

CFA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT– FOREST MANAGEMENT *by Jack McShane - Andes, NY*



Jack McShane, CFA member
Photo by the Author

I can no longer race my son to the top of the mountain beyond the homestead, but a slow steady pace with the help of my trekking poles with many stops to rest allows me to continue to absorb the essence of the forest. I do consider this as great luck. Minor decrepitude shall presently not deter me from interceding in and enjoying the beauty and intrigue of the landscape with its fauna and flora. The wooded structure to which I have become very familiar with and kind of endeared to over the past thirty years will soon be drastically altered. Yes, after all these years of active stewardship there is soon to be a major timber harvest. The woodland that I know so intimately will have a major alteration with many of the larger trees that I have so often passed and admired are soon to be gone. My consolation is the fact that many of these trees, which are white ash would soon be dead anyway due to the looming onslaught of the emerald ash borer or EAB. This devastating invasive insect which is a lovely gift from Asia imported inadvertently, is in the process of killing all our ash trees, this according to the forestry experts at Cornell and the DEC. It is presently being found in the Margaretville/Andes area.

To make this harvest a marketable sale we have also included many hard and soft maple, black cherry, black birch and hickory all of which are as called in the industry, of saw log size meaning they are at least of the minimum diameter for sawmills to cut into boards. All the red oaks of which we have many, will not be cut, remaining in place to produce their acorns or what is known as hard mast, an important food stuff for our many species of wildlife. Their existence and viability is a priority for us. It will take some time to get over what I term "post-harvest blues" seeing what will look like a forest devastated it will in fact not be. The tops of the fallen trees will be cut to not more than four feet high which is within browse height for the deer and will also make excellent cover for

partridge, cottontail rabbits and many other critters. In fact the DEC is presently undertaking a management program on state lands called "Young Forest Initiative" here in the Catskills which entails heavy cutting of mature forests in specific locations. These are not within the park where management is disallowed by the state constitution. The primary goal is to enhance new and young forests, an important type of habitat required by certain bird species which have been in decline.

Our trees that will be harvested have now all been marked with blue paint, board foot volume measured and listed according to the specific species by our forester who was recommended by the Catskill Forest Association (CFA). He is also an alumni of mine having graduated the Ranger School in the Adirondacks where we both learned forestry and surveying. CFA, located in Arkville, is a nonprofit whose mission is to help and educate private forest landowners on how to properly manage their forest property to match their specific goals, and of which I can say proudly in the past was the president for eight years and on the board of directors for twelve.

The volume tally sheets along with written rules which will be in the eventual contract, pertaining to proper skid trail lay out with water bars to prevent erosion, along with wording such as all tops to be lopped to no more than four feet in height that must be adhered to has been written up and sent to a number of sawmills and loggers for them to bid on. This now completed, their own foresters having toured and checked the terrain, the accuracy of the volume tallies and various requirements to be met, the bids are now in, and wow, the winning bid from a very reputable mill is almost twice what was expected. The contract which has yet to be signed, which also lays out the location for the landing where the logging trucks will pick up the harvested logs is alongside and off the town road, something mandated and properly so, by our own Andes Highway Dept.

Upon signing, the company issues a check to me for the full amount which gives it ownership of the trees marked and another check for a large bond issued to my forester who will be routinely checking to see that all rules are adhered to and

will return the same upon satisfactory completion of the harvest. The company will have two years to complete their operations. My forester can stop the process at any time if he or I feel there is an action counter to or lack of required action that is outlined in the contract. I am also planning to send out a letter to all my adjoining neighbors (see end of this article); Something that is not mandated by law, but I feel is a proper courtesy informing them of the upcoming harvest and that they might check to see that no trees were inadvertently marked that they feel are on their property. I know our property lines, have checked myself and am confident that this is not to be a problem.

We did have one of our beautiful white ash trees that stands right in front of our home inoculated this past spring with an insecticide that will kill any invading EAB. Expensive, but I believe well worth it as this tree in my mind is beautiful and irreplaceable. This protective process must take place in the spring when the sap is running. If any of you are interested in this ash tree protection give me a call and I will give you the number of the licensed outfit. Also, the CFA will be launching a program for members this spring to have their trees inoculated and saved. Ryan and John are becoming certified NYS DEC pesticide technicians, and eventually full applicators.



Ash Tree being inoculated with insecticide to save it from Emerald Ash Borer. Photo by the Author

Letter to My Neighbors

Dear neighbor,

This letter is just a courtesy and not mandatory by law. It is to let you know that Nancy and I are going to have a timber sale and logging operations may begin shortly and may continue for a year and a half. It will only be conducted on the side of Bussey Hollow which our house is on.

After thirty years here with only two previous very small harvests one because a number of red oaks were killed by the forest tent caterpillar and were salvage harvested, another recommended by the DEC to enhance wildlife habitat. We are initiating the harvest because we have many white ash trees that are under imminent threat by the emerald ash borer. Some other species of sawlog size will be removed also, but no oaks, this because the acorn crop is so important to many wildlife species.

As of now all the trees to be harvested have been marked with blue paint by our forester. The boundary lines between our property and yours after our own inspection we believe have been well adhered to by our forester. Upon your own inspection please let me know if you feel that a tree or trees on your side of the property line has been inadvertently marked for harvest. If so, please contact us forthwith and this will be quickly looked into and rectified.

by, Jack McShane

Andes, NY 11/1/2016

****Note from the Editor:*** This article, written by CFA member Jack McShane, was contributed as a member spotlight for the Winter 2017 CFA News. All members are welcomed and encouraged to contribute their stories as part of the CFA News member spotlight series. If you would like to have your article published here in a future CFA News publication, please contact John MacNaught, Wildlife Specialist and CFA News editor (845) 586-3054. Or submit to jmacnaught@catskill.net. **No matter what you use your woodland for, CFA wants to share your forest experience!**

A look Into an Ash Timber Harvest

CFA Wildlife Specialist, John MacNaught



John MacNaught, CFA Staff, Photo by the Author

My Mother and Aunt jointly own the 86-acre property where I grew up and where I fell in love with working in the woods. We had been contemplating harvesting our ash trees for a year or two, once the emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in our county (Delaware) and the neighboring county (Ulster). Finally, when EAB was identified just 12 miles as the bug flies, we knew it was time to get moving on a harvest.

We first met with a local logger who walked the property with us to take a look at the trees. Unfortunately, our trees were once open grown making them undesirable for timber. Though all the trees were large, many of them only had one log in them due to the large crowns. Also, our ash trees are mostly scattered over the entire 60-acre woodlot, and not all located in one area or 'stand.' The worst part was the fact we had no forest roads, therefore a lot of time would need to go into building a road network to access the timber. The first logger decided not to take the job.

Next, I invited a forester I've gotten to know by working at the Catskill Forest Association to help us out. We spent a rainy afternoon walking the woods and he clearly saw the potential for a harvest. The problem he saw was the same of the logger, the trees are scattered, only ok-quality, and low volume. He suggested a minimum of 30,000 board feet of timber be marked for removal in order to make the sale appealing for bidding to local loggers. We do not have 30,000 feet of ash, therefore about half of the timber would be another species. The forester suggested cutting some of the mature sugar maple. Unfortunately, I had to disagree because I plan to tap these trees

for making maple syrup in the near future. Due to this, we could not make the sale work once again.

The last try came from a friend with a bulldozer who is not a full time logger. A friend of ours who loves working in the woods, just like I do. Though not full time, he is fully insured and very experienced in the field. He walked the property and agreed to all of our requests for the ash harvest, roads, and best management practices (BMP's). He only requested in return some help with the job. I quickly agreed to cut the trees, seeing the benefit of being able to directly oversee the work by working alongside.

I took the time to mark and measure the volume of all of the trees to be cut, mark the harvest boundaries, and get all of the permit work done to install a temporary bridge and cross the trout stream on the property.



Ash Trees Marked for Timber Sale, Photo by the Author

For the majority of this winter I have spent my weekends working with our part-time logger friend cutting and skidding timber. Our family property will now have an accessible road network for future management projects, the ash trees have been salvaged, and the landowners and the logger have made some money too. Everyone is happy with the terms of the job and the quality of work. It just goes to show you that anything can be done with some persistence and hard work.

If you have any questions about harvesting timber, give the Catskill Forest Association a call to discuss some options you may have. And remember, call us BEFORE you cut. (845) 586-3054

by, John MacNaught

Wildlife Specialist, Catskill Forest Association

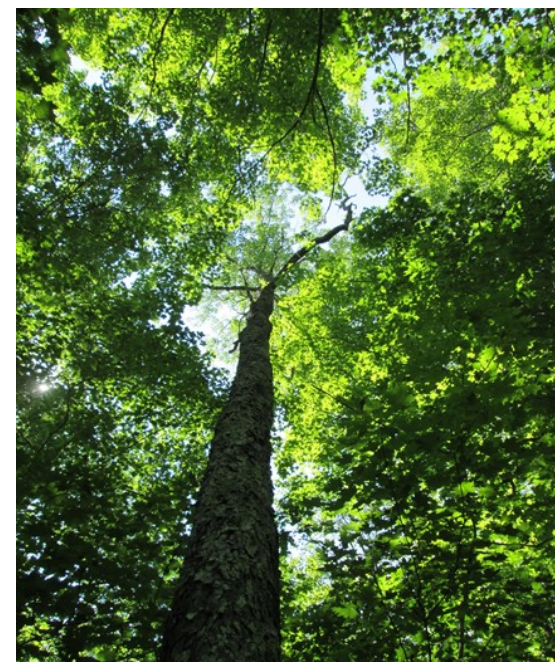
terminated, it does not. The two species seem to co-dominate the western ridges almost peacefully.

YELLOW BIRCH DOMINANCE

Above about 2800 to 3000 feet, there are sites locally where the bedrock is so close to the surface, less than one foot, and/or so stony that even black cherry and beech cannot dominate. Only those species capable of tolerating the most severe drought conditions are here. The dominant is yellow birch, often mixed with red (also known as fire, pin, or bird) cherry, mountain ash, mountain maple, and various species of shrubs. Hikers like these sites because they typically offer lookouts. (See *CFA News*, summer-fall 2013, volume 31, numbers 3 and 4, pages 13 and 14, for an article on yellow birch ecology).

MIDDLE SLOPES

Black cherry is absent, or at best scattered, on the middle slopes between ca. 2000 and 3000 feet, and is thus rarely dominant. Sugar maple, beech, and eastern hemlock outcompete it for light. So can red spruce in the eastern Catskills, but fir less so because of balsam's short lifespan.



Single Black Cherry dominated by Sugar Maple
Photo by John MacNaught

FURTHER READING ON BLACK CHERRY

For general background on the identification, biology, diseases, and uses of black cherry, three articles are available, each written by a different CFA educator: In the summer 1994 issue of *CFA News*, Volume 12, number 3, page 3, Donna Rogler wrote. Then Becky Perry wrote in *Kaatskill Life* magazine, volume 16, number 2, summer 2001, pages 58 and 59. Most recently, Ryan Trapani wrote in *Kaatskill Life* fall 2007, volume 22, number 3, also pages 58 and 59.

by, Dr. Michael Kudish

Catskill Interpretive Center: Going to the Birds

Recently, Mike Porter, President of the CFA Board of Directors; Mark Kugler, CFA board of directors; and Mike DiBenedetto set up a multi-station bird feeding station and bluebird houses at the Catskill Interpretive Center. The desire to give visitors to the Center a chance to observe local bird species feeding led Mike, Mike, and Mark to do the work. In the near future, an owl nesting box will be installed for visitors to observe and learn about these other local species and their habits. With Mike P. representing CFA in the project it gives it a presence in a location at the gateway to the area served by CFA.



Mike Porter and Mark Kugler installing a Bluebird house



The Catskill Forest Association is pleased to host "From the Forest," a weekly radio show on WIOX, our local radio station in Roxbury, New York. The CFA's Ryan Trapani and John MacNaught, along with other guest speakers, discuss; trees, logging, wood, maple syrup, nuts and berries and the pressing issues central to our forests.

WIOX Community Radio, 91.3FM.

Don't get 91.3FM where you live? Don't worry, you can also stream live at www.wioxradio.org.

Missed the Show?

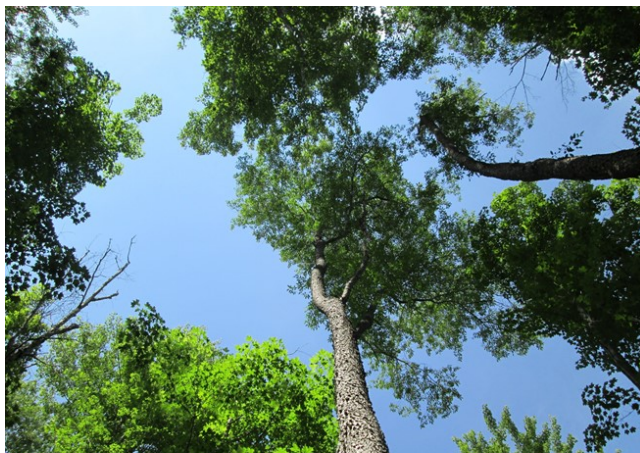
We archive shows at www.catskillforest.org



Black Cherry: The True Ecological Schizophrenic?

by Dr. Michael Kudish

In *The Catskill Forest: A History* (Purple Mountain Press, 2000, page 24) I wrote that paper birch may be an ecological schizophrenic because it grows in two different kinds of sites and rarely in between them. This has turned out to be false. Since 2000, I have learned that paper birch (also called white birch or canoe birch, *Betula papyrifera*), is really two different species. They genetically have two different numbers of chromosomes. They might cross for one generation but any offspring produced would be sterile. Paper birch grows at lower elevations and is a pioneer often on abandoned fields, while mountain paper birch (*Betula cordifolia*) is a pioneer of high elevations in fir or spruce-fir forests in the eastern Catskills.



Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*—Photo by John MacNaught

In contrast, black cherry is only black cherry – a single species (*Prunus serotina*), but it does dominate mainly on two different kinds of sites and rarely between them. Therefore, it may be the TRUE ecological schizophrenic. Black cherry is mid-tolerant of shade and cannot compete well with the most shade-tolerant species: sugar maple, beech, eastern hemlock, red spruce, and balsam fir. [See *CFA News* winter 2016, volume 34, number 1, pages 6 to 9 for an article on subclimax forests, i. e. those forests dominated by mid-tolerant trees].

ABANDONED FARMS AND HEAVILY-LOGGED AREAS

The first kind of site that black cherry is found on, often in abundance and even dominating, is abandoned farms and heavily logged-over areas. This cherry takes advantage of the sunlight on such sites along with other mid-tolerant subclimax species such as red maple, white ash, black birch, and northern red oak. Often black cherry is abundant along roadsides, edges of fields, and fencerows between fields. These kinds of agricultural and former agricultural sites are typically on or near the bottoms of slopes, or on valley floors, at lower elevations.

Black cherry can also dominate sites that were

heavily cut-over, i. e. clearcuts or Seed Tree cuts such as those made by the acid wood industry in the western Catskills. A good example is the hill country in the Russell Brook watershed northward to Cables Lake (also known as Trout Pond) in the Delaware County Town of Colchester. Here, the George I. Treyz Company cut most of the hardwoods off these hills, up to elevation of 2600 feet, for their acid wood plant in Butternut Grove between 1910 and 1924. Cherry Ridge is the name of the hill west and northwest of Cables Lake, and indeed black cherry is still the dominant today.

RIDGELINES

The other kind of site where black cherry is abundant, and often dominant, on is at high elevations along the ridgelines, especially in the western Catskills where all-hardwood forests climb to the summits. Consider Dry Brook and Mill Brook Ridges; the Beaverkill Range; Barkaboom, Cabot, Middle, Mary Smith, Halcott, Vly, and Bearpen Mountains; and the Plattekill-Pisgah-Utsayantha Range in Delaware County. These ridgelines typically range from 2800 to 3600 feet. On the summit of Graham Mountain, black cherry climbs to its highest elevation in the Catskills at 3868 feet.

But why? It is the absence of competition from the most shade tolerant species on these sites.

Sugar maple is more shade tolerant and will outcompete black cherry on the middle slopes (at approximately 2000 to 3000 feet). But this maple requires lots of water, and the soils on the ridgelines hold very little of it; they are shallow to bedrock (usually one to two feet) and very stony (50% to 75% or more gravel and larger rock fragments). Sugar maple therefore is not much of a competitor high up and leaves black cherry alone.

Eastern hemlock rarely climbs above 3000 feet, most likely because of the short growing season, and is not a competitor.

Red spruce and balsam fir are absent from the western Catskills ridgelines, and therefore also present no competition to black cherry. The reason is the postglacial migration route of each of these conifers. Red spruce was never in the western parts, and balsam fir was very rare here [See *CFA News* fall-winter 2012, volume 30 number 4 combined with volume 31 number 1, pages 12 to 14, for fir; and *CFA News* spring 2013, volume 31, number 2, also pages 12 to 14, for spruce].

Beech, however, presents a problem. It is more shade tolerant than black cherry, and combined with beech's ability to sprout prolifically, it should outcompete the cherry almost everywhere along the ridgelines. But for some reason yet to be de-

NEW!

CFA Tree Saver Program

WHAT'S KILLING THE TREES?

- ♦ Ash is being devastated by **Emerald Ash Borer** (EAB—*Agrilus plenipennis*)
- ♦ Hemlock is being plundered by **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** (HWA—*Adelges tsugae*)

SHOULD YOU SAVE YOUR TREE?

- ♦ **Yes**, if the following fits your scenario:

- (1) You live in an area where ash and hemlock are being threatened
- (2) You have 1 or a few trees you just can't live without; forest treatment is not practical in most cases
- (3) Cost of removal is too high; removing a large ash or hemlock near your home could cost \$1,000—\$3,000

HOW WE SAVE YOUR TREE

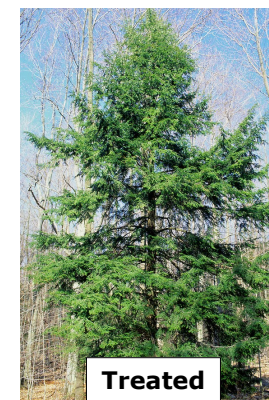
- ♦ CFA staff is NYS DEC Certified to apply chemical treatments to your trees
- ♦ Chemical treatment occurs during the growing season
- ♦ Chemical treatment is a **safe and inexpensive** alternative to removal
- ♦ Chemical treatment buys time in case other methods arrive (biological, etc.)



START SAVING NOW

- ♦ Make an appointment
- ♦ 1-Hour Consultation is **FREE** for all CFA members
- ♦ A CFA Staff Member will assess your trees and see if treatment is an option
- ♦ **Treatment is \$125/tree plus mileage**
- ♦ Treatment lasts 1 year

Your Trees Are Waiting...



CFA Endowment Fund: Fundraising Update

In November of 2016, CFA mailed a donation plea letter to our membership asking for donations to our Endowment Fund.

CFA has received donations from 50 members totaling \$8,436 since the campaign began.

We are pleased to announce that to date, **we have raised \$14,272 or 57%** of the goal of \$25,000.

We sincerely appreciate each and every donation that we have received and those still coming in.

If you are a new member and are not yet familiar, or did not receive the letter, **CFA has a matching funds grant in the amount of \$25,000 available to us, through June 2018.**

Contact Kathy, or donate at our website!

Thank you, one, and all!

CFA Staff and Board of Directors



An Invitation from the CFA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of CFA are pleased to announce that we have decided to invite general members to participate on recently formed committees to deal with various aspects of the CFA organization. We will be welcome up to two members to serve on each of the committees listed below. If you are interested in working with Board and Staff members, please contact the CFA office at cfa@catskill.net stating the interest you have. We will review requests and if there are more members interested in serving we will make the necessary choices and let you know if you have been chosen.

The committees we are offering participation on are as follows:

Administrative/Finance - Join Board members, Steve Miller, Sue Doig, Bob Bishop, Dave Northcutt and Mike Porter and Staff, Ryan Trapani and Kathy Fox as oversight on investments, proposals of purchase, and other aspects of the financial side of CFA.

Advertising/Forest Festival/Programs - Join board members, Becky Porter, Mike Porter, Frank Winkler, Jake Rosa, Seth LaPierre and Dave Northcutt and Staff Ryan Trapani and John MacNaught as we oversee development and improvement of our Program offerings. Work on planning the annual Catskill Forest Festival as we strive to make it grow and become a more effective fundraiser and outreach/education program. This committee will eventually be split into two working groups after the search and hiring of a new Executive Director is complete.

Building and Grounds - Join Board members, Mark Kugler, Jake Rosa, Steve Miller and Becky Porter and Staff John MacNaught to help oversee the maintenance of our Office building in Arkville and make plans for any improvements or repairs.

One of the first highlights to CFA in 2017

was the recognition of continued excellence in hosting of the WIOX Radio program **"From the Forest."** The New York Society of American Foresters presented the Catskill Forest Association with their Forestry Communications Award. The award is to *"recognize outstanding efforts to promote public understanding and appreciation of forest resources, management and stewardship."*

CFA staff Ryan Trapani and John MacNaught host "From the Forest" every Wednesday from 6-7PM on WIOX 91.3FM and makes these broadcasts available for listening on our website www.catskillforest.org.

CFA has recently put a great deal of effort into updating our membership database. In this effort, we realized that many of our members have email addresses that are no longer valid, or no email address recorded at all!

Email is a great way to stay in touch with what we have been working on here at CFA, receive updates on the weekly WIOX radio show: **From the Forest**, and to stay updated with upcoming events.

If you would like to take advantage of this information, shoot Kathy an email at cfa@catskill.net She will update the mailing list!

Meet the Board of Directors



Mike Porter is a retired teacher from Margaretville Central School. He taught Earth Science, Environmental Science, Science Research in the High School, Driver Education and several elementary and junior high courses over his 33-year career. In 1988 he was selected as the New York State Conservation Teacher of the Year by the New York State Board of Soil and Water Districts.

A life-long resident of Delaware County, Mike is an avid birder and has studied the changes in the avian community over the years. As a small woodlot landowner, he has learned to manage his property to better enhance wildlife, timber quality and maple syrup production.

Mike has been an active volunteer Fireman for nearly 45 years and was an Executive officer for most of that time. He was a member of the Town of Middletown Zoning Board of Appeals and, later, a Planning Board member and Chair.

Besides birding, Mike gardens, makes Maple syrup, cuts his own firewood and does woodworking. Currently he is harvesting trees from his property and preparing his own lumber via a band saw mill on the property.



Mark Kugler

Born in Catskill, NY; Navy veteran; retired Lieutenant NYC Firefighter; Mark has owned several businesses ranging from restaurant/bar to construction; was licensed for real estate sales, residential appraisal, commercial appraisal, and home inspection. Mark moved to Halcott Center after retiring from NYC Fire Department where he built a home on 105 acres which led to joining the CFA and getting involved; Mark has been

a board member since 2012.



Becky Porter lives in Margaretville where she has lived since 1976. She has been on the CFA Board since 2013. With a life-long love of the woods, and a passion for working with interesting, community-oriented people, she likes serving as a Board member. She lives in the village, but owns a woodlot/camp out of town. Having a "camp" in the hills is, historically, a dream come true

for village dwellers. Working to glean some economic benefit from owning forest land is a favorite challenge. CFA membership and, especially, being on the Board of Directors has been educational and fun. She recommends it! Becky is a registered dental hygienist. She works in private practice. Becky is a member of the Margaretville fire department woman's auxiliary and she serves on the Village of Margaretville zoning board of appeals.



Dave Northcutt

has been a Catskills property owner for over 13 years. He has always had a strong interest in forestry, dating back to his college days, and is an avid hiker and volunteer

trail maintainer for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Dave has been an active participant in many of the CFA's programs, and he now uses his skills to help the CFA grow and achieve its goals. Most recently, Dave led the effort to improve the CFA's office automation and modernize its membership database.

Dave is a retired IBM Distinguished Engineer with over 35 years of industry experience in the areas of applied statistics, data analysis and presentation, and continual improvement techniques. He is an ASQ Certified Quality Engineer and an INFORMS Certified Analytics Professional. Dave also volunteers his time on the board of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the American Society for Quality. In his spare time, Dave enjoys bicycling, woodworking, and gourmet cooking.

From the CFA's President's Desk

by Mike Porter



As 2016 goes by the boards, CFA is expanding its reach into new member services and offerings. We are also in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. CFA is entering a new era in the history of our organization. We will be reorganizing our Board of Directors so there will be committees to lead various aspects of our activity. These committees will be made up of Board members, a Staff member and, new this year, volunteers from the general membership. This will be a radical change that will yield

many advantages.

First, it will spread the burden of decision-making out among more Board members and staff regarding program, financial, outreach, the Catskill Forest Festival and other aspects of CFA operations. Second, there will be concentrated emphasis on each aspect of CFA so that Board members and general members can become more familiar with the organization's goals and pathways to achieve those goals.

Third, the general membership will have representation on these committees. A better understanding of CFA's organization will aid these members in becoming effective liaisons between Board and Staff and the general membership. Most importantly, Board and Staff members will get ideas and input from these members. As our recent member survey showed, there are many ideas out there that can make CFA even more successful. Even adding at-large members to committees is a suggestion from a member. As President of the Board of Directors, I look forward to working more closely with our membership.

For years, CFA offered on-site visits (OSV) to its members along with the periodic forest programs held on weekends. Our list of programs has grown considerably from that humble beginning to a point now where we have 6 services on our list. Beginning in 2017 we will be adding two more services; drone visits with our OSV and pesticide applications to help deal with the rapid approach of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Hemlock Woolly



Adelgid. The emphasis is to save individual specimens of Ash and Hemlock on lawns and in landscapes around homes. Many times the cost of inoculation of these trees will be

much less than the costs of removing the tree, even though there will have to be repeat inoculations in the future. This could be a big win for that special tree in your yard.

Unless you have a high cliff, 400-foot tree or helicopter of your own, CFA's drone will provide that birds-eye view of your property and give you a baseline of your forest community before, during and after participating in one or more of our programs. This should prove to be a great addition to CFA's arsenal of programs.



With a generous offer from a member, CFA will be able to purchase new equipment and supplies to aid in our new programs. This gift is valuable in that the costs of new materials will be covered and any work done in these new programs will directly benefit CFA rather than cover associated costs.

From the Forest,

**Mike Porter, President
CFA Board of Directors**

Forestry Fridays

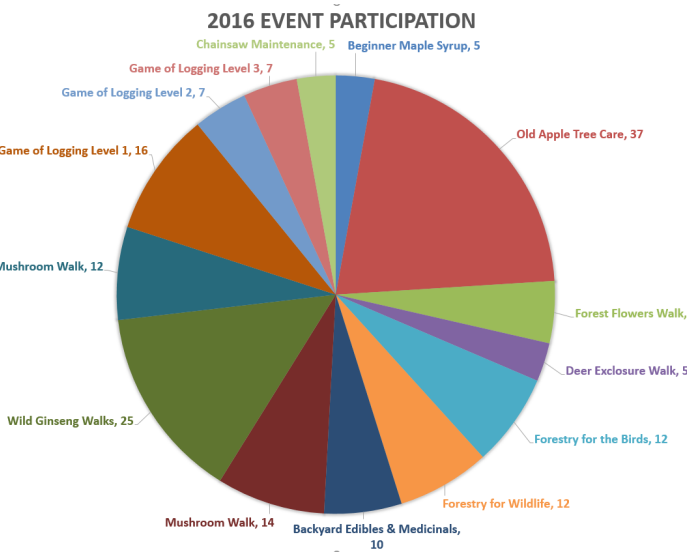
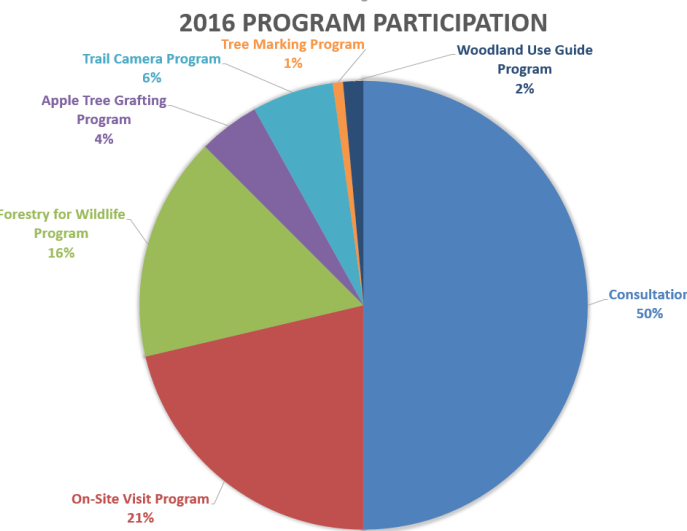
Join CFA staff for informal discussion about the forest at the Catskill Forest Association Office the first Friday of every month beginning at 6pm.

During the First Forestry Friday, coming up on February 3rd, we will discuss trespassing laws with a NYS DEC ECO.

Come with ideas, questions, or just to share your thoughts. We will see where the conversation goes!

2016 Events and Programs Recap

Thank you to all members who attended our workshops and participated in our programs this past year. As you can see by the graphs below, our events were well attended and our programs showed record high participation. We hope to make the coming year better than the last. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact us. We want to better serve you—the Catskill landowner—because together we will improve the health of our Catskill forests.



www.catskillforest.org

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)



2017 Winter and Spring Events

***Pre-Registration
Required**



Beginner Maple Syrup Making

February 4th

10AM—Noon

Presentation for the beginner backyard sugar maker. Backyard evaporator demonstration, Maple sugar making demonstration.

Restorative Apple Tree Pruning

March 4th

10AM—Noon

Learn how to bring back your apple tree into fruition via pruning. We will work with a neglected random tree, just like you might have on your own property.

Cutting Firewood

April 15th

10AM—Noon

Learn how to improve your forest while cutting firewood. Cutting wood will benefit growing timber and wildlife habitat too. See how one CFA member does it.

Game of Logging Level 1

April 22nd

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.

Apple Tree Grafting Demonstration

May 6th

10AM—Noon

Turn a lousy apple tree into something that tastes good via grafting. We will show you grafts from previous years, as well as graft a new tree.

Forest Flowers Walk

May 13th

10AM—Noon

Spring is a great time to see flowers on the forest floor before the leaves come out. Join us for a walk to see what we can find.

Staff

Ryan Trapani—Interim ED
John MacNaught—Wildlife Specialist
Kathy Fox—Office Manager

Deer Exclusion Walk

May 27th

10AM—Noon

Demonstration exhibiting deer impacts in the Catskills' forests. See what grows on the forest floor when deer are excluded via a fence.

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 which can be found on our website
www.catskillforest.org



From the Executive Director's Desk

CFA Interim Executive Director, Ryan Trapani

April Problems in January



Well, it's not feeling much like winter out as I write this message on the 13th of January, 2017. Temperatures will be hovering in the 40s during the day throughout many parts of the Catskills, sparking an interest in some maple producers to begin tapping. Some areas may see 50 degrees! Now, January tapping is rare, but does occur.

Take last year for instance; I tapped around the 3rd week in January. Normally, in central Ulster County the tapping time occurs about the 3rd week in February; in the higher elevations possibly in the beginning of March or so. The problem with these traditional time-tables is that they existed under a time period when producers didn't have access to reliable thermometers or the weather channel.



Ryan Tapping, Photo by the Author

Now here comes the new-found phenomenon; at least for me who has only been at it for 10 years. I am peering into the 10-Day forecast to see if there are enough "above 40-degree days" to warrant tapping; yep, there sure are. During this time of year, it's "normally" not warm enough during the day for the sap to run, right? Well, it turns out that every day (except tomorrow) will be **too warm**; that's right, it'll be too warm. In other words, the lows are also all above freezing. Well, the sap just won't run after a few days if it doesn't freeze at night; normally a late March or April problem. But we're in January! So, for the first time, I'm debating not tapping in January because it's too warm; can you believe that? Maybe I'll wait until February for it to cool down.

In other news, you should have received a rack-card sized piece of paper in the mail detailing CFA's 2017 Events & Programs. We thought this

might serve as a simple way to keep all of our events/programs in one place; that way you don't have to go looking for them all the time.

Speaking of Programs. CFA will begin its new **Tree Saver Program** this spring. If you have a hemlock or ash tree that you would like to save, please let us know. As you may already be aware of, ash and hemlock are being devastated across the Catskills from 2 different insects. This program is aimed at saving individual trees; whether they're near your home or out in the woods. CFA Member – Ed Bennett – has graciously donated funds for all equipment that will be used in this program. **Thank You ED!**

Your money will save

some trees. Ed's donation paid for:

- Soil Drench Kit
- Birchmeier Closed System Back-Pack Sprayer
- Arborjet Prokit 2 Pack
- Gempler's 45 Gallon Storage Cabinet



Emerald Ash Borer Beetle



Two more things; don't forget about CFA's revamped **On-Site Visit Program**. The On-Site Visit includes a 1 to 3-hour Consultation with an added **Aerial Forest Drone Survey**. CFA is FAA Licensed to fly drones commercially and can give you a "bird's eye" view of your forest.

Also, don't miss CFA's All-New **Forestry First Fridays from 6pm—7pm @ CFA's office**. The February 3rd topic will be led by NYS DEC ECO Jared Woodin on Trespassing issues.

May the forest be with you,

Ryan Trapani
*Interim Executive
Director*



CFA News
Volume 35, Number 1
Winter 2017

Editor: John MacNaught
Published Quarterly

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

Board of Directors:

Mike Porter, *President*, Margaretville
Robert Bishop II, *Vice President*, DeLancey
Steve Miller, *Vice President*, Margaretville
Susan Doig, *Secretary/Treasurer*, Andes
Mark Kugler, Halcott Center
Seth LaPierre, Delhi
Becky Porter, Margaretville
Jake Rosa, Arkville
Frank Winkler, Andes
David Northcutt, Margaretville

DEC Liaison:

Mike Callan, Region 4, Stamford

CFA Staff

Ryan Trapani, *Interim Executive Director*
John MacNaught, *Wildlife Specialist*
Kathy Fox, *Office Manager*

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.

Copyright 2017
The Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Contents may not be reproduced without permission.

Cover Photo:

Sap Buckets in late Winter

Photo taken by Ryan Trapani
Interim Executive Director,
Catskill Forest Association

Table of Contents:

From the Executive Director's Desk.....	3
From the CFA President's Desk.....	4
Meet the Board of Directors.....	5
Black Cherry: The True Ecological Schizo?.....	6
Catskill Interpretive Center Going to the Birds.....	7
CFA Member Spotlight.....	8
A Look Into an Ash Timber Harvest.....	10
CFA Tree Saver Program.....	11
Endowment Fund Update.....	12
An Invitation from the CFA Board of Directors...	12
2016 Programs and Events Recap.....	13
2017 Winter and Spring Events.....	14
CFA Programs.....	15
Membership Application.....	Back Cover

Welcome New Members!

January

Joanna Rotte—Marbletown

December

Jim Lee—Kingston
Susan Lewis—Gardiner
Ethen Knetchel—Mount Tremper
Mary Pratt—East Meredith
Arthur Aguilato
Spencer Corona—Kerhonkson

November

Fred Cubero—Andes
Jill Thurston—Bullville
Erik Maahs—Woodstock
Tim Schneider—Bovina
Kyle Page—Mamakating
Urs Hirschbiegel—Livingston Manor
Werner Zonk—Stone Ridge

October

Holly, Norton—Kortright
Mark Ruoff—Gardiner
Chris O'Donnell—Rochester
Terry Dieterle—Esopus
Jocelyn Yu—Kortright
Robert Fogelberg—Middletown
Won Kyung Chang—Middletown
Ron Berringer—Kerhonkson
Jennie Schueler—Middletown

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: 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: 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.



Tree Saver: Save your trees being plagued by invasive species. We can treat hemlock and ash trees in a safe manor to save them from certain death. Don't wait until it's too late. Schedule a consultation and plan ahead to save your trees. Treatments cost \$125/ tree and last 1 year. CFA Staff is DEC pesticide Certified.

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: 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: 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, call us at (845) 586-3054 or email us at cfa@catskill.net. Our office is open from 9am-4pm Monday—Friday. All programs are available to CFA members. If you are interested becoming a member of the Catskill Forest Association, fill out the info on the back of this page and mail the 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 your membership 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.

CFA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Volume 35, Number 1, Winter 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Black Cherry: The True Ecological Schizophrenic? - Dr. Michael Kudish

Forest Management - Jack McShane

A Look Into an Ash Timber Harvest - John MacNaught

Also Included:

CFA Interim Executive Director's Message, CFA President's Message, CFA's Calendar of Events, Meet the Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Update, 2016 Events and Program Recap, and

CFA's New Tree Saver Program!