CFA NEWS

Spring 2020

Vol. 38 No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.

CFA NEWS

Spring 2020

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

Spring 2020 Vol. 38 No. 1

As a member you can see upcoming events and learn more about programs at www.catskillforest.org. Refer a friend or neighbor to the Catskill Forest Association and get a free gift from us.

From the President's Desk - Spring 2020

A Day in the Woods with John

By: Mike Porter

Today, a reasonably warm, snowless day in January, I have the opportunity to be a safety observer for John as he works to clear the remaining land of a wildlife habitat improvement program through the EQUIP program. We are on a hunting preserve east of the Hudson River on a property where about 16 acres are being "rejuvinated" to create habitat for Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse and White-tail Deer. The plan calls for cutting all trees except nut and fruit trees and 6 - 8 trees left as dead snags. There is abundant white and red oak with sugar maple, some beech and locust in a separate section of the forest. There is also

ground evidence of big-tooth aspen, a favorite of Grouse. I see leaves on the ground to aid in the identification of the trees.

When we first entered the property, where cutting had happened earlier in the year, we were greeted by a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers. There is evidence of deer strewn about the forest floor. Also, another piece of evidence is the absence of understory. There is very little regeneration that isn't nibbled off near the ground. When I look out over where John has already cut, I see little of the ground as each tree cut is, simply, dropped and left to rot. The vertical aspect of the "slash" will keep deer from eating new seedlings that sprout in the coming years. As the litter decays and the new trees grow up through the dead trees, they will eventually be tall enough to survive the browsing habits of deer and also become suitable habitat for Grouse and Turkeys foraging and raising broods of young in the forest.

John is continuing to "fell" trees within the prescribed area. Every few minutes the

cessation of the saw running is followed by the crash of another tree as it falls to the ground. Each new fallen tree becomes shelter for new seedlings or wildlife. Though today is overcast, there is new evidence that sunlight is going to reach the forest floor for the first time in years during a growing season. Sunlight will stimulate seed germination and rapid growth of the new seedlings. A new, young forest will soon follow. I guess you can say that John and his chainsaw are doing the work of past wildfires, controlled burns, wind storms and disease. In today's forests we have to become the forest managers since the above conditions rarely occur in our present forests.

The area of the forest where we are has some real nice sugar maple that "has to go" because it isn't a good mast producer for wildlife. As I look

2020 Events

Apple Tree Grafting Demonstration
April 25 @ 10 am - 12 pm
Mountain Top Arboretum,
4 Maude Adams Rd
Tannersville, NY 12485

Forested Stream Buffer Walk
+ Tree Planting
May 23 @ 10 am - 12 pm
36 Bridge Street
Margaretville, NY 12455

Backyard Edibles & Medicinals
June 13 @ 10 am - 12 pm
Michael Kudish
Natural History Preserve
2515 Tower Mountain Rd
Stamford, NY 12167

Welcome, New Members!

Alex Wegman
Mary Van Valkenburg
David Straub
Richard Conklin
Gary Kusen
Nancy Beranbaum
Elizbeth Alvarez
Caroline Cosgrove
Engsan Kho
Evan Hill
Martin Skrelunas
Alex Meyers
Andrew Parker
Jason Delgado
Spencer Merolla
Charles Herrin
Adrienne Enfield
Jeff Twine
Djahari Clark
Erik Wakin
Martha Young
Alina Stanczak
Lynn Albrink-Witt
Scott Lane
Geoffrey Engelman
Brad Paris
Mike Leahy
Donald Daye
Jeremy Krinsley

at the trees, I am taken aback, somewhat, that such nice maple is simply cut and left to lie and rot. John and I talk about the waste of these quality trees. Our thoughts go to a combination cut where some logging equipment is brought in and the marketable timber is removed for sale. The tops can become protection for the new growth. After the valuable trees are harvested, then have the wildlife cut done by John and the other CFA staff. The EQUIP program could still be satisfied and the landowner, forester and logger could also make a little money as well.

This wildlife habitat improvement is not a money-making project for the landowner. Any funds go to the cutters. Working in the woods creating this open space is hard and time consuming. It is hard to believe that a private cutter would be willing to do this job. As CFA's focus is on education and improving forest quality and habitat, that's why CFA travels so far to do this work. It meets part of our mandate as an organization and gives knowledgable foresters

a chance to improve habitat.

Oh boy, is John making a mess. I know that is the intent but my practical side says it is a waste of good wood. I guess those of us who have limited acreage to manage and harvest from, see resource use differently. This project encompasses 16 acres and I only own 17. I get all my firewood for the house and my maple syrup production from that land.

Now I am harvesting the Scot's Pine to produce lumber for projects. Granted, to most of us the 16 acre area is a lot, but in this hunting preserve, the 16 acres are part of a nearly 500 acre property. I guess size is relative. What John has cut to let decay is almost a lifetime of resource for me and my projects. The turkeys better thrive on the habitat created here.

There is no doubt that with fire and other natural destruction reduced, the need is there to restore a succession from a forest that is basically stagnated. What John is doing today is truly setting succession back a generation or two. In order for our wildlife species and tree species to continue to exist, we do have to give them a hand.

The questions that arise are abundant. Will the desired species benefit as hoped? Will tree species that are in decline in the woods here improve with the increased sunlight? Will sun-loving invasive species take over the new open ground? I am sure the wildlife biologists overseeing this project hope for the best. There are just too many variables as with all of nature. Only time will tell. Tune in sometime in the future for the answer.

From the Director of Forest Services
Trees Traking Time

By: Ryan Trapani

Well, I see that the calendar changed from December 2019 to January 2020; I thought we'd be riding hover boards to work by now. In any case, after the New Year is when I begin paying attention to the weather forecast, mainly the "highs" and "lows." Temperature matters when it comes to sap flow. Sap gathered in late winter is the necessary clear concoction required to boil down into fine maple syrup. It might be 2020 and your truck has heated seats and a cool navigation device tracking your every movement via space-aged GPS technology, but the process of maple sugaring still requires good ole tree sap. Sure, technology has improved in the 2020 commercial maple sugaring operation; You have reverse osmosis, hooded evaporators, vacuums, fancy filters, blue and black tubing, and more stainless steel to wrap around the planet (several times) to boil all this stuff down. However, at the end of the day, humans just can't make sap, so we wait for the temperatures to be just right.

I know what you're probably thinking. Isn't January early for making syrup? Sure, it is, but sometimes you get a good stretch of temperatures in the 40/20s range. I've tapped in January many years, but normally it's in February. I prefer January or February since days are significantly shorter than in March. When I get home from work and it's already dark, there isn't much else to do anyway but watch sap boil away. When mid-March arrives – and daylight savings time kicks in – the added sunlight awakens in me all the other things I should be doing outside rather than sitting inside boiling sap. I believe one of the greatest technological advantages we have over our ancestors in maple sugaring is the soothsayer which is "weather.com." We can see if a good sap run is coming by looking at the 10-day forecast; A huge advantage

compared to prior generations that had to look for clues like woolly buggers crossing roads, or the old wet finger in the air. "Yep, feels like spring."

But still, some things still haven't changed despite technology. For instance, no one has figured out how to synthesize maple syrup to match the real thing. Therefore, in order to make "the real stuff", one still must tap a tree, wait for sap, and then boil away most of the water until only the tree's summer-stored sugar is left behind; It's a lot of work. Although labor-intensive, people have thought it worth while in the end for a long time. Although some of these sappers are long gone, their markings are still inscribed in trees standing today, even in 2020.

9-Point Buck Upon Tap-Hole Veneer

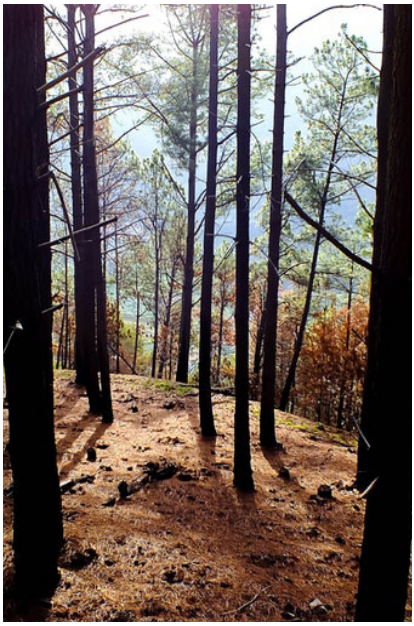
I had to take down a sugar maple tree just outside the Village of Margaretville last fall; The tree had a big hollow and was crowding the newly constructed shed. My friend and I pulled the tree over against its lean and began cutting it up. I knew this tree – by its size and location – was part of an old sugarbush but had no idea just how long ago it had been used. In the bottom section, I carefully cut out a tree "cookie" that showed all the old tap-holes from years gone by. When trees are drilled, they don't heal from within like a cut on your finger. Instead they "compartmentalize" the wound or form wound-wood around the foreign intrusion, essentially walling it off. In other words, the hole will be there forever, as well as additional staining that migrates mostly along the vertical axis from the tap-hole. If you look at the cookie, you can see how long ago someone tapped by counting the rings. I simply took the cookie home and saved it for something special.

That "something special" came when I got a decent 9-point buck this year. I promised my wife that I wouldn't get another one mounted due to cost, so I didn't know what to do with the head. John MacNaught – Catskill Forest Association's Forest Program Manager – volunteered to do a "European mount" on the head. A European mount is where only the skull and antlers are left behind, but what to place the buck's head onto so it can hang on the wall? The maple cookie of course.

Century Sappers

I got the European mount back from John last week and he did some job. The skull is a beautiful white-wash and shows up well against the tree cookie, showing – like a dial – all the tap-holes from maple guys in the past. Last night after placing it on the wall, I finally got curious and wanted to find out just how long ago those tap-holes were made. The rings were growing close together, but it seemed there were two distinctly different people tapping that tree. The longer and wider tap-holes were more recent and had been completely grown over by 30 to 40 years. That means no one tapped this tree since the 1980s or 90s. However, deeper into the tree and about 80 years earlier were shorter and narrower tap-holes. The stain-prints resembled an old tap someone gave me years ago that I used to carry around for sentimental reasons; This tap was an iron one that proudly stated "1898" on one side of its neck. I counted 2 or 3 discernible taps from this cohort and traced them back to somewhere between 1890 and 1900. The tree – from where the taps were made – was probably only about 10 or 12 inches in diameter at the time, and perhaps 40 years old due to its tight growth rings.

It's interesting to see how this one maple tree has been quietly tracking time and telling a story about life up on the hill of itself and some of the humans nearby. To me, this is also one way that maple sugaring separates itself from other agricultural products. One plant – or tree in this case – can be used for many decades or a century by multiple generations; From 1890 to 2020. Think about the changes between then and now – horses to auto-navigating climate-controlled cars! Interesting.



Index to Articles on Tree Species Written by Ryan Trapani and Michael Kudish for *CFA NEWS* and *Kaatskill Life*

By: Michael Kudish

Repeatedly I receive requests for information on tree species for which articles have been written in *CFA News* and *Kaatskill Life* by CFA's Ryan Trapani and myself. If these folks requesting information had a handy index to read what already has been written on the subject, it would make it so much easier and quicker for them to have their inquiries answered.

AUTHORS:

The articles by Ryan and myself rarely overlap in content. In fact, they complement each other. Ryan's writing is mainly on identification and uses of the trees. My writing is on the ecology, geographic distribution, and the historic reasons for the distribution.

There are several other authors who wrote on tree species, especially for *CFA News* in the early years before Ryan and I began writing in 2007-2008. To index the work of these writers would require a whole additional lengthy index.

VOLUME AND ISSUE NUMBERS:

Note that *Kaatskill Life* magazine begins with a new volume every year with its spring issue as number 1. Summer issue is number 2 and fall number 3. Winter issue is number 4, suggesting December.

In contrast, *CFA News* began historically a new volume every year with its winter issue (January) as number 1, spring as 2, summer as 3, and fall as 4. But beginning in 2018, *CFA News* began to be numbered, as *Kaatskill Life* always has, with its spring issue as number 1, summer 2, fall 3, and winter (December) 4. This created a unique situation in 2017: there were two winter issues – January 35, 1 and December 35,5.

COMBINED ISSUES:

Note that twelve issues of *CFA News* were combined into six newsletters. They are, with volume and issue numbers:

summer and fall 2008 (26, 3 & 4)
summer and fall 2010 (28, 3 & 4)

summer and fall 2011 (29, 3 & 4)
fall 2012 and winter 2013 (30,4 and 31,1)
summer and fall 2013 (31, 3 & 4)
summer and fall 2014 (32, 3 & 4)

MISNUMBERED OR UNNUMBERED ISSUES:

For a period, *CFA News.* issues were either misnumbered or numbered not at all. This situation has now been corrected with the current issues. These errors might be of little importance to CFA members, but to one compiling an index or a bibliography, or to a reader 50 years from now trying to look up an article, it could create confusion.

Here is a listing of the mostly misnumbered and not numbered issues with their corrected numbers:

Winter (December) 2017 was correctly numbered 35, 5.

Spring 2018, Volume 36, number 1, was not numbered and not paginated.

Summer 2018, Volume 36, number 2, was not numbered and not paginated.

Fall 2018, Volume 36, number 3, was not numbered and not paginated.

Winter (December 2018), Volume 36, number 4, was not numbered or paginated.

Spring 2019, Volume 37, number 1 was correctly numbered, but had no pagination.

Summer 2019, Volume 37, number 2, summer 2019, was incorrectly numbered 37, 3. No pagination.

Fall 2019, Volume 37, number 3, was incorrectly numbered 37, 4 and not paginated.

Winter (December) 2019, Volume 37, number 4, was incorrectly numbered 38, 1 and not paginated.

The current issue, Spring 2020, is Volume 38, number 1, and should be paginated.

PAGE NUMBERS:

Beginning with the first issue of *CFA News* reduced to the smaller size, 5.5 by 8.5 inches, in spring 2018 (volume 36, number 1), the pages were longer being numbered. Readers will now have to count in the number of pages to find the articles. I assign the front cover as page 1. Most issues run 20 pages, some 16.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Authors: MK = Michael Kudish. RT = Ryan Trapani.

Publications: CFA = *CFA News.* KL = *Kaatskill Life*.

The publication is followed by the volume and issue numbers, the season and year, and the pages.

INDEX, PART ONE AND PART TWO:

This index is divided into two parts. Part One, in this issue, is devoted to individual tree species. Part Two will be devoted to ecology and history of Catskills forests in a subsequent issue.

THE INDEX, PART ONE: TREE SPECIES:

Bring Your Ideas to the Forest

By: Ryan Trapani, Director of Forest Services, CFA

Last fall, I decided to make a goal of focusing on "continuing education" or personal training. I've always enjoyed learning new things. When I first started work for CFA back in 2007, I attended classes continuously; from the Mid-Hudson Mycological Association's mushroom identification walks, Cornell University's sugarbush management, Yestermorrow's Edible Forest Gardening class in Vermont, USDA Forest Services' two weeks of silviculture in PA, or Quality Deer Management Association's week-long Deer Steward course. There's normally something to "take-away." For instance, it was at the QDMA's Deer Steward course where I learned first-hand about the art and science of "hinge-cutting" and its potential benefit to CFA's members. Then, there was the grafting apprenticeship in western NY with 90 something-year-old Malcolm Olson. One other student and I learned about grafting walnut trees. It turns out that Malcolm is apparently the only one that Rutgers University trusts to graft their prized walnuts successfully. The take-away for me wasn't grafting walnuts, but instead apple trees and the development of CFA's Apple Tree Grafting Program.

Recently, I've been attending training from NJ through Mass.

Now I find myself attending classes not only for the content, but also for teaching styles. I "spy" on the techniques that presenters use. Some seem to attack the crowd by pacing back and forth into it. Others ask questions of their participants often, while some use humor throughout. Although most of my experiences in attending trainings have been extremely positive, there was one aspect that I felt was being overlooked from an academic perspective.

I admit I'm not a passive or "laid-back" kind of student. I like debate, and challenge ideas. I like to ruminate over them, stick them with swords and run them over. If they stand up afterwards, then maybe they're good to go. The instructor was extremely knowledgeable and his teaching style – I thought –

excellent. He was lively and tried to remember each student's first name in order to engage them more. His experience spanned longer than I've been alive and his ability to remember Latin names, chemistry, and biology was impressive as well. I really learned a lot from this guy and stole a bunch of jargon from him that I'll use on Consultations with CFA members. I'll also incorporate this knowledge into pruning specifications used for pruning apple trees or assessing other large woody plants for structural and biological integrity.

Really the class was great and worth going back to, but I was puzzled by the instructor's abhorrence for others' personal experience surrounding arboriculture. In other words, if it hasn't been vetted by a particular "scientific community", then it matters far less.

Blinded Me with Science

Here me out. First, I do believe in science; I have a degree in science and believe in the scientific method "Purpose/Question. Ask a question.
Research. Conduct background research...
Hypothesis. Propose a hypothesis…
Experiment. Design and perform an experiment to test your hypothesis...
Data/Analysis. Record observations and analyze the meaning of the data...
Conclusion…"

Science isn't infallible, but a practice – which I feel – should remain humble. For starters, I remember when I was in college, the instructor was teaching us how to sharpen a chainsaw. One of the students was the son of a logger and was relatively quiet about the matter until the instructor flung the file across the room. "That's not the way to sharpen a saw," he said. "The only way to sharpen is to use this guide." Maybe, the guide is great, but the logger's father had been cutting trees with a sharp chain for decades without the aid of such a guide, and it worked for him. It was more about the attitude that caught the logger's son's attention. I knew nothing about sharpening chains back then, but I could see that this teaching method wasn't working no matter the science. I have also since witnessed plenty of loggers sharpening chains without that guide too.

Fast-forward to my class in New Jersey. The instructor was adamant that arborists conform their jargon or speech to use certain words and convey a sense of "professionalism" to their clients. I mostly agreed with this, but questioned that in different areas of the country,

people might need to use different words to describe a tree's "crown" or "trunk" since we're not all the same. In order to teach well, the terms we're discussing should be clearly defined so that understanding is clearer; This makes sense to me. Where I left him was when he kept downplaying – really scoffing at – someone's way of pruning or caring for trees if they weren't subscribing to a "legitimate" program, but instead basing their judgement or opinion from experience. He spoiled my sap when he insisted that arborists that didn't attend his classes didn't want to learn. Instead, these arborists were simply a victim of "conjecture." No matter that in New Jersey, "Licensed Tree Experts" must attend his course for credits.

Experience or Conjecture?

Conjecture is "an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information." Surely, we know of people who have plenty of experience and yet form poorly constructed opinions or practices; Although I admit, I have no data on that assertion and this might be "conjecture." For the most part, I agree with him. Science can be a great way to vet bad ideas and practices and improve industry standards. However, my point to him that day was that one person's experience might be tomorrow's best idea or practice. In other words, some of today's best practices were from some guy who just "came up with" or invented it. For instance, the "Blake's Hitch" was apparently invented by some arborist in his garage (Jason Blake, 1994). The Blake's Hitch is one of the most commonly used working knots for climbing trees. Malcolm Olson learned about grafting trees from his father, and he is one of the best at it today. As the instructor willingly admitted, arborists in the 1980s were commonly stripping out all the interior growth or branches when pruning trees; They thought this was good.

Today, this practice is known as "lions-tailing" and certainly does not "meet code" in arboriculture. However, before it was popularly denounced as harmful to trees, one veteran arborist informed me that long ago a farmer realized on his own that doing this to apple trees was causing sunscald and decay. It's true that this farmer probably didn't write down his experiences into methodically tested studies,

but his hypothesis, personal experience, and conclusion ended up being accurate nonetheless.

Always a Better Way

The point is that you never know when someone's idea is better than what is being practiced commonly. There is always a better way to do things. For instance, loggers cut trees in a certain manner until recently. It took one Swedish guy named Soren Erickson, to completely change the "science" of tree felling. How did he do it? He apparently visited with loggers and picked up on small things each was doing that he thought was positive and adapted it to his program; This program became the "Game of Logging" course taught today to tree fellers. Maybe you're doing something positive that could be added to this program today as well.

In addition, we must not forget that natural resources management is an "art" in addition to a science. For instance, silviculture is the "art and science of tending trees." The "art" admits there might be more than one way to manage trees, especially given the variety of goals humans desire from a tree or forest.

Is there a better way to fell a tree; Tap a tree for sap; Manage for wildlife, etc.? I think so. In my opinion, the most significant drawback to science isn't really the scientific method itself, but more to do with scientific priesthoods that can close our minds to new ways of thinking and discount potentially positive innovations from individuals and their experience. The second drawback is with the scientific method itself. The method initially relies upon "hypothesis." If your hypothesis is a bad one or lacks purpose, then you will get at best, answers to a less meaningful hypothesis, assuming your experiment was done correctly. An experiment that asks good questions, tests itself repeatedly, and is verified by experience – to me – is what's called good practice. We all do this to some extent, on our own land or in our everyday lives.

Science – at least under natural resources management – can be used to "circle the wagons" and verify good practices, but as teachers and practitioners, we should not discount the experience, innovations, and every day "experiments" from individuals who might not necessarily be in the classroom, but instead out working in the woods quietly. Bring your ideas and tested experience. We hope to learn together.

Spring is in the air!!

Spring 2020 Vol. 38 No. 1

Isn't it lovely?!

An Apple Tree's Best Friend

By: Ryan Trapani, Director of Forest Services, CFA

This time of year, normally finds me up in an old apple tree, pruning my way out. Similar to a spider's web, an unkempt or wild apple tree can tie down the pruner via its crossing "barbed wire-like" branches. "Smack" is the sound of a water sprout that has loaded up and released its woody whip-like catapault onto a cold human's face. The sting is severe, and sometimes the pruner – donned with a handsaw in his plastic scabbard – angrily draws his pruning "sword" in revenge. Then he realizes his irrationality; After all, it's just an overgrown apple tree.

Apple tree pruning isn't a duel between human and tree, nor is it trying to "catch" humans in its tangle of sprouts and branches. Many people are familiar with how pruning can shape a tree to be more fruitful or produce better quality apples. Upright branches tend to produce more vegetative buds, while horizontal ones grow more fruit buds. However, pruning also seeks to improve the tree's overall structure and health, as well as "appearance" throughout its life. Although the latter (appearance) is more subjective, the former (structure and health) is more accurate. Unlike some trees that can do just fine without the aid of human hands, apple trees seem to have evolved more symbiotically with their human counterparts. If an apple tree could speak words, it might say something like, "I'll give you apples, if you'll cut my hair." At least that's my perspective on it.

For instance, apple trees cannot survive in the forest alone. They may not be afraid of big bad wolves, but they certainly should be afraid of big, bad ash or maple trees; These trees will quickly outgrow apple and over time will shade them out. Humans can come to their rescue by "releasing" or cutting out adjacent trees that hog the sunshine. If ash, maple or – god forbid – dark hemlock trees are tall enough to make you feel like you're in a forest, then apple's chances of survivability have already been shaded out. Normally, the smell of decaying apple wood permeates such places as a reminder that there once were farms nearby.

Even in the great wide open, apple struggles to exist. An apple tree – if left to its own devices – is somewhat suicidal or at least somewhat of a woody masochist. It seems that apple trees – for

Pictured: Ryan Trapani in action pruning an apple tree

short-term gratification – will sacrifice their future by overgrowing and shading out most of their lower branches, like an umbrella. For instance, in order to reach more sunlight, an apple tree will continue to stretch out wide and tall, but in doing so will kill most of its interior or lower limbs. These dying or dead limbs are breeding grounds for cankers, fungi and other diseases that attack wood, leaves and fruit. Many of you have probably witnessed how an apple tree has prematurely aborted its leaves after a rainy spring. The reason for this is mostly because raindrops aid in spreading fungal spores and diseases to leaves. Spores are most abundant in the lower and mid-portions of an apple tree's crown, since they prefer this damper section of the tree. In addition, there is less air circulation within this shady, tangled mess of branches, offering ripe conditions for fruiting bodies of fungi, rather than the tastier fruiting bodies of apples we're all hoping for. The only portion of the tree that supports green leaves during those rainy years is towards the top. The top of the tree is less damp and humid and isn't as conducive for fungi to grow in. Also, more sunlight equals more food from photosynthesis to build up the tree's "immune system."

Although the top portion of the tree may be healthy, overall apple trees just aren't supposed to be that tall. A top-heavy apple tree is highly susceptible to snow-loading, bear-loading and toppling over during wet conditions. Most of the tall apple trees we first encounter are riddled with broken branches from bears scaling their lanky tops and sides. Pruning must shape the tree so that it not only adds adequate sunlight and air circulation throughout the tree, but also so that branches can hold heavy fruit-set, the occasional bear and heavy snow, as well as its own woody weight.

Pruning Tips

After pruning many mature apple trees, there are a few underlying concepts I try to imprint onto the tree. First, pruning should be accomplished so that the upper branches do not shade out the lower branches; There are many types of pruning styles, but this seems to be the general concept. Second, try to reduce width and height to make a more compact tree; It's best to watch someone prune a tree first, before trying it yourself. Third is the interior branches. Unlike young orchard apple trees, interior branches or small water sprouts can be our friends. Remember, these apple trees are old and big and full of wood that the tree uses to transport water and food from the roots to its tips. If you take out all those little sprouts along this long woody "highway", the wood has less energy to keep it alive and sound, and decay can set it along the branches. In other words, I try not to prune in a manner that leaves a "lion's-tale" or tuft of live foliage at the end with interiors removed; This branch is susceptible to decay, sunscald (in some instances) and is structurally weak since all the weight is at the end. I remove sprouts that are sometimes greater than 1 inch in diameter or are competing with the structure of the main crown. Sometimes it's better to retain one sprout rather than removing all of them; They seem to pop back with vengeance when all are removed at once. Also, leaving some smaller interior branches offers "interior options" which might be extremely valuable if a bear, snow, wind or other damage wipes out the end of a branch. In this case, you have something to cut back to and grow your branch or tree from. I have seen where a huge, old apple tree had been saved by one tough sprout after losing its entire main leader to wind damage. If all the lower branches had been removed, the tree would have had no options but to be used for smoking wood or firewood. In any case, it seems there is no "mom and apple pie" without an apple tree and its human shadow nearby pruning. www.catskillforest.org

Programs & Services

Learn more at catskillforest.org/programs

Program	Description	Time
Consultations	*One-hour property visits by staff to help you learn about what your property holds*	**All Year**
Apple Tree Pruning	*Pruning helps keep apple trees healthy and improves quality and quantity of yields*	**Jan. - March**
Apple Tree Grafting	*A horticultural technique to help bring old, neglected trees back to fruition*	**April - May**
Forest Bird Program	*High-Nesting Bird Boxes for ducks, owls, etc. and/or Canopy Bird Feeders that protect against squirrels & bears*	**All Year**
Invasive Species Management	*Care for trees against invasive insects, and care for forests against invasive plants*	**May - Sept.**
Portable Sawmill Program	We bring a state-of-the-art portable sawmill directly to your property and mill your logs to lumber	**Spring - Fall**
Property Mapping	Custom property maps highlighting the property features you want to see	**All Year**
Trail Camera	Ever wonder what wildlife is around when you're not?	**All Year**
Wildlife Habitat Management	Forestry practices to help improve your woodlot for wildlife	**All Year**

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO BOX 336
43469 State Highway 28
Arkville, NY 12406
catskillforest.org
845-586-3054

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member at www.catskillforest.org/membership or send a check with this application to: Catskill Forest Association, Inc. PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406. 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)
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: $_____