





4. **Treyz and later Luzerne** – The George I. Treyz Company of Butternut Grove, near Cooks Falls, opened a satellite (or branch) acid wood plant in Arkville in 1901. Luzerne Chemical Company purchased the plant later from Treyz, and finally the Arkville Chemical Company. Hardwood cutting operations ceased by 1914 and the plant closed by 1916. The German Hollow Trail today follows one of their main haul roads up the east slopes of Pakatakan, with a number of branch roads diverging from it and climbing as high as 2,700 feet. On the accompanying map, Treyz and Luzerne lands are shown in yellow bordered by a brown line.

5. **Corbett & Stuart** – Crews of the Corbett & Stuart acid wood plant in the hamlet of Corbett, below Downsville, had cut over the western slopes of Pakatakan Mountain in 1912. Their roads, beginning in Keeney Hollow, are difficult to trace today because they were most likely improved and re-used in the 1960s by another company. Their cutover area is shown on the accompanying map as brown with a brown border.

6. **Recent logging** – During the last half-century, many logging operations have occurred on Pakatakan Mountain and Dry Brook Ridge – on a maze of private parcels with different owners at different times. Here are three examples:

**First--** This writer remembers, as a graduate student, that the Dry Brook Trail at the 2,900-foot level passed by an adjacent privately-owned tract that had just been logged in the 1960s. It was only in May 2015 that I finally determined that the crews came up from Keeney Hollow (all private lands at that time) and not up over Pakatakan Mountain.

**Second--** In 2000, a small tract was cut over on the northeast side of Pakatakan all the way up to the line of state land along the ridge crest at the 2,500 foot level. One can easily locate this tract today from the hiking trail by the now 15-year-old stumps and pole stand (i.e. thickets) of striped maple.

**Third--** In the spring of 2006, the northwest side of Andrus Hollow, and the ridge between Andrus and Black Hollows, were logged over, all the way up to the line of state land between 2800 and 3000 feet.

Many more logging operations have occurred farther south along the east and west slopes of Dry Brook Ridge in the last fifty or so years, mostly independent of the other and occurring at different times on lands of different owners. Only the State of New York's parcels, along the crest of the ridge that the trail follows (generally above 3,000 feet) remain in first growth.

CFA members may now begin to realize the complex and fascinating history of Pakatakan Mountain and why unraveling the log roads has created such a headache. The origin of the very road that the Dry Brook Trail follows up from just above South Side Road Extension in Margaretville is still a mystery. The trail opened in the 1930s and was soon widened as a ski trail, but how far up? **[Please contact CFA if you can fill in the historical gaps. It would be very much appreciated.]**

--- A postlude by the editor: The author, Mike Kudish, was continuing to map vegetation on Pakatakan Mountain after writing this article. On Sunday afternoon, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 he was visiting the area and thinking

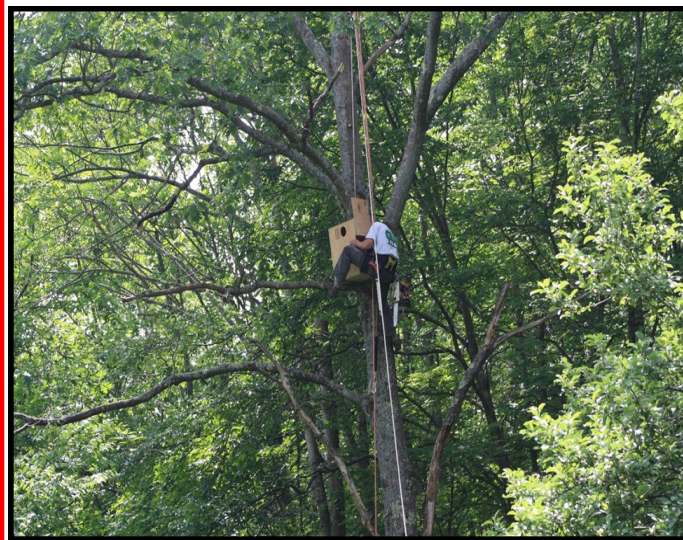
*about how Native Americans might have affected the forests here from several thousands to several hundreds of years ago. As he was contemplating this quandary, he heard drumming and chanting from the direction of the Native American settlement, Pakatakan... a time warp?... an audial illusion?... too active an imagination?... clocks turned back to pre-European settlement?... a dream?... No, Native Americans were indeed having a "powwow" in their old village of Pakatakan! Each year they gather back in what is now Margaretville to hold this Powwow.*

## **High-Nesting Bird Bird-Box Program**

Some bird species, like barn owl, barred owl, American kestrel, wood duck, etc. have specialized nesting requirements. This may involve a nesting site high in a tree or even over water, all places that are difficult to access to hang a nesting box. CFA will provide a specialized nesting box and hang it for you through our **Forestry for Wildlife** program. CFA staff will come to your property to hang any type of bird nest box, almost anywhere! American kestrel and owls are some of our personal favorites.

**Give us a call today to schedule your Forestry for Wildlife (845) 586-3054.**

*Check out CFA's video of it at the following link:*



<https://vimeo.com/130974497>

# **The Forest Industries of Pakatakan Mountain: “A Historic Headache”**

By Mike Kudish

Pakatakan Mountain is visited by the CFA each May for its annual wildflower walk. The diversity of species is unparalleled in the interior of the Catskills for such a relatively small area. I thought that because so many CFA members have participated in the wildflower walks over several years, some members may be curious about the history of this peak.

Pakatakan Mountain is the northwest spur of Dry Brook Ridge – a mountain that rises abruptly above the Village of Margaretville on the southeast.

I entitled an article that I wrote for *Kaatskill Life* (summer 2014, volume 29, number 2, pages 60-67) “Between Edwards and Fenwick: A Slice of First Growth”. This article described the tanbark operation of Colonel Edwards on the east slopes of Hunter Mountain and the logging operation of the Fenwick Lumber Company on the west slopes. In between the two industries is a narrow belt of forest that was not utilized by either – a slice of first growth.

A similar pattern exists on Pakatakan Mountain. I could have entitled this article “Between Treyz-Luzerne and Corbett-Stuart: A Slice of First Growth”. Treyz and then Luzerne cut over the northeast slopes of Pakatakan Mountain from 1901 to about 1914 to feed their acid wood plant in Arkville. Corbett & Stuart cut over the southwest slopes in 1912 to feed their acid wood plant in Corbett, below Downsville. In between, on lands generally above 3,000 feet on the crest of Dry Brook Ridge, was a narrow belt of state forest that prevented further cutting by both industries. It remains in first growth today, and the Dry Brook Ridge hiking trail runs along the center of it. So why didn't I entitle this article “Between Treyz-Luzerne and Corbett-Stuart: A Slice Of First Growth”? -- Because Pakatakan Mountain has had a far more complex history than that of Hunter Mountain. That's why I include “A Historic Headache” in the title.

We can organize Pakatakan's forest history into six periods chronologically. The accompanying map should help locate what happened where during those six periods:

1. **Native Americans** – CFA members may wish to read two articles for some background on the probable effects of Native Americans on the western Catskills.

In the *CFA News*, see “Shavertown Oaks”, volume 32, numbers 3 and 4, summer and fall 2014, pages 5 to 9. In *Kaatskill Life*, see “Going Nuts from Growing Nuts in the East Branch Delaware Valley”, volume 27, number 2, summer 2012, pages 52 to 63.

The forest itself suggests that the East Branch Delaware Valley was a major, busy travel and trade corridor between people in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys with people living in what is now Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Frequent and repeated fires for multiple purposes must have converted the northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple) forests into an oak-hickory-chestnut forest several millennia ago. Remnants of these old burns still exist on south-facing slopes above (i.e., on the north side) of Huckleberry and Keeney Hollows.

Not only most likely was there Native American

agriculture on the flood plain beginning roughly 1,000 years ago at just above what is now Margaretville, but I strongly suspect that nut orchards were planted on the adjacent slopes as well. Could the great diversity of wildflowers on Pakatakan Mountain be partly because of Native Americans planting medicinal and food herbs?

The Route 28 corridor today from Kingston past the CFA office in Arkville to Margaretville was most likely another trade-burn corridor according to the forests themselves, but to a lesser degree. The two travel-trade corridors met at Pakatakan Mountain.

The orange dots on the accompanying map indicate the upper limit of northern red oak as one climbs Dry Brook Ridge from nine specific directions. The orange line connects the dots and suggests how far up the slopes the repeated burns by Native Americans had occurred. Note that the forest fires had most likely climbed higher up the slopes with greater intensity and frequency on the warmer and drier southwest-facing slopes than the cooler, wetter northeast-facing slopes. The purple dots indicate where other burn species occur (white oak, hickories, chestnut) in addition to the northern red oak – all on the west side of the mountain.

The forest fires ceased probably during the last few decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as European settlement began to displace some of the Native Americans.

2. **European agriculture** – European farmers, in addition to the flood plains, cleared the forests on some of the lower and middle slopes of Pakatakan in the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for pastures. The map on pages 11 & 12 shows these now mainly-abandoned pastures as pale green areas – primarily in Keeney Hollow and on the slopes north of Huckleberry Brook. More pastures followed intermittently upstream along the Dry Brook Valley.

3. **Tanning industry** – There were two tanneries operating in Margaretville – one along the Binnekill, below the cemetery, by James Chamberlain from 1863 to sometime after 1880. The other was located near what is now the school by S. Chamberlain for some years including the period 1856 through 1869. The difficulty is that I cannot determine whether their hemlock bark roads climbed Pakatakan Mountain. If they did, then they were later widened for logging hardwoods, the original rough and narrow (only four feet wide) nature of the bark road being therefore obscured. The only bark road that I have positively identified is not on Pakatakan Mountain at all, but on the south (far) side of Huckleberry Hollow. The Huckleberry Loop Trail follows a short portion of it above Huckleberry Brook Road.



# CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!



**Saturday, July 25th, 2015 from 10am to 4pm at the Margaretville Pavilion behind Freshtown supermarket. It's the noisiest and woodsiest event of the summer in the Catskills! There will be chainsaw carvers, bow makers, wood splitters, sawmills, pelletstoves, woodstoves & furnaces and a blacksmith. There'll be a LOT of noisy big stuff, cool big equipment to climb on, food, music, pony-rides, maple products, arts and crafts, games for the kids. And...of course the biggest draw...The Game of Logging Loggers Competition! There will be bleachers again, picnic tables under a roof, and lots of tents. Again this year by popular demand there will be the "Tent of Knowledge". Bring the whole family and tell your friends. There is lots to see and do for everyone...and the best thing is there is NO ADMISSION...that's right...IT'S FREE!!!**

**10:30 "Catskills Golden Eagle Project" - Peg DiBenedetto**  
The Eastern Golden Eagle Project is gathering information on the range, habits and genetics of this majestic bird. Peg will discuss the merits of the study.

**11:00 "Copper vs. Lead" - Mike DiBenedetto**  
Mike will speak about the impact of lead ammunition and the preferable alternative...copper. He will lead a discussion aimed at hunters. (aimed.... pun intended)

**11:15 "Young Forest Initiative" - Michael Echtner/Selinda Brandon**  
If you have driven on Rt. 206 between Downsville and Walton, you've been treated to a visible regeneration project in the Bear Spring Mountain Wildlife Management area. Mike Echtner, NYSDEC Forester and Selinda Brandon, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist will talk about the Young Forest Initiative (YFI) and the planned management of the region's Wildlife Management Areas. The talk will include an overview of the goals of the initiative, including information on creating and maintaining young forest, the specific target wildlife species that are the focal point of the initiative, and the benefits expected from creating a young forest.

**12:00 noon "Awestruck by Apples" - Patti Wilcox/Casey Vitty**  
"Awestruck Ciders" are made by Gravity Ciders, Inc. in Walton, NY. We will learn some of the history of hard cider, about the apples they use, their process and what the slider graph on each bottle means.

**1:00 "Growing Deer Debate" - Ryan Trapani**  
Ryan, Education Forester for Catskill Forest Association, will talk about one of the most influential forces in our Catskills forests – deer. Deer impact us all: gardeners, foresters, orchardists, landscapers, & farmers. Ryan will speak briefly about deer and foreshadow CFA's upcoming fall event – The Growing Deer Debate.

**1:45 "How to Keep Your Private Forestland Private" - Jim Waters**  
Jim will talk about the high costs of ownership and what can be done to release those financial burdens. Come learn from Jim's vast experience with private forestland ownership...making the numbers work.

**2:00 "Bringing Back the Mighty Giant- the American Chestnut" - Allen Nichols**  
Allen, Vice President of the New York Chapter of The *American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)*, will discuss the bioengineered, blight-resistant American chestnut trees that will soon be available for planting.

**2:45 "CFA's Forestry for Wildlife Programs" - John MacNaught**  
John, Wildlife Specialist for CFA, will discuss customizing your forest to accommodate your specific habitat goals.

**3:15 "Wild Walks" - Marshall Rudd**  
Want to take a guided hike in the Catskill Mountains? This talk will inspire you to hire a guide to make it happen. Marshall is a NYS licensed guide. He will talk about "wild walks."

## "Tent of Knowledge" Presentations

## Can Bats Affect Forest Management?

By: John MacNaught, CFA's Wildlife Specialist

Can bats effect forest management? The answer is yes. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is the latest species in our region to be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The northern long-eared bat was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as Threatened throughout its range on May 4th, 2015. A threatened species is defined by the USFWS, as "any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Northern long-eared bats also listed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as Threatened.



With the official listing of the species under the ESA, the "Take" of northern long eared bats is now strictly prohibited throughout the range of the species, which is described as all of New York (outside of major cities), north into Canada, south to Louisiana, east into Maine, and west into Montana. Take is specifically

defined under the ESA as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Furthermore, to "harm" is defined by the ESA as "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

Northern long-eared bats are in decline, like many other bat species, due to *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which is a fungus that grows on the soft tissue of bats (around the mouths and ears) and looks like white hair, thus giving the common name 'White-Nose Syndrome'. According to biologists, the fungus seemingly agitates the bats and negatively effects thermoregulation during hibernation causing bats to become active in winter months, almost always resulting in death. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), bat populations have declined an alarming 80% since the first reports of white-nose syndrome in 2007.



**White-nose syndrome on a long-eared bat.**



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 inter-

ests, 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 25), "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 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.**



Northern long-eared bats gather in large caves and abandoned mines, referred to as the hibernaculum, in late fall before winter temperatures arrive. Here they breed just before hibernating through the winter months in more favorable, warmer conditions provided by the cave. In spring, bats disperse from the hibernacula and travel to summer foraging areas. The males and non-reproductive females will spend the summer alone feeding in forested uplands. Breeding females establish maternity roost sites in trees and snags where they give birth and raise their young. Maternity roosts are normally deciduous and are often trees with exfoliating, or peeling bark, or those that possess cracks, holes, or crevices where bats can crawl under and hide during daylight hours.

So how might the listing as a threatened species of northern long eared bats affect the local forest, forest managers, and landowners? Well, as part of the prohibition from 'take,' the removal or felling of potential roosting habitat for northern long eared bats during periods of the year when bats would be present at summer roosting sites may pose problems according to the ESA. While the actual felling of trees is not viewed by the USFWS or the DEC as a regulated activity, the 'take' or 'harm' of any bat that may be present in that tree is. Therefore the disturbance or alternation of suitable habitat for northern long eared bats may require permits from the USFWS and/or DEC prior to doing so. If the appropriate permits are not secured, the actions could result in serious penalties.

Luckily, due to an interim rule (the "Interim 4(d) rule"), for non-federally vested projects (those that do not require a federal permit or receive federal funding) normal forest management practices and felling of trees that pose an imminent safety threat to humans is currently exempted. According to the USFWS, forest management is defined as "the practical application of biological, physical, quantitative, managerial, economic, social, and policy principles to the regeneration, management, utilization and conservation of forests to meet specific goals and objectives." Forestry management includes the suite of activities used to maintain and manage forest ecosystems, including, but not limited to: timber harvest and other silvicultural treatments, prescribed burning, invasive species control, wildlife openings, and temporary roads. The conversion of mature hardwood or mixed forest into intensively managed monoculture pine plantation stands, or non-forested landscape is not exempted under this interim rule.

Though still an issue, the listing of northern long eared bats will affect any person applying for a building permit where greater than one acre of land will need to be cleared. In other words, if you would like to clear a lot for a house, or to create a field or lawn, etc., you will have to contact the local USFWS and/or DEC offices to determine if a permit to remove potential habitat would be required.

The USFWS will want to know if suitable habitat is present. To determine this, a qualified wildlife biologist would need to review the site and assess it for suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat. If habitat is



not present, a simple report of findings could be issued and submitted, indicating that no habitat for the species is present and therefore a "take" would not occur. The USFWS and DEC would then be able to "clear" the project and approve the activity.

If a wildlife biologist does find suitable bat roosting habitat, the next step would be to assess the proposed activities to determine if they would directly impact that habitat. If so, then a determination of potential effect is provided to the USFWS and DEC. The agencies would then, in accordance with regulations require the applicant to hire a biologist to conduct presence or absence surveys for northern long-eared bats on the property. These surveys must follow established protocols and would include several days of acoustical detection, the physical capture of bats on the property for positive identification, and radio-telemetry activities to track individual bats to identify exact roost trees and foraging habitats. All of this would further draw out the permit and building process, adding costs to the build.

The alternative is to comply with a time-of-year-restriction and avoid cutting of potential roost trees during the times of the year when bats are present. The USFWS and DEC currently indicate that the bats would not be present from October 31 to March 31 of any given calendar year.

Though most forestry activities are exempt for now, forest managers will still need to keep bats on their radar. The interim 4(d) rule is expected to be modified by the USFWS after the public comment period ends at the end of July, 2015. The USFWS has indicated that a "final" rule will be published afterwards. At this point, it is unknown if regulations are to get more stringent or if they will be relaxed.

For more information on this topic, or any other wildlife related issue, contact Catskill Forest Association's Wildlife Specialist, John MacNaught. (845) 586-3054  
[www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)

for a few more years, but if she dies her heirs may be levied a sizable estate tax. Often the reaction is another poorly timed timber harvest or worse the sale of some or all of the property. If the property lies inside New York City's watershed for drinking water, then surely the city's buzzards will be circling soon over another rural tragedy to buy the old farm and the back forty, especially in a depressed real estate market where fewer private buyers exist. If the desperate landowner's timing is right, they might strike it rich by tapping into the deeper pockets of the state's taxpayers – State Forest Preserve – and sell to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. For some, this sounds like a great idea, but the opportunity costs of selling land to the DEC or DEP must be considered. That is land where local wood products could have been harvested, local beef, dairy, fruits, vegetables, wind power, or a family raised. Nothing is really **preserved**; these products will have to be ascertained from someone else's forest. Even if forestland is to be viewed without utility, state land for recreational purposes unfairly competes with private land that could have been used for recreation, but that's another conversation.

#### Private Land vs. State Land

Landowners have the greatest stake in their land, yet are not being treated as stakeholders at many of these meetings. It's true that not all landowners are the best stewards of their land; some could care less and ask me, "Why should I care about these trees, I'll be dead soon." However, land that is owned in-trust – by government agencies – cannot claim they are doing better with less money. Forest regeneration, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat are also suffering from lack of management on publicly-owned lands, and at an exorbitant price tag, whether or not you visit state land to take the dog or the gun for a walk through the wilderness. The main problem with state land is that no one individual or family owns it; therefore no one really takes responsibility or a stake in it. On private land, one is rewarded for investing in their property and penalized – via lower prices – if not; that individual or family bears the risk of their decision since it's their asset and their money. In other words, what I have learned from working on both state and private land is that no one cares more for their property than one who owns it (most of the time). Some of the most passionate and dedicated people I have encoun-

tered are private forest landowners that back their devotion and passion for their land with their own time, labor, sweat, and economic risk. Since each landowner has differing goals from their neighbors, diversity is more prone to occur on the private landscape as well. The nicest timber, the best brook trout streams, and best hunting I have encountered occur on private land; and that's not an accident.

#### Peeling Back the Band-Aids

As landownership continues to mature in the Catskills (average age is over 60), conflicts between taxation, landownership, and environmental stewardship may worsen. Currently there are tax breaks for owning forestland over 50 acres, but that does not include the majority of forest landowners, or the existing problems in those programs. Organizations that seek to preserve wildlife habitat, open spaces, biodiversity or forest products may have to peel back the band-aids to see where the bleeding is coming from. Taxes are boring; they're not really as sexy as a campaign to save bald eagles or designating a new wilderness area, but they are having tremendous effects on landownership and the environment. Any system that penalizes an individual or his family for improving his house or the back forty may be the least sustainable. We should not be surprised that private lands are often considered "unprotected" when the costs of owning land are so high. Perhaps we should be talking more about tax policy and the merits of private property when it's more affordable to pass onto the next generation if we are to also be stakeholders for forest stewardship.

[www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)

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## CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!

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Sawmill  
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Maple Products  
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FREE ADMISSION!

Last Saturday in July 10am-4pm

A Celebration of the Catskill Forest

At the Park Pavilion, Village of Margaretville, NY



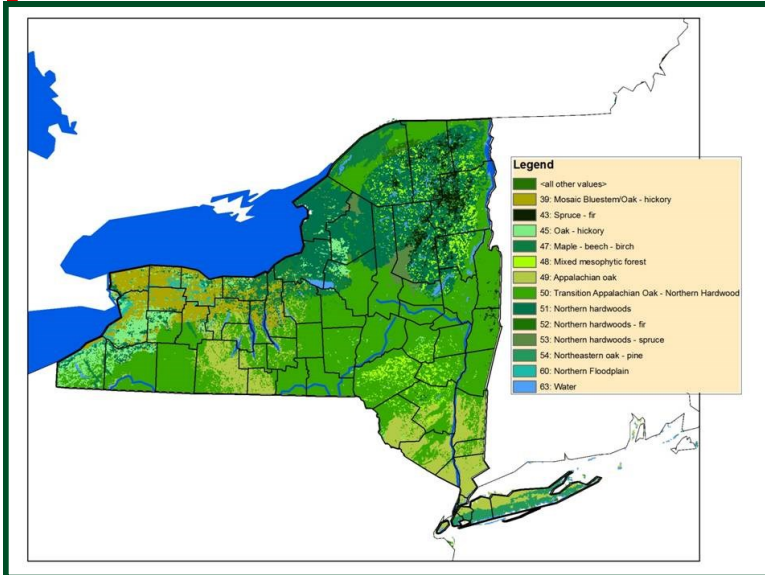
For more information call  
845-586-3054





# "WE PLAY, YOU PAY!" - Boring Taxes & Forest Sustainability

By: Ryan Trapani, CFA's Education Forester



New York Forest Type Map

My job as **Education Forester** for the Catskill Forest Association (CFA) enables me the opportunity to attend a wide variety of meetings across the Catskill Region concerning environmental issues: water quality, endangered species, riparian corridors, forest health, wildlife management, scenic corridors, etc. Most gatherings attract the usual suspects or "stakeholders" from an alphabet soup of non-profit and government organizations: NYS DEC, NYS DOT, APHIS, NYS Agriculture & Markets, USDA Forest Service, various planning agencies, this conservancy and that conservancy, this preserve and that preserve, this animal and that animal, you get the point.

Please don't misunderstand; these organizations include passionate and devoted staff members for causes many would find worthwhile; CFA is one of those organizations at the table. However, there seems to be one stakeholder that never seems to be represented in any significant way, yet it's the one that has the most at stake. He or she is paying for most of the ecological services most of us benefit from: water quality, forest cover, wildlife habitat, local wood products, fuelwood, maple syrup, the scenic pastoral views on your way home, and the scenic forested views on your way to work.

## You, the Landowner

I'm talking about you, the landowner. Over 85% or more of the land you see out there is owned by you, the private landowner, and the average private landowner had an average of 17 acres about 10 years ago; at least in the Catskill Region. That number by most accounts is shrinking.

Sure you're not perfect, but you're a good deal, you're cheap. In fact, you make the rest of us money. You pay for the roads. You pay for the schools. You pay for that transfer station that exports all our unsightly garbage somewhere. You are – for the most part – what make the scenic byway, well, scenic. We just put up the sign, really. You pay for that hay-field. You pay for those beautiful cherry blossoms, those beautiful serviceberry or

apple blossoms too. You paid for that nice deer I bagged last fall that had been browsing your arborvitae the previous winter. You paid for the turkey my friend shot early this May in your cow pasture, or the black bear the guy down the road got that made a daily pilgrimage to your black cherry stand you thinned out 10 years back. You grew that nice red oak that now serves as our flooring. Pancakes? Sap from your trees we boiled down into syrup.

## Taxing a Good Thing

However, it seems that word hasn't spread about your sacrifices, perhaps since you make up a minority of the general population. Instead of encouraging you to preserve or expand upon the ecological services or locally-made products you provide, we instead penalize you.

Currently, landowners are forced to make decisions that are not always in alignment with their goals for environmental stewardship. One article from the **Journal of Forestry** in 2010 claimed that federal incomes taxes alone can reduce investment into forestland by up to 79%. In other words, instead of re-investing money into one's forestland for needed timber stand improvement or wildlife habitat enhancement, money is diverted literally out of the woods. Estate taxes may seem like they only impact the rich and famous in faraway places, but significantly influence forest landowners – by a margin of 38 to 28 – according to the same article. It doesn't take much forest land (or farm land for that matter) to add up to over \$1 million and qualify an unlucky individual – whose money poor and land rich – with recently deceased parents for a 30% plus tax bill. Twenty-two percent of heirs are forced to sell timber – in many cases the best growing trees – in order to simply pay the taxes. Nineteen percent are forced to sell some portion of the property; leading to parcelization and fragmentation that many of the passionate and dedicated individuals of environmental groups scorn.

## Unintended Consequences

Reading about the consequences of taxation in an article by the **Journal of Forestry** is one thing, but experiencing it is another. Most of my job is extremely fun and interesting since I get to communicate with a variety of people who feel strongly about their woodlands throughout the six counties of the Catskills; it's been extremely educational to say the least. Prior to this contact, I used to think forests and taxation had nothing to do with each other. The forest was a place to forget about such mundane things as taxation; I was wrong. Unfortunately it's not uncommon to hear about a struggling elderly landowner who cannot pay their taxes. A typical story begins with a phone call. She wants to know if there are any trees on her property worth cutting; she's never been back there; after all her husband was the hunter and handled the forestry matters. She'd rather not cut any trees, but now is forced to pay the taxes. We have an awkward conversation about high-grading and unsustainable cutting practices, but I know she needs the money and is weighing leveraging the property, not growing wood fiber or bunny rabbits years down the road. A timber harvest may delay the process

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015**



PRESENTS

## THE GROWING DEER DEBATE

Discussing Solutions for Deer Impact on the Environment



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

"No other threat to forested habitats is greater at this point in time—not lack of fire, not habitat conversion, not climate change. We can argue about which threat is more significant than another, but no one who walks the eastern forests today can deny the impact of deer to forest condition." **The Nature Conservancy, 2013**

## The Growing Deer Debate Conference:

Seeks to raise awareness of deer impact on the environment in the Catskill Mountain Region & throughout the eastern US.

In this day-long event, a variety of experts, professionals, & authors convene to discuss out-of-the-box & cutting edge solutions to tackle this growing issue.

Morning sessions will analyze the multi-faceted issue of deer impact on the environment, while the afternoon will focus on creating solutions; challenging conventional methods in which deer have traditionally been managed.

**OCTOBER 31st, 2015  
9am – 4pm**

@ Margaretville Central School  
415 Main St., Margaretville, NY

**REGISTER EARLY & SAVE!**

**\$25—Pre-Registration**

**\$30 — at the Door**

**Student Discount — \$15**

**To Register Call: 845-586-3054**

## THE SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

**RYAN TRAPANI** is CFA's Education Forester. An ISA Certified Arborist & Certified Deer Steward, QDMA, Trapani is a regular contributor to many local publications such as Kaatskill Life, Shawangunk Journal & Mother Earth News.

**JIM STERBA** is author of *Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds*. Sterba has been a foreign correspondent, war correspondent & national correspondent for more than four decades, first for *The New York Times* & then for *The Wall Street Journal*.

**TOM RAWINSKI** is a botanist with the USDA Forest Service. A former Director of Ecological Management at the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Rawinski has written scores of technical reports & publications. In 2001 he received the New England Wild Flower Society's Conservation Award.

**EDWARD STRINGHAM, Ph.D.** is Davis Professor of Economic Organizations & Innovation at Trinity College. He was President of the Association of Private Enterprise Education, & a board member for the Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation & the Center on Culture & Civil Society at the Independent Institute. An author & editor of numerous publications, Dr. Stringham is also a winner of several awards including the Templeton Culture of Enterprise Best Article Award.

**DAVID DRAKE** is Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology & extension Wildlife Specialist with the University of Wisconsin. Drake co-authored the article from *The Wildlife Society Bulletin: Regulated Commercial Harvest to Manage Overabundant White-Tailed Deer: An Idea to Consider?*

**RUBEN CANTU** is a certified Wildlife Biologist & Certified Professional in Rangeland Management. He has 27 years with the Texas parks & Wildlife Department as a Wildlife Biologist. Now retired, he created Habitat Advantage, LLC & is co-owner of Wildlife Consulting, LLC. Past president of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, executive board member of the Texas Wildlifew Association, on the White-tailed Deer committee, & member of the Texas Section Society Range Management. Authored & co-authored various publications about wildlife throughout his career.



# 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
  - Trail Cam Program
  - Owl Box 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](http://vimeo.com/channels/fromtheforest)) — no spaces!

In addition, check out the [www.watershedpost.com](http://www.watershedpost.com) site, click on "sponsored content", then "From the Forest".

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We're having a beautiful summer, aren't we? Only a day or two that I would consider uncomfortable. The gardens, as well as the fruit trees appear to be doing well throughout most of the Catskill Mountain Region.

I have seen some damage from Gypsy Moth on the oaks as I travel further east towards the Hudson. Hopefully their population doesn't remain large enough to strip the trees for more than a year or two. Three years in a row usually leads to tree mortality.

I also noticed, on a recent visit to the Albany area, an outbreak of Forest Tent Caterpillar in the sugar maple trees. I guess that's a sign that we'll be looking at that ugly problem again. The populations of Forest Tent normally rise to epidemic levels every 7 to 10 years...and it has been about that long since the Catskills were hit hard. I'm thinking we may be looking at another outbreak here in a couple of years.

In the spring issue of CFA News I gave an update on 480a, New York's Forest Tax law. I have spoken with the DEC and they have completed their revised proposal. It is now in the Governor's office. I was told that the DEC had taken all of the comments into account from the various stakeholder meetings in coming up with their revised proposal. They said they are not allowed to give any specifics until it is looked at there. When it does come out, they said they will be holding additional stakeholder meetings — probably this fall.

We will just have to wait until then. As soon as I hear anything, I will let you all know. I am guessing that after the fall stakeholder meetings, the DEC will make additional changes, it will again go to the Governor's office and then may go into a "public comment" period before going to the Legislature. This is a very important matter for forest landowners as well as all taxpayers. I will be making a presentation Sat. July 25th in the "Tent of Knowledge" at CFA's Catskill Forest Festival. (See pg. 6)

A few years ago, our previous Governor established the "Wood Products Development Council" and I was appointed as the "Landowner-Organization" Representative. That council has contracted with SUNY-ESF to provide it with an evaluation of the background and current status of NY's Forest Tax Law. This is very good timing. It will look into the "real" costs of the program to the state, its effectiveness, will compare it to other states' programs and provide specific recommendations to improve NY's program. It's not over until it is over!

John MacNaught, CFA's new full-time Wildlife Specialist started work in the middle of May. John recently graduated from Paul Smith's College with a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, a bachelor's degree in Biology, and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. John has interned for CFA for the past two summers. John grew up locally here in the Catskills in the town of DeLancey. He enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, producing maple products, and has demonstrated his passion for work and helping private landowners.

John has been helping out with all of CFA's pro-

grams and events and has taken charge of the Forestry for Wildlife, Woodland Use Guide and Trail Camera Programs. Most recently he convinced Ryan to help him in a new service for members. It's called the High-Nesting Bird, Bird-Box Program. (If you're into acronyms — The HNBBB Program!) (See pg. 10)

Some of you took advantage of funding made available from the "Common Waters Fund" for forestry work before the program ended. Well, it looks as if a program designed much the same (The Upper Delaware Regional Conservation & Protection Partnership (RCPP)) may become available late this fall for another 2 to 3 years. Ryan, John and I will be attending a meeting next week and should find out more information on this program. CFA is a partner in the effort. We will let you all know the specifics as soon as they are developed.

New York State is also looking into putting some of its own moneys into the federally funded EQIP program, possibly beginning in 2017. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Farm Bill legislation also combined the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) into EQIP and incorporated priorities to assure that EQIP will support wildlife related projects. Right now the state receives a very limited amount of funding for the program and it runs out quickly. Hopefully, this happens as it might help you pay for some forest improvements.

We hope to see you all this next weekend, July 25th at the Forest Festival. It's sure to be great fun and a good opportunity to learn as well as meet other forest owners. If you can't make it to this year's festival, check out all of the other events CFA has coming up!

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](http://wioxradio.org).





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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.

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

[www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)

Cover Photos:

**Catskill Forest Festival**  
[photos by Jim Waters]

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**CFA  
'T'  
shirts:**

**Adult  
&  
Children  
Sizes**

**\$10!**

## Welcome New Members!!!

**2015**

**May**

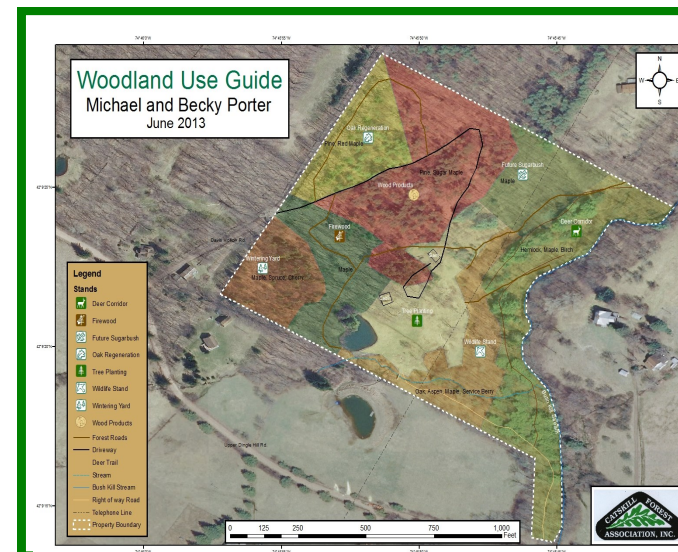
Robert Hauck - Arkville  
Kevin Moore - Roxbury

**June**

George White & Susan Staples - Stone Ridge  
Jaqueline & Gale Wilson - Andes

**July**

Roxanne & Anthony Geller - Prattsville  
Sam Liberto - Hobart  
Eric Colwell - NJ  
Richard Elrauch - Halcottsville



## 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 your individual Guide is given after an onsite visit and evaluation is done. Every property is different.**

## 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](mailto: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

## 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.



# CFA NEWS



The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Volume 33, Number 3 - Summer 2015



## CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!



**LOGGING COMPETITION  
FORESTRY EQUIPMENT  
SAW MILL  
FOREST PRODUCTS  
RECREATION VENDORS  
FOOD & DRINK VENDORS  
MUSIC  
FAMILY ACTIVITIES**



**Saturday, July 25th  
10am 'til 4pm  
Margaretville Park Pavilion**

10am -  
4pm



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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"We Play You Pay!"

"Can Bats Affect Forest Management?"

"The Forest Industries of Pakatakan Mountain: A Historic Headache" by Dr. Michael Kudish

