

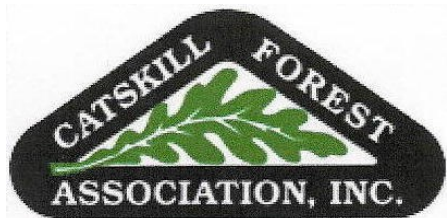
CFA News

The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 26, Number 1 - Winter 2008



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Jude Zicot Tribute
Forestry Awareness Day
2008 Calendar of Events
1st of a Series on Maple Sugaring
Sullivan County Planners Workshop
Mike's Corner - A Forest Historian**



CFA News
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Subscriptions: *CFA News* is mailed quarterly to members of the Catskill Forest Association. If you are interested in joining CFA, give us a call or visit our office. Contact information is located above. Please submit address changes to Michele at the address above.

Cover Photo:

-- Ryan Trapani -- "The two that got away!"

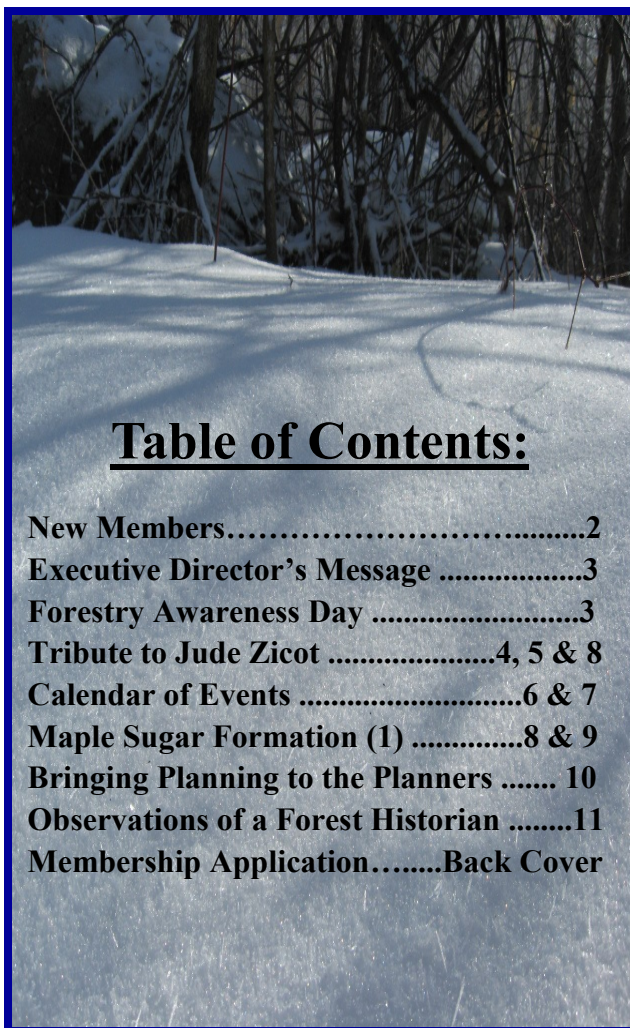


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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

2007

October

James Bacon – Downsville
Tom Armstrong – Andes
Greg Starheim – Gilboa

November

Jerome & Beverly Dally – Olive
Robert Taylor – Blenheim
Thomas Wiacek – Tillson

2008

January

Metnick Law Office - Margaretville
Lauren Davis – Margaretville
Timothy Knotts - Roxbury
John Duncan Monroe & Family – Andes
Anthony Ix - Margaretville

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Well, winter is definitely here! And it's a beautiful one at that. Be sure to take the time to observe the beauty around you. Don't let this opportunity slip by. Those that live in the southern regions of our country only get to experience the winter beauty on post cards! We get to enjoy all four of the seasons and very few catastrophic events. We should be counting our blessings instead of cursing the ice and cold.

Unfortunately I have some very tragic news to tell you. A forester, one that worked for CFA just out of school, board member and a good friend to all of us passed away in a horrible forestry accident. Jude Zicot was also a forester to some of you. He was just 35 years of age, was growing a successful business, married to a lovely person and raising a wonderful family. Please take the time to read the tribute in this newsletter and if you can find it in your heart, make a contribution to the Zicot Fund by sending a check to CFA designated for Zicots. (No administrative costs will be deducted. The family will receive all of the funds.) CFA will be hosting an annual workshop each year for foresters in remembrance of Jude. Registration fees will go to the family. The first of these will help

foresters understand the importance of insurance and how much is enough.

In this issue there are two additions. One, a series for our maple syrup producers and another called "Mike's Corner" written by Professor Michael Kudish. Dr. Kudish taught at Paul Smith's College and has made the Catskill region's natural history his pet project.

Be sure to join us for Forestry Awareness Day on March 10th! (You must pre-register by March 3rd.) It's a lot of fun and is a comfortable way to meet your legislators and others like yourselves. Check out all the events and workshops planned for 2008 -- we'd like to see you there!

Naturally,

Jim Waters

FORESTRY AWARENESS DAY

March 10, 2008

**Legislative Office Building (LOB) of the Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY**

Who attends Forestry Awareness Day???

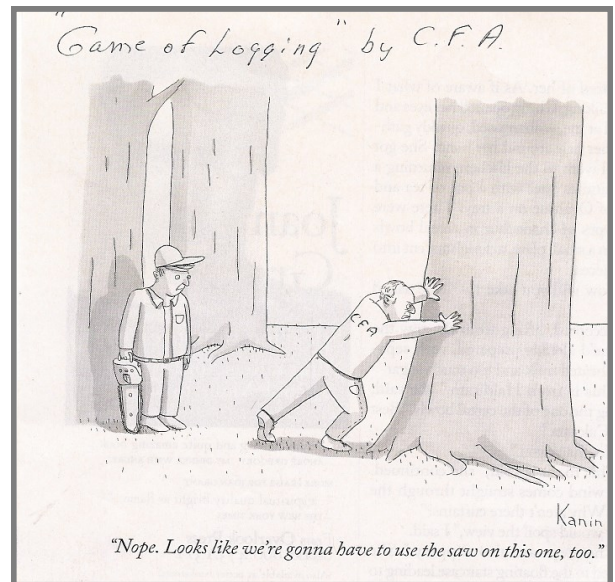
Landowners concerned about property taxes, foresters concerned about forest health, loggers concerned about local regulations and emerging biofuel markets, sawmill managers concerned about energy costs and remaining competitive, forest industry workers concerned about keeping their jobs in rural areas of upstate, students concerned about climate change and how managed forests are part of the solutions, environmentalists concerned about forests being broken up into housing tracts, government agencies concerned about water quality and invasive pests and plants, educators concerned that legislators and the general public are not getting the facts on how healthy forests benefit all New Yorkers.

The day starts out with an issue briefing to prepare you for legislative visits. Participants sign up for pre-arranged visits with representatives in groups of five. The afternoon session is designed to give examples of how this dialogue with legislators can be continued throughout the year.

It ends with a legislative reception on the 3rd floor terrace. Of the LOB.

Registration is free for all of CFA's members, but it is still necessary to register. This can be done by calling Michele at CFA's office (845) 586-3054. Registration must be done by March 3, 2008.

We can carpool. Due to heightened security, please bring photo identification with you. Also, do not bring anything that would not be allowed on an airplane.



**5-foot TREE TUBES available
for only \$2.00 each --**



While Inventory Lasts!

Provide shelter from deer and lawn-mowers, in addition to speeding up growth. You can pick-up your tree shelters at our office.



Jude Zicot — Teaching at one of CFA's "Crop Tree Management" Courses.

Jude was hired by CFA when he graduated from SUNY ESF in 1997. He was hired on as the Natural Resource Specialist and worked for CFA for about 3 years. His responsibilities included the firewood program, coordinating "The Game of Logging™", visiting private landowners to encourage and offer guidance in their forestry activities, workshops, woodswalks, helping with the newsletter, and the development of "The Forestry Institute for Teachers".

He decided to launch his own consulting forestry business and "retired" from our not-for-profit organization. After leaving CFA he remained an active member throughout his career. Jude became a member of our Board of Directors in 2006. His help and guidance was very much welcomed and his friendship held dear. He was kind-spirited and quiet. He had a very unique sense of humor and had a smile that would melt steel. When he spoke up, all listened and took his comments very seriously. (When Jude was serious - all listened!) Many of his ideas have been implemented and will live on in our organization. Our friend was a generous person and volunteered for many of our organization's tasks without expecting pay.

Most recently he was helping with the training of CFA's new education forester, Ryan Trapani. Ryan wrote, "The last time I was with Jude we were marking timber in Sullivan County. He was teaching me how to mark.... Mostly we joked around, and he talked about his family. He was always talking about his family. He **really loved** his family...."

Ryan & I will never forget that afternoon call just one week after Thanksgiving when we were told of his untimely passing in a tree-felling incident. We knew Jude as a very safe worker. He always wore the proper gear, always looked around and always was cautious. He took all of the levels of "The Game of Logging™" and even trained others. This is a dangerous and unthankful job -- TSI and tree harvesting.

We drove to the site immediately and the rescue workers and police had just left. It was very quiet and eerily still.... quiet, just after a night and early morning of incredibly stormy weather. We collected Jude's belongings and his pickup and made that long trip to his home. It was dark when we arrived and there were several cars in the driveway. Thankfully, friends and family were there to give Jude's wife, Jenny, and their three young children support. We will NEVER EVER forget the look on their faces and the anguish and shock that we were all feeling. How could

this have happened?.....Did it really happen?.....reality sets in.....What do we do?.....How should we act?.....How can we help?..... It was a silent and even longer drive home and the questions will never fully be answered.

We are all better for knowing him.....his friends at CFA will miss him dearly. But, his memory will carry on for times to come. CFA will be holding annual forester training workshops in his memory. Any proceeds from those workshops will be donated to the Zicot Fund.

— *Jim Waters* .

"The family is what really counts."



Jim, Ryan and Michele,

Though I spend my hours reflecting I have not been able to express the gratitude I have felt for you and many others until recently. I have been slowly contacting all the beautiful individuals who have had a role in helping my children and me. I say slowly, because I want to justly express how your sweet compassion helped to sustain and nourish us.

Jim and Ryan, it seems eons ago the day both of you stepped into our house to deliver Jude's belongings. It's strange but during those incomprehensible moments of when I was learning of Jude's death I caught a glimpse of your expressive faces and knew you felt a deep sadness too. With my whole heart I am so thankful Jude had the opportunity to work along side you and that our paths met. Your compassion, generosity and willingness to trudge through all of Jude's files so I may receive compensation by means of a finders fee was more than I could have imagined.

Thank you seems too small a phrase. I will forever remember the kindness you have shown my children and me.

Fondly, Jennifer Zicot

By Ryan Trapani:

I sorely miss Jude. I had only known him for a short time & I trained with him during the weekends conducting TSI and tree work in and around the Catskills. He was fun to watch, careful, accurate, patient and smooth with the chainsaw. He got me out of a pinch many times. Jude had a great sense of humor and we laughed a lot between empty tanks of gasoline back at the ATV filling station. I realized I looked up to him tremendously after he was already gone. He taught me so much, and I felt I had so much to look forward to in our friendship.

The last time I worked with Jude was the first cold day in the fall about a week before Thanksgiving. My hands were freezing, and Jude's sock kept falling down causing one foot to freeze.

continued on page 8.....

.....continued from page 5

Jude and I found this poem when our love was new. I think we both knew that we were destined to become soul mates, we had never laughed so much, talked so much and felt so much passion until our paths met. Jude whispered the first two lines of the poem to me the night he proposed, I saved it in our wedding album, we read it throughout our years together and sadly it became part of Jude's eulogy. Our time together was extraordinarily poetic, but similarly our time was beautifully ordinary. I miss my Jude so much.

Jude was my wonderful husband, best friend and hero; the cherished daddy of our children, Juliette (6 years), Jacob (20 months) and Kathryn (5 months); and a friend to all who came in contact with him. He was a rare individual whose kindness made our life beautiful.

Jude once told me that as a child a priest had referred to him a humble individual. Jude was truly a humble man who worked hard and always put his family first. As a hard worker he always made time for his children whether it was a piggyback ride after a long day in the woods or a trip camping to Cape Cod. We loved each other beyond words, as Juliette would say, "I love you more than infinity." I will miss those ordinary moments infinitely.

Jude enjoyed the forest and all its beauty. He would come home excited about new discoveries, animals spotted and the plants he encountered, especially if it happened to be a pink lady slipper. We would often take drives to some of the remote areas he worked, so we could share his enthusiasm and like explorers we hiked the mountains of those places. I will miss his wealth of knowledge about nature and our adventures.

Jude Jason Zicot was a true hero in our eyes, because of his love for us and what he taught us to value in life. I will miss Jude eternally, but he will be alive in our hearts forever and I shall be forever changed from being a part of him.

Jennifer Zicot



**I saw the tracks of angels in the earth,
The beauty of heaven walking by itself on the world.
Joke or sorrow now, it seems a dream
Shadow, or smoke.**

**I saw a kind of rain that made the sun ashamed,
And heard her, speaking sad words, make mountains
Shift, the rivers stop.**

**Love, wisdom, valor, pity, pain,
Made better harmony with weeping
Than any other likely to be heard in the world.**

**And the air and the wind were so filled with this
deep music
No single leaf moved on its still branch.**

PETRARCH (1304-1374)

Calendar of Events For 2008



(February 9th, 11:00am-11:50pm): Sugarbush Management Workshop by CFA @ Schoharie Cornell Cooperative Extension — Maple syrup producers depend upon their trees for yielding sweet sap. Come and learn how to manage your forest for sustained yields of sweet sap and a healthier sugarbush. Hosted by the Schoharie Cornell Cooperative Extension. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(February 16th, 9am-12pm): Backyard Sugaring Workshop @ CFA Office — Learn how to make maple syrup this year in your own backyard before the sap starts to flow. Meet at our office or to pre-register and for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(February 23rd, 10am-1pm): Primitive Skills Training Workshop by CFA @ NY Power Authority — The skills training will be held at the New York Power Authority co-sponsored by the Catskill Forest Association. Topics will cover important life-saving survival skills in a winter environment such as primitive fire-starting and shelter building. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(March 6th, 10:30am-3:30pm): CFA @ Agricultural Day Workshop and Trade Show — Hosted by the Sullivan County Cooperative Extension and held at the Youth Center in Callicoon, NY. The theme will be alternative energy on the farm. Over 20 vendors will be available. For more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(March 8th, 9am-12pm): Indoor Tree Planting Workshop @ CFA Office — Tree planting season and ordering is in full swing. Find out the corner. Find out what, where, when, and how to plant trees the correct way. Ordering information and forms will also be available. Meet at our office or to pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(March 10th, 9:00am-7:30pm): Join CFA at Forestry Awareness Day -- an opportunity to tell key audiences about challenges and successes in practicing and promoting sustainable forestry. The message – healthy forests through wise use of the sustainable resource – is strengthened by cooperating and interacting with many diverse organizations that share this goal. Legislative Office Building (LOB) of the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York.



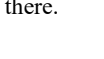
(March 15th/16th & 22nd/23rd, 10am-2pm): Maple sugaring made simple Workshops (Maple Weekends) — Do you want to make your own maple syrup? Join CFA outside our office where we will demonstrate the *entire process* for the small scale producer. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(April 19th, 9am-12pm): Outdoor Tree Planting Workshop — Come along outside and learn how to plant trees properly. A tree planted correctly will help benefit you and our community for many years. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(May 17th, 9am-12pm): Firewood/Wood Furnace Workshop (*Mountain Flame, Central Boiler & Hawken Catskills*) — The winter is over, but it will return. Be prepared and harvest or purchase your firewood now so that it will be properly seasoned and ready to go. We will cover harvesting techniques, species ratings, transportation, processing, and heating techniques with firewood. Outdoor wood furnace & fireplace distributors will also be available for information and advice. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(May 24th, 9am-3pm): Fleischmanns Fair, Fleischmanns Museum & Library — Fair/Festival. CFA will be there.



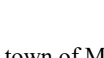
(May 25th, 10am-5pm): Hanford Mills ("Saw-It-Day") — Explore over 200 years of sawing & lumber history and how it comes to life - human-powered pit sawing, a water-powered circular sawmill, and a modern gasoline-powered portable band saw will be in operation. Watch demonstrations, explore the forest, enjoy traditional music and a variety of family activities. For more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(May 31st, 9am-12pm): Woodlot Management Workshop Hanford Mills — Learn the basics about managing your woodlot. Topics will include tree identification, basic steps in forest management, forest health, and tree selection for enhanced growth. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(June 7th, 9am-12pm): Orienteering Workshop — Geographic Position Systems (GPS) are expensive and can be unreliable. The hand-compass is a proven technology that is thousands of years old. When learned it is extremely accurate, self-sufficient and a fun way to navigate yourself near and far. Learn this ancient skill for yourself. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(June 14th/15th, 10am-5pm): CFA @ Meredith Dairy Festival — CFA will be attending the Festival located in the town of Meredith and passing out forestry information. CFA will also be giving tree identification walks nearby each day. Learn some of the names of our trees and how to identify them. For more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.

(July 12th, 9am-12pm): Pond Management Workshop — Thinking about building your own pond? Join CFA and

learn from another property owner about how they built their ponds. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(July 19th): **Deposit Lumberjack Festival** — Festival/Fair



(July 26th, 9am-12pm): **Log-Home Building Workshop** — Did you ever want to know how a log home is built? Come and see for yourself how one Forest Landowner is using locally grown logs to build his house. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(August 8th, 9am-12pm): **Forest Management Woodswalk** — See how one private landowner manages their property. Topics will include crop tree management, tree planting, and firewood removal. Also, see how you can make your own lumber from the forest you manage. An on-site demonstration of a portable woodmizer will be included at the end of the walk. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.

(August 5th–8th): **Northeastern Teachers Forestry Tour** — Teacher Education — Teachers — Call us now to see how you might take part! (845) 586-3054.



(August 12th–16th): **CFA @ Delaware County Fair** — Festival/Fair

(August 15th–17th): **CFA @ Grahamsville Fair** — Festival/Fair



(August 23rd): **CFA @ Margaretville Street Fair** — Festival/Fair

(August 23rd): **CFA @ Huckleberry Festival in Wawarsing** — Festival/Fair



(September 6th, 9am-12pm): **Wildlife Management Workshop** — Learn about the diverse types of habitat wildlife. Join CFA at one of our member's property and see how they manage for wildlife. To pre-register or for more information give us a call @ (845) 586-3054.



(August 27th): **CFA @ Cauliflower Festival in Margaretville** — Festival/Fair



(September 13th): **CFA's Annual Meeting & Woodsman's Competition** (TBA)



(October 4th, 10am-12pm): **Apple Tree Pruning and Cider Making** — Pruning dead and dying limbs can help more efficiently allocate the sun's energy to growing a healthier fruit-bearing organism... and tasty apples! The first half will cover pruning, while in the second half we will reap the benefits of our pruning by enjoying a refreshing drink of freshly made apple cider!



Check out our website at www.catskillforest.org for a current listing of the 2008 Events!



We joked about the stages of cold our extremities were experiencing and finally agreed it was time to quit. On our way back to our vehicle Jude stopped in a mature Norway Spruce stand and told me how much he liked that place. There was something about that section of forest he just liked. Jude loved working in the forest. Though once we were back at the vehicle, the boots would come off, and the slip-on shoes would appear. I could tell he was always eager to get back to his family. Before leaving that day, we both stood over an old cemetery near where we had parked the vehicle. We were both nostalgic about those who had spent their lives up there making a living, and remarked how young some of them were when they had passed on. Who were they? What did they do? Jude said that he had wanted to mend the fence of the cemetery.

Jude didn't get a chance to mend that fence, but he left behind so much more than that cemetery. He will be missed. Jude left behind his wonderful family, many friends, and a forest of trees, all of which are healthier growing because he had belonged to them. His generosity and friendship will be remembered for many years, and I am better for knowing him. I need not look toward that cemetery to see who Jude was, but instead to his family, friends, and the forest he had all loved and cherished to know him better, and to know him still. I hope others can be as nostalgic about my life, as I am of his. So long Jude.....



mountain maple, striped maple, silver maple, boxelder, Norway maple, and black maple. Black maple is tapped identically as sugar maple, but is rarer. Red maple is usually tapped by large producers, but has only 0.5-1.0% sugar content.

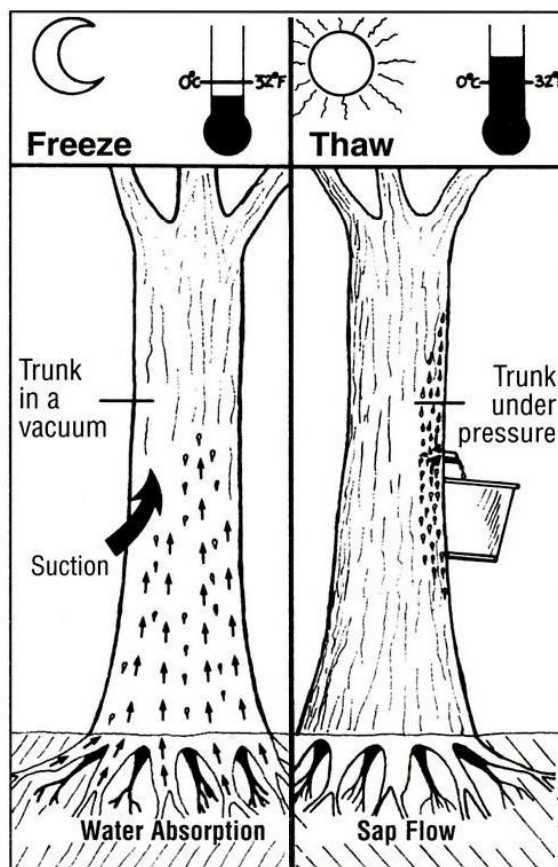
The process of sugar formation, and sap flow is mysterious to many, complicated to those who study it, and *magical* to those who harvest it. Unlike other crops that are harvested in summer and fall, this one is in the late winter and early spring. But its beginnings are during the summer months through a process called photosynthesis. The ingredients in the process include carbon dioxide, sunlight, sap, and chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is a green pigment found in leaves that captures this energy. The energy produced is starch. The starch in the sap is used for tree growth, vigor and health. We may think that sugar maple produces this sap for our kitchen tables, but really it is for survival. The average spring sap harvest uses ap-

Article 1: Sugar Formation & the Root of Sap Flow

This is part of a series of articles that will be dedicated to informing and educating local Sugarmakers of the Catskills. Local Sugarmakers consist of both commercial and backyard producers. Topics that will be included in this series include Factors that Affect Sap Flow, Healthy and Productive Tapping Techniques, Stand Structure, Species Composition of Maple Stands, Stand Tending, and other tricks of the trade. Stay tuned!

Maple syrup is a fine product. Its taste is interesting, and its color resembles that of gold. While many use it only on pancakes, historically it was used as the primary ingredient in many cooking recipes. Cheap transportation costs helped open the flood gates of sugar cane onto our sweetener markets. First written mention of maple sap was in 1634, although they had been making the concoction much earlier. Unlike sugar cane, maple syrup is a source that does not come from an annual crop harvested in a field, but instead from a perennial. This perennial is of course a tree called sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) that can be found growing behind our houses or deep in the forest. We don't often look at trees for our food source, but maybe we should. Because sugar maple can live up to 400 years, there is plenty to learn about this wonderful tree. Unlike annual crops like corn and potatoes, the current treatments on this long living tree can have lasting effects. Growth, vigor, health, and ultimately sap production may be impacted far into the future. Sugar maple is tapped because of its high sugar content which averages between 2-3%. Seven other maples exist in our region including red or soft maple,

Figure 1 Sap Flow Mechanism



proximately 5% of the tree's food reserves. A healthy and properly managed crop tree should not have any problems supplying this on a sustainable basis.

As temperatures begin to cool from September to December, the starch is converted to sucrose, raffinose, and stachyose. Also included in the sap are minerals, peptides and amino acids. The conversion helps the wood cells cope with below freezing temperatures during the winter.

Many producers often wonder when it is that the sap will be flowing in their sugarbushes so that they can tap into the surplus storage of sucrose. The conductor behind the musical sound of drops falling into the buckets is the weather as well as other environmental factors.

The mechanism occurs in a 2-step process. When the temperature falls below freezing, the sap rises to the top of the tree and into the crown creating air bubbles in the wood fibers simultaneously. Some believe this is because the tips of the branches are most susceptible to freezing. Similarly, humans pump blood to their extremities in order to ward off frost bite! As the temperatures begin to climb above freezing, the sap accelerates downward because of gravity and the utilization of the compressed air bubbles. This process results in a higher pressure inside the tree than outside. Taps or spiles benefit from this temperature fluctuation because they are tapping into a liquid that is under pressure. See *Figure 1*. Vacuum technology builds off of this principal, but takes it another step. A Vacuum hooked up to a tube system cre-



ates an outside environment that has even lower pressure than before, so that the high inside pressure flows out more readily.

Temperatures that fall below 30°F during the night and rise above 36°F during the day create the greatest amount of pressure differential that lead to sap flow. When temperatures begin to fall outside of this range, sap will begin to stop flowing. Other factors include the conversion of sucrose back to starch and other complex sugars. This product is known as “buddy sap” -- probably because it occurs around the same time as when the buds swell and produce the new tree growth. The conversion occurs because the tree no longer needs to protect wood fibers from the cold. Callous formations around tap holes will also slow sap flow as the season progresses. There is still a lot that we do not know or understand about this ancient process. In the mean-time, pay attention to the weather. It will bring the first drop.

Information provided by *Syndicat des producteurs de bois de la Beauce & Cornell University*.



CFA Brings Forestry to Sullivan County Planners

On Saturday, January 26th CFA gave a presentation on *The Benefits of Forestry & Municipal Planning* at the Town of Lumberland Town Hall located in the hamlet of Glen Spey, Sullivan County. In attendance were 31 officials from local towns throughout the county. The event was directed by the Sullivan County *Division of Planning & Economic Development*.

The 1st Part of the presentation covered a wide range of topics including:

1. Forest History;
2. Benefits of Forestry: water quality, air quality, recreational benefits, habitat & biodiversity, forest health, and economic benefits; and
3. Challenges Forest Landowners Face.

The 2nd Part covered topics that encourage the practice of Forestry for Town & Municipal Planners in Sullivan County. Topics focused heavily on writing comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, since most of the land base is privately owned. Examples of poor and well written forestry-related zoning ordinances were compared and contrasted in detail.

In all, the focus of the presentation was to encourage the practice of Forestry in Sullivan County which is 78% forested -- 90% of which is privately owned. The future health of this county's forests, as well as many others, will rely upon how the Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowner will manage their properties.

Sullivan County and the Catskill Region are blessed with a tremendous renewable forest resource. Our forests can potentially provide a renewable resource for environmental quality

A packed room of Sullivan County and Town Planners at the Lumberland Town Hall. Ryan is pointing out how planning efforts can help the forest or harm it.

and economic prosperity if managed sustainably. CFA would like to thank the Sullivan County *Division of Planning & Economic Development* for allowing CFA to inform its Town Planners about enhancing this important resource. Thank you!



Jim discussing planning issues and outside wood boilers technology with a Sullivan County Planner and Bert Tobin from HawkinCatskills, a firm that produces an outside wood boiler that utilizes a catalytic converter.



Introduction to Mike's Corner: Observations by a Forest Historian

When CFA Executive Director Jim Waters suggested that I write a column about my recent observations made in the field for the *CFA News*, I greatly welcomed the opportunity. A forest historian may make observations which other foresters and visitors to the woods may not – observations on features which have developed over long periods of time, e.g. over centuries or millennia.

This forest historian's research and dissertation from the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) began, rather than ended, a life-long study on the history of Catskills forests. The Catskills were chosen for two reasons: (1) Many fellow ESF graduate students were working on the Adirondacks, and (2) no one had done an extensive study on the forest history of the Catskills.

In the Adirondacks, nearly all forested summits of the High Peaks, those without an alpine zone, have very similar and predictable forests of red spruce, balsam fir, paper birch, and occasionally mountain ash. In the Catskills in sharp contrast, many summits over 3000 feet elevation have strikingly different and unpredictable (until one climbed them) forests, ranging from northern hardwoods, ridge hardwoods (my term for northern hardwoods without sugar maple), fir-ridge hardwoods, spruce-fir-ridge hardwoods, and oak. Why?

During my 34 years of teaching forestry courses at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks, I would most years spend one or two months in the Catskills trying to solve this nagging puzzle. I still am and will be for many years to come partly because of the overwhelming complexity: one must become familiar with the biology of each plant species and how each relates to the other, just like knowing the personalities of your friends and family members.

Until 1994, I believed that I could go back in time only 300 or 400 years, the maximum age of the oldest living trees (using ring counts), and also the maximum age of the written descriptions of the earliest settlers and explorers of European ancestry.

In 1994, I learned that by removing plant macrofossil fragments (leaves, needles, wood, bark, twigs, roots, fruits, seeds, etc.) preserved in peat bogs and fens, I could look further and further back in time – to the end of the Ice Age some 14000 years ago. The plant fossils have to be identified under

the microscope and the rest of the peat sent to the radiocarbon-dating laboratory.

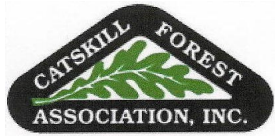
Retiring from Paul Smith's in 2005 has enabled me to settle in the Catskills and continue the study in reconstructing the history of Catskills forests at an unprecedented rate.

Mike Kudish



Pictures taken by Ryan on Superbowl Sunday on a local group's annual hike up Balsam Lake Mountain. (Does that give you a hint of what species tree that is above?)





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

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.