

CATSKILL FOREST  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
PO BOX 336  
43469 State Highway 28  
Arkville, NY 12406  
[catskillforest.org](http://catskillforest.org)  
845-586-3054



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member at [www.catskillforest.org/membership](http://www.catskillforest.org/membership) or send a check/cash with this application to:  
Catskill Forest Association, Inc. PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406. Dues & Donations are fully tax deductible.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_ FORESTED ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_ POND ☐ STREAM ☐ RIVER ☐

### CATEGORIES (PLEASE CIRCLE)

BASIC (\$65)	CONTRIBUTING (\$150)
Free Consultation; Events free or discounted; CFA News Subscription; CFA Member Property Sign; Access to CFA Programs	SAME AS BASIC + 20% Discount on Services; CFA Totebag
BUSINESS (\$200)	SUSTAINING (\$500)
SAME AS BASIC + 10% Discount on Services; CFA Website Listing; Email Referral Advertisements; Free Booth at Forest Festival	SAME AS BASIC + 30% Discount on Services; CFA Backpack

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	\$
ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND	\$
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# CFA NEWS

## FALL 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.



## CFA NEWS

FALL 2018

### EDITOR

Daria Chadwick

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Porter, President, Margaretville  
Robert Bishop II, Vice President, DeLancey  
Steve Miller, Vice President, Margaretville  
John Lynch, Secretary Treasurer, Delhi  
Mark Kugler, Halcott Center  
Seth LaPierre, Delhi  
David Northcutt, Margaretville  
Becky Porter, Margaretville  
Frank Winkler, Andes  
Bonnie Seegmiller, Downsville  
Sue Doig, Andes  
Norman Maender, Margaretville

### DEC LIASON

Mike Callan, Region 3, New Paltz

### STAFF RESOURCES

Ryan Trapani, Director of Forest Services  
John MacNaught, Forest Program Manager  
Daria Chadwick, Marketing Manager  
Kathy Fox, Office Administrator

### CONTACT

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

Copyright 2018 | CFA NEWS Contents may not be reproduced without permission.

Become a member, see upcoming events, and learn more about programs at [www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org).

Refer a friend or neighbor to the Catskill Forest Association and get a free gift from us.

## From the Director of Forest Services

Ryan Trapani

During High School – while working as a part-time seasonal landscaper for my wrestling coach – I met a bunch of new people; people that perceived life a little differently than what I was used to. Some early mornings “Coach” would take us to get some coffee and bagels at Wallkill View Farm to talk to the Ferrante boys. He’d say, “Let’s go to “Frrraan-ntyys.” There were at least 3 Ferrante boys that ran the place: Sandy, Tim, and Pete. I say “boys” since this is what Coach referred to them as. However, Tim Ferrante – and his brothers – were older men by the time I went for breakfast. I knew what Tim looked like since he was a New Paltz Wrestling Legend. His photo graced the wall in the practice room as one of the few that ever went to the State Tournament in Syracuse back in 1983 when schools were not segregated on

## Programs & Services

Learn more at [catskillforest.org/programs](http://catskillforest.org/programs)

Program	Description	Time
Free Consultations	One hour property visits for all private Catskill landowners with membership registration, and now with membership renewal. Get impartial and confidential advice about what your property holds, understand your management options, identify trees, and get an overall evaluation of forest health. Call today.	All Year
Forest Drone Flight	Get aerial images and videos of your property with our Forest Drone Flight option.	All Year
Apple Tree Pruning	Pruning is key to establishing healthy fruit trees. Healthier trees yield more - and tastier - produce.	Beginning: Winter
Apple Tree Grafting	Bring an old apple tree back to life, and even get multiple types of apple to grow on the same tree.	Spring
Mapping	Custom, personalized maps of your property that highlight areas of interest such as log roads, water features, hiking trails, and more. Styles in physical or topographic. Great for gifts!	All Year
Forestry For Wildlife	Create fruitful forests for the wildlife on your property.	All Year
Tree Saver	Works to save trees from invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer (ash trees) Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (hemlock trees) and more, through the use of cheap chemical treatments. Use your consultation to figure out your options and receive an on-site quote.	Spring-Fall
Forest Saver	Works to save forests from invasive plants such as honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and japanese barberry that can overwhelm forest floors, creating less-than-ideal understories.	Spring-Fall
High Nesting Bird Box	We'll make a home and hang a box up high for owls, thestrals, ducks and more.	All Year
Canopy Bird Feeders	Squirrel-resistant and bear-resistant bird feeders. Hung way out on the tree canopy, installed 1/16" steel wire. The simple pully-system makes refills easy!	All Year
Trail Cameras	2 for \$25 trail cameras. Ever wonder what kind of wildlife is around when you're not?	All Year
Tree Marking	Determine which trees to cut - or not cut - for timber harvests, firewood, and more.	All Year



## The 2018 Annual Membership Meeting of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

to be held on **October 13th, 2018**  
at the Union Grove Distillery  
43311 NY-28, Arkville, NY 12406

### Meeting Agenda

<b>10:00 am</b>	Registration begins
<b>10:30 am</b>	Meeting Called To Order President's Welcome Message Board Members Relection & Nominations
<b>11:00 am</b>	Programs & Events by Ryan Trapani & John MacNaught featuring upcoming 'Timber Harvest'
<b>11:45-12:30 pm</b>	Lunch
<b>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</b>	"The Catskill Tanneries: An Environmental Disaster with a Happy Ending" by Paul Misko
<b>1:30 pm</b>	Dessert Silent Auction Chainsaw Raffle
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Meeting Adjournment

*Please RSVP by October 5th, 2018 by returning your mailed invitation,  
registering online at [catskillforest.org](http://catskillforest.org), or by contacting CFA at (845) 586-3054.*

population size.

Back to breakfast. I quickly realized there was something different about these Farming Ferrantes. One was that they worked ungodly hard. While most were nursing hangovers in college-y New Paltz, these guys were already hours into their day. Their father too was always ahead of the game and on the tractor doing something or other. The second was in their overall demeanor; it was full of optimism.

Sure, others are as optimistic and hardworking. But farmers seem to have their doctorate degree in both. I guess this trait has grown with farmers from necessity. "You reap what you sow." Nothing is taken for granted by these guys who lean against the improbabilities of weather in making their living; their safety net is just more hard work. You do everything you can and just hope it works out or learn from your mistakes. Of course, other jobs are similar, but the variables and risk involved when it comes to growing stuff seems a lot steeper.

I still don't know those guys very well, but from the outside looking in, it seems like their optimism has paid off; both their land and business is flourishing to this day, despite countless economic and environmental challenges thrown at them. We complain about insects and diseases in the forest, but farmers must deal with all sorts of pests attacking their crops on a daily basis. Just think how optimistic an apple orchardist must be with so many insects and diseases to think about after this summer's

rainy weather, not to mention market fluctuations.

### SORELY NEEDED OPTIMISM IN THE WOODS

We could use some of this optimism in our forests today. It can be easy to get bogged down with the plethora of devastating invasive insects upon trees, or the lack of vegetation from over-browsed forest by white-tailed deer, or the potential impacts from climate change. But sometimes we Foresters are prone to focus too much on the negative aspects while ignoring the positive ones. For starters, the Catskills is more forested than it was 100 years ago. Even 19th Century Catskills Naturalist - John Burroughs - succumbed to some forest-based pessimism and concluded that many of our wild mammals would never return; they have. The Catskills grows a wide variety of hardwoods and softwoods that other mountain ranges envy.

Then there is something that I like most about CFA too, which perhaps sets us apart from others in the forest; we believe that humans CAN be part of the solution in improving forest quality. CFA is about Conservation and connecting people to woodlands, regardless of acreage size. Our events and programs focus on not only informing and educating people about what's in their forest or inside a single tree, but also directly improving forest quality on-the-ground and out-in-the-field.

Whether you save one of your

# 2018 Events

## 2018 Annual Membership Meeting

October 13th  
Check Invitation/Website For Time  
Union Grove Distillery  
Arkville, NY, 12406

## Wreath-Making with Board President Mike Porter

December 1st  
10AM-12PM  
CFA Office  
43469 NY-28  
Arkville, NY 12406

## Deer Processing Workshop

December 8th, 10AM-12PM  
CFA Office, 43469 NY-28  
Arkville, NY 12406

# Welcome, New Members!

Matthew Moscato	Jeremy Bean
John Goodreds	Michael Traynor
Andrew Littauer	Karl Amdal
Nick Lewis	Carol Miserlian
Glenn Hunsberger	Consuelo Perez
Sarah Lewis	Carlos Vargas-
Lori Stewart	Ramos
Kathy Ruttenberg	Anita Altman
Gregory Keyes	Marc Gladstone
Nancy Orr	John Muccino
Christen Callahan	Jacqueline Reed
Charles Cardona	Margaret Phelan
Steve Kim	Barry Robisch
Laura Woodard	Tod Maitland
Max Garfinkle	Jason Martin
Molly McEneny	Stacie Slotnick
Christopher Stoia	Alexandra Brock
Cynthia Niven	Patricia Topornycky
Regine Seckinger	Naomi Herrsson-
Daniel Hutchby	-Ringskog
Sheila Reynertson	
Michael Borgal	
Roscoe Betsill	

apple trees by opening it up from competing trees, remove invasive species, thin a stand of oak or maple for future timber, you're actively participating in improving the Catskills forests.

We hope the optimism and hard work spreads, and thank you for supporting CFA through your membership and through your participation in programs and events. The word has now spread to almost 700 family memberships and over 70,000 acres. Thank you! And please, take advantage of one of CFA's 11 Programs. We're optimistic about the outcome.

## *May The Forest Be With You,*

Ryan Trapani  
Director of Forest Services



that practice had continued through the years. The Catskills would have more than one Bald mountain.

On this same hike, though it was July, a cold front moved in, one cold enough to leave frost on the ground the next morning. Again, since they did not plan to camp, they brought no pots. They did have a jar (mason jar I surmise) of cold coffee, and by sheer luck and pluck, Ernest uncovered a discarded tin can, and with it they proceeded to heat up the coffee over the fire, and have a hot drink as the chilly night came on.

Burying your trash at your campsite was the norm, unless you chucked it off the ledge. This was even the recommended practice in hike guides, and even the Boy Scout manual, into the 1950's. One can still find ancient bottles and cans, sometimes uncovered by a snooping bear. Just imagine if we hadn't changed that practice; under every rock would be a stash of trash. At least old style garbage was a bit friendlier to the environment, in that the cans would rust, and the paper would decay.

Campfires were built, even on most day hikes. To boil some coffee, dry some socks, or to keep the bugs at bay. Now fires are reserved for absolute necessity. Sadly missing today are the campfire stories, and the trance like state experienced as we watched the sparks fly up to mingle with the stars.

We treat wildlife much different now as well. In Burroughs' time, at least his early years, 1870's and shortly afterwards, the rule seemed to be

"If it moves, shoot it". It seemed like everyone was 'packing heat'. On one of Burroughs' camping trips, a nocturnal visit from a 'porcupig' caused quite a stir among the men, and ended with the poor critter being beat down with a rifle, all by the light of a campfire. In "Our Catskill Mountains", H.A. Haring suggests that while camping in the cave on Wittenberg, if a porcupine shows up, club him in order to take a close look at em'. Deer were so overhunted, that in the 1890's, they were rarely seen. Now of course there are way too many, and some could use a good clubbin'.

On the upside... there were more niceties available. For instance, there were many more lookouts on the summits. Log towers built by hikers with extra energy. Burroughs mentions one on Slide summit in 1885, likely built by Jim Dutcher and friends. Later on, in 1912, the state built a wooden fire tower on Slide, complete with a telephone. Yes, you heard me, a telephone! Sadly no pizza parlor to call. There was also one on Wittenberg, which is in many of the old pictures.

A few of the summits had carriage roads. On Wittenberg, one could take a carriage to within a mile of the summit. On Slide, in the 1890's, one could take a carriage right up to the top. In fact Jim Dutcher would sometimes bring up a band, and hold a dance on the summit. Of course folks dressed a little classier back then, so it must have looked grand.

So, we've taken a few steps forward, and a couple steps back. Such is progress.



Above: Observation tower on Wittenberg, 1890's.

Below: Asa Randall sleeping on bed of boughs in Wittenberg Cave. New Year's Day, 1897.



## From the President's Desk

Mike Porter

In the last issue, I wrote of my joy in playing in my forest. Since that column my woods have experienced, possibly, the rainiest two months in the last 30 years in the Catskills. Excluding the 2011 attack of Tropical Storm Irene, the region has not had such rains in a long time. Aside from all the mud associated with the two months of rain, it will be interesting to see what does happen to the forest and its trees. I have tried to research information on the subject but have failed miserably in my feeble attempt. Instead, I am going to rely on my years of teaching Environmental Science and Earth Science in Margaretville.

First and most important to the overall health of the ecosystem, there will be ground water recharge from the surplus not being used by the plant life. Though lots of water ran off once the ground became saturated, the ground DID become saturated leaving springs flourishing. Hopefully this will bode well for water supplies in the not too distant future. On the other side of the rise in the water table, new water "sources" popped up all over the place in my woods leaving the ground surface real wet. This wet would lead to softening of the soils to a point where if there happened to be a big wind, shallow-rooted trees could easily be toppled by uprooting.

Uprooting of trees sometimes leads to a domino effect of toppled trees. Hurricane Sandy in 2012 caused this to happen around our area leaving large expanses of trees fallen and tangled. It happens to be real windy today, so we will see.

Secondly, and maybe more obviously would be the extended time leaves have been wet in the forest and on trees in fields, like apple trees. There is an apparent problem with our fruit trees losing their leaves prematurely. The extended dampness causes fungi and molds to gain a foothold on the leaves of these trees. Since the fruit trees are susceptible to molds and fungi anyway, the leaves are being affected and falling off prematurely. Will this defoliation create a problem for these trees as happened in the defoliation periods with the Forest Tent Caterpillar infestations of the early 1980's? Granted, the caterpillar defoliation occurred over a three-year period and totally stripped many trees of leaves beginning shortly after leaf formation in the spring. These trees soon died of nutrient depletion from the pressure of releasing, leaving whole tracts dead. The good news on the fruit tree defoliation is that it is not logically going to be repeatable over the long haul. So hopefully what we see with our trees now will not be there next year.

Thirdly, and this is speculation only, is that the increased periods of rain have caused a shortage of sunlight to reach the leaves for photosynthesis to occur. If photosynthesis doesn't happen, plants don't produce adequate sugars to survive. On this



note, I have a small trickle solar charger that will charge a battery even if the sun is behind clouds. If we can make something that efficient, it seems that green plants will be able to also use the sun for making sugars and remain healthy despite the cloudiness. What about the long haul with our sugar maples? Could the lack of sunlight create just enough shortage of stored sugars to impact our maple season next spring? As I say to the question, “How will the season be next year?”, we will just have to wait and see what happens.

There is an old idea that seems to be true that snow won’t come until the streams are full for the winter. There are a couple issues with this idea from our old-timers. If true, we might be in for an early winter. Just saying! If you look at the more scientific side, during spring and summer there is a huge draw of moisture from the ground water supply to satisfy the transpiration needs of our forests. This water being drawn from ground water will make the streams lower as they are a direct reflection on the water table level on average. Once leaves fall from the trees, the use of extra water for transpiration ceases and the streams appear to fill up for winter. Maybe the origin of the old-timers saying comes from the natural changes in our water cycle because of leaves on trees.

I bet any of our readers could come up with other outcomes of the extra rainfall but this viewpoint is mine and strictly based upon my knowledge and observations over the years living here in the Catskills.



## Hiking In The Old Days by Paul Misko

One of the best parts of studying early Catskill Hiking history is in sifting out the small details, which are often overlooked due to the grander narrative of the adventure. Over the years I’ve read and re-read the hiking accounts of John Burroughs, Jim Dutcher, and T.M. Longstreth as well as those of a few lesser known Catskill locals. Thankfully some are accompanied by pictures. Burroughs’ hiking accounts sadly do not come with photos, but he almost makes up for it with his ‘word pictures’.

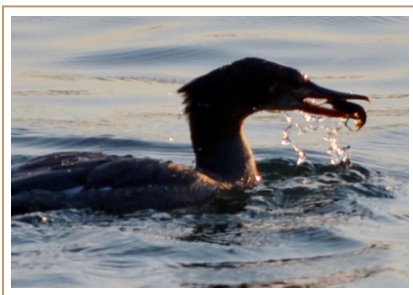
The standards of hiking in olden times were quite different than the current practice of “leave no trace”, and thankfully so. I will recount some of the common practices mentioned in these accounts, and you will be able to imagine the cumulative effects which would be witnessed today if we had continued on this path.

The most universal practice for the mountain top overnighiter was to cut a fresh pile of boughs with which to make a bed, a “bed of boughs” for you Burroughs readers. Due to the

typical summit elevation, the most common tree harvested was the Balsam. Burroughs mentions that the hemlock provided the springiest mattress, but as you all should know by now, the hemlock is scarce above 2600 feet. I’ve seen plenty of photos from the 1880’s onward showing the happy hiker with his nest of branches, and virtually every account mentions this sooner or later. Whether sleeping in the open, under a lean-to, in a cave, in a tent, or next to a bear, gathering a bunch of fresh boughs was one of the first things to do upon arriving at the camp site.

In 1884, John Burroughs and Ernest Ingersoll had climbed up the eastern face of Wittenberg, and were forced to spend the night. They had hoped to continue on to Slide, and then down into Big Indian in one day, and hadn’t planned on a campout, and so had no axe with them. Ingersoll writes about how hard it was to cut off balsam branches with only pocket knives, in order to get enough for a ‘mattress’ and a canopy of branches.

Imagine the summits today, if



convinced that it is not the heron that have the greatest effect on fish (trout) populations, but rather, the cumulative effort of the rest of the piscivorous (animals that predate on fish) that hunt our waters. River otter, mink, mergansers (hooded and common), Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Blue Heron are constant pressures on our river systems.

As I think more about it, it makes the most sense that Osprey and Eagles take the most trout of all from our streams. Trout often feed near the surface of the water rising for mayflies, stoneflies, blue winged olives, and countless other insects trapped by the surface tension of the topwater. Osprey and Eagles perch on an overhanging limb near a shallow pool alongside a stream awaiting the perfect opportunity for a trout to rise. It is then that the talons strike the water's surface without warning and yet another trout leaves a Catskill stream. These birds feed like this every day and are quite efficient, so long as the water isn't flooded or frozen. A CFA member in Arkville witnessed all their stocked rainbow trout removed from the pond in a matter of a few months by a bald eagle this summer.

Mink, Otter, and Mergansers spend

their days feeding on fish and crustaceans below the surface of the water. Otter and Mergansers will eat crayfish along with a side of small fish too. Mergansers are one of the least tasty of all the duck species because of this. As for mink, I had the pleasure of a canoe trip down the west branch of the Delaware River last summer and witnessed three different mink dive into the water and come back up with one fish each in a matter of seconds throughout the mile long float trip. I hardly realized their efficiency until that day. Though with a long slender body shape, mink need a lot of food to stay warm throughout the winter.

So, the next time you witness that Blue heron at the edge of the pond, know it is likely not the only culprit visiting your water. Blue heron are more likely to be feeding on amphibian life and very small fish or minnows than your prized stocked rainbow trout. It is the eagle, osprey, mink, otter, and mergansers to watch out for! But we won't be seeing a nuisance bald eagle season anytime in the future, so I suppose we will just have to live with them for now.



## Sycamore by Mike Kudish

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) – also called buttonwood or plane tree – has been on CFA's From The Forest WIOX Roxbury radio program quite frequently recently. Ryan Trapani, John MacNaught, and Gary Mead have been speaking about the tree. Its recent popularity is not only because of its wood, but also because CFA members and staff are now making syrup out of its sap, as they are from sugar maple.

Sycamore has a unique distribution in the greater Catskills region. It follows the major valleys upstream, and is found mostly – but not always – on flood plains. I have occasionally found it growing planted on well-drained soils where it seems to do equally well. Therefore, it does not require a high water table (i.e. soils that are always saturated).

Sycamore is shade-intolerant and follows sites where floods frequently clear out competing vegetation. Sometimes sycamores are pushed over by flood waters, but they remain rooted and hang on; vertical shoots sprout from the prostrate trunks often the following year. In other words, it is a flood plain pioneer, unlike more well-known pioneers on abandoned farms such as aspens, hawthorns, and staghorn sumac. And like other pioneers, it tends to grow fast – often two to three feet in height per year. Its seeds are equipped with a parachute and thus travel largely by wind.

Sycamore seems typically to follow streams up to a point where the flood plain “pinches out” and the valley walls get steeper and closer together. One puzzling exception occurs just above Margaretville. Instead of continuing on up the flood plain of the East Branch Delaware main stream to Roxbury and Grand Gorge, sycamore turned up the flood plains of two major tributaries, Dry Brook and the Bush Kill. It seems as if this tree species “knew” something that we do not: that the two tributaries constitute the main stream while the main river from Roxbury and Grand Gorge is the tributary. Therefore, did we name the streams backwards?

The elevations at which the sycamore migrations presently reach their upstream limits range from 520 feet on the Basha Kill, 840 on the Sawkill, and 870 on the Rondout to 1720 on both Dry Brook and the Beaverkill above Lew Beach (see the listing below).

### THE MAP

See the accompanying map for sycamore distribution in the greater Catskills region. The circled letters, A through S, mark the upstream limits of sycamore in the major valleys. Some detail on each of the upstream limits is presented below, arranged generally from the Susquehanna Watershed (A) and (B) on the northwest to the Esopus and Sawkill watersheds (M) through (Q) on the

southeast. To these, I've added the Basha Kill (S) and the Schoharie (R).

### MIGRATION

The distribution map of sycamore must be studied with a multi-millennia migration history in mind. I don't know when sycamore first migrated into the Catskills because I have not found any bogs on the floodplains with sycamore fossils. Bogs generally contain tree and plant macrofossils (leaves, twigs, bark, wood, fruits, roots, etc.) preserved in peat; the peat and its fossils can be radiocarbon-dated.

Where did sycamore come from? Most likely from the Hudson Valley in what is now southeastern New York and from the Delaware Valley in what now separates New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

I looked at the reports of palynologists (people who study pollen grains preserved in peat) who also study bogs in the greater Catskills region. Drs. Ralph Ibe and Dorothy Peteet have not found fossil sycamore pollen.

All we can do is guess when the sycamore populations migrated up the major valleys. I would suggest at least several thousand years ago, and not in all the major valleys at the same time. The upstream limits may not always have been where they are today; is it possible that at one time sycamores climbed farther upstream along some flood plains than they do today, and then retreated?

It is difficult to say whether sycamore migrations were due, in part, to Native American activity. Certainly

sycamore does not provide nuts for people and wildlife, and most likely was not planted in orchards as were oaks, hickories, walnuts, and chestnut. I just looked through about a dozen reference books on my library shelf to inquire if and how Native Peoples used and/or planted sycamore. I found nothing, except that a few nations used the tree's sap for making syrup. Those nations are not specified so we don't know whether the tradition occurred in our region.

One wonders what the reservoirs are doing to any species (plant, animal, fungal, bacterial) presently migrating up the major river valleys. Sycamore found its way upstream along these valleys long before the reservoirs were built so that these water bodies could not have interfered with its migration.

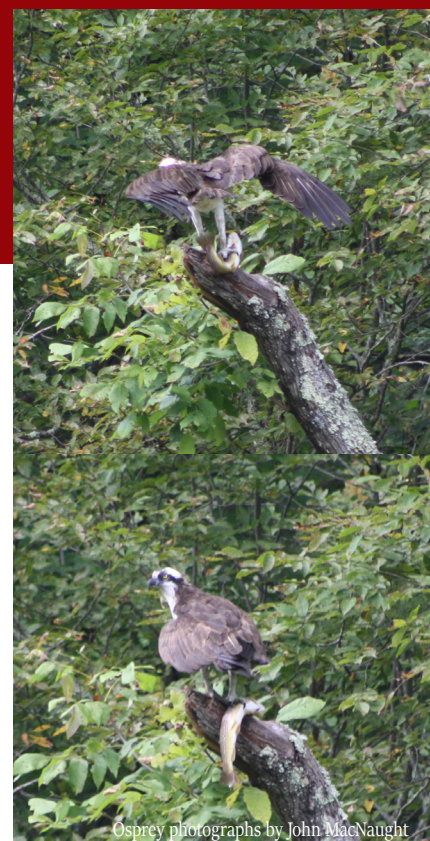
### FUTURE WIOX PROGRAMS ON SYCAMORE

During future WIOX From the Forest radio programs on sycamore, it might be useful for both the broadcasting staff and the listeners to look on at the accompanying map as the program unfolds. It should create an even richer understanding and appreciation of what this species has to offer.

I expect that many CFA members will be reporting to me that they have found native populations of sycamore farther upstream along many of the flood plains than I have - and also that they have found sycamore on flood plains that I have not yet explored.

## Piscivores of the Catskills

John MacNaught



Recently, I was traveling back to the office after a consultation with a newly joined CFA member, meandering alongside the Beaverkill River on Beaverkill Road, Ulster County, when alongside the truck flew an Osprey. I slowed down to get a better look just as the Osprey dove toward the shallow pool, talons out. To my amazement, out came a brown trout - nearly 20 inches long - tightly gripped by those sharp talons. The osprey flew upward to the nearest tree and landed with the fish on a limb overhanging the water. I pulled alongside with my camera in hand as I watched the fish curl and twist in a last attempt to break the grasp of the bird. With its talons piercing through the sides of the trout, the osprey had won and gained itself a meal larger than any I have ever pulled from a Catskill stream before.

This event reminded me of a statement I hear many times each year as I visit properties across the Catskill region. Typically, after I compliment a landowner's pond or stream, they immediately reply with, "Well, it would be better if the Great Blue Heron hadn't eaten all of my fish!" I have since been



## Upstream Limits by Watershed

### SUSQUEHANNA -

I have found sycamore along Charlotte Creek up to (A) the hamlet of Davenport Center. Elevation 1210 feet.

Up Ouleout Creek to (B) where Case Hill Road crosses it. Elevation 1340 feet.

### WEST BRANCH DELAWARE -

(C). SUNY Delhi Field station along the Little Delaware River, and at the confluence of the West Branch. 1360 feet.

### EAST BRANCH DELAWARE -

(D). Main stream East Branch at the Dry Brook confluence, above Margaretville. 1330 feet.

(E). Dry Brook to a point about 0.1 mile above Stewart's Turn (Mill Brook Road). 1720 feet.

(F). Up the Bush Kill to DeBari Road bridge above Arkville. 1380 feet.

(G). Up the Platte Kill to the confluence of Palmer Hollow stream above Dunraven. 1350 feet.

(H). Up Downs Brook to the confluence of Telford Hollow Brook above Downsville. 1200 feet.

### BEAVER KILL -

(I). Along the Beaver Kill main stream to 0.6 mile below the confluence of Big and Little Pond outlet, about 2.9 miles above Lew Beach. 1720 feet.

(J). Up the Willowemoc to Livingston Manor. 1400 feet.

### NEVERSINK -

(K). To a point just below the confluence of the East and West Branches in Claryville. 1610 feet.

(S). Up the Basha Kill to approximately the Village of Wurtsboro. 520 feet.

### RONDOUT -

(L). To a point below East Mountain Road bridge about midway between Lowes Corners and Sundown. 870 feet.

### ESOPUS -

(M). Esopus main stream to about 0.2 miles above McKenley Hollow. 1420 feet.

(N). Woodland Valley stream to the Woodland Valley state campground. 1380 feet.

(O). Stony Clove to Warner Creek confluence above Chichester. 1060 feet.

(P). Beaver Kill to within a mile of Willow. 1040 feet.

### SAWKILL -

(Q). Upstream to where Glasco Turnpike crosses it, above Bearsville. 840 feet.

### SCHOHARIE -

(R). To ¼ mile above the hamlet of West Kill along the tributary, the West Kill. 1500 feet.

# SYCAMORE DISTRIBUTION IN THE GREATER CATSKILLS REGION

Michael Kudish for CFA News Fall 2018

9/17/18

