

Michael Kudish
CFA News Fall 2014

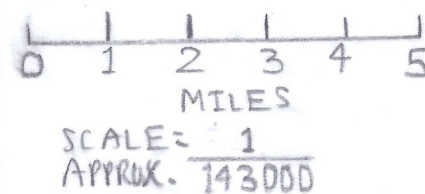


Concentrated groves
of oak and/or
hickories and/or
American Chestnut
suggesting repeated
burns






- Areas of concentrated Native American activity where artifacts have been found
- Native American Village of Pakatahan (5)

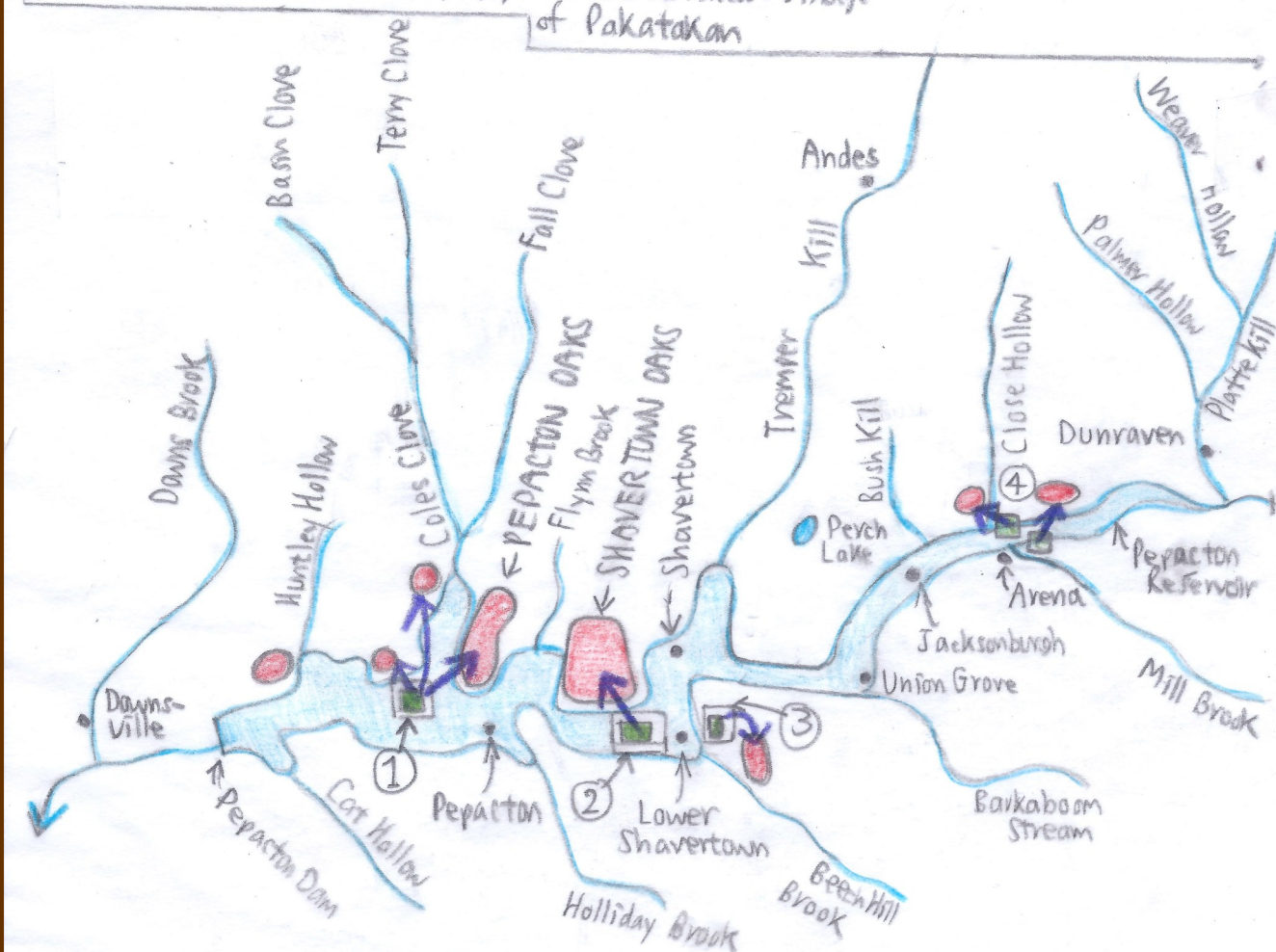
↑ Probable route of
fires up the slopes

- European hamlets and villages

 streams

Michael Kudish
CFA News Fall 2014

- ①  Native American Village of Pepacton and probable Conference Center. Apple orchards.
- ②  Native American apple orchards. Could there have been nut orchards, too?
- ③  Native American burial grounds.
- ④  Pair of probable Native American forts with central mounds, moats, and walls.
- ⑤  (next page). Native American Village of Pakatakan



Hunting is Missing Something

By Ryan Trapani



It all begins with a few crunching leaves and the tilt of the head. If you're well-practiced, you're eyes move to locate the sound's origin instead of your entire head; the less movement the better. And there he is. You were beginning to believe you chose the wrong spot; questioning the evidence that brought you here in the first place. There was the well-beaten herd-path; the abundance of droppings, rubs, and even a scrape or two. The wind wasn't being cooperative either; blowing here and there and spreading your scary scent far and wide. That doesn't matter now. The buck stands right in front of you. You can see his breath in the cold morning air. Snow-dust sits atop his thick, brown hide, insulated by the animal's hollow, insulated hairs. You thought this would never happen, and when you did, he appeared like a forest-dwelling Houdini. Will he now hear your heartbeat through three layers of wool and camouflage? Calm down. Breathe. Inhale and exhale, and shoot at the end of the exhale. Focus on a hair, above his boiler room. Now... go.

This is a story about deer hunting that has been told – I am sure – for thousands of years; it never gets old. It is the sandwich meat in the sandwich; the really exciting part. The part you wait for and if it's missing you notice right away and say, "Hey pal, you skimped on the beef!" We forget about the two buns holding them together. If they were missing, you'd notice, but do we pay as much attention to them? Okay, away from the sandwich analogy. I'm talking about what happens before and

after "the hunt." For some reason, it's just not as sexy to talk about the actions surrounding when "old swampy paws" has chased cupid's last arrow for the real one. This might be modern-day hunting's biggest folly.

Other rural practices aren't so simplistic; take farming for example, a distant relative of hunting. To generalize, farming has a more familiar beginning, middle, and end. According to Webster's Dictionary, "a farm is where animals are raised." Animals are raised in order to slaughter – in most cases – so that human beings can gain a living from the animal; both nutritionally and monetarily. The hard work the farmer provides through crop production, water, and shelter are the beginnings of farming. The middle can be analogous to the hunt, or in this case, the slaughter. The end is the processing of the animal and its consumption. Another familiar rural use that entails a beginning, middle, and end is gardening. One person can prepare a garden and plant crops, harvest, and store them for eating, all within one season.

If one takes vegetables from a garden that he did not help to grow, or a sirloin from a cow he did not help raise, he is either foraging or stealing; hopefully the former. Hunting is usually the former; we forage for deer. In other words, the deer we hunt after and kill – in most cases – did not come into fruition from any deliberate land management practice. We did not manage its forested environment in a manner that created better quality habitat or forage in order to enhance herd health. We saw some low-hanging fruit, and we picked them, unaware of its cause for being there. Although there is some skill, patience, and luck involved, the sandwich is missing some bread; there is more to this story to be told. After killing their prey, most hunters do make good use of the meat; the wide variety of venison cookbooks attests to this, but hunting seems to be missing "a beginning."

Please do not misunderstand; there are some hunters who spend many hours, dollars, and labor in managing habitat for deer and other wildlife. However, I believe that more hunters would provide better growing space for deer (and other wildlife), if these animals were not perceived as **wild**. The term **wild** may be defined as the exact opposite of the word **farm**. Webster's Dictionary defines "wild" as the following:

of an animal: living in nature without human control or care : not tame

time of the American Revolution. But we must depend on the archeologists and anthropologists, with their radiocarbon dates on artifacts, when the burns began. If the burns coincide with agriculture, then it's about 2000 years ago in the Oneonta area and 1000 years ago in the Hudson Valley. With the Catskills lying in between, my roughest estimate is about 1500 years ago.

Beyond the East Branch Delaware.

There are other regions in the Catskills, in addition to the East Branch Delaware, where southern nut tree groves can be linked with specific orchards, settlements, farms, and other sites of concentrated Native American activity. For example, the groves on the mountains in the lower Esopus Valley – such as Tremper, Tobias, Ticeteneyck, Pleasant, and Shokan High Point – may be attributed to sites of concentrated activities in the Ashokan Basin.

Connecting the two valleys, the Lower Esopus and the East Branch Delaware, is a travel corridor now occupied by State Route 28. This corridor's oak-hickory-chestnut forests also show signs of former Native American activity.

In the Fall 2009 issue of the *CFA News*, I proposed a burn index for the whole Catskill region (see the 2009 map on pages 6 and 7). This index suggests the PROBABILITY of a burn for hundreds of sites based on the number of southern nut tree species and their associates present. No one can be certain how many of these burns actually occurred because there is no record – but the higher the number, the more likely a history of repeated burns.

Does burning coincide only with agriculture?

Continuing farther east, one New England source states that agriculture there began only about 600 years ago. If this is the case, then the advent of Native American agriculture spread very slowly from west to east across what is now New York and New England. But I am not certain that the burns began with agriculture; they might have started earlier.

For example, in studies of fossil plants preserved in bogs to reconstruct Catskills forest history since the end of the Ice Age, I have found several bogs along the eastern Escarpment that contain charcoal layers. These layers suggest burns, according to radiocarbon dates, at about 300, 850, 1250, and 4300 years before the present. The older dates suggest that some of the burns began in the adjacent Hudson Valley below long before the advent of Native American agriculture and swept up the Catskills Escarpment. Other workers have found char-

CFA 'T' shirts:

Adult & Children Sizes – \$10



coal layers in Hudson Valley bogs much older than 4300 years.

Archeologists and anthropologists base most of their ideas on radiocarbon-dated artifacts, but this writer is a forest historian, basing his ideas mainly from the forest itself. Therefore, some of the proposals in this essay may seem way out-of-line with the mainstream thinking of archeologist-anthropologist workers, and quite controversial. But perhaps these workers and forest historians could assist each other in reconstructing history?

.....**The End**

(see the map included with this essay), proceeding upstream:

(1) Pepacton Oaks – The Native American village of Pepacton and its orchards were located at the confluence of the Coles Clove stream and the East Branch Delaware. In this village, some historians report a large conference center for numerous tribes of Native American peoples.

(2) Shavertown Oaks – Orchards and burial grounds are located both above and below the confluence of Beech Hill Brook with the East Branch.

(3) Arena Oaks – Earthen structures, built on both sides of the river, are reported by Jay Gould in his 1856 *History of Delaware County, New York*, pages 50 and 51. The function of these mounds was unknown to Gould, but believed to be of Native American origin.

(4) Huckleberry Brook Oaks – The oak-chestnut stands on the south-facing slopes above Hill Road present a puzzle because there is no corresponding flood plain along Huckleberry Brook below. The valley is narrow and steep here. Could some of the fires have begun in what is now Dunraven on the East Branch flood plain and swept eastward into the Huckleberry Brook Valley?

(5) Margaretville-Arkville Oaks- The Native American village of Pakatakan, with its farms and arti-

facts, was at the confluence of Dry Brook and the East Branch. The southern nut tree groves are on Cole and Kittle hills to the north and on Pakatakan Mountain to the south; there are even some groves of oak-chestnut on the south slopes of Fleischmann Mountain above Dry Brook. The oak-chestnut site on the south end of Morris Hill, directly behind and above the Catskill Forest Association Offices, might be linked to farms below on the flats where the Bush Kill and Dry Brook join.

(6) Roxbury Oaks – Numerous artifacts (tools, weapons, pottery, etc.) found in rock shelters and in present-day agricultural fields have been found both upstream and downstream along the East Branch from Roxbury.

Continued on Page 7...

When did the burns occur?

When did the East Branch Delaware Valley burns occur? Determining when they ended has been much easier than determining when they began. It is well-documented in the local, town, county, and regional history books that Native American populations decreased rapidly from the middle to the end of the eighteenth century, i.e. around the

of a plant: growing or produced in nature: not grown or farmed by people

of land: not changed by people: not settled or developed

Labels matter and they can tell us a lot about how most humans perceive something. For example, some people call the forest a **woodland**, since its most significant resource has traditionally been wood. Labeling critters outside our door as **wild** may be accurate in that their existence may have little to do with us, but does this have to be? Can we help out? Can we benefit each other?

For thousands of years humans did help out; they provided something the surrounding forests did not possess; something unique to humans. After all, we must be good for something, right? After a fawn is born, it can almost immediately walk, run and find food. It is born with all its clothing to keep it warm. However, humans are born hairless, immobile and dependent, but mature humans possess something that reduces our vulnerability in being so premature; our ability to use fire. Fire keeps us warm at night; it sterilizes our food so that our weak stomachs can handle digestion too. More importantly – and historically – it has enabled us to manipulate our surroundings; for better or worse. We can provide sunlight via a torch, or chainsaw.

Native Americans used this human ability to perpetuate fruit and nut species, and the wildlife that followed. Fire promotes oak, hickory, blueberry, among others. The wildlife that seeks food and cover in this forest type also fed the humans. So, how **wild** was **wildlife** to those people? Who knows?

What we do know is that deer – among other wildlife – need food and cover like any other living thing. Although they may not be as intensively cared for as their ruminant cousin – the cow – they too can benefit from some good ole fashioned husbandry. Sure, deer can make it on their own without humans, but if sunlight is added in the right amounts and the right places, they can flourish. Another example is when unpruned apple trees bear fruit; however, properly pruned trees can flourish.

Today, deer are seen by some as pests. They are suspect #1 in damaging landscaped plants and reducing biodiversity in nearby forests. However, this is unnecessary. Good forest management can accurately deliver sunlight into the forest; making a more fruitful one and thereby satiating the white-tail's strong appetite. A healthy and well fed deer will have less impact on forest regeneration, just as a properly pastured cow will leave a less devastated pasture.

No matter how involved humans become with deer (and others); these animals will always retain a **wildness** and unpredictability about them, which makes them special. However, we too have something special to offer. As one silviculturist said, "... it must be kept in mind that one is regulat-



Val Norret's First Buck.

ing all of the vegetation, and, for that matter, the animals as well, not just the trees." For more information, contact CFA about their new program available to small landowners called **Forestry for Wildlife** and see what you can do.

www.catskillforest.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 26), "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.



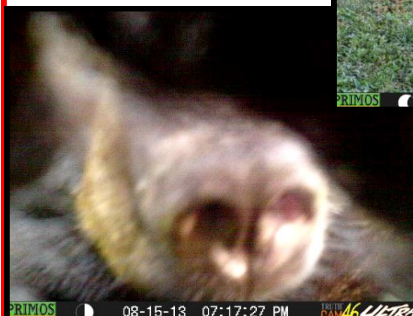
CFA Hat – \$15



CFA will set up a field cam for a week for CFA members. Cost is \$25 plus mileage.



Call Michele at 845-586-3054 to schedule it. 1st Come—1st Serve Basis.



FOREST FOOD PLOTS OR TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

By: Ryan Trapani

For those that hunt the great white-tailed deer of North America or that are involved in managing for any number of the popular game species, food plots are well known. According to *Wikipedia*, “a food plot is a planted area set aside to act as a food source for wildlife. The term was coined by the U.S. hunting and outdoor industries. Food plots generally consist of but are not limited to legumes (clovers, alfalfa, beans, etc.) or forage grasses.”

Food plots can be a great way to increase both the nutritional density of vegetation on a small acreage of land, while enhancing wildlife diversity and abundance. For this reason, managers of deer, grouse, quail, bear, turkey, and others continue to implement food plots.

However, food plots can be very expensive and/or time consuming. Many individuals simply do not have the tools to administer one. On flatter terrain, some may get away with using smaller equipment to put in a food plot with an ATV. However, in our stony country, a tractor will probably be required. Also, a tiller, rake, spreader and other large implements will be necessary as well. In addition, food plots must be maintained annually with more tractor work, herbicides (which are not cheap), and time. Again, there is no doubt that food plots help sustain wildlife populations, but can our wallets sustain them?

So, what are some other options forest landowners have at their disposal? The answer may lie in what the land already has to offer – forests. In comparison, **forest food plots** require far fewer expensive tools and less yearly maintenance to boot; just a chainsaw and some know-how. Although working in the woods may be difficult and dangerous work and require some knowledge about tree selection, the benefits can be longer lasting after some sweat and up-front costs are wiped away.

Many of us either own a few acres of wooded property or know someone that does. Most of the landscape – greater than 70% – in our region is forested. The farms of yesteryear have unfortunately become a part of our historical past. Farmers back then seemed to have taken care of their animals. Some had cows, some had pigs. Some had sheep and chickens. Some had ‘em all. Some of these farms in these hills produced some of the best butter in the nation at one time. Now – due to reasons beyond the scope of this article – those farmers have long thrown in the towel, and their graves are sadly hidden under mature trees. Now that their domestic livestock has mostly faded away, there is left behind plenty of circumstantial forage for wildlife; like the wild mountain goat or white-tailed deer.

The white-tailed deer differs from his domestic sisters and brothers in one significant manner; no one owns him. The term “ownership” may leave a bad taste in some people’s mouths. For those that do find this offensive, simply substitute “ownership” with “responsibility.” There, that’s better; I think. Since no one is really responsible for the white-tailed deer, it is far



Before



After

SHAVERTOWN OAKS

By Michael Kudish

On April 23, 2014, the CFA’s *From The Forest* program on WIOX Roxbury radio included a discussion on the effect of Native American peoples on the forests of the East Branch Delaware Valley. For those CFA members who missed this program, or who did listen but would like a review, here is a summary.

Most of the Catskills’ forest is northern hardwoods (predominantly sugar maple and beech) and hemlock. Occasional yellow birch, black cherry, red maple, and white ash, following both natural and human disturbances, break the monotony of the northern hardwoods-hemlock forest. However, in the middle of these vast northern hardwood-hemlock stands are isolated local groves of southern nut trees – oaks (northern red, white, and chestnut), hickories (shagbark and bitternut), American chestnut, and their associates: black birch, mountain laurel, sweet fern, and maple-leaved viburnum. Such local populations of southern nut trees occur scattered throughout the East Branch Delaware Valley, especially from Downsville upstream through the Margaretville-Arkville area, and through the Roxbury area to Grand Gorge - inhabiting sites up to several hundred feet above the valley floor.

Because these southern nut trees are not as shade-tolerant as the northern hardwoods-hemlock, they cannot compete well with the latter. The northern hardwoods-hemlock forest must be removed first before the southern nut trees can move in – But how did this happen?

In the *CFA News*, Fall 2009 (Volume 27, Number 4, pages 4 through 7), I proposed that Native Americans had burned areas where they settled and farmed, especially on the flood plains, as their main means of forest management. Many of these fires escaped and swept up the adjacent slopes, especially the easier-to-burn warmer and drier south- and southwest-facing slopes, destroying the northern hardwoods-hemlock forests. Most of these slopes were burned repeatedly, allowing the oaks, hickories, and chestnuts to move in and stay in, being more capable of withstanding and sprouting from burns than northern hardwoods and hemlock.

The advent of agriculture by European settler-farmers has maintained many of these southern nut tree groves through the present because of open fields, fence rows, and roadsides.

The map on page 57 of the summer 2012 issue of *Kaatskill Life* magazine included locations of these southern nut tree groves in the East Branch Delaware Valley. **This map has been updated**

with additional detail and is included here on pages 8 & 9. One such location is above the former hamlet of Shavertown (the hamlet now under water) on the hillsides above and north of the Pepacton Reservoir. I have chosen this Shavertown location as a representative and hence the title of this essay, “Shavertown Oaks”.

Over the winter of 2013-2014, a series of further discoveries had led to the April 23, 2014, WIOX radio program *From the Forest*. History books, recent studies by archeologists and anthropologists, and old maps specifically locate sites of concentrated Native American activity in the East Branch Delaware and other valleys. Activities include agriculture (maize, beans, and squash fields); campsites and rock shelters for hunting, fishing and food gathering; settlements (i.e. villages); orchards; and burial grounds.

When the southern nut tree groves such as Shavertown Oaks are plotted on a map, many of them can be linked directly, and therefore paired with, sites of concentrated human activity on the flood plains below. One may visualize the frequent fires, some deliberate and some out-of-control, raging up the hillsides away from the floodplains, opening up the northern hardwoods-hemlock forests, and preparing for an invasion of southern nut trees.

Some of the oaks, hickories, and chestnuts may have seeded in naturally by nuts dropped by mammals and larger birds. Some of the nut trees may have been planted as orchards by the people.

Continued on Page 6...

We do know that Native Americans planted apple orchards beginning with European contact in the early seventeenth century (apples are not native to North America), so why not nut orchards prior to and during European contact?

Here are the major southern nut tree groves



Purchase a personalized, four foot log bench for \$100 from CFA!

From the President's Desk

Our forests are one of the most valuable assets our land has to offer here in the Catskills, in fact, almost any place that has trees and lacks mineral deposits would be included in this statement. How we manage our woodlands is something that should be very subjective in terms of what we want from them, though there should be some objective goals that always lead to better quality forests. When we are at a loss for what these objective goals are, we must contact reputable foresters or managers. CFA has those people in house or just a phone call away. Your membership in CFA indicates you have some interest in your forests. Your membership opens you up to special deals on site visits, timber marking, land inventories (Woodland Use Guide), and wildlife habitat improvement. If CFA cannot handle the size job you might have, they, certainly, will recommend someone who can meet your needs.

If it is overwhelming to think about thinning, managing or harvesting your trees, there are people out there who can and will do this work for you. CFA can recommend those people very quickly. There might be some financial incentives to do certain things with your land. CFA can also point these sources out to you and may help with application quirks. You will never know of the incentives unless you ask.

If you are interested in using your forests for hobbies like maple sugaring, ginseng growing, growing wild edibles on your land or maybe, even, mushroom farming, CFA can help you get started and most likely succeed in your quest. Becky and I have a part of our land that is

devoted to edibles. This came about after our Woodland Use Guide was completed and we saw the merit in having all the foodstuffs within sight of our cabin. We can all do this with just a little sweat equity and plant purchases. CFA can direct you to suppliers who are selling stock that is viable in our growing zone.

If you are a woodworker, there is nothing more satisfying than building something out of materials harvested from your own lands. If you want to harvest particular trees and get them processed, CFA can aid you in getting your trees cut, milled and dried by referring you to local loggers or mill owners. I have built several furniture items from oak grown on our land. It is very satisfying to say, "This wood came from my land." Even if you are not a wood worker but like items made from wood, you could have one of your trees harvested and converted to the piece of your choosing. Even that is special to family members. CFA can again point you towards an artisan who can carry out your wishes.

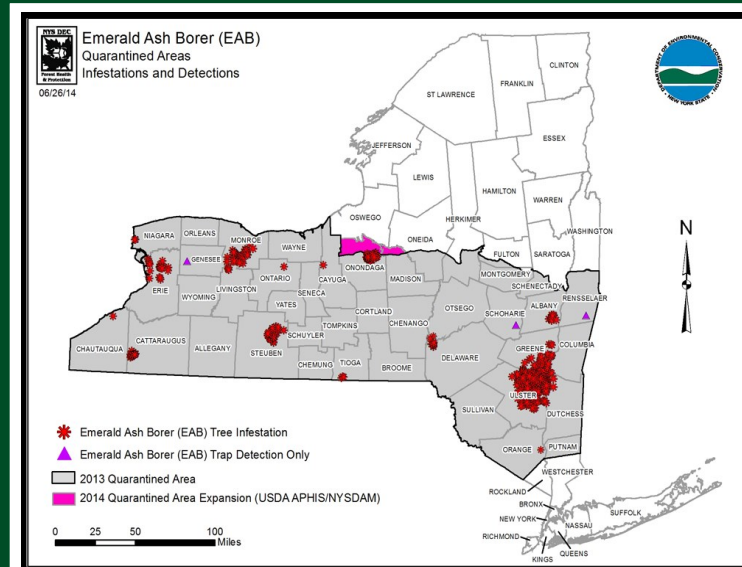
I think, by now, that you can see that I am touting the Catskill Forest Association and all it can do for its members. I am only touching the surface as I have just talked about things I am interested in seeing happening in my world. With each of us looking for our own special things, CFA can direct us. To talk to a CFA staff person, call 845-586-3054 or email cfa@catskill.net. Someone will talk to you or get right back to you by phone or email.

From the Forest,

Mike Porter, President CFA



Emerald Ash Borer Update



On June 17, 2009, Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in New York.

In July of 2014, in response to a citizen's tip, the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Agriculture and Markets (DAM) confiscated and destroyed infested fire-



wood and ash logs from a firewood dealer on Route 28 in the Town of Olive.

Since this map was drawn, it has been found in Broome County as well.

less cared for than his brothers and sisters were on the farm. If those farmers treated their animals and hay-fields like we do our deer and forests, farming would have never broken ground. The point is that there simply is not enough forage being provided for these animals that are commonly owned. As a result, they are left congregating in areas where there is incidental forage: roadsides, power-lines, leach fields, orchards, croplands, etc.

Many of us do not individually own animals today, yet we all own – or are responsible for one in common – the white-tailed deer. Since we are doing such a poor job at it, most of our woodlands lack forest regeneration; one of the main food sources for white-tailed deer. The impacts of this malnourished herbivore can easily be seen by simply driving around town. Our gardens now look like imprisoned plants. Our trees are viewed from inside a cage or a tube. And if we don't grow our own trees or plants, we are paying more at the store. Apples, corn, pears, carrots, etc. will all surely rise in price since the costs of deer upon the farmer must be absorbed in the final price.

So, how do we take responsibility for our largest animal – the people's cattle – the one we own in common? We must take responsibility for it, voluntarily of course upon our own property. Clearly, waiting for the NYS DEC to handle this problem has not proven beneficial for people desiring to grow anything but those plants unpalatable to deer. The assets of our forest that homeowners pay for dearly and the ecological services that they provide are being nibbled away by deer and taxes. Hunting is one means to solving this problem and should not be overlooked. However, we also feel that beyond hunting, the deer herd must be delivered with quality habitat via adequate forest cutting (in the right places) in order to reduce browse impacts across the forest and landscape. This is no easy task, since it requires many economic and political hurdles. However, we thought we'd shed some light on the matter first.

Call CFA and see how you can implement some **forest food plots** through their **Forestry for Wildlife** program. This program is for anyone interested in improving wildlife habitat; whether for its own sake, hunting, recreation, etc. Selecting appropriate trees to cut allows more sunlight upon the forest floor to grow younger vegetation. Healthy trees that produce fruit or nuts that are given more sunlight can also greatly improve forage for deer and other wildlife. If we all do something – and improve our couple of acres – then deer herd health should improve and their browse pressure and impacts should decrease over time. Let's not let deer be our most recent tragedy of the commons.

www.catskillforest.org
www.wioxradio.org - "From the Forest" - Wed . 6pm
Facebook—Catskill Forest Association
Vimeo — www.vimeo.com/channels/fromtheforest



**CFA is
Con-
necting
People
to their
Wood-
lands!**



THIS IS HOW CFA CAN HELP YOU!!!

(As well as how you can help preserve the forest and all of its benefits for generations to come.)

STEP 1 —

Become a member of CFA. It's only \$50 per year.

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Help over the phone or when you come in to the office on anything that deals with owning forest property, from legal, trespass and surveying issues to hiring foresters & loggers, to management for various objectives...just about anything you can think up! Test us!
- Most workshops and woodwalks are free for members.

STEP 2 —

Sign up and schedule an On-Site-Visit.



A CFA Forester will visit your property to discuss your intentions with the trees, woodlot or forest on your property to establish realistic goals and objectives with you. The forester will walk your property with you to give you insights and answer questions. A discussion will then ensue to come up with options for management treatments.

- ♦ For anyone with an interest in their property & trees.
 - ♦ 1/4 of an acre to 1,000+ acres
- ♦ Just bring an open mind and enthusiasm for doing something
- ♦ Bring along others & make it an event!

Fee for new CFA Members — \$150 plus mileage. (Offer expires after 30 days from membership sign-up)

Fee for CFA Members after 30 days — \$200 plus mileage. Fee includes a one year membership renewal.

STEP 3 —

Select from a list of programs specifically designed for you. (Details on next page)

- Woodland Use Guide
- Tree Marking Program
- Forestry for Wildlife Program
- Apple Tree Grafting Program (Call for details—winter and spring only.)



"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!

In addition, check out the www.watershedpost.com site, click on "sponsored content", then "From the Forest".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

This issue of the CFA News is focused much on the change our forest has gone through and one of the most serious of its health issues. Between humans not harvesting enough trees in the past 80 years and deer over-browsing the regeneration that is available to wildlife, our forest is changing dramatically. It is not from global warming or from being exploited for its wood products. It is simply not being regenerated. The forests are turning into a monoculture and is therefore more susceptible to insects, disease and strong weather events. It also provides poor habitat for most wildlife.

CFA has had a very busy year thus far and I have lots to share. First of all, I'd like to welcome all of our new members. Enthusiasm is the highest I've observed since coming to CFA in 2001. Board members, members and the general public have all contributed to this. I have to thank our staff, board members and the many volunteers as well as those spreading the word about what CFA does.

It's very hard to believe that the trees have already lost most of their leaves, that we're already into hunting season, the heating season has arrived and we are planning Thanksgiving day dinner! Seems like just a very short time ago the leaves were just popping out of their buds, we were planting our gardens and then we were bringing in the veggies and more recently the apples.

There were many successful woodwalks and workshops this year. We even had to turn some folks away. Hopefully they register early for next year's events. The workshops and woodwalks will be planned in January and posted to catskillforest.org and elsewhere.

We have developed more programs in addition to the staple, On-Site-Visit Program. We still offer the Tree Marking program and have added the Woodland Use Guide, Forestry for Wildlife, Trail Camera and Apple Tree Grafting Programs. We are also developing a program for members to have CFA post their boundaries with posted signs....stay tuned!

The 2014 Annual Catskill Forest Festival is still growing and was very successful again this year. It's always held the last Saturday of July in Margaretville's village park. Make sure you mark this event on your calendar and bring friends & family...always lots to learn and enjoy!

There were 3 and then there were 4! The summer intern that CFA has employed for the past two summers will be graduating from Paul Smiths this coming spring. John MacNaught will be joining the CFA staff family full time this coming spring! He has fit in well with the organization and

has a lot to offer CFA as well as its members. He's the blond-haired young fella that you may have already become acquainted with. He brings a strong wildlife and GIS component to add to CFA's forestry expertise.

The Fleischmanns' woody biomass, community heating district video is completed and has been well received at several events around the state. It is about 16 minutes long and can be viewed at www.catskillforest.org, CFA's website, by scrolling down on the home page.

Speaking of the website...CFA is in the process of completely updating it. It will still have the same address, but will look a little different and will be directly linked to our Facebook and Vimeo pages. The layout will be simpler to navigate and less wordy. Should be up and running in January...but you know how that sometimes works!

AND....CFA's board has been working very hard on revising CFA's Strategic Plan. It has been quite some time since it was updated and they are almost done with it! Strategic plans are extremely important to keep updated as the world around us seems to be changing quickly.

I hope you are all preparing to put your firewood orders in to your suppliers NOW for the NEXT burning season. It should be cut, split and stacked no later than the end of this winter, March 2015 for the 2015-2016 season!

CFA is always looking for members interested in being more involved, whether it's volunteering or becoming a board member. Contact any of the board members or staff with any ideas you may have. We are very open-minded. (In fact if you hold a flashlight up to one of my ears, you may be able to see it shine out the other!)

Naturally, *Jim Waters*



Listen to "From the Forest", Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 7 pm with Jim & Ryan. Streaming on the Internet — go to: wioxradio.org.



CFA News
Volume 32, numbers 3 & 4
Summer & Fall 2014

Editor: Jim Waters
Published Quarterly

Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
43469 State Highway 28
PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406-0336
(845) 586-3054
(845) 586-4071 (Fax)
www.catskillforest.org
cfa@catskill.net

Copyright 2014
The Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Contents may not be reproduced without permission.

Board of Directors:

Mike Porter, *President*, Margaretville
Robert Bishop II, *Vice President*, DeLancey
Steve Miller, *Vice President*, Margaretville
Susan Doig, *Secretary*, Andes
Ed Bennett, *Treasurer*, Fleischmanns
Mark Kugler, *Halcott Center*
Seth LaPierre, *Delhi*
Becky Porter, *Margaretville*
Jake Rosa, *Arkville*
Frank Winkler, *Andes*
DEC Liaison:
Mike Callan, *Region 4, Stamford*

CFA Staff

Jim Waters, *Executive Director*
Michele Fucci, *Office Manager*
Ryan Trapani, *Education Forester*

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.

For a CURRENT listing of CFA's EVENTS you must visit CFA's Website!

www.catskillforest.org

Cover Photos:

From the top of Hubbell Hill, just outside of Margaretville, NY (Photos by Jim Waters)

Table of Contents:

Table of Contents & New Members.....	2
Executive Director's Message,	3
From The President's Desk	4
"Shavertown Oaks" — Dr. Michael Kudish.....	5 - 9
"Hunting is Missing Something".....	10 & 11
"Forest Food Plots or Tragedy of Commons"	12 & 13
CFA's Programs.....	14 & 15
Membership Application.....	Back Cover

Welcome New Members!!!

2014

June

Margaret Bazura – Walton; winner Watershed Post aspen tree ID

Karen Antonison – Andes
Phillip Quigley – Arkville
Michael Garz – Fleischmanns
Dimitry Gashinsky – Roscoe
Landvest, Inc. – PA (free w/f-f sponsor)

July

Gutchess Lumber – Cortland (free w/f-f sponsor)
AnneLee & Stuart Fuller – Margaretville
Ernest Muller – Craigs Moor
Elizabeth & Jeff Warren – Margaretville
Joan & Carl Medsker – Roxbury
Omer Ozkul & Cynthia Randles – Andes

August

James Stavrides – Denver
Diane Dunshinski – Jefferson
Stephen Dove – Roxbury
Lillian Sowinski – Hancock
Ginger Strand & Robut Brown – Phoenicia
Ray Derman – Damascus, PA
Dirk Zimmermann – New Kingston
Judy Stewart Vidal – Hobart
Kevin & Melissa McGowan – Margaretville
Alf Berg – Fleischmanns

September

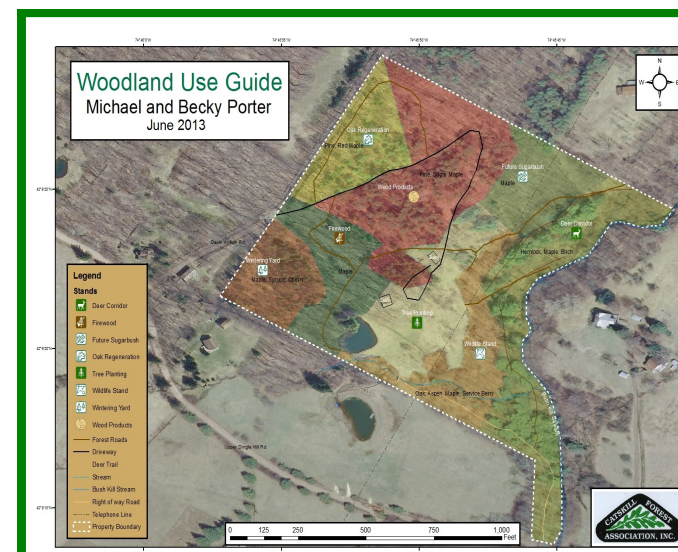
Doug & Kathy Green – Fleischmanns
David Pless – Hardenburgh
Manhattan Country School – Roxbury
Chris Luttrell – Boiceville
Alex Vernet – Roxbury
Henry Garbacz – Fleischmanns

October

Sandy Festa – Hancock
Philip Ehrensaft – Pine Bush

November

Don Murat – Accord
Elena Romina Teslaru & Richard Tazzara Roxbury



CFA Woodland Use Guide!

Detailed maps, stand descriptions and recommendations, unique features' locations and descriptions. Lots of pictures included. GIS mapping and GPS locations of all features! (Call CFA to see a sample Woodland Use Guide.) **AN "ON-SITE-VISIT" FEE OF \$200 (INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR ONE YEAR) PLUS MILEAGE** will be charged.

The cost of the Guide is given after an onsite visit is done. Every property is different. This program is only done on 20 acres and less.

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.



AN "ON-SITE-VISIT" FEE OF \$200 (INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR ONE YEAR) PLUS MILEAGE may be necessary for selecting, designating on the ground the area to be marked, and determining the acreage to be included. Otherwise the cost is just mileage plus \$100 per acre. **This program is only done on 10 acres or less per calendar year per**

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 you would get a rare and valuable educational experience along with the trees marked by a professional forester from CFA.



CFA Forestry for Wildlife Program!



DOES YOUR FOREST LOOK LIKE THIS?

- A technique used to improve the quality of habitat to provide the essential needs of the wildlife that you are interested in.
- Fruit and nut bearing trees and shrubs are favored to increase the food variety and availability for wildlife.
- Increasing understory cover will make animals feel safer while feeding, traveling, and bedding on your property as cover protects animals from predators.

Price estimates are developed at the end of an on-site visit. Every property is different.



WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO LOOK LIKE THIS?

For more information on any of CFA's Programs, call us at (845) 586-3054 or email us at cfa@catskill.net. Our office is open from 9am 'til 4pm Monday–Friday. If you would like to sign up for a program, circle the program(s) that you are interested in, fill out the info on the back of this page and mail the entire page to us at PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406



PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406

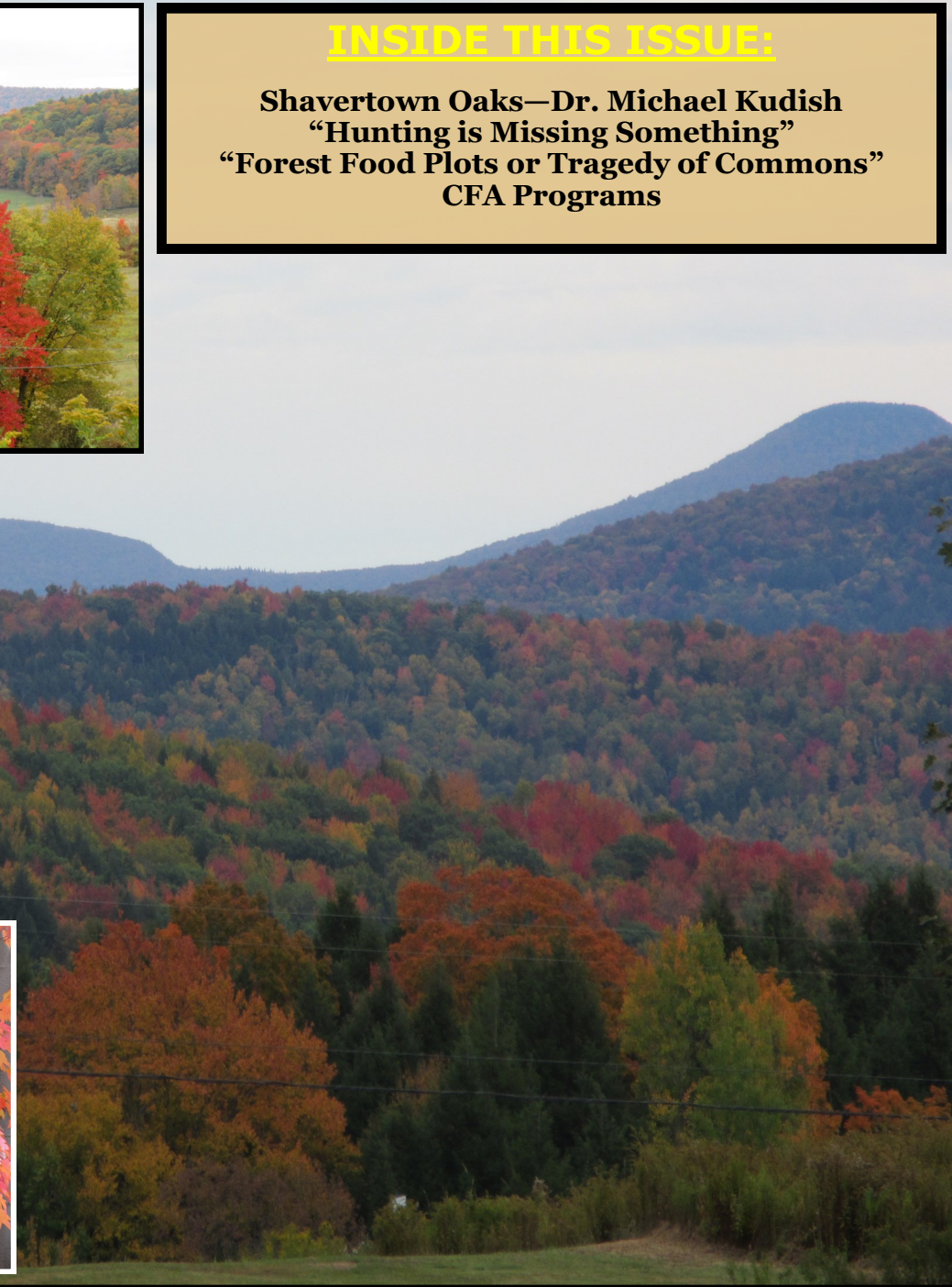
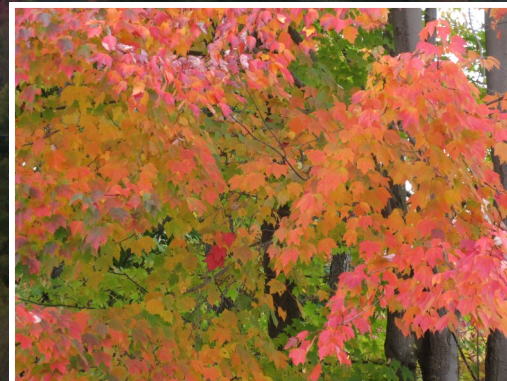


The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 32, Numbers 3 & 4 - Summer & Fall 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shavertown Oaks—Dr. Michael Kudish
“Hunting is Missing Something”
“Forest Food Plots or Tragedy of Commons”
CFA Programs



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 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.