





# For Every Drop

by Ryan Trapani, Education Forester, Catskill Forest Association

(Photography by the Author)

## The Story Behind it All

During the fall is a time where I do a lot of thinking, sitting and remaining still. High up in a tree is where I like to be, waiting for a deer to arrive at just the right time. If you were to place a deer in front of my stand, I guess you could quickly surmise that hunting wasn't very challenging. The deer – normally unaware of my presence – arrives and stops just underfoot. I'm equipped with a carbon-fiber compound bow and the deer with a nice dark brown hide and perhaps a set of antlers. But, that would be like showing up at the grocery store and taking the abundance of produce for granted; there's a lot more that went into growing those apples or arrowing a deer. The arrow – like the apple – is just some of the fruits of one's hard-earned labor.

Sure, most of the time I enjoy sitting and watching, but sometimes I too lose my patience in sitting still. Moments and hours stretch into days and weeks waiting for a deer to arrive and this makes up the majority of what I call "hunting." In other words, the majority of hunting isn't a two-minute clip on YOUTUBE showing one beefy buck before it's shot down. For some hunters there is more than mere patience, but perhaps proactive forest management spent cutting trees in steamy July weather. Improving forest habitat for deer and other wildlife is difficult work.

Sometimes while in my tree-stand, I get to watch others perform hard labor, like squirrels. Squirrels spend most of their time visiting each nut tree, harvesting their crop and finally bringing their bounty to one central location. Sometimes I wonder if they burn more calories than they get from their harvest. But in February and March, the tables have turned. Now, it's the squirrels turn to ponder

all the fuss. Now it's me, scurrying from tree to tree, harvesting some sap and bringing it all back to one central location. The squirrel probably wonders if I burn more calories than I get from all this sap.

I'm sure both of us – the squirrel and I – would agree that it's worth it, but there sure is a story behind it all. Just as in hunting, there is a story – perhaps many stories – before that deer made its arrival and then met its demise. The squirrel's cache of acorns probably came at the risk of countless acrobatic tree escapes, evasions, and near-misses by diving attacks from Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks.

## The Story Behind Maple

A gallon of maple syrup also has a story; one drop at a time. A small maple guy counts a lot. If he's not scurrying for sap or wood, then he's waiting for the sap to boil. For every 40 or so droplets that fall in his bucket, there is one drop of maple syrup. If he's doing it by hand, droplets are literally felt even more, since many droplets – adding to many gallons – will have to be gathered and lifted by hand one bucket at a time to make a gallon of the good stuff. If you're not on a tubing system, then you'll need to break out your Armstrong model and get to work. I have an Armstrong 1981 model; it works for now. Back to the drops; typically maple trees have a sugar content of 2%. At this rate, it will take 5 gallons of sap to add to 1 pint of maple syrup. No, I haven't counted how many drops add to a 5 gallon bucket, yet. If we want to make 1 gallon, then the old Armstrong will have to move eight 5-gallon pales of sap by removing the water by boiling. In my case, boiling occurs by burning wood.

How much wood does it take to make 1 gallon of syrup? It depends on your efficiency, but I'm doing it on a backyard scale. I know it takes approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cord of wood to make 5 gallons of syrup; that means about 2,000 lbs. – if you're burning dry hemlock – will need to be moved into the sugar house. Using this equation, 400 lbs. of hemlock wood will need to be moved in order to make 1 gallon of syrup. Obviously, this does not include cutting, splitting and stacking of the wood that occurred earlier in the season. What's also not included are the worldly conversations that take place, your daughter's face when she walks into the sugarhouse, or the background of country or classic rock music playing. Also not included is the silent process of photosynthesis the summer before that converted the sun's energy into the sugar we're after. Or what about the countless water droplets that fell from the sky, soak through the ground and are taken up by the tree's roots and vascular system which then becomes



tween current nut tree populations and sites of confirmed Native American activity is thus somewhat blurred.

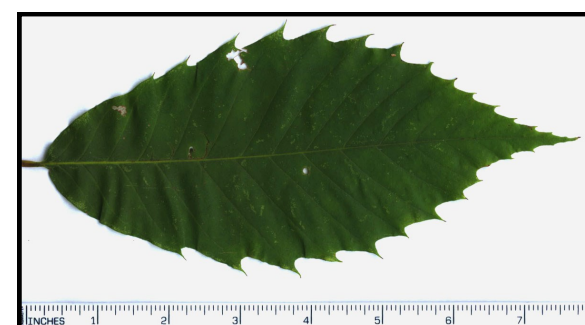
## Conclusion

My general conclusion is that Native Americans were busiest longest in the Hudson Valley and less so in the East Branch Delaware Valley. The corridor connecting the two valleys must have been a busy travel and trade route, later followed by the Ulster & Delaware Turnpike, Ulster & Delaware Railroad, and most recently State Route 28. But in and around the high-elevation pass at Highmount, where growing season was shorter, slopes steeper, and soils stonier, little Native American activity occurred except for travel. Burns, farms, and settlements were few and far between in the gap. The northern hardwoods forest remains.

For more detail on the effects of Native Americans, see "Shavertown Oaks" in *CFA News*, summer-fall 2014, pages 5 to 9. See also, in *Kaatskill Life* magazine, "Going Nuts from Growing Nuts in the East Branch Delaware Valley", spring 2012, pages 52 to 63, and "Not Going Nuts in the West Branch Delaware Valley, winter 2014, pages 52 to 58.

*The End.....or is it The Beginning?*

*(See map on Pages 8-9)*



American Chestnut Leaf

American Chestnut

# Emerald Ash Borer Notice

CFA staff has been finding emerald ash borer (EAB) signs all over the Catskill region. It has hit home at our office in Arkville, NY in Delaware County. We see it infesting trees all over Ulster County as well.

If you have ash trees on your property, you should remove any tree near your home at once. Ash trees infested by the borer become brittle quickly, and are at risk of causing damage. Ash trees in your forest should be harvested. Ash logs become degraded quickly after infestation.

Look for Ash trees covered in woodpecker damage that appear blonde in color. Also 'D' shaped holes where the larvae have exited the tree. Serpentine channels left behind under the bark (see picture below) from the borer is also an indication of infestation. (Photo taken by John MacNaught in Margaretville Village, May 2016)







**Allen Nichols,  
President of The  
American Chestnut  
Foundation—NY,  
pictured next to a  
Chestnut in the  
Catskills.**

from the Bush Kill-Delaware watershed. West of the divide, in Delaware County, I have found no chestnut while following the Bush Kill downstream until I reach Arkville.

#### East Branch Delaware Basin -

Once we reach Arkville, we are out of the gap. Chestnut becomes relatively common again. There is some on the southwest end of Morris Hill, almost directly above the CFA offices! There is some on the south slopes of Fleischmann Mountain above Dry Brook. On Pakatakan Mountain and on the hills just southwest of Margaretville, some of the trees have reached large size.

Farther downstream on the surrounding hills along the East Branch Delaware River and its dammed portion, the Pepacton Reservoir, sites locally exist, especially to the northwest. Examples are on unnamed hills which, for my convenience, I have named “Shavertown Hill” and “Pepacton Hill”. But the two sites that Allen Nichols reports are in the hills on the south side of the reservoir: in Gun Hollow off Beech Hill Road, and northwest of Brock Mountain.

#### Outliers -

Two chestnut populations that I have found far from those regions described above may deserve mention here. There is chestnut on Jump Hill in Grand Gorge, about two miles southwest of the hamlet of that name. This is an odd place for the species, because I have found none yet downstream along the East Branch Delaware between Jump Hill and Arkville, almost fifteen miles to the south. Likewise, I have not yet found any to the north in the adjacent Schoharie Valley as far down steam as Middleburgh.

In Riddell State Park, between the Colliersville-Cooperstown Junction area and West Davenport, I have found a population at least matching, or possibly exceeding, in size the giant Shokan High Point population described above. This population is along an old log road about a mile west of Mud Lake.

#### Regions of chestnut absence -

Perhaps a clue to the reason for where chestnut is PRESENT, is understanding the regions of the Catskills where this species is ABSENT. It is absent in the large wilderness areas, including the Slide Mountain region westward through Balsam Lake Mountain and on to the Beaverkill Range. It is absent also on the Greene County

Mountain Top - from the Hunter Mountain region north to the west slopes of the Blackhead range.

A third large chestnut-less region is in the hills between the East and West Branches of the Delaware.

#### A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

Another clue that we have to explain the distribution of American chestnut is to look at the distribution of northern red oak. In *The Catskill Forest: A History* (page 43), I had discussed the oakless region; the map on page 40 emphasizes where northern red oak is absent and not where it is present. Chestnut is absent in these areas as well.

Oaks follow people. Chestnut probably does as well. Most nut trees, except beech, seem to. The vast oak-less and chestnut-less regions coincide with areas of minimal historic human use, both Native American and European. These regions contain the largest tracts of first growth forests, dominated by northern hardwoods (primarily beech and sugar maple) and some spruce-fir. They are the most inhospitable places for people to live and work – cold, steep, rocky.

The distribution of chestnut, as well as that of oaks, hickories, and some associated shrubs, mark regions where people have used fire as a means of forest management for centuries, and most likely for millennia. Native Americans burned to encourage nut trees for food, mast for game mammals and birds, ease of travel, land-clearing for agriculture, and sometimes for defense against unfriendly peoples. I think that in some places, nut orchards were planted too (see the *Kaatskill Life* 2012 citation at the end of this article). In the process of repeated burning, the original northern hardwood forests were replaced by oak-hickory-chestnut which can tolerate some fires and sprout better.

#### Hudson and Lower Esopus Valleys -

The Hudson Valley marks the region where Native Americans have been active for the longest period of time - for several thousand years - and in the greatest concentration. Many of their fires swept up the eastern Escarpment. Hence the greatest chestnut concentration is here, too, in the far eastern Catskills.

Native Americans most likely were active also in the Ashokan Basin and Esopus Valley up to about what is now Phoenicia. Accounts of early European settlers, artifacts left behind by Native Peoples, and the forest itself suggest it. As one continues to travel upstream along the Esopus and Birch Creek today, the effects of Native Americans decrease gradually; by the time one reaches Pine Hill, only northern red oak and black birch remain.

#### East Branch Delaware Valley -

It is not until we reach Arkville and the East Branch Delaware River do we again see evidence of increased Native American activity – settlements, hunting camps, farms. The whole valley from Grand Gorge downstream to the hamlet of East Branch suggests such activity because of the persistent populations of oaks and hickories. Chestnut, however, is more limited in its distribution, occurring between Arkville and Downsville.

The historian must use caution, however, when he or she maps chestnut, oaks, and hickories because the abandoned farms of early European settlers further encouraged the reproduction of nut tree species. The correlation be-

“sap.” Each gallon was abundant in all these things and countless more. Yeah, I have a lot of time on my hands.

Commercial syrup makers use more efficient means to gather and process sap into syrup. But, each of those technologies has their own story too. Think about all the peo-



ple and materials involved in making a reverse osmosis machine or a 5x20 flue evaporator, or plastic tubing with vacuum pump?

Think about the story behind other forest products too. Lumber at the store has its own. Think about where that board came from. Perhaps it was thinned around by a Forester decades ago who isn't even alive. It was cut down by a brave logger who used technology made in Sweden using materials that all have their own story too. How many cups of coffee did it take to feed the logger, trucker and store manager before it arrived in your hands? If it was an oak tree, perhaps it served many generations feeding and sheltering squirrels, deer, and turkeys. Perhaps a bear climbed it once or twice. Perhaps one young hunter shot his first deer under it. Think about where that board will go? What it will be used for? Who will enjoy it? Think about the lives that depend upon those boards for a living?

Well, this is what happens when you're waiting for the sap to boil down all night into syrup or that deer to arrive near your stand. But, if someone hands you a pint of maple syrup, just think about its story, besides the mere numbers. If nothing else, it's helped me look at things a little differently, both in the woods and outside. [www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)

## Many members enjoyed apple tree grafting this past spring

One of our highlighted programs this spring was apple tree grafting. CFA will help you get that old neglected tree back into shape by pruning it and grafting a variety of your choice onto it.

CFA grafted apple trees this spring for, Brookside Hardware, Lauren Davis, Brian Drabkin, Ray Derman and...

John Michelotti,  
Big Indian



David Goldberg,  
Westkill



Doug Whittaker,  
East Meredith



Kyle Jaster,  
West Shokan





# A Letter from the CFA President's Wife

By, Becky Porter

We are spending quality time in our woods. It's good to hear the black-throated green warbler again, the barred owls are communicating and soon the vireos will be singing incessantly. A hen turkey struts around every afternoon. Is her nest somewhere near? We like to cut wood in the winter for next season. That is done, but the splitting and stacking are ongoing.

Mike and I have 17 acres of woods, which we bought in 1987, because we needed a wood lot to supply firewood for our home wood stove. We manage our woods to harvest firewood for that purpose. We have hardwoods for home heat and we have a nice little crop of poplar that we cut for burning in the sap arch. Poplar renews really quickly, we are pleased to say.

We live in a house in town, but we love our woods that are 10 miles away. I often think of these lines from a Robert Frost poem: "whose woods these are, I think I know, his house is in the village though". That describes our situation. Because we work our woods, I believe that passersby may even wonder "whose woods these are?" It's noticeable that human hands are caring for them.

Mike and I have ideas about other uses for the property, beyond firewood harvest. We don't always agree, so we have to compromise. Sometimes we plan but take the "wait and see" approach and the vegetation makes the decision for us. Forests are dynamic...unless they are left to get too old and homogenous. We haven't sold timber, (yet), but we have harvested some nice trees to mill to lumber for Mike to build things. Early on, we built a little cabin from Scotch pine trees that we took off the lot. And after 28 years of our self-prescribed forest management, we are quite happy with what we've done with the place.

A few years ago, we joined CFA. This put us in touch with experts that inspired us to look at our ideas differently. Shortly after joining, I made a valuable investment of an On-Site Visit! It was \$200, and I purchased it as a "gift certificate" to give to Mike for Christmas. Well, I scored, because we both loved the gift.

Having Ryan Trapani come to our property for a half day visit was great. He noticed wild apple trees we hadn't noticed, he advised us how to nurture our woods for foraging and for the timber potential trees, he thought of things we hadn't thought of. He listened to our ideas and enhanced them. He had his saw in the truck and trimmed a tree or two. The small stuff that is growing in along the 'edge' that we created after the OSV, now attracts warblers that we hadn't seen in previous years.

Last year, we signed up for "Forestry for Wildlife" program. John MacNaught is on staff at CFA now, with a head toward managing for wildlife habitat. John put a game camera on our property, moving it here and there, to study the turkey and deer habits. Then, on work day,

the CFA crew cut a lot of trees. Many were young trees that they "hinge-cut" for shelter for wildlife. I saw a bevy of grouse under a messy part of their project just a month after they did it. They released some apple trees, they released a beautiful oak that we now see clearly from the cabin which was a bonus! Last week one day, we observed a woodcock rocking and bobbing like they do, along the roughed up dirt under that oak tree.

That day, I asked if they would trim a cherry tree that I had been eyeing as a good tree from which to hang a swing for our grandson. They trimmed it to allow sun to enhance fruit production for wildlife, and to encourage growth of the swing limb! This is an example of how they will customize the work that they do!

I sound like we are managing for birdwatching and grandchildren. Well, its spring now and those goals seem paramount. But year round, our projects evolve with the seasons. I also want to add that, financially, we have to make it pay, so we consider our 'camp' woodlot a good investment.

Jim, Ryan and John at CFA are very helpful. These are guys with 3 different backgrounds, so their areas of expertise are diverse. They are available to be on your place... their feet on your ground to help you figure out what to do. I recommend that you invest in some CFA programs. The changes in your land as a result of CFA work, will be enjoyed for many years to come. FMI, call Kathy at the office. (Another great staff member)

This is a blue headed vireo, characteristically sluggish and tame. Our bird book says they are common in mixed woodlands. We enjoyed watching this bird, nesting in a young oak tree that grew there because of our actions. We had cut down some big shady soft maples, for firewood. After the harvest, with sunlight pouring in, oaks are regenerating. (Photo by John MacNaught, CFA)



## AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOLLOWS PEOPLE

by Dr. Michael Kudish

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This information is drawn from over half a century of hiking and observing by Dr. Kudish!**

The near-loss of American chestnut in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is well-known to foresters and ecologists. However, there is much hope of bringing this most valuable forest tree back, thanks especially to the American Chestnut Foundation. At the Catskill Forest Association's 2015 Catskill Forest Festival, Allen Nichols, President of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, spoke about the latest techniques of restoration.

CFA members, go to your *CFA News* archives, and retrieve the Winter 1993-1994 issue, pages 3 and 4. There you will find a fine summary on the identification, ecology, and life cycle of the American chestnut, plus material on the history and nature of the chestnut blight. Unfortunately, this article is unsigned.

My aim in writing here is to describe the original, and limited, geographic distribution of chestnut in the Catskills, and to offer a possible explanation of why it did not grow everywhere. In this article, I hope that I do not duplicate what the 1993-1994 *CFA News* article, Allen Nichols, and others write.

### PRESENT DISTRIBUTION

We know quite well where American chestnut existed in the Catskills before the blight struck about 1910. The reason is that chestnut is still here. It has the ability to repeatedly sprout from the base of dead and dying trees. In other words, the root system can remain alive for decades and decades, sending up new shoots periodically.

Sprouts are totally absent in some areas, scattered in others, and even common in still others when plotted on a map (see attached map).

Once in a while, the trees reach reproductive maturity without being disease-stricken, dropping the familiar burs (nut husks) on the ground, and reaching diameters of a foot and heights of over 50 feet. But sadly, the blight usually follows in not too many years.

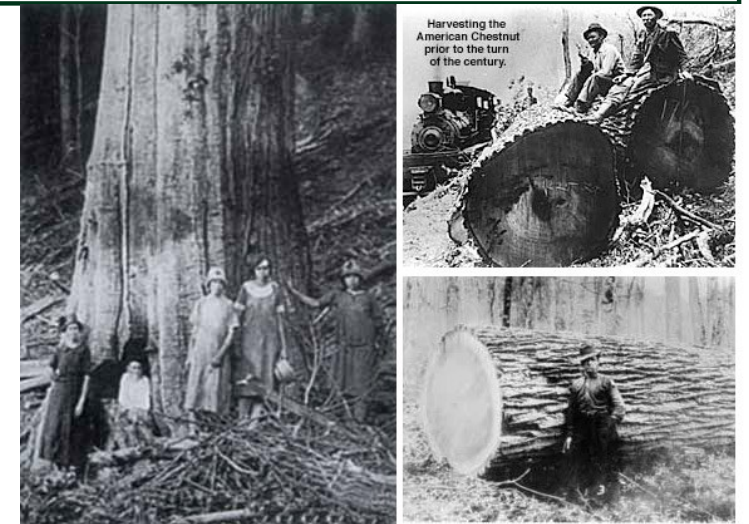
If you have a copy of *The Catskill Forest: A History* (Purple Mountain Press 2000, reprinted 2015), look at Map 7-1 on page 35. This map shows the chestnut distribution as I knew it sixteen years ago. Since then, I have found nearly as many additional sites as I had found plotted at that time. The updated map is included here on pages 8 & 9.

The solid dots on the map are my sightings of chestnut, while the two open circles are locations that Allen Nichols reported to me south of the Pepacton Reservoir; I have not yet had the opportunity to visit Allen's sites.

The shaded green areas on the map show the regions of the Catskills where explorers searching today for the chestnut will likely find more sites.

### Escarpment above the Rondout and Hudson Valleys -

By far, that region in the Catskills where American



"Redwood of the East"

chestnut was, and still is, most common is along the base and slopes of the eastern Escarpment, i.e. adjacent to the Rondout and Hudson Valleys. Chestnut is relatively abundant from the Vernoooy Kill area northeastward past Samsonville and West Shokan, across the Ashokan Reservoir Basin, past Woodstock and Overlook Mountain, and northward to West Saugerties, Palenville, Round Top, and Acra. The highest-elevation population I have found is on the southwest shoulder of Overlook Mountain at about 2775 feet.

There is an additional population of chestnut in the upper Rondout Valley above Sundown. Also, the very name of the stream that drains the Grahamsville area, Chestnut Creek, suggests large stands of this species during the era of European settlement.

One of the largest populations I have found is on the west shoulder of Shokan High Point at an elevation of about 2500 to 2600 feet along the trail that loops around from the summit.

### Ashokan and Lower Esopus Basins -

There is considerable chestnut also in the Ashokan Reservoir Basin and in portions of the mountains surrounding the lower Esopus Creek Valley below Phoenicia (e.g. Mount Pleasant, Ticeteneyck, Tobias, Tremper, Tonshi, and Guardian).

### The Gap at Highmount -

American chestnut follows the Esopus Valley upstream from the Phoenicia area, but the populations become more limited. There are widely-scattered individuals in Woodland Valley, around the base of Garfield Mountain, around Shandaken Center, and on the hills surrounding the hamlet of Big Indian.

Above Big Indian, following Birch Creek upstream, chestnut disappears. We enter a discontinuity in its distribution, indicated on the accompanying map as "The Gap at Highmount". The gap extends for a few miles on either side of Highmount. At Highmount, we are on the divide that separates the Hudson-Esopus watershed





# **2016 Spring Events** Pre-Registration Required



## *A summary of the Catskill Black Bear and White-tailed Deer Harvests 2015*

*By John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist, Catskill Forest Association*

(All figures taken from NYS DEC bear and deer harvest reports, 2015.)

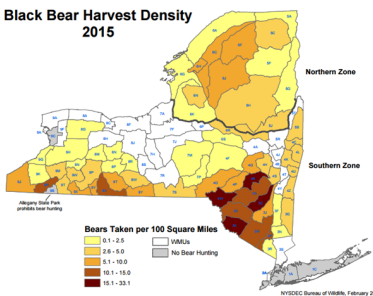
Every spring the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) provides summaries of the previous season's black bear and white-tailed deer harvests. I have had the time to digest the black bear and deer harvest summaries soon after they were announced this spring and summarize them even further to pick out the Catskill region data.

### First, the Bears:

New York State had a total harvest of 1,715 bears in 2015. This is the second largest harvest in New York State (1,863 bears were taken in 2003) on record. Bear populations in New York have been steadily rising since the early 2000's as indicated by the increase in annual harvest.

The highest densities of bear harvest occurred right here in the Catskill region.

Where most of the state had 0-10 bears taken per 100 square miles, much of the Catskill region had 10-33 bears taken per 100 square miles. The six counties of the Catskill region (Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster) harvested a total of 586 bears, or about 34% of the total statewide harvest.



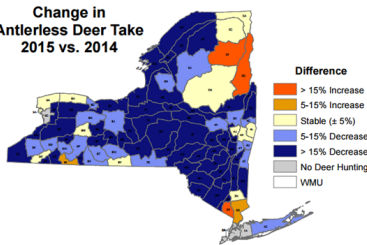
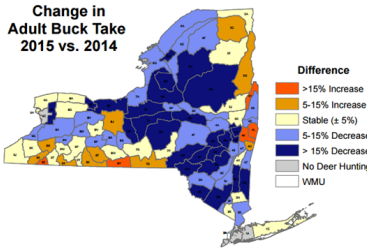
The black bear population in the Catskill region continues to grow despite efforts taken by the DEC to stabilize it. In 2014, the DEC implemented a special early season in September mimicking the Northern zone early bear season in the Adirondack region. In 2014, 337 bears were taken in the early season. This past season 192 bears were taken in the early season in the southern zone of New York. This early season aids in the reduction of nuisance bears around agricultural lands of the region.

### White-Tailed Deer

Deer hunters here in the Catskills shared the similar story this past season. It seemed there were few deer to be seen, little sign to be found, and few bucks to be shot, when compared to previous years. The weather for the season was rather warm with no snow, making tracking deer nearly impossible. It also didn't help that the food sources were abundant and evenly distributed, making deer hunting even more unpredictable. On top of all that, the winter kill from 2014-2015 was very high. Many landowners

found carcasses abundantly in the woods when the snow finally melted away last spring.

With all of the factors combined, many hunters went home without their deer this last season, especially in the central and northern Catskill region. Overall, 15% fewer deer were harvested in New York State in 2015 than the previous season. The Catskill region (Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster) saw a decrease just over 20% in the six county area.



In all, nearly 36,000 less deer were harvested this past season statewide. Out of that decrease, about 26,000 was a reduction in doe take. And that was not just a reduced number in the available tags. Of the deer management permits (DMP or doe tags) offered in 2015, nearly 88% went unfilled by hunters.

On a more positive note, the average age of bucks harvested in New York is still increasing. Over 53% of bucks harvested this past season were 2.5 years old or greater. Most of the Catskill region has mandatory antler restrictions where a buck cannot be harvested unless it has three legal (one inch long) points on at least one antler. Even in areas without mandatory antler restrictions, it seems that hunters are passing more yearling (1.5 year old in the fall hunting season) bucks statewide. Last year only 47% of the harvested bucks in New York were yearlings whereas just twenty years ago yearling bucks were around 70% of the statewide harvest.

For more information regarding the NYS DEC bear and deer harvest reports, the full reports can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/>. Also, feel free to contact the Catskill Forest Association with any questions regarding our Catskill Forests and the wildlife found here. [www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)

### **May 28th Deer Exclosure**

#### **Demonstration**

10am-12pm

CFA & NYFOA have teamed up & built a deer exclosure to help demonstrate deer impacts upon forest vegetation. Is your forest being managed mostly by deer?

### **June 18th Forestry for Wildlife**

#### **Workshop**

10am-12pm

**Forestry for Wildlife** is about creating quality habitat conditions for wildlife via forest cutting. We'll look at one recent cutting.

### **July 16th Forgotten Forest Fire**

#### **& Spruce Plantation Hike**

9:30AM—4PM

Catskill 4000 Club's Founder – Paul Misko – will be leading a hike up Terrace Mountain from Woodland Valley in the heart of the Catskill Mountains

### **June 4th Forestry for the Birds**

10am-1pm

Do you want more birds on your property?

**CFA & AUDUBON NEW YORK** will demonstrate how to improve bird habitat.

### **June 25th Backyard Edibles &**

#### **Medicinals**

10am-12pm

Don't just run to the store! First, see what's growing in your back-yard. We'll explore some of the plants, shrubs, & trees that can be used outside

### **July 23rd Tree ID & Forest History**

#### **Walk**

10Am—1pm

CFA's Education Forester – Ryan Trapani – will discuss how tree identification can serve as one way to decipher a forest's history

### **June 11th Plane Wreck Hike**

10am-???

You never know what you'll find in the woods: Plants, trees, bears, & *planes*. A bushwack to a plane-wreck offers another excuse to get outside.

### **July 9th Forest Health**

(Time to be Announced)

CFA, NYFOA, & NYS DEC have teamed up to help demonstrate how you can improve the health of the Catskills forests. Details to come.

### **July 30th Catskill Forest Festival**

10AM—4PM

The 7th Annual celebration of our region's forests located at Margaretville Village Park Pavilion. Arts & Crafts, Maple Products, Sawmill, Wood Products, Recreation Vendors, Forestry Equipment, Food and Fun for the family.



### **Staff**

Jim Waters—Executive Director

Kathy Fox—Office Manager

Ryan Trapani—Education Forester

John MacNaught—Wildlife Specialist

### **Contact**

[cfa@catskill.net](mailto:cfa@catskill.net)

845-586-3054

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





# New CFA Membership Categories

CFA has changed what is offered with each membership category. This list describes the price of each membership and the benefits provided.

- Basic -- \$50.00**

  - Newsletters
  - CFA Sign
  - Most Events Free or Discounted, 10% discount on most of CFA’s programs
- Contributing -- \$150.00**

  - Newsletters
  - 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)

## CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!

Arts & Crafts  
Sawmill  
Recreation Vendors  
Food Vendors

Maple Products  
Wood Products  
Forestry Equipment  
and don't forget the...

Logging, Forestry and  
Milling Demonstrations

Saturday, July 30th 10am-4pm

A Celebration of the Catskill Forest


At the Park Pavilion, Village of Margaretville, NY

For more information call  
845-586-3054



- Forest Festival Tent of Knowledge Speakers:**
- “Who is Dr. Mike Kudish” – Dr. Mike Kudish, Forest Historian
  - “NYC DEP & Forest Recreation” – Paul Lenz, NYC DEP
  - “Young Forest Initiative” – Michael Echtner/ Selinda Brandon, NYS DEC
  - “Forest Management & Deer Management” – Forester Chris Tcimpidis, Bevan Forestry
  - “Forest Pests” – John Thompson, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)
  - “CFA’s Programs” – John MacNaught & Ryan Trapani, CFA

CFA will be at the Delaware County Fair August 15th—20th. Stop by our trailer! We would also appreciate a few volunteer members to assist at the trailer throughout the week. Contact Kathy at CFA with interest.



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 30), “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’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S

- I am excited to announce a few upcoming CFA changes:
- I am delegating the responsibility of putting together this publication to John MacNaught, CFA’s Wildlife Specialist. I think it will be good for the “CFA NEWS” to have a fresh look and am looking forward to John’s efforts. John’s computer skills certainly surpass mine! I will still be involved in editing it.
  - CFA has decided to change its Membership Categories, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> for all new members and on the renewal date for existing members. We have reduced the number of levels and strengthened all members’ benefits! There are program discounts now available for you as well as advertising benefits for Businesses. See page 14 and the back page of this newsletter for details.
  - For a limited time, CFA is offering all members, new and present, the prospect to take advantage of having a CFA Staff member visit your property for a one hour consultation. The only cost to you, as a member, is your time and CFA’s mileage. We are calling these “**Consultations**” in order to differentiate them from the On-Site-Visit program which entails much more and will still be available. This is a one-time opportunity for each member.
  - We have purchased a drone in which we hope to soon offer as an addition to CFA’s On-Site-Visit. We are waiting for Federal Aviation Administration approval of our application. There will be a small additional fee to cover this added benefit if we receive the proper credentials to implement it. All pictures and videos will be available as well as a map of the flight on a thumb-drive and mailed to you.
  - CFA’s Website redesign is well underway and should be launched some time, early summer. I think that everyone will really like it. The homepage will break out 3 main focus areas, Upcoming Events and WIOX radio shows in one row, and recent Facebook posts in a row below. This way the site will be very interactive as well as link it to all of CFA’s other media. All of CFA’s newsletters, articles and radio programs will be archived here.
- Also, please take advantage of having your contributions doubled by making a contribution to CFA for our Endowment Fund. We have a two year offer by the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation, CFA’s largest supporter, to match dollar-for-dollar any contribution to CFA’s Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund’s principal cannot be used for expenses or capital projects. It is administered by an independent administrator, and on-

ly the interest and dividends are able to be used by the Association. This fund remains to be an important revenue maker for CFA and helps insure the stability of the organization. Please consider making a check out to “CFA” with a note at the bottom of the check that it is for the “Endowment Fund”.

Forest Festival plans are well under-way. Don’t miss the chance of having a great time with us on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 4pm at the Margaretville Pavilion, located behind the Freshtown supermarket. It just keeps getting better and better!

We are also planning our Annual Membership Meeting for October 15<sup>th</sup>. It is being held in Margaretville at the Middletown Historical Society’s building on Cemetery Road. The meeting will offer you chances to mingle and meet other members as well as enjoy some good food. The business portion is extremely short and we are lining up a guest speaker that I am sure you will enjoy. There will again be an auction, but it will be a silent auction this year. The chain-saw raffle winner will be selected at this meeting!

I hope you all enjoy the many offerings that CFA has and that, most of all, you enjoy the upcoming summer!

Naturally, *Jim Waters*

CFA will be having a chainsaw raffle this summer. More details to come!







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**John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist**

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.

Cover Photos:

*Left—Allen Nichols, President of The American Chestnut Foundation—NY, alongside one of the largest Chestnuts still surviving in the Catskills.*  
*Top, right—American Chestnut seedling.*  
*Bottom, right—American Chestnut fruit.*

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

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

**CFA's Annual Membership Meeting will be Saturday October 15th, 2016 Call for Details (845) 586-3054**

## Welcome New Members!

### April 2016

Joe Aronson, Highmount, NY  
Tom Groves, Bovina Center NY  
Jerome Finkelstein, Andes NY  
Glen Schweizer, Roxbury NY  
Paul White, Gardiner NY  
Pater Chast, Athens NY  
Burr Hubbell, Margaretville NY  
Larry Bartholf, Greenfield park NY

### May 2016

Hale and Mary Rickman, Margaretville NY  
Rusty Peacock, New Kingston NY  
Alexander Klohe, West shokan NY  
Loren and Susan Daniels, Margaretville NY  
Kevin Conye, Hardenburgh NY  
John and Wendy Brown, Swan lake NY  
Kyle Jaster, West Shokan NY  
Andrea Cahill, Roxbury NY

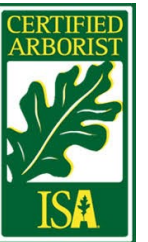
# CFA Programs

Our services are always impartial and confidential

**Consultation:** CFA will meet with you to see what you have and help develop some goals. We will make recommendations as well.

**On-Site Visit Program:** Help getting started managing your land. We will walk your property with you. You may have 1 acre or you may have over 100 acres. Not sure what to do with the land?

**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:** Who 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](mailto:cfa@catskill.net)  
845-586-3054  
[www.catskillforest.org](http://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](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 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

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 ONLY COSTS \$200 (3 to 4 hours), PLUS OUR MILEAGE (It also includes \$50 credit toward a membership category of your choice.) Y / N (If so, please call us to schedule an appointment.)

For a **LIMITED** period of time we are offering a free, one-time, one hour consultation (Only our mileage will be charged) to any member when their membership is renewed and all new members at the time of joining.

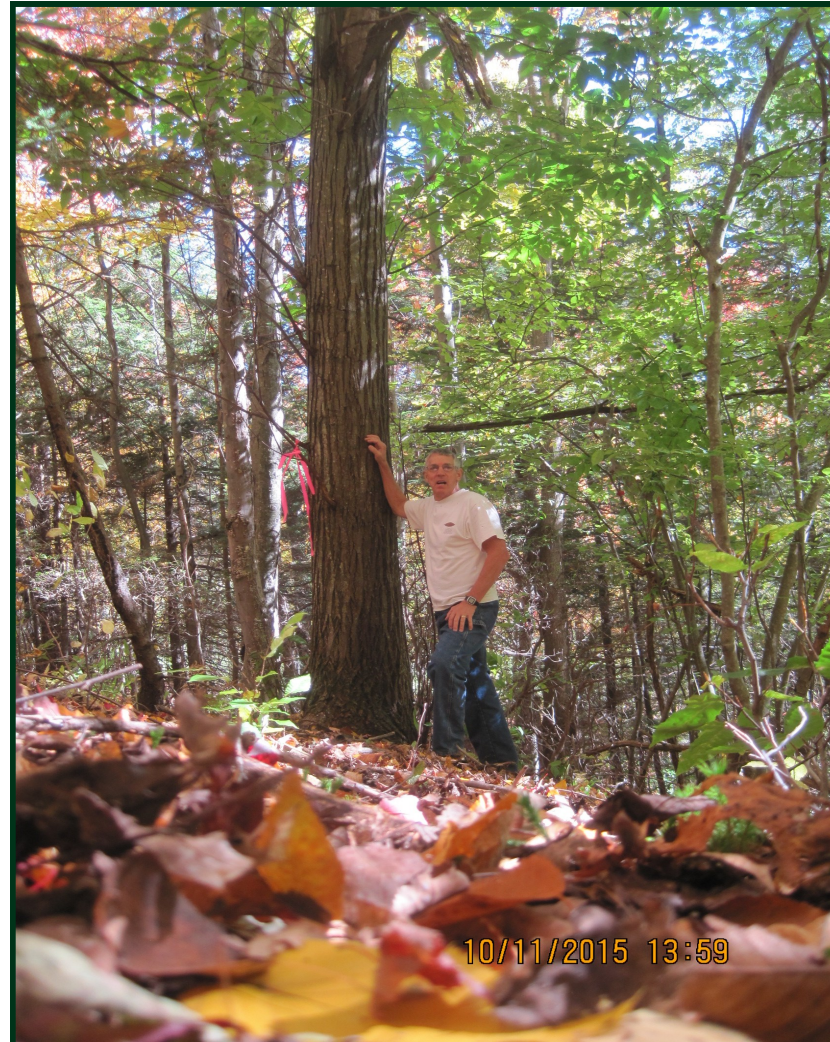
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.



The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Volume 34, Number 2 Spring 2016



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

“American Chestnut Follows People” — by Dr. Michael Kudish

“For Every Drop” - by Ryan Trapani

“A letter from the CFA President's wife” - by Becky Porter

“A summary of the Catskill Bear and Deer Harvests” - by John MacNaught

### Also Included:

CFA's Calendar of Events, New Membership Categories, Apple Tree Grafting, and More!

