

Unexpected Benefits

by Ryan Trapani, Interim Executing Director, Catskill Forest Association

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." Many of us have heard this old saying. Often it's referenced when viewing a painting or some other piece of art. For instance, there are presently a few country singers I feel are conspiring to kill country music as I love it; yet they remain popular and continue to sell out shows. I guess beauty is also in the ear of the beholder. But, I can respect their talent and others' demand for their music.

What about forests? Is beauty in the eye of the beholder there too? I think so. Recently I revisited a member's property in Ulster County; let's call her Susan. Susan admits she is an enthusiastic "tree-hugger." Her passion for her trees and the critters that reside there is astonishing and should be respected. Although her passion for the local wildlife seems taller than the 70-foot tall trees dotting her property, she doesn't let it block her from hearing other perspectives. In this way, Susan is one of the sweetest people I've ever met.

In any case, it's time to see what's going on with Susan's trees and the surrounding forest. Upon getting out of my truck, I see some daylight shining through the mature canopy up-hill from the house. "What's up there? I don't remember going there last time I was here," I said. I can tell Susan isn't happy about this section. She tells me about the neighbor who had access for one day about 15 years ago to some keys and a dozer. "It was a beautiful deep forest and he cut it all down for a view." I replied, "Let's have a look." Now, I wasn't sure what I'd find up there, but really wanted to visit it for 2 reasons. Most importantly was that I could tell Susan was genuinely concerned about this forest that had been trashed in her eyes. The second was that I was a little bit hungry and knew that sunshine meant something edible to eat, like blackberries.

On our way we walked under many beautifully mature and spreading red oak, chestnut oak, hickory, black birch, maple, and ash trees. These trees were about 40 – 70 feet tall. The walking was fairly easy since few plants could survive in the shade of these overarching trees. "Why aren't there more plants or trees growing on the ground here?" she asked. I explained about the lack of sunlight and ability of what few plants did grow was eaten by

hungry white-tailed deer.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

When we arrived at the site I saw something rare in the woods; something needed more; something great for wildlife; a place where more fruitful or edible plants might grow; a place with more structure and cover for fawning does, ground-nesting songbirds, or ruffed grouse; a place too where I could pick some blackberries. Susan saw a mistake; a mistake her neighbor made at the expense of the trees and animals. Susan's neighbor had no intention in managing for wildlife. As far as I knew, Susan's neighbor was not a Forester practicing silviculture. In other words, they were not following the textbook prescription under "group-selection cutting methods" listed under "uneven-aged management" in order to foster shade-intermediate to shade intolerant vegetation. Nope, that's forestry jargon stuff. Instead, they were trying to improve their view-shed so they could see the distant Hudson Valley. The permanent view-shed was abandoned after the human love-birds divorced and left the property; that's when the younger growth began growing.

An Accident

Accidents like these occur once in a while. The intended goals might be for an enhanced view-shed, power-line corridor, roadway, or an abandoned pasture or housing development. For instance many farms were abandoned in Delaware County throughout the 1960s & 1970s. This might be bad for dairy, but great for plants and wildlife that require early successional habitat; also known as young forest. Some of the forest's most edible plants require sunnier conditions often accidentally created by humans: blackberry, blueberry, winter-green, serviceberry, raspberry & more. In another example, some of the best quality black cherry timber harvested today would not have been possible without this farm abandonment. Equally important is the cover that this accidental wildlife patch cut created. Aspen, sycamore, gray birch and paper birch had been patiently waiting beneath the forest soil (for decades) for such sunny conditions to arrive. Now that the larger trees had been removed, they sprouted up. Blackberries were everywhere as well as sweet-fern, witch-

hazel and mountain laurel. Ground-nesting songbirds, ruffed grouse and fawning does now had a better place for security cover from predators.



Young Forest Growing as a result of farm Abandonment
Image taken by John MacNaught—Wildlife Specialist, CFA

Less Accidental & More Deliberate

Of course we don't have to wait for an accident to make better habitat or growing space for edible plants or future timber crops; we can do it deliberately. Sometimes it's alright to just hug a tree and sometimes it's good to hug a tree to see where it's leaning before cutting it down. Often, refraining from cutting trees is at the expense of other plants and possibly wildlife. Remember, some trees, shrubs and animals cannot survive or grow under shady circumstances. Whether you decide to cut a tree or not, ask yourself what you are preserving afterwards. For many people, there is a bias towards larger and older trees. As a result, younger forest is in shorter supply throughout the Catskill Mountains. This may be good or bad, depending on what you're going for.

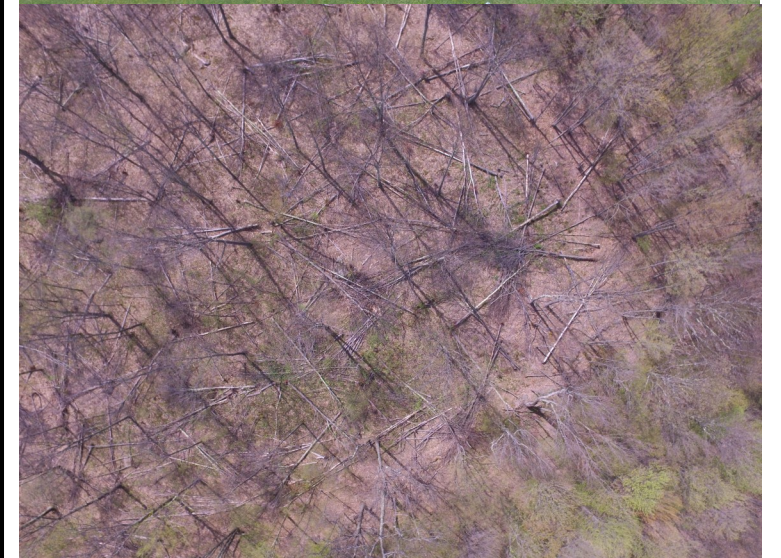
Afterwards, Susan was glad to hear that what she thought was a catastrophe was actually good for many of the plants and animals she cared so deeply for. So, accidentally she had a better view on both her woods and the distant Hudson Valley. www.catskillforest.org

Ryan Trapani
Interim Executive Director
Catskill Forest Association

DRONES!!!



CFA is excited to announce that the On-Site Visit Program now has another new option – **Aerial Surveying of your property or forest using a drone.** Ryan is now a **Remote Pilot in Command** that is licensed by the *Federal Aviation Administration* to commercially sell services using drones. We can take pictures of your property before and after a harvest, or get that nice snapshot of your home from above. We can even build a current map of your property from the images collected.



New York State Arborist's Fall Conference

by Ryan Trapani, Interim Executive Director, Catskill Forest Association

This past September I attended the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) chapter of New York State Arborists' Fall Conference near Syracuse, New York. The conference included six presentations ranging from the most depressing topics dealing with Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid to the regulation of pesticides in tree care operations. Brian Eshenaur – Cornell University – presented: Plant Pathology Nitty-Gritty: Applying the Essentials of the Science for Solutions to Tree Problems. I found Mr. Eshenaur's presentation most useful for anyone who cares for their trees or someone else's trees. At the conclusion of his talk, he clearly and concisely listed his "Top Ten" most common impacts to trees he has experienced throughout his career beginning in the 1980s. Below is Brian's list; they are not listed in any particular order.

Ten Most Common Impacts on Trees Near You

#1 Rodent Damage

Many of us have seen the damage that voles (similar to mice) can have on small fruit trees (especially apple); damage occurs during winter when voles have ample snowfall to tunnel beneath. Voles girdle the tree by eating its inner bark. You can keep these guys away from your trees by installing metal hardware or mesh around the base, or by walking around your trees with snowshoes in order to compact the voles' tunnels. You can also erect an owl box nearby in order to move the owl's sleeping quarters in closer proximity to its food source (voles).

#2 Girdling Roots

Many of us have bought potted trees and upon removal from the pot have noticed roots that encircle where the edges of the pot were. These roots should be "straightened out" or loosened as much as possible before planting. I have been to members' properties that had mature maple trees that "suddenly died." The cause is often traced back to those encircling roots when the tree was only a seedling many decades ago. The mature tree can be cut off or girdled as an encircling root grows.

#3 Too Much or Too Little Water

Too much or too little water often leads to similar symptoms in trees; reduced growth or discolored leaves. The best way to reduce this problem is to pay attention to a site before planting. After it rains, go for walk over it. Is it really wet; for how long? Water should drain from the site within 24 hours or less. Obviously, too little water is a problem since the tree's roots have no moisture which it

uses to transport nutrients and carry on photosynthesis. Younger trees have fewer roots and will need more water initially, especially since they are closer to the surface.

#4 Lightning

It's rare, but it does happen. My brother-in-law's well pump was fried last month after a nearby white pine was struck by lightning; his well has been fixed, but the white pine has been removed. Sometimes trees can survive a lightning strike; it depends on the severity.

#5 Over-Shearing

This pertains more to ornamental shrubs and some evergreens or conifers being shaped into a hedge (spruce or hemlock). Too much pruning can stress a plant out, especially when the shape is drastically different than it naturally wants to be.

#6 Improper Tree Staking

Tree staking should be used on trees only where high winds persist. Too much staking – according to ISA – can reduce a tree's stem or trunk taper, making it less stable in the future. If you do stake a tree, try to place it as low as possible in order to promote taper. And lastly, remove the stake after a year or two in order to reduce rubbing or worse, girdling.

#7 Over Mulching (Volcano Mulch)

Mulch can be extremely beneficial to trees and shrubs, reducing extremes in soil moisture, enhancing root nutrition as well as reducing competition from weeds. However, too much mulch can inhibit moisture from reaching the roots. If mulch is extremely excessive, bark can begin to rot as well. Mulch no more than 2 to 3 inches.

#8 Planting Too Deep

This is something I have learned the hard way. In more well-drained soils, one can get away more easily with planting too deeply. However, when clay soils are introduced, planting too deeply easily leads to suffocated roots and stunted or dead trees. Before planting, first locate the root flare and use this as your depth gauge. Trees should never look like a planted "telephone pole" in the ground. Instead, the top of root flare should be exposed.

#9 Transplant Shock

Freshly planted trees often suffer from "transplant shock." Try and keep roots moist before planting – especially if

Business Members of the Catskill Forest Association



The Catskill Forest Association has several membership categories. As of June, 2016, our **Business Membership** category includes an email blast to all of our members and is also listed on our website. Just another way the CFA can help get landowners in touch with professionals in the Catskills and surrounding areas to help make our forests healthier. This is a new service for our business membership category. If you would like your business to be added to the list, or would like advice on any forest topic, give us a call at (845) 586-3054. **And remember, consultations are free for all members!**

Amex Bois Franc—Hardwood Inc.

CP 186 succ Bureau-Chef
Plessisville, Québec, Canada
(819) 998-0520

Bevan Forestry

PO Box 359
604 Grooville Rd
Livingston Manor, NY 12758
(845) 439-4909

Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.

890 McLean Rd
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 753-3393

Hemlock Ridge Tree Service

PO Box 81
Fleischmanns, NY 12430
(845) 254-4325

Mesa Reduction Engineering and Processing, Inc.

Address: 6030 E Lake Rd
Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: (315) 704-0004

Roxbury Mountain Maple

750 Roxbury Mountain Rd.
Hobart, NY 13788
(607) 538-1500

Sue Doig Associate Broker / Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties

75 Bridge Street, Po Box 667,
Margaretville, New York 12455, USA
(845) 586-3321

Wagner Millwork, Inc.

4060 Gaskill Road
Owego, NY 13827
(607) 687-536

The Working Forest Newspaper

347 Sherbrooke St #402
North Bay, Ontario, Canada P1B 2C1
1-877-869-0588

It is these high-elevation, isolated groves that may add some promise to solving the woolly adelgid problem. The insects should be slow to reach them, offering more time for researchers to combat the adelgid invasion. If we are fortunate, the insects may not reach some of these groves at all, and we will have a seed source to repopulate the devastated lower slopes and valleys where hemlock once abounded.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on the underside of hemlock needles. Photo by Ryan Trapani—CFA

EVIDENCE #4: GROUND COVER PLANT INVASIONS

Because hemlock can “wipe out” most all ground cover species as the conifer grove grows, can the reverse be true? Can the ground cover species return after the hemlock grove disintegrates? Can we use the presence or absence of certain ground cover species to tell us where hemlock groves have, and have not, been in the past?

In order to answer this question, I must visit places where hemlock groves are disintegrating today and look. One kind of place, described as Evidence #3 above, is high-elevation groves that are falling apart. Another kind of place is groves of hemlock defoliated by the woolly adelgid – perhaps the rare instance in which the adelgid is doing some good by giving us an opportunity to see the aftermath of a hemlock die-off today.

The answer is yes. Ground cover does come back, but not all species equally. Some species readily return such as Canada mayflower, star flower, wild sarsaparilla, hay-scented fern, and evergreen woodfern. But some do not, such as wood sorrel, Clinton's lily, shining clubmoss, and witchhobble (also known as hobblebush). These four may not return for other reasons than being shaded out by hemlock; repeated forest fires or pasturing seem to prevent them from returning as well.

EVIDENCE #5: BOGS WITH LOST HEMLOCKS

Hemlocks have been disappearing from places in the Catskills for thousands of years. Disappearance is thus not only a current phenomenon (see CFA News, volume 27, number 1, winter 2008-2009, page 10, “Bogs with Lost Hemlocks”). There are five bogs, between elevations of 2720 and 3680 feet, in which hemlock cones, wood, and/or needles have been found, preserved in peat as fossils. Yet there is no hemlock anywhere near the bog today. These bogs are on Eagle, Mongaup, and Balsam Lake Mountains, and on Mill Brook Ridge. The conifers disappeared roughly between 6,500 and 4,000 years ago for reasons unknown -

but probably from a combination of stresses due to weather extremes and/or possibly some native defoliator or disease.

ARE HEMLOCK GROVES CYCLICAL?

The above five kinds of evidence resulted in a new idea for me. Could hemlock groves be cyclical? Can they come and go? Not on a regular basis, predictable by the clock, but irregularly so – running on different timetables on different mountains? And averaging about 250 years before they go? And has this been going on for up to 14,000 years?

If so, then maybe we can explain to some extent what we are seeing today. For example, suppose bark peelers in the early and middle part of the 19th century happened to have “caught” many groves that were coincidentally maturing at that time, around age 200. These groves would have been established in the 1600s. Descriptions by writers in the 19th century of the valleys and lower slopes around Phoenicia, Hunter, and Prattsville, for example, reported predominantly hemlock. After the bark harvest, there would have been few mature hemlocks to carry on, and with no reproduction beneath, the groves disappeared. In these places, we see today that some bark roads end in forests now dominated by hardwoods.

But suppose the bark peelers were harvesting bark from middle-aged groves about 100 years old. Then there might have been a few trees left over that could re-seed the grove. We see hemlocks at the end of these bark roads today.

Bark peelers would not have touched very young hemlock groves, less than 50 years, because the bark would have been too thin to harvest.

In other words, what we see presently among bark roads might depend on WHAT PHASE OF THE HEMLOCK CYCLE the tanners happened to find their trees in.

Regarding the ground cover species, those places today now dominated by hardwoods might have lost some of their shrubs and herb species – wood sorrel, Clinton's lily, shining clubmoss, witchhobble – because hemlock had eradicated them at some time in the past (this eradication could also have been caused by pasturing or repeated forest fires in some places) and they could not return. It is the striking ABSENCE of these species, not the presence of others, that is important today in many portions of the Catskills. These four species, commonest at elevations above 3,000 feet, persist because hemlock most likely have never been there to “wipe them out”.

So what will happen where hemlock groves are destroyed by the woolly adelgid? Destroyed often in areas before these conifers reach their natural life span of about 250 years? Will the hemlocks return or will the site go to hardwoods, and for how long?

Dr. Michael Kudish

they're bare root – and keep them well-watered afterwards; not too much though. Try to retain as much of the original roots as possible when relocating. A well-matched site with a well-matched tree can greatly reduce transplant shock.

#10 String Trimmer

An over ambitious weed-whacker can often lead to damaged trees. This is by far one of the most common impacts on planted trees in the yard-scape. String-trimmer damage can easily be reduced by placing mulch-rings around trees in order to keep hardworking weed-whackers at bay.

One More

I would add that when planting trees, use only soil directly from the planting site, especially if you have clayey soil. I made the mistake of adding soil that was slightly sandier than the parent soil I was planting in. After a rain, where do you think all the water went? Right in the holes that my trees were planted in, since the soil there was coarser; this flooded my trees and they had to be re-planted.

Planting trees and shrubs is always a learning experience and varies from site to site. The only sure way to learn isn't at a conference, but more in the field; good luck. www.catskillforest.org.



Photo by the Author

Ryan Trapani
Interim Executive Director
Catskill Forest Association

Hinge Cutting Beech

By John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist,
Catskill Forest Association

The **Forestry for Wildlife** Program not only provides better quality habitat for wildlife and improves forest health, it also gives CFA staff and members a chance to learn new things about the way our forests react and grow using different cutting techniques.

American beech is often considered a weed tree in the forest when foresters wish to grow other desirable trees. Deer do not browse beech heavily and it sprouts from its root system after becoming stressed by beech bark disease. These two factors make beech difficult to control.

Ryan and I decided to test a theory we had while releasing red oak trees on a member's property in Margaretville last summer. We decided rather than completely cutting the young beech trees at the stump to release oak saplings to more sunlight, we would instead hinge cut them. We thought that by keeping them attached to the stump and living, the beech would provide cover for wildlife and not send up sprouts from its root system.

After visiting that Forestry for Wildlife cut a few weeks ago, Ryan and I discovered that the beech did exactly what we had hoped. The stems of the hinged beech trees sprouted vigorously yet the root systems did not sprout. This allows for sunlight to reach the forest floor for other seedlings like oak, cherry, and maple to grow. The beech trees that were hinged now provide woody debris for cover for wildlife to call home in a once open woodland. Feel free to give this method a try and let us know how it works for you.

John MacNaught,
CFA Wildlife Specialist



Hinge Cut Beech Trees 1 year Later
Photo Credit—John MacNaught -CFA

Thank you for your help & support at the 2016 Catskill Forest Festival!



EASTERN HEMLOCK: WEIRD AND CYCLICAL

by Dr. Michael Kudish

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is one of the Catskills' five shade-tolerant dominant trees. Dominant means not only abundant, but also capable of controlling (i. e. dominating) the site for nearly all other organisms which live with, on, and underneath it. The other four dominants - sugar maple, beech, red spruce, and balsam fir - can easily reproduce in their own shade, but eastern hemlock (called just "hemlock" regionally) cannot; it is WEIRD! A friend who studies allelopathy just reported to me that a recent study showed that an extract of hemlock litter (dead needles, wood, etc.) will inhibit its seeds from germinating.

Hemlock is most famous when something threatens it. In the 19th century, it was tanners. In the late 20th into the early 21st centuries, it is the woolly adelgid. But how well do we know hemlock and its 14,000 year existence in the Catskills so that we can better understand what its past threats have brought, and predict what its present threats will bring? Here are five kinds of evidence that hemlock groves come and go in cycles. Some of this evidence has already been described in The Catskill Center's fall-winter 2014-2015 newsletter, pages 4 through 6:

EVIDENCE #1: A LOCAL HEMLOCK GROVE'S PAST AND FUTURE

There is a large hemlock grove on the hill and in the ravine above my house. I frequently walk there, make observations, take measurements, and do a lot of thinking about the grove's past and future.

From ring counts, I know that most of the hemlocks are between 50 and 100 years old. These hemlocks are growing up mostly under a stand of mixed northern hardwoods, mainly sugar maple, red maple, black cherry, yellow birch, white ash, basswood, and some black birch and northern red oak. Because of the dense hemlock shade, and the acidity and low nutrient status of its decomposing needles and wood, there are barely any ground cover plants. There is barely any tree reproduction of any kind, including hemlock, either. What must have happened after one of the local tanneries was through removing hemlock bark in the 1850s and 1860s is that mixed northern hardwoods colonized the then-sunny sites. About 50 years later, hemlocks began to come in under the hardwoods and are now approaching 100 years old. This is what we see at present.

But what will happen in the future? The older hardwoods will mature and die first, and the hemlocks under them will continue to grow and mature. The absence of ground cover species and tree reproduction will continue. But for how long? The oldest hemlocks in the Catskills that I have found, by ring counts, range between 200 and 300 years. Two hundred years are common; three hundred are very rare. Let's say that the life span of a hem-

lock is 250 years.

In about 150 years, barring no environmental catastrophes, the old hemlocks will be dying off, one-by-one, gradually opening the canopy so that sunlight once again will reach the forest floor. These openings on the forest floor are called canopy gaps.

Some hardwoods and possibly some more hemlocks, or a mixture, in the disintegrating old growth hemlock grove, will move back in. Some, but not all, ground cover species will also move back in (see Evidence #4 below).

EVIDENCE #2: THE ENDS OF BARK ROADS

For decades, I assumed that bark roads always ended today in young or middle-aged hemlock groves - hemlocks that were at the time of peeling too young to harvest and survived. After all, there was hemlock at the end of all bark roads in the 19th century or the tanners wouldn't have built them.

But this is turning out not always to be true. About ten years ago, Woodland Valley historian Paul Misko (who has led CFA hikes and has been a guest on CFA's WIOX radio *From the Forest* programs), led me to the end of a bark road under the shadow of Cornell Mountain. There are no hemlocks at all there today. Later, he led me to other bark road ends; still no hemlock. I'm seeing this throughout the Catskills now - some bark roads ending in all-hardwood stands, some in hemlock stands, and some in mixtures.

This tells me that in some places, barked by the tanners, hemlock did not return, but in other places it did. Why?

EVIDENCE #3: HIGH-ELEVATION HEMLOCK GROVES TODAY

For many years, I have been looking at the condition of high-elevation, isolated hemlock groves - those mainly above an elevation of 2500 feet and many of them in first growth (areas never barked or logged). Hemlock is not common up high, the maximum elevation being about 3200 or 3300 feet. Here, they are only small groves or scattered trees. Hemlocks are really straining up there, I think primarily because of the short growing season, but also because of the more severe chronic wind, wet snow, and ice damage.

Some of the groves are breaking up, with dead and dying old trees persisting from the former larger groves. These conifers are being replaced by ridge hardwoods - red maple, black cherry, beech, and yellow birch. Some groves, in more sheltered sites, are expanding. Some are "holding their own", i. e. neither breaking up nor expanding.

A Tale of Opposites

CFA's Board President, Mike Porter

As I sit here writing my message to CFA members, I am returning from visiting my son and daughter-in-law in eastern Idaho. They have just moved into their first home on 1.2 acres of land in Victor. A friend of theirs who is a forest specialist for Teton National Park remarked that their lot is vegetated by plants in the 100+ year-old range and is quite special in it's own right. My observation, that 100+yr old vegetation is Sage Brush and Rabbit Bush. It is not what I would envision as a typical climax vegetation. None of us, the kids and Becky and I, are used to that type of landscape vegetation. There are 2 trees, a Blue Spruce and a Fir tree of unknown species. Both need irrigation to survive. The kids wish to plant more trees but their lifestyle at the present time would seriously impede their ability to sustain the trees until they are established enough to need minimal watering.

On the other side, Becky and I are constantly looking at what trees can be cut for the betterment of the forest and our desired forestry outcomes. Their 16 in. of annual precipitation pales in comparison with our 40+ in.. It takes almost daily care to establish a treed landscape there, yet, if we don't cut and manage our trees regularly, our forest becomes overrun with stems.

Upon our return home, CFA will be doing a "Game of Logging" program on our property and we will have to select about 15 trees for the instructor to choose from for participants to cut. If I told a westerner that I was marking trees to be cut just for instruction of safe chainsaw and felling operations they might cringe. Don't get me wrong, all the trees I mark will have a use in my grand scheme. They will become either lumber or firewood depending on species and condition of the tree and the removal will ultimately improve my forest.

How lucky we are to have such a problem and simple solution. How tough it is to wish for a forest landscape and realistically not have much of a chance of achieving it. As appealing as western landscapes are, the forested aspect is difficult to bear for us easterners. We must all consider ourselves lucky to have such a prolific resource and manage it to its greatest capability. Until next time...

From the Forest,

Mike Porter, President
CFA Board of Directors

COVER IS KEY

John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist,
Catskill Forest Association



Have you ever walked through a Catskill Forest and been able to see hundreds of yards in a single direction? It's a great sight, but signifies an unhealthy forest. Where is the cover for wildlife to live in? Cover can be created through our **Forestry for Wildlife** program by cutting the right trees for the right reasons. Check out the cover created on this member's property this summer. On our first visit back we found a lot of sign that Wildlife are living there based on the droppings, hair, and browse. I think I even saw a mountain man lurking in the brush, aka Ryan Trapani.

We can come cut the right trees, for the right reasons, and at the right time to help benefit wildlife habitat. If you have any questions, give us a call and schedule a **Consultation**, which is free for members.

John MacNaught,
CFA Wildlife Specialist



2016 Fall Events *Pre-Registration Required



October 8th Game of Logging 1

7:30AM—5PM

Level 1 topics include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, & understanding hinge wood strength.

October 16th Mushroom Walk

10AM-Noon

Learn about identifying & finding mushrooms in the woods with Catskill Fungi's—John Michelotti. Come prepared! We'll be walking in the woods & off trail.

October 8th LARK IN THE PARK – Tree ID & Forest History Hike

10AM-1PM

We will discuss how tree ID can help decipher a forest's history. Agriculture, logging, fires, tanneries, & various mills have all played important roles in shaping the forests we see today.

October 22nd Tree ID & Forest History Hike

10AM-1PM

CFA's Education Forester – Ryan Trapani – will be leading a walk on state forest preserve land beginning @ the Kanape Parking Area. Ryan will discuss how tree identification can serve as one way to decipher a forest's history.

October 15th 2016 Annual Membership Meeting

10AM-1:30PM

Join CFA staff, Board members, and membership for our annual meeting and lunch. We will have a presentation by CFA staff and local forester, Chris Tcimpidis of Bevan Forestry.

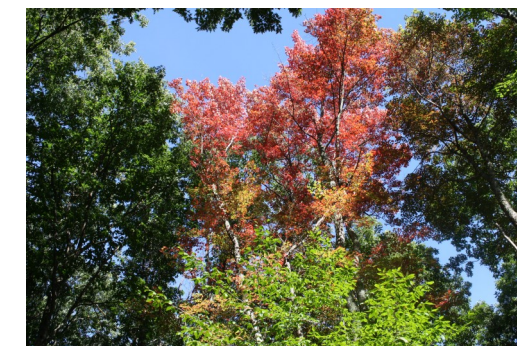
December 10th Deer Cutting Workshop

10AM-1PM

Knowing how to process a deer will lead to less waste, better tasting venison, & reduced costs \$\$\$ too. We will demonstrate on a real deer about the basics of skinning, quartering, & butchering.

Staff

Ryan Trapani—Education Forester
John MacNaught—Wildlife Specialist
Kathy Fox—Office Manager



Contact

cfa@catskill.net
(845) 586-3054
www.catskillforest.org

*All events require pre-registration. Please contact Kathy for event registration. All workshops meet at the designated location given by Kathy and can also be found on our website **www.catskillforest.org***



CFA Membership Categories

Basic -- \$50.00

Newsletters

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Contributing -- \$150.00

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CFA Sign

Most Events Free or Discounted, 20% discount on most of CFA's programs

Business -- \$200.00

Newsletters

CFA Sign

Most Events Free or Discounted, 10% discount on most of CFA's programs

Free table at Forest Festival

Email blast twice per year

Listed on CFA's website

Sustaining -- \$500.00

Newsletters

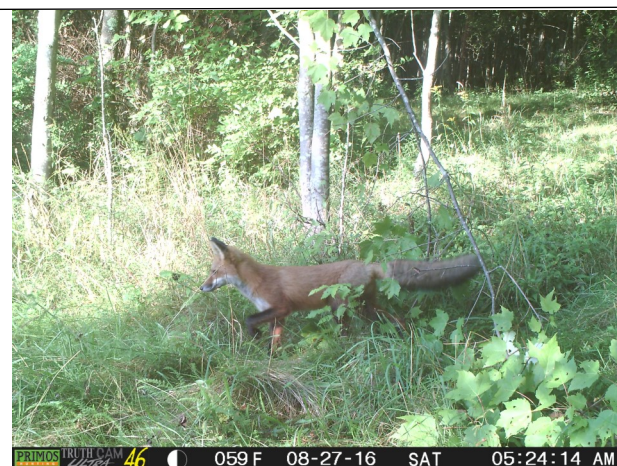
CFA Sign

Most Events Free or Discounted, 20% discount on most of CFA's programs
Free On-Site Visit (only our mileage will be charged)

What Have CFA Members Been Doing?



CFA led two **Ginseng Workshops** this past August to teach members about how to identify this sacred plant.



A member in Margaretville, NY took advantage of our **Trail Camera Program** this summer and got many images of the wildlife just below her home.



Vegetation inside CFA's **Deer Exclosure Fence** is beginning to grow vigorously. Join us in the spring to see for yourself how the forest grows when deer are not present.

From the Executive Director's Desk CFA Interim Executive Director, Ryan Trapani

"A Little More Action Please"

When I first worked for CFA (February, 2007), we primarily offered one program; an **On-Site Visit**. One of CFA's foresters would schedule an appointment for about \$200 to walk the property with the member. Often, the member wanted to know a little bit about what they had and what they could do. At the end of a typical visit, I noticed the member often seemed overwhelmed with the number of trees recommended for cutting. I'd often hear myself saying similar things:

"These oak trees won't last. You'll need to cut the neighboring ash and maple if you want acorns to be around in the future."

"You know, those old apple trees might taste lousy, but wild-life sure love them; open them up."

"It's barren in these woods; nothing but ferns and beech. If you want better wildlife habitat, you'll need more "forest furniture" or plants growing on the forest floor. Drop some tree-tops for bedding areas for deer, hiding places for grouse & ground-nesting songbirds, protection for tree seedlings to grow & more."

"You have the food, it's just 70 feet in the air. Cut some red maple down; the deer will thank you for the buds."

"You're a hunter? Cut some trees; there is nothing growing for deer to eat. You'll both starve."

"No wonder the hunting was better for rabbits & deer in the 70s; there was a younger forest then. Make some wildlife patch-cuts."

"Your forest could be more fruitful with some well-placed cutting; remove the ash to favor the blueberry, blackberry, oak, & cherry."

After repeating myself on various cutting techniques throughout the 6 counties of the Catskills, I was often left with one commonly asked reply from the member, "And who will be do this cutting?" Well, if there were more merchantable trees in their forest, then a logger might be found. However, most loggers would not be interested in cutting smaller trees or releasing oak trees for wildlife habitat. Many of these cuts simply included trees that couldn't "pay their way out of the woods." Besides, many of those trees should remain in the woods since they were more valuable as forest furniture for wildlife to seek cover in or feed under, or for growing new trees in between than for timber or firewood.

More importantly, many of these members owned less than 50 acres. This is not surprising, since the average parcel size in the Catskill Mountains is about 18 acres; some members own much less than this. Yet, these smaller landowners make up a significant portion of our membership and the forest we see out there. Small parcels are less attractive to forest industry, foresters, and loggers. What a dilemma!

So, there was no one that I knew of that could provide the precious sunlight into the woods in the manner we had discussed on the member's property. CFA had the message and seemed to be carrying it to its members well, but was failing to deliver the service. I feared that this **On-Site Visit** might become their **Last Site Visit** without being able to follow-up with **On-Site Management**.

Beyond The Visit

CFA's **On-Site Visit** still plays a valuable role since "information is power." But, the King of Rock & Roll wasn't wrong when he said, "A little less conversation, a little more action please." CFA now offers direct services or on-site management to its members, especially if you're one of the many that owns less than 30 acres. On a smaller scale than is normally encountered, CFA now fills the bill on allocating that precious forest fertilizer into the woods called sunlight via its **Forestry for Wildlife Program**. Programs geared to you include:

Forestry for Wildlife Program

Drone Survey (included in On-Site Visit Program)

High-Nesting Bird Box Installation Program (owl, kestrel, wood-duck, etc.)

Apple Tree Grafting Program

Trail Camera Program

Tree Marking Program (great for someone cutting firewood)

Woodland Use Guide Program

Don't worry. We can still discuss your forested options, identify hazardous trees, assess timber quality, discuss forest health & more without bringing any saws. CFA now offers a free **Consultation** with your membership; a good reason alone to remain a part of this forested family. As for the **On-Site Visit (OSV)**? The OSV is for members that wish to spend 2 or 3 hours walking their property with CFA. Even more exciting is that the OSV now has another new option – Aerial Surveying of your property or forest using drones. CFA now has a **Remote Pilot in Command** that has been licensed by the *Federal Aviation Administration* to commercially sell services using drones. And of course, always call the office or stop by if you should have any questions whatsoever; we're here to serve you. www.catskillforest.org

May the Forest be with You,
Ryan Trapani

Interim Executive Director
Catskill Forest Association





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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 the form on the back cover of this publication and mail it in. Contact information is located above. Please submit address changes to Kathy at the address above.

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Cover Photo:

Red maple foliage in early fall 2016
Location: CFA Member's Property in
Margaretville, NY

Photo taken by John MacNaught
Wildlife Specialist, Catskill Forest Association

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Welcome New Members!

September

Karen Miller—Mt. Tremper
Raecine Shurter—Olive
Stephen Lanner—Middletown
Lloyd Roalnd—Huntington
John Korsak—Middletown
Paul Johnson—Andes
John Korsak—Middletown
Gisele Gonzalez—Middletown
George Fay
Jules Kaufman—Gardiner
John Komporozos—Rockland
Peter Vincent—Pine Hill
Miles Dennison—Middletown
Emma Greenwood—Bearsville

August

Margorie Feuerstein—Rockland
James Bartlett—Shokan
Jeff and Viera—Trombley
Richard Allaway—Olivebridge
Jean Larson—Hamden
Ed Epstein—Moravia
Michael LoBianco—Shandaken
Chris and Dana Hensley—Roxbury
Patricia Johnson—Fleischmanns
Jacqueline Maier—Ashland
Frank Lippo—Kortright
Stephanie Prince—Olive
Lenore Ostrowsky—Big Indian
Susan and Ken Weiss—Halcottsville
Rich Prado—Middletown

July

Joseph Goellner—Oneonta
Marion and Carl Davis—Middletown
Nathalie Bonnin—Olive

CFA Programs

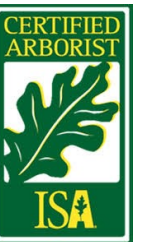
Our services are
always impartial
and confidential!



Consultation: CFA will meet with you at your property and help you develop some goals. We will make recommendations as well. Typically lasts 1 hour or less.

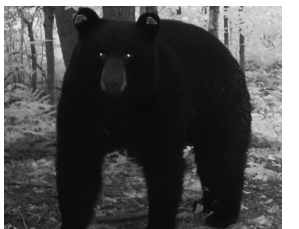
On-Site Visit Program: CFA will walk your property with you, no matter how large or small. We will give our impartial advice and management suggestions and summarize the visit in a letter. Typically lasts 1-3 hours. We can also fly the **drone** and get an overhead look!

Apple Tree Grafting Program: Rather than risking tree plantings not surviving, why not graft onto an existing tree? Grafts grow extremely fast from mature roots and will fruit earlier than comparable plantings. Grafts are already above deer browse and can preserve the best quality fruit varieties.



Forestry for Wildlife: Making your forests more fruitful for wildlife. We specialize in small scale habitat management. We will release fruit and nut bearing trees to sunlight, create cover for wildlife species, and increase forest diversity all by cutting the right trees for the right reasons.

Trail Camera Program: What wildlife is on your property when you're not around? CFA will install trail cameras on your land for up to two weeks and see what wildlife is on your property.



Tree Marking Program: It's about quality, not quantity of trees. Great for someone that cuts firewood each year, but not sure which trees to cut & which to leave behind. **The keepers or crop trees** are marked. The crop trees are left behind while adjacent trees are cut.

Woodland Use Guide: A guide you can use to manage your woodland. This guide breaks down your woodland into what you can do with your land. Included are detailed maps of the property with all unique features on the map.

Contact

cfa@catskill.net
(845) 586-3054
www.catskillforest.org

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
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CFA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I believe in enhancing the quality and productivity of Woodlands in the Catskill Region through proper forest management.

I am interested in joining the Catskill Forest Association, taking advantage of all it has to offer and supporting its efforts.

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Basic Membership — Newsletters, CFA Sign, Most events free or discounted and 10% discount on most of CFA's Programs

\$50 + \$ _____

Contributing — Same as Basic with a 20% discount on most of CFA's Programs

\$150 + \$ _____

Business — Same as Basic, free table at Catskill Forest Festival, Email advertisement twice per year & Listed on CFA's Website

\$200 + \$ _____

Sustaining — Same as Contributing with a free On-Site-Visit (only our mileage will be charged)

\$500 + \$ _____

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

Consultations are FREE for members

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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.



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Eastern Hemlock, Weird and Cyclical - Dr. Michael Kudish

Unexpected Benefits - Ryan Trapani

New York State Arborist's Fall Conference - Ryan Trapani

Hinge Cutting Beech - John MacNaught

Also Included:

CFA Interim Executive Director's Message, CFA President's Message, CFA's Calendar of Events,
What CFA Members Have Been Doing, Catskill Forest Festival Photos, & **CFA has a Drone!**