CFA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 29, Number 3&4 - Summer/Fall 2011

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Flooring made possible by Wightman Lumber!

CFA News
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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

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

www.catskillforest.org

Cover Photos: *The new paint-job, building and porch repairs are done! Stop by and see for yourself. Finally got rid of the pink, yellow & purple. I know that some of you might miss that, but the staff won't miss those colors at all!*

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A Double Rainbow over Arkville on 10-15-2011
Photo taken by Jim Waters

Welcome New Members!!!

May
Bogdan Pajor – Fleischmanns
Roundout Neversink Stream Program – Grahamsville
Walter Schull – Delhi
Barbara Fisher – Bloomville

June
Arlene Gilbert – Roxbury
Gerald & Barbara DeNicola – Halcott Center
John & Patricia Rolland – Delhi

July
John & Paula Schrynemakers – Roxbury
Kathleen Eckett – Roxbury (F/F raffle winner)

August
Tom Maxwell – Arkville
Harold & Margie Haugeto – Andes

September
Marlene Vernet – Fleischmanns
Mariela Jones - Hobart

October
Michael Murphy
Chris Renaud & Mitra Behroozi – Ellenville

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The early part of the summer was pretty dry, but that all changed in August when the Catskills were hit with unbelievable rains, starting slowly, which saturated the soils, then the mountains got hit with the rains from Hurricanes Irene and Lee — especially the higher peaks region. It was unprecedented devastation from flash flooding ..... At least as far as recent history (1850's to present). Flash flooding is different than the flooding we see in other regions. It occurs very quickly with large amounts of rain (upwards of 20 inches) on steep slopes. It moves very quickly and affords no-one any time to evacuate. The water that came down from the mountain slopes was in the form of white-water rapids. Rescue rafts were hard-pressed to go upstream in the villages to rescue people from their water-assailed, island homes.

In my travels up into the mountain valleys I observed a lot of damage not reported on in the news. Many bridges, culverts and roads washed out, lots and lots of homes knocked off of their foundations, and flooded to a point of non-repair. Many of those people are still not able to go back to their homes. I observed where there were 20 to 40 foot deep washouts. These are narrow valleys and when 12 to 20 inches of rain falls there is nowhere else for it to go than down these inadequate stream valleys.

And then, holy snow! Oct. 29th & 30th we received a northeaster that set records throughout the Northeast. We received less than some areas, but got about 8" or so of heavy wet snow. Luckily, our leaves were mostly gone so there wasn't the power line issues as in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere. I woke up to a temperature of 20 degrees on Sunday and 17 degrees on Monday. All of this in October! .... That's more like January weather!

Hopefully the rest of this fall is more typical...I like this time of year—usually. Good luck to those hunters out there. We need a reduction in deer population if we are going to have any success in regenerating our forests....which are in bad need of starting over with some heavy cutting along with deer control. If you know of any young men and women that might be interested in trying deer hunting, offer to take them along with you. The "deer hunter" is an endangered species and hunting is the only proven method of controlling the deer populations. It also makes very good eating. Since 1999 the Venison Donation Coalition of New York State has given away over 337 tons of venison....or almost 3 million meals to the needy.

Hope to see many of you at CFA's annual meeting at the Hannah Country Club & Resort on Sat., November 12th. If you have not made your reservations yet please call Michele and hopefully, Hannah will be flexible with their head-count.

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

Jim planting a tree with his granddaughter, Summer.

Typical picture during the fall, along a woods road in the Catskills. (Photo taken by Ryan Trapani.)

Black-caps: A Delicious Raspberry

by Ryan Trapani

photography by the author

Black-caps or black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) are one of my favorite fruits to pick. I say *pick* rather than *harvest* since its flavor is so good, it rarely reaches into any phase of storage. The best time I had picking black-caps was when I was about 10 years old. A site had been chosen for a housing development behind the New Paltz Town Hall. For whatever reason, the development was abandoned and the vegetation was allowed to grow. Sections where bare mineral soil had been exposed by machinery were quickly filled in by black-caps. I was already familiar with black-caps by this time and had picked them in similar sunny places, but the black-caps I picked that day were the best I had ever seen and eaten since. My friend and I picked so many even after gorging ourselves, that we had enough left over to sell to others at nearby Stewart's gas station.

Black-caps grow throughout most of eastern North America. They can be found growing south into Florida, west into the Rocky Mountains and north into Quebec and northern Canada. They are a deciduous shrub that can reach approximately 7 or 8 feet tall with prickly shoots. The leaves are arranged alternately with 3 to 5 leaflets per leaf growing from one place (palmately compound). They are light green on the top, but can be easily identified by their white undersides. Black-caps are often confused with blackberries, which are larger and usually not as sweet. In addition, raspberries can be contrasted to blackberries by their hollow center, whereas blackberries are full throughout. Black-caps differ from red raspberries obviously by their fruit, but also black-caps tend to ripen sooner in the summer, are thornier and have leaves with white undersides. In addition, black-caps have canes that are more arching than red raspberry and the fruit is also seedier, but more aromatic.

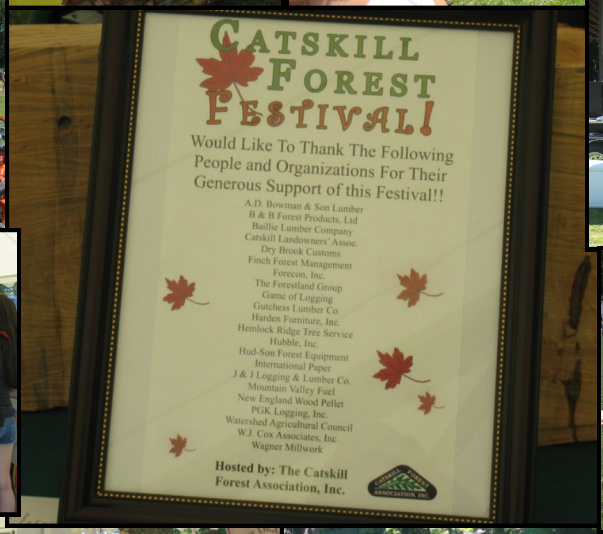
The fruit of black-caps are what really attracts all types of wildlife and humans. Similar to many fruits, it contains vitamins A and C and various minerals. It also contains ellagic acid which according to Ohio State University is potentially cancer preventing.

Black-caps may also have a lot to do with my interest in forestry and forest management today. The black-caps I picked as a 10 year old grew prolifically after a housing development was abandoned. This incidental condition mimics the habitat black-caps prefer. Black-caps require plenty of sunlight. Although some shade does seem to keep them from drying out creating better quality fruit. In forestry, the abandoned housing development mimicked what is known as a *patch clear-cut.* A true clear-cut should not be confused with *land-clearing*. Land-clearing is when trees and shrubs are cleared and are no longer desired into the future. A true clear-cut rarely occurs and is when all vegetation is cleared and ***immediately*** left to grow. In a mature forest, this may be used to start a stand over and perpetuate regeneration of already existing seedlings. In other cases it can be used to perpetuate *shade-intolerant* species, especially ones that provide fruit, for food and cover which can enhance wildlife habitat. In the past, Native Americans provided these conditions by firing the landscape, especially heights of land conducive to burning. Today, conditions mimicking true *clear-cuts* are mostly circumstantial and occur for other purposes than habitat management. Clear-cuts are rare since removing smaller trees and less economical species is expensive and lack markets in our region. Areas where circumstantial clear-cutting occur can be found in power-line corridors, rights-of-ways, abandoned pastures and housing developments, and road-sides.

If you are interested in perpetuating black-caps, sometimes cutting to *illuminate the understory* as previously mentioned can help. Call CFA or a local Forester for advice. Or you can plant black-caps. Planting black-caps for their fruit is a 2 year buy-in since fruit only grows on 2 year old stems. However, nothing in our forest is static and will change without maintenance. Pruning black-caps is a 3 step process. In spring or March, lateral growth stems should be cut back to 8 to 10 inches in length. In early summer (before fruit growth), tipping or heading of the top 2 to 3 inches of new canes or *primocanes* should be practiced. Lastly, after fruit growth, canes that produced fruit should be removed. In this way there is always a perpetual supply of healthy 2nd year old growth ready to provide black-caps each season. Good luck! www.catskillforest.org

A TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL 2nd Annual Catskill Forest Festival Was Held Saturday, July, 30th, 2011!!!

Thanks to all involved—see you next summer!!!



PLANTING YOUR APPLE TREES

Growing up in the mid-Hudson valley, apple orchards were a common and welcomed site. Similar to any agricultural crop, apple farmers tend their crop by site preparation, planting, pruning, thinning, spraying and protecting annually. The *fruits* provided by this labor are many: Humans and wildlife alike. Hudson Valley and Schoharie Valley fresh apples can be purchased and enjoyed far outside the boundaries of the orchards they developed in. Inside the orchards can be seen an array of wildlife (perceived mostly as pests) such as white-tailed deer, woodchuck, songbirds, bear, raccoon, fox, bobcat, coyote, turkey and cottontail rabbit. There are few species of wildlife that do not forage upon the human cultivated fruit.

Outside the realm of the industrial orchards, one can see apple trees just about everywhere that roads go in our region and New York State. Many of these apple trees were planted by our grandfathers and great-grandfather's generation when supermarkets selling out-of-season fruit were not readily accessible. Apples were enjoyed for eating, used in recipes or stored in a root cellar for later use. Some were pressed into sweet cider that had to be consumed shortly. Most cider was usually stored and fermented in wooden barrels to make America's first traditional alcoholic beverage of choice: hard cider or *cider*. *Cider* was not differentiated from *sweet cider* until the temperance movement came into vogue.

Many of these trees are now old and/or neglected from lack of tending and are being crowded out by more shade-tolerant tree species. Lack of sunlight reduces their vigor and soon they succumb to insects and disease. Still, some manage to produce a crop of fruit from time to time. Herd paths from deer, bear and turkeys can be found *bee-lining* towards the sweet fruit. In order to perpetuate this important tree species for future generations of humans and wildlife, apple trees must either be planted or existing ones tended and cared for.

Choosing which apple trees to plant can be more complicated than first thought. There are many types and varieties of trees to choose from. Size and variety of apple trees must be considered. Choosing a properly sized tree may depend upon your objectives and goals, physical restraints of the property, economic feasibility and your time and labor. There are three sizes of apple trees: Standard; semi-dwarf; and dwarf. Standard apple trees are the largest of them all and can grow well over 14 feet. They can produce between 15 and 20 bushels of apples. One bushel of apples equals 2 – 3 gallons of cider! However, they require a minimum of 32 feet between trees and 40 feet between rows. Since they grow tall, they also demand more labor and time which involve longer ladders and tools in order to tend and harvest them. Standard trees also require at least 7 – 10 years before bearing fruit.

On the other hand, semidwarf trees and dwarf

trees require far less space, time and labor. In the space it takes to grow one standard apple tree, 8 – 9 dwarfs or 4 – 5 semi-dwarf trees can be planted. It is recommended that dwarf trees be spaced at least 6 feet apart in rows 12 feet apart. Semi-dwarf can be planted12 – 15 feet apart in rows 15 – 20 feet apart. Tending operations such as pruning are also made easier since most of the work can be done from the ground with hand shears, short poles or a small ladder. Dwarf trees usually grow up to 8 feet and semidwarf 14 feet. Dwarf trees can bear fruit in the second growing season and produce up to 1 bushel (2 – 3 gallons of cider), while semidwarf trees can bear fruit by the third season and produce up to 5 bushels (10 – 15 gallons of cider). Since more trees can fit into a smaller space, greater diversity in varieties of trees can be chosen from. Most apple trees depend upon cross-pollination by bees in order to develop fruit. An assortment of apple varieties on your property will enhance the chances of successful pollination (especially by bees) that will, hopefully, result in more fruit.

Before you decide upon whether you want a standard, semidwarf or dwarf tree you will need to choose from many varieties of apple trees. Some are more adapt to certain conditions than others. The factors that must be considered in your local area are: Climate and weather; growing degree days (minimum amount of heat a plant requires before growth will oc-

cur); elevation; land contours; average minimum temperature zone; soil; exposure to wind; proximity to bodies of water; and insect, disease and wildlife damage.

Different varieties of apple trees fare better or worse under specific conditions. Varieties such as Northern Spy (CFA's Executive Director's favorite) flower in late spring and therefore avoid any late spring frosts which can kill flower and fruit production for that year. Northern Spy is a *hardy* variety since it is adapted to colder average minimum temperatures. Average minimum temperatures for New York State are broken down into zones. The United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed a zone map for New York State. Consulting a USDA hardiness zone map to find where your property lies may help out. However, although zones are used as a reference for propagating vegetation, other factors can greatly influence local conditions. Zones can fluctuate drastically due to elevation differences. For example: average minimum temperatures may vary considerably from Cragsmoor, NY which lies at approximately 1900 feet above sea level compared to Ellenville which lies at approximately 400 feet above sea level.

Contours can also be used as an advantage. Since cold air sinks, apple trees planted in depressions or small valleys may be more susceptible to frost damage, while those on elevated areas can be frost-free. There can be a difference of up to 20° F from valley lands compared to ridges only several miles away. Sites that are unprotected from prevailing winds or that are facing north and west may also suffer from frost damage, limb damage or uprooting. Protection can be offered through choosing a site on the leeward side (side of the mountain facing away from the direction of the wind) of a hill or mountain, or the provision of a windrow or shelterbelt. Shelterbelts can be planted in rows consisting of species such as Norway spruce, white spruce, red spruce, Douglas fir, white fir and balsam fir. Planting on the leeward side of large bodies of water can also benefit plantings such as are used in established wineries. Large bodies of water provide warmth into early winter, while cooler air into early spring. This cooler air in spring helps to delay apple blossoms which prevent frost damage from late spring frosts.

Make sure that your apple trees will be getting plenty of sunlight. No buildings or other trees should be blocking any sunlight. Sunlight is one of the main ingredients in which apple trees produce sweet apples and maintain individual health to ward off insects and disease that may harm them. Apple trees that must be planted near the house should be on the sunny side. This will help increase solar radiation upon your home in the winter time when the apple tree loses its leaves and help cool it in the summer when the leaves are on.

Soils are also important in choosing a site for apple trees. Soils should not be too sandy. Sandy soils are susceptible to rapid moisture loss making water unavailable for roots to uptake. Soils should also not consist of too much clay since they will tend to be poorly drained. Too much water can drown roots. Digging holes 2 feet deep into the soil and observing how water drains or does not drain from them will indicate soil and drainage characteristics. Under ideal circumstances, soil should consist of a deep silt-loam material. There are apple varieties that can tolerate some of the poorer soil conditions.

Soil acidity can also be a factor. Soil acidity is measured on a scale with 7 representing neutral. Values greater than 7 represent alkaline soils, while values less than 7 represent acidic soils. Apple trees, like most trees, prefer slightly acidic soils (pH of 6). Acid testing kits are available from garden supply stores. Acidity can be increased by spreading pine mulch or oak leaves, while alkalinity can be increased by spreading lime. This is usually not a problem in our region.

What is a problem in our region is the level of browse from four legged herbivores such as the white-tailed deer. Deer, like humans and many species of wildlife have a strong desire for the fruits of apple trees. Unlike humans, deer will browse the buds of your apple trees and reduce the chances of a successful crop of fruit. More than likely, browsing will kill your tree. Protection by 5 foot plastic tree shelters is the cheapest method. Another option is to erect an 8 foot fence or **two** 4 foot fences that are 3 or 4 feet apart. If you are planting only a few apple trees, erecting a fence that deer cannot see through may also work. Of course, harvesting deer will also reduce browse pressure while enhancing forest regeneration and providing a local and nutritious source of meat.

After an area has been chosen for apple trees, seedlings should be ordered far in advance so that planting time can be easily scheduled for when they arrive. Planting, protection and pruning procedures will be discussed in future articles. This may seem like a lot to consider, but there are many resources that can help you along the way. Nurserymen should be able to match an apple tree that is well adapted to your area. The Catskill Forest Association, County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and County Cooperative Extension Agencies are also great places to seek advice from.

HARDWOOD KRUMMHOLZ OF THE WESTERN CATSKILLS

By: Dr. Michael Kudish

This article will be printed in two parts. The second part will appear in the 2012, Winter Issue of "CFA NEWS" and will touch on the following topics:

Bog shrub thickets
Ridge hardwoods in the Catskills
Shrubs and ridge hardwoods in Canada
Boreal ground cover under ridge hardwoods

The hardwood forests (deciduous, broad-leaved trees) of the Catskill Mountains

NO SPRUCE-FIR THEN, NO SPRUCE-FIR NOW

The high-elevation ridgelines of the western Catskills, above about 3200 feet, are covered at present by all-hardwood forests – mainly yellow birch, red maple, beech, and black cherry. I call these forests ridge hardwoods, not northern hardwoods, because of the conspicuous absence, or near-absence, of sugar maple. These ridgelines include Dry Brook Ridge, Mill Brook Ridge, and most of the Beaverkill Range. They include the highlands between the East and West Branches of the Delaware River, e.g., Plattekill Mountain, Mount Pisgah, and the Moresville Range to Utsayantha. They include the highlands between the East Branch Delaware River and Schoharie Creek, e.g. Halcott, Vly, Bearpen, Round Top, and Shultice Mountains.

Red spruce and balsam fir, common along the high ridgelines in the eastern Catskills, are totally lacking. This writer had assumed for a period of nearly forty years that these conifers once dominated the western ridgelines for a few thousand years following deglaciation, but had, over time, disappeared.

This assumption is proving to be in error. No spruce, and only two questionable fir, fossils have been found from any of the bogs up to 13000 years old in the western Catskills. Either the spruce and fir migrated in from Pennsylvania and out to the north in great haste, or they came in such limited numbers that hardly a trace was left behind.

The distribution of balsam fir in the East Branch of the Delaware Valley from roughly 13000 to 10000 years ago might have been like its distribution today from Winnisook Lake down the East Branch Neversink Valley to Claryville: widely scattered trees or trees in isolated small groves. Another area today with such limited fir populations is in the upper Beaverkill Valley from Balsam Lake east to Tunis Pond.

Unlike in the Adirondacks and northern New England mountains, balsam fir did not migrate into the Catskills everywhere as a nearly continuous population.

The following topics are arranged as a possible chronological sequence of events following the melting of the Wisconsinan Ice Sheet. The sequence reflects this writer's current thinking, but because the rate of new evidence comes in so rapidly, some of these ideas may be obsolete next year.

ARCTIC-ALPINE ZONE

I have not found any fossil evidence yet that an arctic-alpine vegetation zone existed in the Catskills. The only evidence I have is about a half-dozen existing populations of the three-toothed conquefoil, *Potentilla tridentata,* and surviving probably as relicts. Most of these populations occur on exposed bedrock ledges where forest has most likely never been able to invade, because of a lack of glacial till and any soil derived from it, since deglaciation. The only location for the cinquefoil in the western Catskills, where spruce and fir are absent, is at Penguin Rocks on Dry Brook Ridge. In the eastern Catskills where there is spruce and fir today, several three-toothed cinquefoil locations are scattered along the Escarpment from the Catskill Mountain House site to North Point. There are also locations on Overlook Mountain, Little Rocky (just west of Olderbark Mountain), Shokan High Point, and Mombaccus Mountain.

In addition, there is one station for the arctic-alpine mountain sandwort, *Arenaria (*now *Minuartia*) *groenlandica,* in the eastern Catskills at Albany Point on the Escarpment, growing along with the three-toothed cinquefoil.

HARDWOOD *KRUMMHOLZ* (I. E. SHRUB THICKETS)

Shrub thickets in the higher elevations of the Catskills.

If the high ridgelines of the western Catskills were not covered postglacially with a boreal spruce-fir or fir forest, then what were they covered with? My first hypothesis was that the earliest vegetation, following a likely arctic-alpine period, was composed of ridge hardwoods – the same as it is today. But there are some problems with this hypothesis; it cannot explain the existing presence of shrub thickets (which I prefer to call hardwood ***krummholz***); these are very localized on both (1) some exceedingly well-drained exposed ledges, and (2) in some bogs and fens.

It then occurred to me that perhaps the first vegetation following arctic-alpine tundra to clothe the ridgelines of the western Catskills was NOT ridge hardwoods, but a dense, nearly impenetrable thicket of shrubs and small trees. These woody plants would have been abundant throughout the region, not localized as they are today.

Krummholz is a vegetational term used primarily to describe the crooked wood, or stunted forest, of fir and/or spruce at timberline. In the Adirondacks, in the mountains of northern New England, and northward into Canada, the upper limit of the balsam fir forest, just below timberline and alpine tundra, consists today of nearly impenetrable thickets. We call it krummholz.

The hardwood krummholz species in the Catskills might have included mountain ash, mountain maple, red (fire or pin) cherry, wild raisin, mountain holly *(Nemopanthus),* winterberry holly, beaked hazelnut, bush honeysuckle, Bartram's juneberry, black chokeberry, two species of low blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. myrtilloides),* choke cherry, skunk currant, and dwarf cornel (bunchberry). All of these are shade intolerant except perhaps the last three.

There is good reason to suspect that hardwood krummholz once covered the entire western Catskills ridgelines like a blanket. In several places today hardwood krummholz still persists as remnant vegetation on sites that are either too dry or too wet for ridge hardwood trees to dominate – in other words, on those sites creating the worst growing conditions – exposed ledges and bogs. It would have been difficult for these shrubs to arrive WITH the ridge hardwoods, and very difficult to arrive after.

EXPOSED LEDGE SHRUB THICKETS

These exceedingly dry sites are around open, sunny, exposed bedrock ledges with only a thin veneer of glacial till deposited upon them – or none at all. The resulting soils hold little water and create frequent drought conditions. Shrubs can usually survive droughts better than the more water-demanding larger ridge hardwood trees.

Prime examples of remnant, i.e. relict, shrub thickets in the western Catskills can be found presently at:

(a) atop Penguin Rocks along Dry Brook Ridge;

(b) the very summit of Mill Brook Ridge (3480 feet) and down its ridgline westward to about the 3300-foot level;

(c) the northwest spur of Woodpecker Ridge, along the Mill Brook Ridge Trail at, and just below, the Beecher Lake vista; and -

(d) the crest of Graham Mountain south of the summit down to about the 3600-foot level.

In the eastern Catskills, there is additional hardwood krummholz within the range of balsam fir. Such krummholz is not restricted, therefore, to the western Catskills where the conifer is absent. Hardwood krummholz can be found on Big Indian, Slide, Southeast Twin, Sugarloaf, Stick, and Blackhead Mountains, for example. The thickets are not necessarily on the summits, but more commonly on steep, bouldery, open shoulders, ledges, and talus slopes.

On these exceedingly dry sites, balsam fir persist today also as remnant populations, in addition to the hardwood krummholz. On sites that are exceedingly wet (see the description of bogs in the next group of paragraphs), the vegetation is remarkably similar, i.e. either hardwood krummholz or balsam fir groves or both. These too-dry and too-wet are sites that ridge hardwoods could never conquer (see the essay *The Firless Summit of Graham Mountain* in the *Catskill Forest Association News,* Spring 2011).

Shrub thickets are today in the western Catskills where fir would have been as remnants had it been here.

In the eastern Catskills, red spruce may also mix in with the balsam fir and hardwood krummholz on some of the mountains. Hardwood krummholz may be almost as good peeks into the past as bogs are! ***(To be continued in the next issue!)***

"Cranberry Sauces"

Believe it or not, cranberries do grow in some places in our region. Combine this tart fruit with the sweet taste of maple and you've got a hit!

1) Maple-Cranberry Sauce

Recipe from *Vermont Localvore Recipe*

12 ounces fresh cranberries
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup maple syrup (or more)
2 tablespoons minced fresh rosemary if you have it (don't use dried)

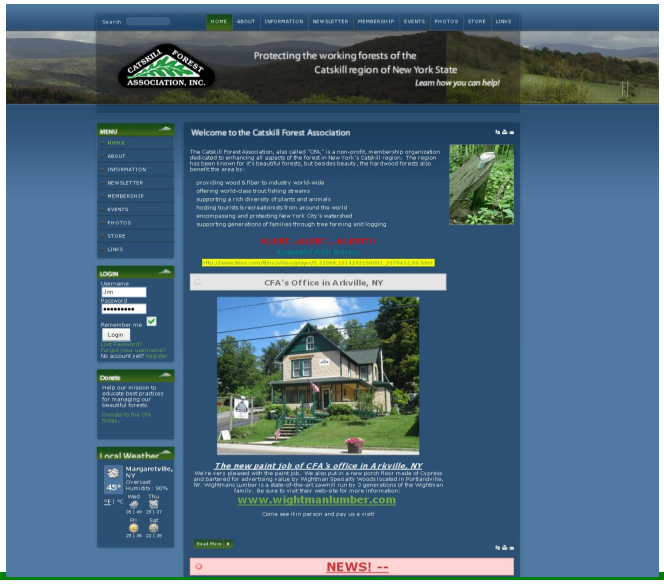
Bring the cranberries, water, maple syrup, and minced rosemary to a boil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Reduce the heat and simmer for one minute. (Some berries will have popped and some will remain whole.) Remove from the heat, cover, and let stand until cooled. Put it into the serving bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. This is a great dish to make ahead of time, say on a Sunday before Thanksgiving, and it is one less thing you need to worry about on Thanksgiving day.

2) Cranberry Sauce (brown sugar)

Recipe from *Before & After TV*

3 cups cranberries (frozen is fine)
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup port wine
1/2 lemon

Rinse cranberries and then put them in a saucepan. Add the rest of the ingredients (except the lemon) and bring heat to medium-high while stirring constantly. Continue to stir until the sauce becomes viscous or gelatinous. (It's really up to you how far you take it.) Reduce the heat and transfer to a bowl. Add freshly squeezed lemon juice on top of sauce (do not stir in) and refrigerate overnight. That's it!



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.