

Remember Ash...

by Ryan Trapani, Education Forester, Catskill Forest Association

Remember ash...

Some of us have heard stories from our grandparents – or even great grandparents – about the American chestnut tree. Chestnut trees were used in flooring, fine furniture, building construction and even fence-posts. Equally important were the actual chestnuts themselves; they were highly sought after by both humans and wildlife. Chestnuts were gathered and sold in every major city. Some forest historians claim that American chestnut once made up almost a third of the entire tree-cover in some places of the eastern US making it the most abundant tree species. American chestnut was no slouch either; it reached diameters between 2 to 5 feet.

Unfortunately a chestnut blight was introduced in 1904 making this tree a ghost by the mid-20th century in places like the Catskill Mountains. The only remnants of this great tree are curious place names like Chestnut Creek near Grahamsville or Chestnut Street in New Paltz. Once in a while, I'll spot a curious leaf on the side of the road, like the one I saw near Dunraven one day while walking. Its leaf is similar to a beech tree's leaf, but more lanceolate. The old roots are still around, and given enough sunlight can sprout back and grow a small tree before succumbing to the blight. In areas where fire is or was common – such as Ashokan High Point, the Catskill Escarpment, and the Shawangunk Ridge – small chestnut trees can be found. These root-sprouts are sapling-sized and short-lived. After one forest fire, I was lucky enough to harvest chestnuts from 5 to 7 year old sprouts that had miraculously fruited. They were all dead by the next year. Today, the largest American chestnut tree in New York State is about 22 inches in diameter or so. The largest one I have seen in the Catskills is about 14 inches; I just heard last week it's beginning to die.

So, what's the point of this story? Well, unfortunately you and I may be that old grandparent in the making. Instead of telling tales of chestnut, we'll be telling tales of the white ash tree. "Yep, there used to be baseball bat factories using ash. It was one of the nicest growing trees in the Catskill forest." Baseball factories have all closed in the Catskills a long time ago, but due more to other reasons than a lack of ash. Although not as widely distributed as chestnut was, it is home in the Catskills. Ash grows great here. It is straight-growing and easily reaches merchantable diameters and lofty heights. However, it is now being threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), or *Agilus planipennis*, an insect from Asia happy to be in

America's Ashland. EAB is picky; it only picks on ash trees.

Seeing is Believing

When I first heard about the EAB's discovery near Sauger-ties, Ulster County and how it would translate into the destruction of ash, I held out room for optimism. Maybe it would slow down, or perhaps a new predator would be released or found that would reduce EAB's impacts. Maybe it would be different in the Catskills for some other reason. I was wrong. As the insect wrapped around the Ashokan Reservoir and into the towns of Woodstock, Hurley, and Olive, its trail could easily be seen from the road. Almost every ash showed signs of EAB's path. I cut down the ash tree in my front yard last year since it too had EAB. Also, it doesn't matter whether the tree is healthy or not; it's just another food source for EAB.

EAB kills the tree by girdling the inner bark. The adults are a beautiful emerald green and about the size of a dime. However, the adults do little damage. Instead, it's the beetle's larval stage that does the deed. Serpentine galleries under the bark work their way across the entire tree. EAB often goes undetected until the tree is infested. Woodpecker marks along the trunk are the easiest way to identify EAB. These woodpecker marks are where the bird has been feeding on the larvae. Although woodpeckers may



Woodpecker 'blonding' as a result of EAB infestation

Photo by Ryan Trapani

kill some larvae, it does not make a difference. Eventually the tree will turn "blond" from bark peeling off. It's amazing how fast this process can occur. From my tree -stand 2 years ago I could not recognize the presence of EAB. By the next hunting season, trees were barely leafing out and were riddled with woodpecker markings. By the time they show woodpecker markings, they're already infested.

Being Proactive

In the last 2 years I have climbed a few dying ash trees that have succumbed to EAB. As some are aware of, ash wood is already fairly dry. As the tree dies, the wood quickly becomes brittle and begins dropping branches. Therefore, once you see those aforementioned woodpecker markings, you should think about removing the tree. Removing the tree while it's still sound is both safer on the tree worker and perhaps less pricy too. Lastly, if you want to save a specimen tree near the house, you can use pesticides that can be either sprayed near the bottom of the tree or injected into it. Some of these chemicals can be used by the homeowner or serviced by a Certified Pesticide Applicator. Pesticide treatment is mostly contained to late spring into early summer and should only be used while the tree is still fairly healthy.

The American Chestnut Foundation & SUNY ESF are close to releasing a blight-resistant chestnut which might finally bring back this great tree; perhaps my grandchildren will know chestnut. And maybe something will come along to help ash too. Who knows? If you have any questions concerning ash trees, or any other tree, the Catskill Forest Association offers free consultations for members.

www.catskillforest.org



Image of emerald ash borer serpentine galleries and woodpecker damage

Photo by Ryan Trapani

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Jim Waters, Executive Director, CFA

New York State officials has been making regulations to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. They don't expect it to be eradicated. Their goal is to slow the spread in order to give municipalities a little more time to address the issue of removing the hazardous ash trees and allow landowners and the forest industry to get the most value out of the product before it disappears. Yes...disappears! Thank goodness this insect only affects the ash species. It seems to me that we should be spending a little more money in our ports so that this type of tragedy can be at least lessened.

They expect that in a year or two the insect will have spread to such an extent that most of the state will have just one or two very large quarantine areas, and ultimately the area affected will be the entire state.

My advice to landowners is to immediately take down any ash trees that pose a hazard to utility lines, driveways, high use areas and buildings. There is one way that has proven to be somewhat effective at protecting an ash tree from the borer, but requires the use of herbicides on a regular basis. The most effective treatment is with individual stem injection of trees **prior** to being infected.

After dealing with the removal or treatment of the hazardous trees and trees you have decided to invest time and money in, an evaluation of whether it makes sense to harvest the rest of your ash trees should be done.

Unfortunately, Europe, one of two major buyers of ash lumber, has banned bringing in any ash from the US...even though the ash lumber is debarked and kiln-dried. China, the other major customer is still importing ash from us, but this has resulted in as much as a 30% drop in ash saw log prices in some areas. Locally, the prices seem to be good right now.

For an explanation on specific regulations with ash firewood, saw logs, mulch, or chips, please contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation NYS DEC or feel free to contact me directly at the office of the Catskill Forest Association **(845) 586-3054**.

Naturally,

Jim Waters

Executive Director

Catskill Forest Association

Rattlesnakes and Fire

by Ryan Trapani, Education Forester, Catskill Forest Association

Late this spring a large fire erupted on the Shawangunk Ridge burning hundreds of acres on Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Ulster County. The fire's flames sparked conversation throughout the region about fire in the forest and its potential impacts on wildlife. In fact, shortly after the blaze – and many miles away – I was standing on line at the local gas station and overheard a conversation between the cashier and customer. "It's devastating," referenced the customer about the fire. "I just hope the rattlesnakes can survive; they're an endangered species," replied the cashier.

Personally speaking, I have almost stepped on three timber rattlesnakes on the Shawangunk Ridge above Ellenville. From my dozen or so encounters, I can say (so far) that rattlesnakes just want to be left alone. They often rattle while you're still a few steps away, conveniently warning you of their presence. On one fine day near Lake Awosting, my foot was naturally on its descent while walking, when it slowed down into **slowmotion** as my eye caught a coiled rattlesnake rattlin' away. The bottom of my foot must have grazed the snake; a terrifying thought. However, my reaction – at least in my memory – must have been cartoonish, since my body thrust straight up in the air like a pogo stick. Hey, I was more than four miles from my car and dealing with a venomous bite that far away would pose a challenge.

Now back to the spreading conversation at the gas station. It's true. Timber rattlesnakes are a rare species throughout New York State, but why? Is it because of poaching? Land development? Or is it because of fires like the recent blaze? From my observations, the rattlesnake shortage has probably nothing to do with hunting. Hunting rattlesnakes in New York State is illegal, but that hasn't stopped some locals from poaching them. Where snakes are common – such as near Ellenville – I have ran into random people that have been hunting rattlesnakes for decades; their meat is supposedly akin to chicken, but far more tender. Besides, if snake meat were really worth that much, wouldn't people just grow them instead? Sneaking through knee-high blueberry bushes after rattlesnakes seems extremely time-consuming and inefficient at best.

Neither can land development be blamed on the loss of rattlesnakes; at least not in our **neck of the woods**. Where rattlesnakes are found, there seems to be more development nearby than some other areas far more remote in the Catskills. What about forest fires? Ironically, it may be the successful suppression of forest fires in the last 100 or so years that may be causing a decline in rattlesnakes. The common denominator surrounding my experiences with rattlesnakes centers around habitat. The reason why I

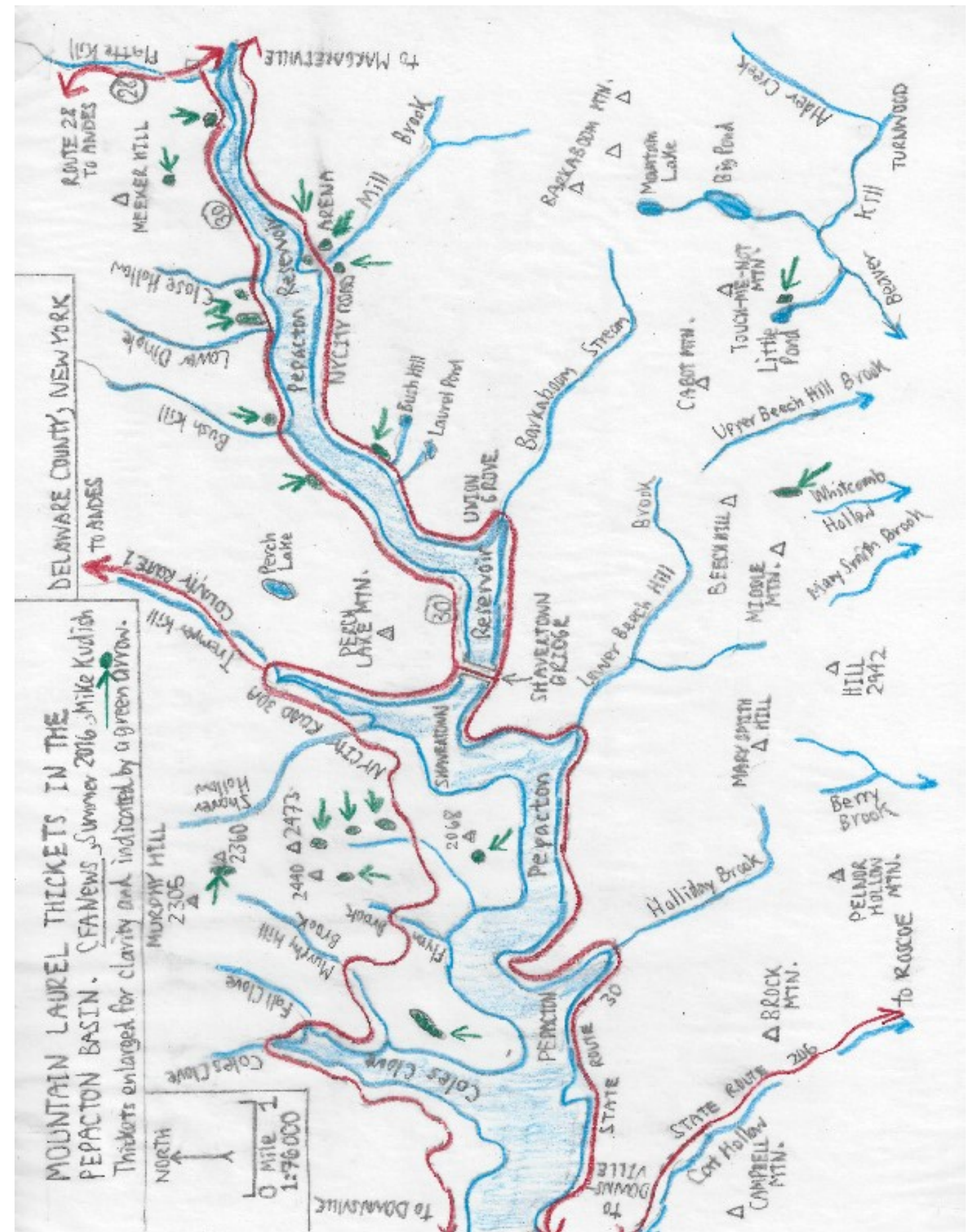
have almost stepped on rattlesnakes isn't because I've been looking for them; I was never that kid in school who would volunteer to hold the pet snake. Instead, it was because I have a sweet tooth for low-bush blueberries. Remember those Ellenville locals I referenced earlier? Well, before World War 2, some Ellenville locals would make their living off of picking wild blueberries; more so than most other regions in the state.

What do blueberries and rattlesnakes have in common? Fire, that's what. Without fire, blueberries get crowded out by sweet-fern, sassafras, and oak. The abundance of fire, blueberries, and other pyrogenic plant species has created some fine habitat for the timber rattlesnake's cold-blooded nature as well as its food sources to live in, namely mice and moles. The places where I have seen these snakes are those that have a strong legacy with fire – the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Escarpment. The point is not necessarily to have more fires or more rattlesnakes. Instead, the point is to think about habitat when managing for a specific species of wildlife or more. All too often, wildlife species and habitat management are treated separately as if in a vacuum. Maybe it's because the term **wildlife** reinforces the belief that they already have everything they need outside our existence; I'm not sure. In any case, wildlife and habitat need not be divorced, but perhaps better served if married. After all, who manages livestock without mention of feed or the land which to graze upon? www.catskillforest.org



The Author—Ryan Trapani—Standing knee high in rattlesnake habitat (lowbush blueberry) growing due to regular fires on the Shawangunk Ridge

Photo by John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist, CFA
(also standing in the danger zone)



per year. Because this is the radius of the population, the diameter growth rate would be about double – two to ten inches per year. The root systems probably grow at a similar rate to keep a balance between the roots' underground water and nutrient supply and the above ground twig-and-leaf carbohydrate production. In brighter sunlight, as along roadsides, the twigs of these shrubs can grow up to 5 to 8 inches in radius per year. The maximum radial growth I have found is ten inches per year. Under the dense shade of beech, sugar maple, and hemlock, they can barely grow at all and die out slowly as these more shade-tolerant trees replace the oaks.

An acre of mountain laurel under oaks therefore most likely requires several hundred years to form. My calculations range from 200 to 700. For those thickets a few acres in size, I estimated an average of about 950 years. Those from five to ten acres could be as old as a few thousand years.

Of course, there are many reasons why my age estimates can be way off. First, the growth rates of thickets may not be constant over the centuries as the forest canopy above them changes; how much light is let through to these understory shrubs may differ over time and over different portions of a thicket.

Second, the growth rates may vary from one end of a thicket to another, i. e. the thicket is growing asymmetrically. Soils can vary from one end of a thicket to another.

Third, disturbances such as diseases, defoliators, droughts, and storms can interrupt growth rates.

Fourth, the number of mountain laurel seeds producing a thicket may not be one; the thicket may have originated from several seeds and not all necessarily germinating at the same time. If this happens, each part of the thicket therefore may be of a different age.

One factor in this mountain laurel method really surprised me. I spoke with a Native American historian. He says that maize (corn) farming arrived in what is now New York State about 1000 years ago. Archeologists and anthropologists seem to agree. To clear lands for maize farms, Native Peoples had to burn mainly portions of flood plains; some fires escaped up the adjacent hillsides. Other hillsides were burned purposefully for other reasons: establishment and perpetuation of nut trees, better hunting, easier travel, better blueberry crops, and possibly for the planting of nut tree orchards. My average date for medium-sized mountain laurel thickets (two to five acres) is 950 years, very close to the 1000. Is this a coincidence? I don't know yet.

FURTHER READING

For more effects of Native Americans on the forests of the Catskills, see four articles in the *CFA News*:

Summer-Fall 2008: "The Oaks of Cold Spring Hollow"

Fall 2009: "Native Americans' Effect on the Forests of the Catskill Mountains". This article includes the burn index map.

Fall 2014: "Shavertown Oaks"

Spring 2016: "American Chestnut Follows People".



Eastern Towhee in Mountain Laurel Shrub

Photo by John MacNaught—CFA

Annual Membership Meeting

When?

October 15th 10:30am—2:30pm

Where?

Town of Middletown Historical Society, Margaretville, NY

Food?

Dinner will be catered by Arkville Bread and Breakfast.

Speaker?

Chris Teimpidis will be speaking. Chris is the President and Operations Manager of Bevan Forestry Inc. Chris is a private consulting forester and will be talking about forest management in the Catskill Mountains.

Please RSVP with Kathy @ (845) 586-3054

What have CFA Members Been up to?...



CFA and Audubon NY teamed up to Present "Forestry for the Birds Workshop" on a members property in Andes, NY, Delaware County



In summer when pruning couldn't be done, a member in DeLancey worked on releasing ten apple trees from competing hawthorn and providing more sunlight (before and after above).



Members who have taken part in our **Forestry for Wildlife** program are rewarded with watching the forest regenerate and grow into better quality wildlife habitat (two seasons growth-above)

What is Hinge Cutting?

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

When trying to attract wildlife to your property often what is lacking is food and cover. One way food and cover can be provided is through cutting. The cover is quite obvious, when a tree is felled and left behind. Immediate cover now exists, and new (more permanent) cover should begin to grow in its place as new tree seedlings grow through the crown of the felled tree. Small mammals have a place to hide, ground nesting songbirds are now protected, and even larger mammals like deer and bear may appreciate an afternoon laying with their back to the brush.

What about providing food though? A tree falls and deer often consume the entire tree in a day or two. Don't believe me? Cut down a red maple in January and observe what happens. After that the tree top still provides cover, but the food aspect is lost in just one meal for a few hungry deer. A way to provide both food and cover for wildlife is to hinge cut trees. Hinge cutting is a method where a small diameter (usually less than 4") tree is cut without a notch, about half way through, and about 2-4 feet high. The tree remains attached to the stem and can live like this for about 2-7 years depending on the site condition, deer browse, and how well it remains attached to the stump. Deer can browse the leaves and buds that were once 20 feet in the air and the tree will grow new buds and leaves for a few years. In the meantime, before the tree dies, new seedlings can begin to grow in the sunlight provided by the downed tree along with fruit and nut bearing shrubs. Hinge cut a hundred trees in a n afternoon and you will provide wildlife with supplemental food and cover for years to come. Give it a try! (845) 586-3054



A Maple Hinge Cut



Hinge Cut trees re-sprouting 1 year Later

CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!

Saturday, July 30th

10am 'til 4pm



LOGGING & MILLING DEMOS
FORESTRY EQUIPMENT
FOREST PRODUCTS
RECREATION VENDORS
FOOD
MUSIC
FAMILY ACTIVITIES



At the Park Pavilion Margaretville, New York

For information call (845) 586-3054

MOUNTAIN LAUREL THICKETS: AN ALTERNATIVE TO RADIOCARBON DATING?

by Dr. Michael Kudish

Radiocarbon dating is used to determine the ages of materials that contain carbon and once lived - plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria. I wonder if I have found an alternative method of dating plant materials. Will the folks at the radiocarbon-dating laboratory be upset by the new competition? Very unlikely - if my method works, it will have very restricted use: can mountain laurel thickets tell us when Native American forest fires were in progress?

My previous article, in the spring 2016 issue of *CFA News*, was about the present distribution of American chestnut in the Catskills and how it ties in closely with the location of historic forest fires of Native American People. These People used fire as a part of their land management. This article on mountain laurel is a continuation of the chestnut article (see the spring 2016 issue of *CFA News*), also about Native Americans and their forest fires, but taking it one step further by possibly placing approximate dates on the burns.

Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) is a native evergreen shrub, quite spectacular when in flower in June and occasionally planted as an ornamental. Because it is evergreen, it is easy to spot in late fall, winter and early spring.

GEOGRAPHY

The largest and most frequent populations in the Catskills are along the eastern Escarpment and in the mountains surrounding the Ashokan Basin. I have used bogs, not mountain laurel, along the Escarpment to date burns there. These bogs contain charcoal layers, and from radiocarbon dates on the charcoal, I know when the Esopus and Mohican Peoples started at least 7000 or 6000 years ago and continued on through the end of the 18th century.

But the lesser mountain laurel populations along and up on the hills surrounding the Pepacton Reservoir are in a region that lacks bogs containing charcoal. I had no way of knowing how old these populations were and if they could tell me when the burns were in progress. When I first started exploring the Pepacton basin, I noted populations only along the roads that border both sides of the Pepacton - roads that were built along with the reservoir in the 1950s. My first reaction was that the shrubs had been planted as roadside ornamentals.

Then later, as I began to explore off the roadsides, I found widely scattered populations as well - some of them in more remote areas up in the hills where reservoir plantings were most unlikely (see map). My ideas on their origin began to change. I had my doubts about their having been planted. I found populations on Murphy Hill, Beech Hill, Little Pond Campground, the peninsula east of Coles Clove, and between Lower Dingle and Venzetti Roads.

These populations, usually thickets from several feet up to fourteen feet tall, occur almost always under stands of northern red oak. White and chestnut oaks, shagbark and bitternut hickories, American chestnut, black birch, sweet fern, maple-leaved viburnum, and blueberry are frequent associates.



Typical dense understory of mountain laurel
Photo by John MacNaught—CFA

A friend once told me that she remembered, as a girl, a population of mountain laurel along Dry Brook Road, where it makes a 180-degree bend about 2.3 miles above Arkville. She called this place "Laurel Turn". Because the population is no longer there, I first assumed that her report was an error. But gradually I began to realize that she was indeed correct. I found disintegrating, dying populations of mountain laurel nearby in other places: at the southwest end of Morris Hill just above and behind the CFA offices in Arkville, and on Pakatakan Mountain. The forest at the south base of Fleischmann Mountain adjacent to Laurel Turn has some of the trees and shrubs that mountain laurel commonly associates with: northern red oak, American chestnut, and maple-leaved viburnum. Why are these mountain laurel populations dying out? Because the oak stands are gradually being replaced by sugar maple, beech, and/or hemlock.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR AGE?

We know when the burns stopped - around the time of the American Revolution when many Native Americans moved west, or before. This period of decrease in the number of Native Peoples in the East Branch Delaware (i. e. Pepacton) Valley has been well documented in the writings of European settlers and historians.

But when did the fires begin and/or when were they in progress? I wondered if I could solve this puzzle for several years, but did not know how. Then looking at mountain laurel populations gave me an idea. Some populations were quite large - thickets covering from one to several acres - and probably very old. But how old? Could I measure the twig growth rate per year (i. e., the growth rate of the radius of the thicket) and divide the acreage by the growth rate?

So in the fall of 2015, I went to work. Under the moderate shade of oaks, mountain laurel twigs grow in length between one and five inches



2016 Summer Events

***Pre-Registration
Required**



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.

August 13th Game of Logging Level 2

7:30AM-5PM

Level 2 focuses on maximizing chainsaw performance through basic maintenance, carburetor setting, & filing techniques. *GOL level 1 pre-requisite required.

September 10th 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? Come see for yourself.

August 6th Wild Ginseng Walk

10AM-1PM

Learn how to identify this long-lived herb right here in the Catskill Mountains. We will hike to some plants!

August 14th Chainsaw Maintenance

10AM-12PM

Chainsaw maintenance is essential for the safe operation and longevity of your saw. Bring your personal chainsaw to get the most out of your experience.

September 16th The Growing Deer Debate

5:30pm-8:30pm

CFA will be showcasing 5 presentations from *The Growing Deer Debate* conference that occurred in October 2015. *TGDD* seeks to raise discussion about creating a better environment for both deer, humans, & the forest.

August 7th Mushroom Walk

10AM-12PM

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.

August 20th Wild Ginseng Walk

10AM-1PM

Learn how to identify this long-lived herb right here in the Catskill Mountains. We will hike to some plants!

September 17th Yoga & Tree ID

12:30PM-2PM

Meet @ Whole Sky Yoga in High Falls, Ulster County for an hour of yoga. Afterwards we'll learn to identify some trees on the historical Delaware & Hudson Canal.

CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!

Staff

Jim Waters—Executive Director
Kathy Fox—Office Manager
Ryan Trapani—Education Forester
John MacNaught—Wildlife Specialist

Contact

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

“Tent of Knowledge” Featuring local speakers at the 2016 Catskill Forest Festival

10:30 “Who is Dr. Mike Kudish?” – Dr. Mike Kudish, Forest Historian

Board Member Becky Porter will interview Dr. Michael Kudish. Kudish is a retired professor from Paul Smith's College & author of *The Catskill Forest: A History* among other books.

11:15 “NYC DEP & Forest Recreation” – Paul Lenz, NYC DEP

Come learn about the efforts DEP is involved with to expand recreational opportunities on water supply land.

12:00 noon “Young Forest Initiative” – Michael Echtner/Selinda Brandon, NYS DEC

Mike Echtner, NYSDEC Forester & Selinda Brandon, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist will talk about the Young Forest Initiative (YFI) & the planned forest management of the region's wildlife Management Areas.

1:00 “Forest Management & Deer Management” – Forester Chris Tcimpidis, Bevan Forestry

Chris is a private Consulting Forester throughout the Catskill Mountains. He must balance both the needs of forest owners & forest markets in addition to impacts caused by the white-tailed deer on forest regeneration.

1:45 “Forest Pests” – John Thompson, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

John will discuss the variety of pests that threaten the Catskills forests (i.e. Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid).

2:30 “CFA's Programs” – John MacNaught & Ryan Trapani, CFA

John MacNaught (*Wildlife Specialist*) & Ryan Trapani (*Education Forester*) will discuss CFA's six programs.

LOGGING, FORESTRY, AND MILLING DEMONSTRATIONS

TREE FELLING

10:30AM

11:15AM

12 NOON

12:45PM

1:30PM

2:15PM

ALASKAN SAW MILL

11AM

1PM

FIREWOOD PROCESSOR

12 NOON

2PM

PONY RIDES

ALL DAY



A Celebration of the Catskill Forest



CFA Membership Categories

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)

CFA at the Delaware County Fair

Monday August 15th till' Saturday August 20th



Come visit CFA staff and Board members at the Delaware County Fair in August. Look for our trailer located near the new small engines and antique tractor building close to the 4-H and Ag. Buildings. We will have information on forest management, EAB, wildlife management, membership and more!

We would also appreciate a few volunteer members to assist at the trailer throughout the week.

Contact Kathy at CFA with interest.
(845) 586-3054 or cfa@catskill.net



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.

From the CFA President's Desk

CFA Board President, Mike Porter

Greetings,

We welcome member participation during this busy time of CFA year! I hope you bring your friends and families to our events. Feel free to give us a call if you want to volunteer to help in any way. Now, I want to take time to talk about what's going on:

The Catskill Forest Festival

First and most immediate will be the Catskill Forest Festival held on July 30 from 10AM 'til 4PM at the Margaretville Village Park behind Freshtown Market.

This year, the main attraction will be a demonstration of how standing trees are made into wood products. Talented woodsmen will present saw safety and proper techniques while showcasing all of the activities needed to convert a standing tree to a finished product. For anyone who has never seen a tree felled, a log graded for quality, skidded to a mill, converted to lumber and that lumber turned into a wood creation, this event will be informative and interesting. There will be 5 complete demonstrations throughout the day. I am excited to see this new event.

Also, there will be chainsaw mill and firewood processor demos, and a wide range of equipment displays including new equipment from local dealers. If you are in the market for a chainsaw, mill, tractor or any of the equipment needed around a woodlot, there will be vendors to guide you to choices. I know I am always interested in upgrades to my equipment and this is the place to discuss your plans.

The Tent of Knowledge will feature local experts presenting on a variety of topics that are important to a working forest landscape or simply to enhance your knowledge of the forest lands which surround us here in the beautiful Catskills. Check out the Speaker Schedule in another location in this newsletter. The speaker schedule will be posted in several places at the festival so you don't miss anything you are interested in.

For youngsters, we will have an activity center to occupy them while parents visit vendors, eat or listen to a talk in the Tent of Knowledge. It is fun to watch kids entertain themselves with working toys.

There are many more vendors and organizations coming this year to expand your horizons on our forest lands and their environs. Pretty much anything you are interested in related to forest will be represented by a vendor. Also, as always we have a great selection of food vendors for your eating pleasure.

CFA will have the usual food items for sale near our CFA information Central. Grab a bag of popcorn or maple cotton candy and visit with Kathy, Ryan or John about the benefits of joining CFA. I expect CFA to be able to guide you towards what is best for your land use plan. You only have to initiate the discussion.

CFA at the Delaware County Fair August 15 - 20, 2016

This year, for the first time in many years CFA will be present at the Delaware County Fair in Walton. It is a great opportunity for CFA to reach out to the residents of Delaware and surrounding counties with our message of forest management and use. CFA will be near the Silo built and dedicated to my late Father-in-Law and his nephew (Paul Miller and Robert Miller).

The Delaware County Fair is a large agriculture-centered fair held every August in Walton. Like our Forest Festival, it has almost anything a landowner would be interested in. The Fair has many, many things to delight and entertain a family or couple for an evening out. So, come to the Fair, and be sure to stop by and say hello to the CFA staff member and Board member manning the booth. We will see you at the Fair.

The Membership Meeting (formerly Annual Meeting)

The Membership Meeting, will be held in October this year. Changes are occurring here that are notable and important. First, in an attempt to increase attendance by members we will be holding the meeting at the Town of Middletown Historical Society center on Cemetery Rd. in Margaretville. Dinner will be catered by Arkville Bread and Breakfast. The auction event this year will be of the Silent type rather than the open style of the past. This should make things go quicker and more efficiently. The business meeting that was a major focus will be minimized for your enjoyment. Only a brief business meeting will be held. As President, I think this is a great upgrade for all of you who are in attendance. Jim, Ryan and John will make short presentations about new and upgraded offerings at CFA and featured speaker, forester Chris Tcimpidis of Bevan Forestry in Livingston Manor, will talk about forestry issues in today's world.

I am excited about the change in venue and format. I look forward to seeing many of you there in October. Again, check out the newsletter for further information.

Best,

Mike Porter
CFA President

CFA Chainsaw Raffle—Tickets \$5



Husqvarna 550xp Chainsaw

Call for Details and tickets (845) 586-3054

All Prizes Acquired from Ashokan Turf and Timber, Shokan, NY



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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.

Cover Photo:

*Hemlock ledge at Verkeerderkill Falls,
Sam's Point Preserve, Shawangunk, NY*

*Photo taken by John MacNaught
Wildlife Specialist, Catskill Forest Association*

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

www.catskillforest.org

Welcome New Members!

July

Michael Weiss—Swan Lake
Elizabeth Lamont—Bloomville
Ben Holsher—Roxbury
Carmella Pomber—Shokan

June

Ivan Tether—Eldred
Nigel Hall—Bovina
Judy and Donald Cucinotta—Swan lake
Kip and John Cosson—Swan Lake
Eric Himelfarb—West Shokan
Barbara Wenzel—Summit
Robert Savacool—Pine Hill
Camille Vickers—Fleischmanns
Jamie payne—Cragsmoor
Robert Cermele—Mt. Tremper

May

Paul Markert—Andes
Frank Tushaj—Catskill

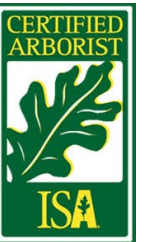
CFA Programs

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.

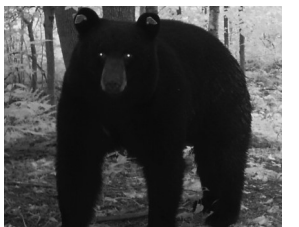
On-Site Visit Program: Help getting started managing your land. We will walk your property with you. You may have 1 acre or you may have over 100 acres. Not sure what to do with the land?

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



PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406

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.



CFA NEWS



The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Volume 34, Number 3 Summer 2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

“Mountain Laurel Thickets: An Alternative to radiocarbon dating?” - Dr. Michael Kudish

“Remember Ash” - Ryan Trapani

“Emerald Ash Borer Update” - Jim Waters

“Rattlesnakes and Fire” - Ryan Trapani

“What is Hinge Cutting” - John MacNaught

“Also Included:

CFA's Calendar of Events, The Catskill Forest Festival, CFA at the Delaware County Fair, and What CFA members have been up to.