laurel, but the wetlands could not burn and maintained their post-glacial forests including the spruce.

The Delaware Spruce Gap is a puzzle. Not only is red spruce absent from the East Branch Delaware watershed today, but it has always been absent postglacially. I have not yet found a single red spruce fossil (needle, wood, twig, bark, cone, etc.) from any of almost two dozen bogs and fens sampled in this watershed. For decades, I had assumed that red spruce had once lived here but had somehow disappeared.... Not so. It was never here to begin with. Why it skipped migrating up the East Branch Delaware valley and onto its surrounding ridgelines I have not yet been able to determine. Do any CFA members know why?

In contrast to spruce, recall that balsam fir, as



Red Spruce Needles (Picture by Ryan Trapani)

determined by a fossil from each of only three bogs, was still present in the East Branch watershed between 11300 to 8250 years ago. However, it was very rare, and is totally absent today.

On to New England and the Adirondacks?

My guess is that the East Pathway red spruce population continued marching northeastward across the Hudson Valley to eventually form the populations in northern New England. The West Pathway populations continued marching northward across the Mohawk Valley to invade the Adirondacks. But red spruce is not found in the Hudson or Mohawk Valleys today. Why? I suspect that millennia of repeated burns by Native American peoples eliminated the spruce, a conifer incapable of sprouting after forest fires. What do you suspect?

Further reading:

For essays on the identification, ecology, and uses of red spruce, see articles in *Kaatskill Life* magazine written by two Catskill Forest Association educators: former educator Tom Foulkrod in Spring 2003, page 66, and present educator Ryan Trapani in Winter 2011-2013, pages 76-79.



“LIKE” [Catskill Forest Association](#) on Facebook!



We’ve also set up a Vimeo account where we post videos for you to enjoy. ([vimeo.com/channels/fromtheforest](#)) — no spaces!

Also check out the

[www.watershedpost.com](#) site, click on “sponsored content”, then “From the Forest”.

- Charles N. Johnston – Roscoe
- James Kelly - Halcottsville
- John Khanjian - Andes
- Robert Lidsky - Andes
- Juergen Mahler - Andes
- Judd Maze - Andes
- Malcolm Mercer – Fairfax VA
- John Michelotti – Greenwich CT
- Neversink Assoc - Claryville
- Paul Ohsberg - Margaretville
- Guido Pantaleoni - Neversink
- John & Thalia Pryor – Needham MA
- Ann Roberti - Andes
- Peter Schein - NYC
- Johannes P.Von Schoenborn - Delancey
- John J. Wadlin - Big Indian
- Winnisook Inc. - Schenectady
- Peter Wisniewski - NYC
- Wood Robert - Oswego
- Shuji Yagi - NYC

June

- Thomas Losavio – Andes
- Chris Rober – Mamakating
- Ryan & Sara Trapani – Olivebridge
- Lisa Miller - PA
- Peter Kellogg – NYC
- Jerry Huncusky – Claryville
- David Grossman – Fleischmanns
- Leonard Glassman – Delhi
- Donald Christ – Westkill
- Turkey Ridge Assoc. – Briarcliff
- Sue Van Debovenkamp, Estate – NYC
- Eric Wedemeyer – Margaretville

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

First, something that I want to clear up is the connection between the Catskill Landowners Association and CFA. I had told you in the last newsletter that CLA was disbanding. CLA is really just going into an inactive state...or for you animal enthusiasts out there, hibernating. Their dues have all been paid for by some of the remaining funds in their account. CLA will still remain incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit and their board will remain intact. And...as you can see from the long list of new CFA members that this has bolstered CFA’s membership greatly. We have had a lot of interest from those CLA members for On-Site-Visits and Tree Marking. I am excited about working with CLA into the future on many levels.

This summer is a very busy one for CFA as you can see throughout this newsletter. Aware of this, we decided to hire an intern to help out and this has worked out extremely well. (see introduction to John MacNaught on page 7)

Ryan and John have been working feverishly to get CFA’s Woodland Use Guide up & running...and they are almost completed with it. They have been working on a Board Member’s property that is 17 acres and fairly close by. (It pays to come to an annual meeting—they gained this opportunity there.) John has helped out tremendously with his knowledge of GIS and mapping. The product is exactly what we had in mind and is definitely a “one-of-a-kind”. Ryan and John have done an absolutely stupendous job with this! (read all about it on pages 6—10)

CFA is continuing to push the idea of using woody biomass for heating large buildings and even community heating districts. The district heating project that CFA initiated in Fleischmanns is now ending the feasibility study phase. It will be finished off with a bus



Listen to “From the Forest”, Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 7 pm with Jim & Ryan. Streaming on the Internet — go to: [wioxradio.org](#).

In an effort to broaden our membership rolls and increase awareness, CFA is offering an incentive to existing members to recruit new members. Because each of us know other landowners with forested acreage or who have other interests, this is a good opportunity to recruit a new member.

CFA offers so many services and opportunities that it seems logical to encourage new membership. In addition to being part of an organization that promotes long term forest health and vitality there are many other reasons to join; onsite visits, marking for timber and firewood harvests, educational programs, the Forest Festival (held this year on July 27), “From The Forest” airing weekly at 6 PM on WIOX radio.org or FM 93.1 or Channel 20 on MTC cable, and many other educational workshops.

As an incentive to our members, CFA will give a CFA ball cap to anyone successfully recruiting a new member. Anyone reaching a friend or neighbor with acreage may contact the CFA office to receive a registration package. Upon submission of the package to CFA offices, a neat ball cap will be sent to the successful member.



tour of a facilities currently being operated. We are making a professional video of this tour along with interviews. This film will be used to bring those that can’t be on the tour up to speed as well as for other communities in furthering our efforts. We have an abundance of low grade trees that landowners have no market for in this region. Having a market for undesirable trees would provide landowners with the opportunity to perform the huge backlog of work, removing the undesirable trees in some cases and in others to regenerate a stand.

Utilizing local biomass would also put lots of local people to work (circulating their dollars locally), save tremendously on energy costs and provide clean energy that we can depend on because we are in direct control of it. Prices of wood chips and pellets are not near as volatile as the fossil fuels.

We’re also preparing for the Catskill Forest Festival which has been steadily growing. We’re looking forward to seeing a lot of you there as well as your friends, family and neighbors! It’s a really great time and is getting better and better every year.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer and that we get a chance to see you and help you. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CALL US WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TREES, PROPERTY, OR ANYTHING ELSE!

Naturally, *Jim Waters*



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Subscriptions: *CFA News* is mailed quarterly to members of the Catskill Forest Association. If you are interested in joining CFA, give us a call, visit our office or fill out and mail in the form on the back cover of this publication. Contact information is located above. Please submit address changes to Michele at the address above.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

For a CURRENT listing of CFA's
EVENTS you must visit CFA's Website!
www.catskillforest.org

Cover Photo:

*Beaver activity in Kelly Hollow in the Catskills,
Mill Brook Rd., border of Delaware and Ulster
Counties. (Photos by Ryan Trapani)*

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Welcome New Members!!!

2013

February

Jody Condon – Margaretville
Ingrid Van Der Leeden & Sakis Boghjalian - Margaretville

March

Mark & Marse Gatof - Glen Spey
Carol Ann & Leo Siemion – Summit
William Wunder – Margaretville
Beaver Meadow Lake Club – Hancock/Tompkins
Kim Fallen – Prattsville
Don Farley – Bovina
Malcolm Mercer – Livingston Manor

April

Michael Woessner – Delhi
Paul Metzger – Claryville
Brian Foster – Walton (Watershed Post tree ID winner)
Glenda Brown – Tivoli (Watershed Post tree ID winner)
New York Farm Viability Institute – Syracuse
Stanley & Adele Siegel – Halcott Center
Emily Rosenthal – Jackson Heights

May

Walrus Properties – Woodstock
Dawn & Dan Jaquish – Fleischmanns
Heather Rolland – Bovina

CLA members that were not active CFA members:

Giacomo Barbieri - NYC
Charles Bonnes - Andes
Markley Boyer – Preston Hollow
Mitchell Brock – Boca Granda, FL
Amarae Brockway - Margaretville
Sherrett Chase - Shokan
Karl Connell - Claryville
James Cruickshank - NYC
John S.Ferguson – Vero Beach FL
Fly Fishers Club of Brooklyn - Ridgefield CT
Paul Guenther - Grahamsville
Richard Hess – Pittstown NJ
Rudd Hubbell - Margaretville

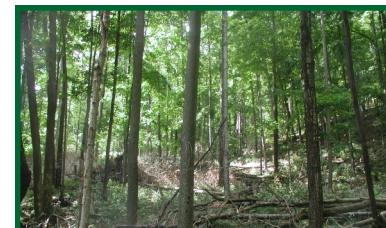
CFA Tree Marking Program!

This is a great way to get an area marked that will provide you and others with firewood as well as improve the health of your forest. You are welcome to join us during the marking to learn how to do it yourself. This could save you money down the road as it will sharpen your understanding of forest management and you will be developing your own tree selection skills. Thinning out the forest will make it more resistant to insects and disease, a better water filter, better wildlife habitat and increase the value of the timber.

WE MARK ALL YEAR-ROUND!!!

DETAILS:

1. You must be a CFA member.
2. AN "ON-SITE-VISIT" FEE OF \$200 (INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR ONE YEAR) PLUS MILEAGE will be charged for selecting, designating on the ground the area to be marked, and determining the acreage to be included.
3. After reviewing the forest management plan (if there is one) and taking into account the landowner(s)' objectives, a prescription for that stand will be recommended by the representative and the marking guidelines agreed upon by both the representative, the landowner(s)' forester (if there is one) and the landowner.
4. A maximum of 10 acres will be marked for each landowner in any one calendar year.
5. A FEE OF \$100 PER ACRE WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE MARKING.
6. The trees marked will be the trees that are considered "crop" trees (These are the trees that are the "keepers".) They will be marked by tree-marking paint at or just below eye height, most of the way around the bole of the tree, and on the stump.
7. It will then be up to the landowner to remove or kill all of the trees without paint. In most cases these trees will not be useful for anything but firewood. There may be an occasional saw-log tree, but unless there are a sufficient number of them, it will not be worth-while to have them delivered to a mill. The goal with this program is to improve the forest by removing the "weed trees". In some cases the trees can be left as fertilizer and wildlife habitat.
8. In the case that the landowner does not want to do the work themselves, a list of professionals will be given to them by CFA to contact in order to have the work done.
9. There is a limited amount of this we can get to, so sign up soon! Fill out the application below and mail it in. We will call to schedule.



A thinning typically removes about 4 to 5 cords per acre. If you had 10 acres marked, that would be about 45 cords of firewood being made available to you! That means that for an on-site fee and somewhere around \$10/cord you would get a rare and valuable educational experience along with the wood marked by a professional forester from CFA.

CFA is holding several special programs in chainsaw safety and use for landowners. (See the Calendar of Events on CFA's web site.)



CFA TREE MARKING APPLICATION

Name _____

Address of Property _____

Email address _____ Date _____

Phone Number and best time to call, where you can be reached during the weekday _____



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The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Volume 31, Number 2 - Spring 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

“To Cut Or Not To Cut”, by Ryan Trapani

A New Deer Tick Disease!

FEATURE ARTICLE!!!

CFA's New “**Woodland Use Guide**” Program,
by John MacNaught (Summer Intern)

“How the Catskills Got Spruced Up”,
by Dr. Michael Kudish

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I believe in enhancing the quality of the forest land in the Catskill Region through proper forest management.
To that end, I am interested in joining the Catskill Forest Association and supporting its efforts.

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Categories (Select the level & if you'd like, make an additional donation):

Membership	\$50 + \$ _____
Contributing	\$75 + \$ _____
Business / Supporting	\$100 + \$ _____
Supporting	\$150 + \$ _____
Sustaining	\$250 + \$ _____
Benefactor	\$750 + \$ _____

Do you own land in the Catskill Region? Yes _____ No _____

Property address: _____

Telephone #: _____ County: _____
Total acres: _____ Forested acres: _____ Pond Y / N Stream Y / N River Y / N

Would you like a CFA forester to come to your property to walk it with you, making suggestions and giving you impartial and confidential advice? (IT JUST COSTS \$200 PLUS OUR MILEAGE AND THE \$200 INCLUDES A FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP.) Y / N

(If so we will call you to schedule an appointment.)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

All membership dues and donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the most recent financial statement filed with the New York Department of State is available upon request.

