

CFA NEWS



The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 29, Number 2 - Spring 2011



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Update on CFA's Painting & Repairs Project
"The Disappearing Ash"

2011—2nd Annual Catskill Forest Festival

"Common Waters Fund—Funding opportunities!"

"The Catskills Reduced From Ashes? - Maybe Not!" -

Dr. Mike Kudish

Taste of the Forest - Recipe





CFA News
Volume 29, Number 2
Spring 2011

Editor: Jim Waters
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

Copyright 2011

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

Board of Directors:

Douglas Murphy, *President*, Stamford
Robert Bishop II, *Vice President*, DeLancey
Gordon Stevens, *Vice President*, Margaretville
Susan Doig, *Secretary*, Andes
Frank Winkler, *Treasurer*, Andes
Joseph Kraus, Gilboa
Seth LaPierre, Delhi
Jake Rosa, Arkville
DEC Liaison:
Jeff Wiegert, Region 3, New Paltz
CFA Staff
Jim Waters, Executive Director
Michele Fucci, Office Manager
Ryan Trapani, Education Forester

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 and mail in the form on the back cover of this publication. Contact information is located above. Please submit address changes to Michele at the address above.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

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

www.catskillforest.org

Cover Photos:

The American Emblem: *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*
or better known as The American Bald Eagle. A nest-
ing pair this spring.

Table of Contents:

New Members.....	2
Executive Director's Message.....	3
Update on CFA's Painting & Repairs	4
"The Disappearing Ash".....	5 & 6
2011 Catskill Forest Festival.....	7
Common Waters Funding Opportunities!!!.....	8—9
"The Catskills Reduced From Ashes? - Maybe Not!" - Dr. Michael Kudish.....	10—11
Taste From The Forest (recipe)	12
Website Info	12
CFA's Tree Marking Program.....	13
Membership Application.....	Back Cover



*Falls along West Hubble Hill Rd. in Margaretville. (photo
taken by Jim Waters)*

Welcome New Members!!!

March 2011

Paul Ross – Wayne NJ
Joseph Wasko – Pennington NJ
John Brooks – Oneonta
Mark Bass- MDB Logging Inc. – Downsville
Delaware Bulldozing Corporation – Bloomville
Emily Leonard - NYC
Terri & Larry Borst – Denver
B&B Forest Products Cairo (F/F sponsor)
J&J Log & Lumber Corp. Dover Plains (F/F
sponsor)

April

Charlie Horne – Margaretville

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This spring has been a **lot** wetter than any I remember in 10 years and other people that have been here much longer than me say the same. It's been hard to get out there to make an early job of working the land & those of you with allergies are suffering badly. Also, probably not a good forecast for bugs this spring and early summer...but on the positive side...a great year for planting trees!

Forestry awareness Day on May 2nd was a great success! We visited over 50 legislators' offices talking about forest landowner issues from forest taxation and DEC management of their 700,000 acres of manageable land, to the Governor's Wood Products Development Council and Invasive species. I want to thank all of you that turned out for the Albany event and look forward to even more participation next year.

I have come to the conclusion that science actually has little to do with what happens in the forest. It's more about social perceptions, and the resultant government policy and legislation. As forest landowners we need to get into the game before the land is taken away from us by taxation and government restrictions....and it's not just being taken away from us, but it's also in danger of being degraded so as not to be of value to the rest of society. No thought of regenerating it will lead to its destruction and the result will be an unhealthy forest that is of very little use as habitat for wildlife, hunting or recreation...and less effective for water and air quality. It might "look" OK, because from the highway it looks green. This is what is known as the "green lie".

One of the solutions to this dilemma is a low-grade market to utilize those trees that have been left behind from past high-grading practices and getting the general public to recognize that forests are living and need to continually be regenerated. Our forest product needs will continue and should not be replaced with fossil-fuel replicas.

A biomass market that turns unwanted trees into renewable energy is a good answer. This market will not make us rich, but will pay for the thinnings that later will. It will also pump money and jobs into the community that we live in. 90% of NY's energy needs come from outside of the state...jobs and community support for others! The coal, oil and gas energy supply also contributes greatly to carbon release, which many believe is a catalyst for global warming. The use of fossil fuels does not come close in comparison to the use of biomass with community growth and long-term, local job creation. We need to get this message out! Sunlight on our old & decrepit forest floors is the answer to regeneration of a healthy forest that most species of animals and birds can thrive on...not to mention

humans! Help us all first by showing your children. Relatives and neighbors. Take them out to observe what's going on in the forest. Show them the absence of tree species in the understory. If you need help with that, call us and we can arrange an on-site visit that could lead to a family or neighborhood party. Think of us as the entertainment.

Don't forget to visit our home page. (www.catskillforest.com) It has a monthly picture, next event, forest festival updates (with video link), list of radio broadcasts, and announcements on available funding for forest activities.

Let the sun shine on your forest's floor!

Naturally,
Jim Waters



Listen to "From the Forest", Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 7 pm with Jim & Ryan. Streaming on the Internet — go to: wioxradio.org. CFA members can now listen to archived podcasts on CFA's website: www.catskillforest.org



Typical abandoned farm field providing us with our forests.



Catskill stream showing type of rock formation exists throughout much of the Catskill Mountains.



Help us get rid of the
pink and purple!



Help us protect the
building & enhance
our appearance!

UPDATE ON CFA'S PAINTING & REPAIRS CAMPAIGN

CFA has put off repairing and painting the outside of our building and porches. We purchased the building, renovated the inside and paid off the mortgage. We then put a new roof on it and repaired the driveway. I am extremely grateful to have done all of this, but need your help raising the \$20,000 to do this outside work. **It's not a luxury item....it's a necessity now!**

CFA has a donor that has said he will match every dollar with 33 cents. That means if we raise \$15,000 we will reach our \$20,000 goal. Thus far we have received a grand total of \$12,170! That means we have reached 81% of our \$15,000 goal. This leaves just \$2,870 to go.

Please dig down and do what you can. Every bit helps.

CFA is an organization that does the State's work and is compensated only by not having to pay income taxes. We have made great strides over the past several years. Please check out our web site: www.catskillforest.org, and check out the video on the home page of the Annual Forest Festival we started last year. Also, now members can look at newsletters there and listen to archived radio broadcasts of "From the Forest" that Ryan & I started in December of 2010.

As CFA is a not-for-profit, 501c3 organization, your donation is tax deductible to the extent of the law. Again, please consider helping CFA in this endeavor. Just return the part at the bottom with a check or money order. We will send you a receipt.

CFA, CFA's Board of Directors and CFA's Staff Would Like To Thank the Following 60 Donors as of 5/17/2011:

Jerry & Christine Baltz
Mike Batelli & Evangelina Sosa
Lucille Bishop
Gary Caso
Steven Cook
Jim & Sue Curtis
Curtis Woodlands (Niles)
Jack & Ginny Darwack
Susan Dey
Glenn Durban
Peter Elarde
Barbara Elmore
Gordie Faulkner
Jerome Federlein
Michael & Nancy Feldman
Frank Field
Joe & Corliss Hubert
Peter Innes
Nina Jordan
Ron Kaplan
Robert & Laura Keller
Thomas Kontos
Joe & Barbara Kraus
Michael Kudish
Ralph Lamberti
Diane Lanier
John & Susan Lynch
Lawrence Loos
Norman Maender
William Mahoney
Jack & Nancy McShane

Steve Miller
Peter Model
John & Susan Murdock
Thelma & Greg Navarro
Donald Odell
Guido Pantaleoni
Rayan Parikh
David Pollack
Michael & Becky Porter
Eric Rasmussen
John & Susan Riedl
Jim & Sue Roach
Norman Robbins
Michael Ruane
Schaefer Logging, Inc.
Jeanne Scott
Jean & Juergen Schumann
Russell Seaman
Sluiter Agency
Paul & Lilian Steinfeld
Arigo Sugihara
Charles Sumprer
Tom Tighe
William Turick
Otto & Sally Wagenbach
Henry Wagner
Charles & Virginia Waters
Frank & Vickie Winkler

Enclosed is my/our donation to The Catskill Forest Association, Inc.'s building fund in the amount of _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

The Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406



"THE DISAPPEARING ASH"

By: Jim Waters



This beautiful and important tree will, in all likelihood, be leaving us. Following the American Chestnut, Elm, and Beech, it is being ravaged by an invasive insect due to our world market. The Chestnut's plight was a fungus, the Elm's was a beetle introducing a fungus, and the Beech's was an aphid exasperating a fungus. The difference here is that the ash's plight is that only of an insect. The others reproduce and hang on for a while, reproducing new trees that succumb to the fungus later on. The ash will also reproduce, but the insect has been shown to invade trees only 3/4" in diameter, too young to reproduce. Therefore until the insect can be controlled, which looks highly unlikely in time to save most all of the trees, our only hopes are in seed collection and preservation until the borer is controlled or eats itself out and that remote groves are not infected. Infected trees usually die within on to three years.

For information on collecting and preserving seed go to:

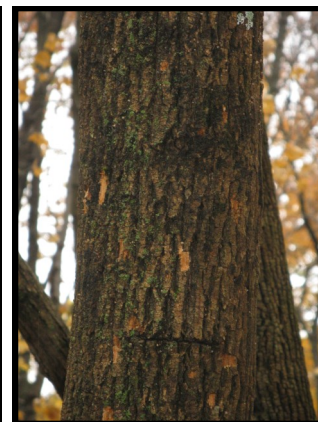
***[www.nsl.fs.fed.us/
GeneticConservation_Ash.html](http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/GeneticConservation_Ash.html)***

For more information on remote groves see the article in this newsletter on pages 10 & 11.

As a landowner, what does this mean to you? It means that you will probably lose all of you ash trees over the next 3 to 15 years. If they are a hazard, by being close to a building or trail, they should be removed very soon. If they are in the forest and are concentrated in a forest stand, you should contact your forester or CFA and make the decision to have—or—not have a harvest.

Identifying Ash trees is easy... they have opposite branching habits, like maples, dogwoods, viburnums & honeysuckles and horse chestnut. They have compound leaves...that is, the leaves are a long stem with

multiple leaves along them, not just a leaf on a single stem. The bark is ridged and crossed like ski trails in the snow.



You may be asking yourself, "Will America's pastime be affected?" The answer to this is yes, but it will be many years from now that ash may not be available to make baseball bats out of. The industry will adapt over that time. Other species used already range from Sugar Maple to Bamboo. There are also bats made of composites mixed with wood.



Ash is also known as the best wood for other sports equipment such as tennis racquets, hockey sticks, polo mallets, and playground structures. The reasons that white ash is the most popular wood for these items is that it is tough and doesn't break under large amounts of strain. Its wood can be bent into different shapes without losing its strength and is quite light.

There are numerous other uses for white ash including church pews, bowling alley flooring, garden and porch furniture, and cabinets. Ash will have to be replaced by other species, unless something unpredicted by the experts occurs.

Now, I know that you are hoping I will tell you exactly what to do. Just as in many decisions to be made with our forests....it depends on the situation. It's a case by case issue. Simply stated, I would recommend the following:

1. If a tree is considered to be hazardous in any way, you must consider taking that tree down.

- a. You can wait until it is infected, then take it down and replace it or not. (Remember, if it was so large that it became a hazard, consider planting elsewhere or a species that does not get so large.)

- b. Plant a replacement of a different

species now, then take it down when it becomes infected, being careful not to harm the replacement.

c. Take it down immediately and replace it or not.

2. If the ash trees are in the forest and comprise a small component of that forest stand:

a. If the ash trees are large and of good quality and the stand could use a harvesting on the whole, then get in a forester to evaluate whether it is advisable to have a timber sale. (Don't let the loss of a low-value tree dictate for the high-value species when the high-value trees are cut.)

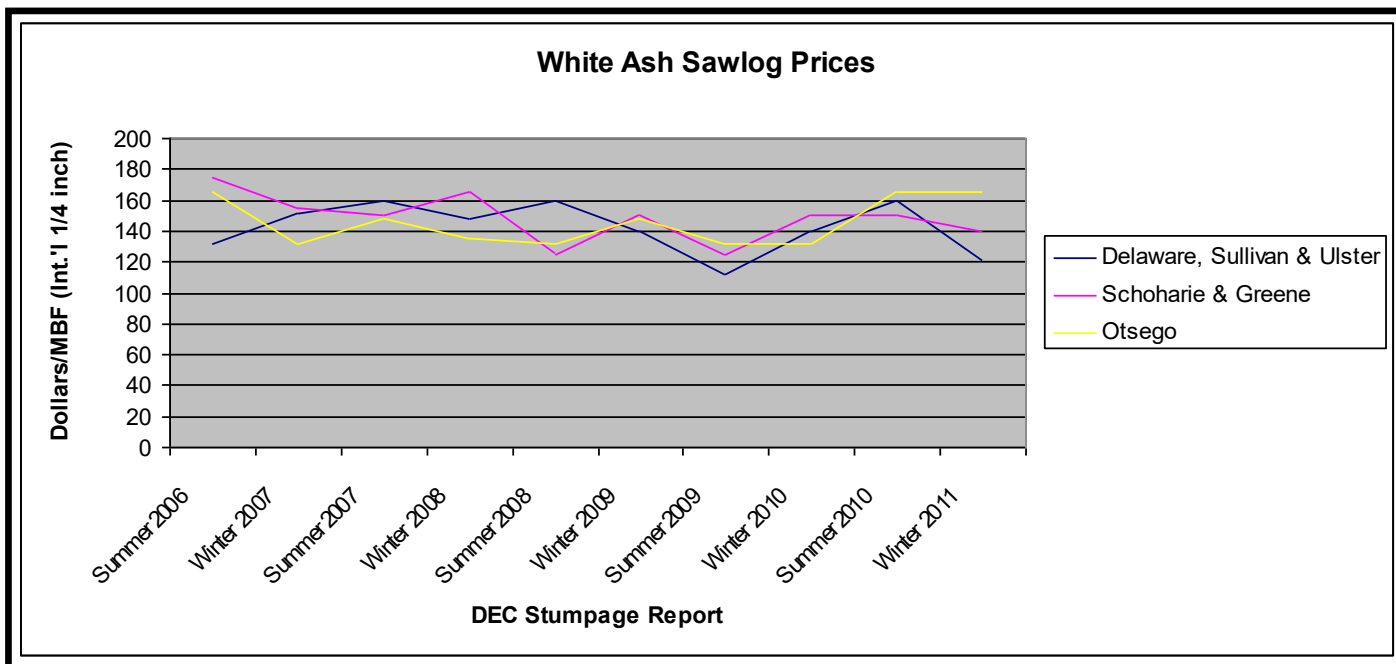
b. If the ash trees are not large or of good quality consider letting them die and naturally thin out your stand. They make excellent firewood!

(good heat value, split easily and dry quickly).

3. If the ash trees are in a forest and particular stands are comprised of a concentrated amount of ash:

a. Contact a forester or CFA to get advice on performing a harvest and timing it to your best advantage. Remember that in most all cases a bid sale put up by a professional forester will yield you with the highest return and best job.

b. But, you may have time to wait until ash trees in your area are infested. Then you will have much less time.



White Ash Sawlog prices have remained fairly constant over the past five years as evidenced in this graph. MBF stands for one thousand board feet. Typically a tractor-trailer load would hold about 5,500 bd. ft. of logs. The average in all counties for the past five years was about \$145 per thousand board feet or about \$800 per tractor-trailer load paid to the landowner. (These figures were obtained from the NYDEC.)

To accumulate 60 logs to fill a trailer one would probably require between 35 to 50 trees. Of course, this depends a lot on the size of the trees.

In comparison, these same reports show that, today, Black Cherry would bring the landowner about \$3,500 per trailer-load; Sugar Maple, \$2,500; Red Oak about \$1,900; Red Maple about \$700; Yellow Birch about \$800; and Hemlock about \$150. Interesting enough, over the past five years, the higher value species such as Cherry, Sugar Maple and Red Oak have seen declines, and the lower value species such as Red Maple and Yellow Birch have seen increases. White Ash has remained relatively constant.

My guess as to what will happen with Ash prices, and therefore opportunities to sell the timber, is that as the Emerald Ash Borer infestation progresses, there will be more trees harvested and that the markets may get flooded. The price can't go down much, so it will

become a case of when you can sell and when you can not sell....not a question of price.

As always, call CFA (845) 586-3054 for any further guidance.



*Fog/Low Lying Clouds outside my back door.
Jim Waters*

THE 2ND ANNUAL CATSKILL FOREST FESTIVAL!!!

SATURDAY, JULY, 30TH, 2011.

SAVE THE DATE AND DON'T MISS THIS!!!



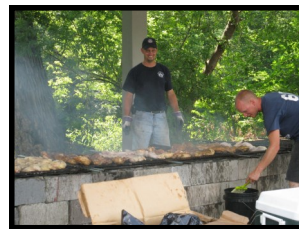
- Maple Producers
- Wood Products
- Forestry Equipment
- Firewood Processor & Sawmill
- Forest Management Education & Services
- Arts & Crafts Made From the Forest & More!!
- Recreation Vendors
- Logging Competition
- Zip Line across the Delaware River

Two years ago a Forestry tent was set up at the Cauliflower Festival in September hosted by the Catskill Forest Association. It was such a success that we decided to hold a Forest Festival entirely by itself. That was done last year and was also a great success.

For a 7 minute video, visit the home page of CFA's web site:

www.catskillforest.org

The 2nd Annual Catskill Forest Festival will be



Interested in being a vendor or sponsor...or just want more information, call CFA's office at (845) 586-3054.

scheduled for Saturday, July 30th at the Pavilion in the Village of Margaretville, Delaware County, conveniently located on State Route 28 just 15 minutes west of Bellevue. Margaretville is centrally located in the Catskill Mountains. Events here draw people from throughout the region.

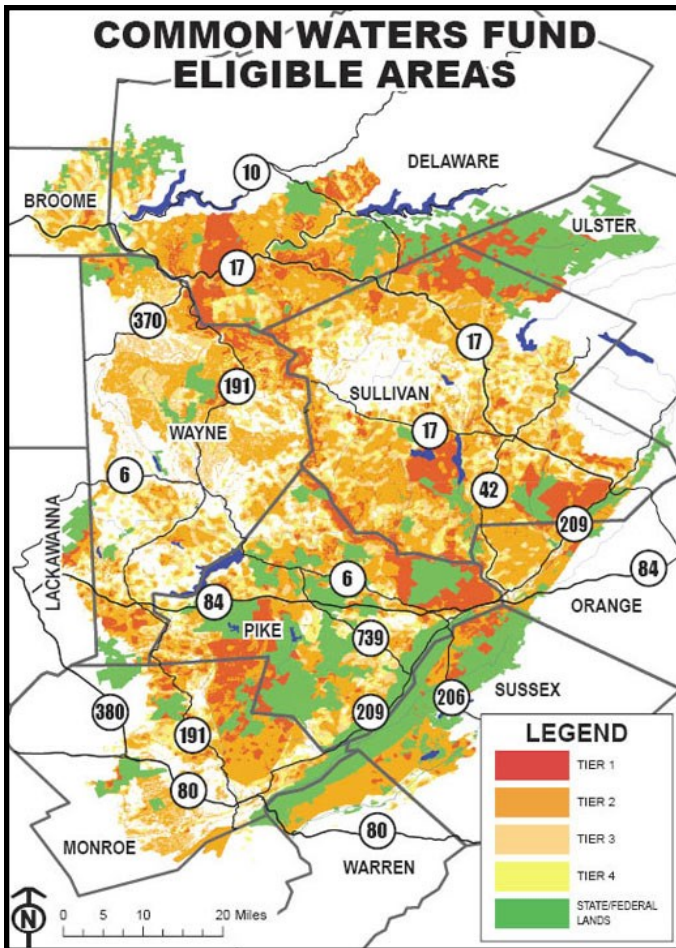
The purpose of the event is to foster an appreciation for the many benefits our **Working Forests** provide for our local **communities** and **society**.

At the festival there will be:



LET CFA HELP YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A NEW FOREST MANAGEMENT FUNDING PROGRAM!!!

THE COMMON WATERS FUND



The Catskill Forest Association has partnered with the Common Waters Fund (CWF) in support of the development of sustainable communities and working landscapes in the Delaware River watershed upstream of the Delaware Water Gap and downstream of NYC's dams (In New York State: Mostly Delaware & Sullivan counties). The mission of the CWF is *to conserve clean water, natural places, and working lands through co-operation, scientific research, education, and technical assistance by and for the stakeholders of the region.*

Both CFA and CWF share a common interest in enhancing the health of the region's forests by protecting its *working forests*. It is critical that private forest land remain healthy, productive and viable since these lands include the largest forest landownership base. Private forest lands are mostly responsible for the region's ecological services and community benefits that are enjoyed by society. However, the cost of owning and managing forest land, as well as providing society with ecological services such as in biodiversity; quality wildlife habitat, wood products and clean water are not free. The Common Waters Fund and CFA realize the important role private forest landowners play and hope that by sharing some of these costs, benefits for both

landowners and society may be perpetuated for present and future generations.

The project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities. The CWF will initially provide \$1 million to implement forest management and conservation projects in the Upper Delaware River watershed. The project draws on a combination of conservation tools to achieve its goals, including conservation easements and forest management strategies aimed at improving forest health and keeping private forest ownership viable. These strategies will reduce forest loss and resultant harmful inputs to water resources (from expanding land uses), while protecting and improving the forest's ability to store and filter water (via forest cover).

Private forest landowners eligible for funding within the Catskill Region include those who own at least five acres of forest land within the Delaware Watershed (does not include the New York City watershed) and meet US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) criteria. Upon receipt of applications, landowners are scored based upon location within established *priority funding areas*. Please inquire with CFA to inquire about meeting EQIP eligibility and priority status. Most forest landowners do meet EQIP criteria which only require review of a simple document as well as exist in a priority area worth funding. Once a landowner has established eligibility, they can apply for funding within **Four Categories**. These categories include: **(1) Forest Stewardship Plans; (2) Forest Management Practices; (3) Conservation Easements; & (4) Portable Timber/Skid Bridges.**

Forest landowners can apply for funds to have a consulting forester write a new **(1) Forest Stewardship Plan** (or upgrade) for their property. In most cases, the CWF will fund the entire cost of the plan. Landowners are committed to follow the forest management plan for up to 10 years to ensure that forest management and land-use are being met.

There are a variety of **(2) Forest Management Practices** funded to improve forest health and soil quality, which in turn affect water quality and quantity. These include activities meant to enable/enhance forest regeneration, encourage growth of desirable plant communities, facilitate better timber management, control competing vegetation, or avoid damage from deer. They may also include measures to protect water resources more directly, such as the creation or improvement of forested buffers along streams. Forest landowners should either have these practices recommended in either a Forest Stewardship Plan or other written forest management plan. Otherwise, they will require an on-site visit by one of CFA's foresters for review. Management practices funding is based upon USDA NRCS cost-share rates. These practices should be cost-



A Pre-Commercial Thinning Operation Underway.

shared by up to 75% or more. Payments are fixed – the same amount is paid per unit of a practice, regardless of actual costs incurred by the landowner. For example: Deer fencing (box wire) is paid \$3.50/linear foot; Heavy thinning (21 – 40 square feet basal area removed) is paid \$140/acre; & Water bars are paid \$40/each. Management practices must be inspected by the CWF (or CFA) after implementation and prior to payment. The maximum funding request per landowner is \$20,000.

The Common Waters Fund will also provide financial assistance to qualified 501(C)3 land trusts and conservancies for the purpose of forest conservation for source water protection in the form of **(3) Conservation Easements**. Eligible landowners must own at least 25 acres and be within a *priority funding area*. Typical funding projects are capped at \$25,000. Larger projects are capped at \$50,000. The purchased easements portion of the program is limited in scope and will not be immediately available in year one. Matching funds are required for easement purchases. Projects are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Many forest landowners and forest workers in the Catskills are aware of the challenges our mountain streams (and other wet areas) can create during high-water events. The cost of crossing such streams can be steep! Logging operators can apply for funds to defray



A Stream-Side Riparian Planting.

the cost of construction, purchase, or rental of **(4) Portable Timber/Skid Bridges** to minimize erosion and sedimentation on streams in priority areas. The portable bridge is to be used for temporary stream crossings during harvesting activities, instead of installing a culvert or fording a stream. The CWF will pay 75% of the cost of bridge construction, rental, or purchase, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Grant recipients must attend a workshop on bridge construction and stream crossing Best Management Practices (BMPs). Please contact CFA for information on attending an upcoming BMP workshop. The bridge must be used on at least two harvests in priority counties between January 2011 and October 2012. **Funding for bridges goes directly to the operator installing the bridge, not the land-owner.**

For more information, contact CFA. We can help you establish eligibility, find a forester, or let you know about specific items that are funded. This is a simple and user-friendly program



A Portable Skidder Bridge In Place.

serving private forest landowners outside of the New York City watershed that previously had few options in forest management funding.

Take advantage of it!

The Catskills Reduced *FROM* Ashes? – Maybe Not!

By Dr. Michael Kudish



White Ash
Tree:

*Fraxinus
americana*

“Reduced *TO* ashes” usually refers to forests that are burned thoroughly so that little remains. “Reduced *FROM* ashes”, in contrast, refers to a probable major reduction in the white ash population in the Catskills because of the emerald ash borer. Does the outlook, often full of gloom and doom, appear bleak? Maybe not.

There are moderately high elevation remote, isolated groves of white ash in the Catskills that I hope will be the last to be invaded by the borer. This gives us more time to find new and more effective methods of combating the insect. Or, better yet, some of these groves may turn out to be refugee for the ash, i.e. pockets of trees that remain alive because the ash borer may not reach them.

A description of how Steve Parisio’s map was produced may be of interest to CFA members. It begins with this writer. In 1969-1970, I was a graduate student exploring the Catskills forest, beginning to work out its history since the end of the Ice Age. My main aim then was to study the high ridgelines and summits, but I would also take notes on the slope forests on the way up and down the mountains. Observing the isolated, moderately high elevation remote ash groves was not a main objective at that time (who would have ever thought that forty years later there would be an emerald ash borer problem?), but I did note these groves. Such observations have continued to the present.

Ecology of the ash groves

I have noticed that ecologically, white ash is a moderately shade-tolerant species of well-

drained to moist soils. It rarely grows in wetlands where it’s too wet, and along high-elevation ridgelines where it’s too dry because the thin, rocky soils do not retain much water.

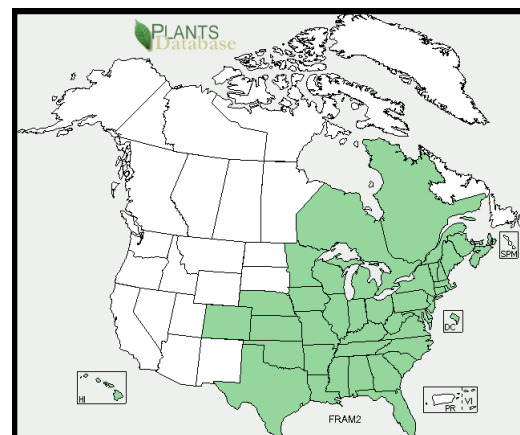
Because it cannot compete well with the very shade tolerant forest dominants sugar maple, beech, and hemlock, it is most abundant where the forest has been removed altogether, such as along roadsides, fence rows, abandoned pastures, and flood plains – i.e. in the valley bottoms and lower slopes where most people live and work.

On middle slope forests that have never been cleared for pasture, it is most abundant where the forest had been heavily disturbed to nearly clear cut by the acid wood, charcoal, and furniture industries.

Near its upper elevation limits, white ash occurs in remote groves, often in first-growth tracts. Such groves typically indicate small-scale natural disturbances that had opened, or partially opened, the canopy. The main cause was wind, but also ice and snow damage, and the death of several adjacent sugar maple, beech, or hemlock.

For many years, I had misinterpreted that the mere presence of white ash indicated second- or third-growth forest, i.e. an absence of first growth. More recently however, I realized that the mere presence of ash may indicate first growth stands provided the disturbances that created the ash populations are natural. The ash in these higher-elevation groves are not in pure stands; they usually are mixed with sugar maple and occasional basswood. In contrast, second and third growth stands, down-slope, typically consist of northern red oak, black birch, bigtooth aspen and red maple.

White ash requires a considerable volume of water so that at the higher elevations where soils tend to be thinner and hold less water, they are usually confined to coves, amphitheater-like heads



White
Ash:
Distri-
bution

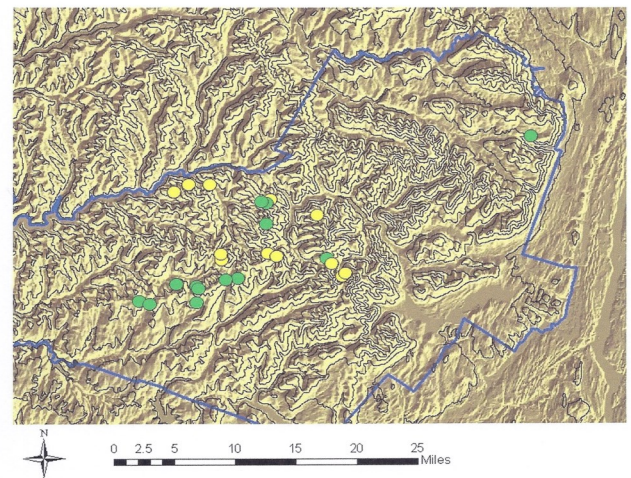
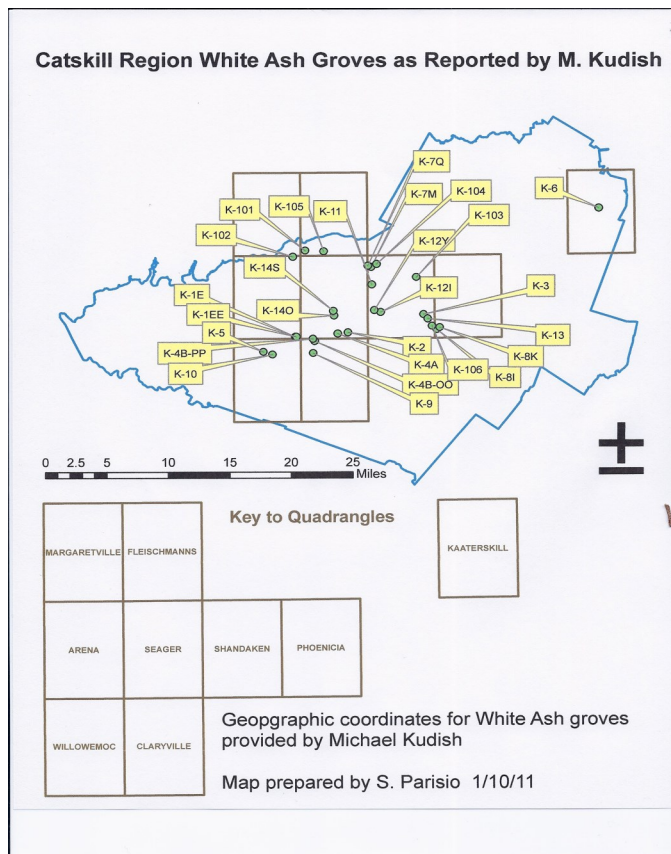


Figure 1. Catskill Region White Ash Groves

Notes:

1. Data provided by M. Kudish
2. Background is hillshade with 500 ft topographic contours
3. Green dots are white ash groves in 1st growth forest
4. Yellow dots are in 2nd growth forest
5. Map prepared by S. Parisio 4/1/2011

of hollows, and along seeps and springs.

Since the emerald ash borer appeared in New York State in 2008-2009, I attended several conferences devoted to the threat and informed the other attendees that some of the remote ash groves in both the Catskills and the Adirondacks could serve as refuge.

Steve Parisio of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation knew of my notes on the ash groves and asked for a list. I searched through my forty-plus year accumulation of field notes and retrieved information on fifteen remote groves. Their elevations range from about 2000 feet to about 3000 feet, with a median elevation of about 2600 feet.

For contrast, I also sent Steve a list of six groves on lower slopes (generally between 1000 and 2000 feet elevation), much closer to the large valley bottom ash populations and therefore most susceptible to the EAB invasion.

In both lists, I described the mountain, elevation, and aspect (i.e., the direction in which a slope faces). I also supplied some information on the site, such as age and size of the trees, associated species, site history, and soils.

Steve found the list geographically not precise enough. Could I supply coordinates, i.e. latitude and longitude? Yes. I found a hand-made ruler that I had made years ago. When the ruler is placed on a U.S.G.S. topographic map, I can read off the latitude and longitude directly. A second list was dispatched to Steve with the coordinates.

From the coordinates, Steve was able to

prepare the map presented along with this essay.

A seed source for replanting?

At such a time that most of the ash (and the borer, too, when its food supply runs out), are gone from the lower slopes and valley bottoms, we can visit the isolated groves, collect seed, and replant the valleys and lower slopes. Some folks have questioned whether seeds from ash at higher elevations would grow into trees at the lower. Yes. They should. It is the reverse situation where we might have a problem – plant ash seeds obtained from valley trees and try to grow them at higher elevations where the growing season is shorter and environmental conditions are more stressful.

Jeff Wiegert, CFA's Board's Liaison with the DEC, Member of CFA and forester with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has been studying the emerald ash borer problem more intensely than anyone I know. I hope that, with his guidance, we can change the gloom and doom forecast to a somewhat more hopeful one.

"Can't Beat 'Em—Eat 'em Garlic Mustard Pesto"



In the natural resources field we often hear about the negative attributes of *invasive species*. In order to achieve invasive status, a plant is usually perceived as having no beneficial value, non-native, prolific and the ability to encroach upon native plant species. Although some invasive species can be a problem, often these negative attributes are perceived and the result of local and global circumstances. In example, autumn olive was brought to the US in the early 1800s. In the 1940s it was planted commercially by many government conservation organizations as a "quick-fix" for reclaiming denuded landscapes, food & cover for wildlife, soil stabilization, wind-breaks, screens and soil fertilization. However, only recently has it been considered invasive in some locales due to its ability to resist deer-browse pressure. It is the relationship between habitat quality, deer and autumn olive owing to its *invasive* nature. In comparison, apple trees are non-native, but revered highly by American culture and have not been given the scarlet letter of *invasive*. But, apple trees are not prolific since deer do browse them heavily. To make matters more confusing, some native plants can be invasive such as American beech, striped maple and New York and hay-scented fern. Again, it is the result from a deer, habitat and plant relationship. These species are not preferred by deer, while others such as sugar maple and red oak are preferred and are easily out-competed by the former.

The point is that each plant must be considered locally as well as the landowner's goals and objectives. Autumn olive produces an abundance of highly nutritious and cancer-fighting fruit without the aid of expensive fertilizers, herbicides and deer protection measures (fencing or tubes). However, another landowner may want to grow grass or some other shrub and autumn olive may then be considered an interfering species. Invasive species that would no doubt interfere with many landowners' goals and objectives are some of the non-native insects that have few local predators and could thereby cause great impact. Examples include the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which is now in Ulster & Greene counties and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALB) in New York City and Worcester, MA. EAB may have the ability to kill just about every ash tree, while ALB may kill all maple, willow, horse-chestnut, mulberry, elm, and black locust. This would definitely be considered an interfering species by most!

Some of these invasive species are highly edible and should be taken advantage of since, as their name implies, are prolific. Spring is upon us and its green-up of new vegetation as well. Where the sun is able to penetrate into the under-story (road-sides, forest-edges etc) there is one tasty *invasive* that makes its presence. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) as its name implies tastes similar to garlic. The leaves of this abundant plant can be eaten as salad greens. If you cannot bear to see the sight of *invasive* plants, then here is a recipe for making Garlic Mustard Pesto. **Hey, if you can't beat 'em, then eat 'em!**

¾ cup Olive Oil

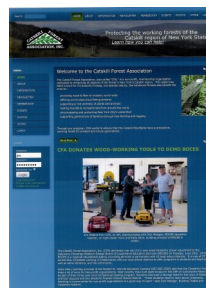
1 garlic clove
1 cup walnuts or pine nuts
½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
4 cups garlic mustard leaves (pick young leaves before they have flowered)

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Blend until smooth. Then add the garlic mustard leaves one handful at a time. That's it. If freezing, omit cheese and add before consuming. Good luck!



CFA's WEBSITE:

www.catskillforest.org **CHECK IT OUT!**



If you have not received an email with your user ID and password or if you have lost it please send an email to: cfa@catskill.net with the following information:

1. Name
2. e-mail address
3. Home Address
4. Telephone Number

Check out the Catskill Forest Festival Video on the Home Page!!!

Also—Podcasts from CFA's "From the Forest" Radio broadcasts!

CFA Tree Marking Program!

This is a great way to get an area marked that will provide you and others with firewood as well as improve the health of your forest. You are welcome to join us during the marking to learn how to do it yourself. This could save you money down the road as it will sharpen your understanding of forest management and you will be developing your own tree selection skills. Thinning out the forest will make it more resistant to insects and disease, a better water filter, better wildlife habitat and increase the value of the timber.

WE MARK ALL YEAR-ROUND!!!

DETAILS:

1. You must be a CFA member.
2. An "on-site-visit" fee of \$100 plus mileage will be charged for selecting, designating on the ground the area to be marked, and determining the acreage to be included.
3. After reviewing the forest management plan (if there is one) and taking into account the landowner(s)' objectives, a prescription for that stand will be recommended by the representative and the marking guidelines agreed upon by both the representative, the landowner(s)' forester (if there is one) and the landowner.
4. A maximum of 10 acres will be marked for each landowner in any one calendar year.
5. A fee of \$45 per acre will be charged for the marking.
6. \$15 of this \$45 can be claimed as a tax deductible contribution to CFA, a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization.
7. The trees marked will be the trees that are considered "crop" trees (These are the trees that are the "keepers".) They will be marked by tree-marking paint at or just below eye height, most of the way around the bole of the tree, and on the stump.
8. It will then be up to the landowner to remove or kill all of the trees without paint. In most cases these trees will not be useful for anything but firewood. There may be an occasional saw-log tree, but unless there are a sufficient number of them, it will not be worth-while to have them delivered to a mill. The goal with this program is to improve the forest by removing the "weed trees". In some cases the trees can be left as fertilizer and wildlife habitat.
9. In the case that the landowner does not want to do the work themselves, a list of professionals will be given to them by CFA to contact in order to have the work done.
10. There is a limited amount of this we can get to, so sign up soon! Fill out the application below and mail it in. We will call to schedule.



A thinning typically removes about 4 to 5 cords per acre. If you had 10 acres marked, that would be about 45 cords of firewood being made available to you! That means that for an on-site fee and somewhere around \$10/cord you would get a rare and valuable educational experience along with the wood marked by a professional forester from CFA.

CFA is holding several special programs in chainsaw safety and use for landowners. (See the Calendar of Events on CFA's web site.)



CFA TREE MARKING APPLICATION

Name _____

Address of Property _____

Email address _____ Date _____

Phone Number and best time to call, where you can be reached during the weekday _____



PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I believe in enhancing the quality of the forest land in the Catskill Region through proper forest management.
To that end, I am interested in joining the Catskill Forest Association and supporting its efforts.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Categories (Select the level & if you'd like, make an additional donation):

Membership	\$50 + \$ _____
Contributing	\$75 + \$ _____
Business / Supporting	\$100 + \$ _____
Supporting	\$150 + \$ _____
Sustaining	\$250 + \$ _____
Benefactor	\$750 + \$ _____

Do you own land in the Catskill Region? Yes _____ No _____

Property address: _____

Telephone #: _____ County: _____

Total acres: _____ Forested acres: _____ Pond Y / N Stream Y / N River Y / N

Would you like a CFA forester to come to your property and spend 3 hours walking your forest, making suggestions and giving you impartial and confidential advice? (It just costs \$100 plus our mileage to do so.) Y / N
(If so we will call you to schedule an appointment.)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

All membership dues and 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.