

CFA News

The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 24, Number 3 - Summer 2006



June 16th Caterpillar Killers? Workshop at Belleayre Mountain



Inside This Issue

June Flooding
Up-Coming Workshops
Friday Forest Tours
Hogweed & Parsnip
Chinese Delegation



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Editor: Thomas Foulkrod
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Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
42838 State Highway 28; Suite 1
PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406-0336
(845) 586-3054
(845) 586-4071 (Fax)
www.catskillforest.org
cfa@catskill.net

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Thomas Foulkrod, Natural Resource Specialist

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

An audience of nearly 100 people gathers at the *Caterpillar Killers?* Workshop on June 16th at Belleayre Mountain. Photo by Michele Fucci. More on page 9.
Stream crossing of State Route 10 South of Delhi absolutely destroyed following the June 29th flooding. Photo contributed by Ben Peters. More on page 3.

Table of Contents:

On-Site Visit Rates Change	2
Widespread Flooding in Region	3
Executive Director Message	4
Up-Coming Event	4
Quilt & Chinese Delegation	5
Calendar of Events	6
Events (continued)	7
Striped Maple	8
<i>Caterpillar Killers?</i> Workshop	9
Giant Hogweed & Wild Parsnip	10
CFA "Envirobits"	11
New Members	11
Membership Application....	Back Cover

ON-SITE VISIT RATE CHANGE

To address increasing travel costs, we have had to raise the rates for our on-site visits. A half day visit for members now costs \$100, and for non-members the cost will now be \$200. If you or a neighbor live within the NYC Wa-



tershed boundaries, the Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council continues to offer funding so that your first visit with us is free. Call us for details.

The best advantage you can have in forest management is the visit program. Jim & Tom walk the property with you providing education on forest management as well as providing fair and impartial forestland advice. We help you to decide on your goals and take pride in recommending reliable contractors that will help you meet your goals.

On-site visits help you get the most out of your property, BUT they benefit CFA's staff too. While teaching, we are also learning from you and the activities and experiences that you share from your land. Being there for you, keeps us aware of the daily and dynamic issues our landowners face.

WIDESPREAD FLOODING IN REGION



While impassable to vehicle traffic, roads like this in the town of Masonville were not as staggering as the damage suffered in Walton, Unadilla, Sidney, and Afton to name a few. The Susquehanna River broke all time highs from 1914 and 1936. Below, is the Bainbridge bridge over the Susquehanna viewed from I88.

Photos thanks to Ben Peters.



As many of you are all too aware, heavy rainfall the last week of June had catastrophic affect in the Catskills. If you have not done so already, make sure you assess any property or road damage you sustained. Be aware that DEADLINES are fast approaching...

Twelve counties in New York received a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, and 17 additional counties were designated Contiguous Counties. Major disaster counties included Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster; Greene County was designated contiguous.

Denise Sheehan, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) issued a general permit for disaster counties of the Catskills. However, this permit still requires an onsite visit and issuance by either DEC permit staff or habitat (fisheries) staff. People will need to show a permit to get FEMA dollars.

If you have had stream bank damage, contact your appropriate DEC office:

Region 3 (Sullivan, Ulster): Permits at (845) 256-3054 to obtain an application form.

Region 4 (Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie): Permits at (518) 357-2069 or contact the Stamford office directly at (607) 652-2569 to obtain an application form.

If you have need (or think you might) of possible federal disaster assistance, apply as soon as possible to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). **Registration deadline is September 1, 2006.** FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with

state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. Contact FEMA at (800) 621- 3362. Lines open 8am to 8pm, daily. You can also register online at www.fema.gov.

"Registration keeps open the possibility of a wide range of assistance," said Marianne C. Jackson, the FEMA official in charge of federal recovery operations. "If your insurance coverage comes up short, or other damage appears later, you need to be registered for us to help."

Another resource for assistance is the \$25 million State Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program, which would provide individuals, families, and small businesses with grants of up to \$5,000 for documented flood losses not covered by insurance or other government programs.

Eligible grant costs include damage or destruction to primary residences, personal property, debris removal, emergency housing costs or real property, livestock, machinery or equipment used in the normal course of business and only those damaged or destroyed by the recent flood. Applications for the grant should be in your Town or County Clerks offices or disaster relief centers. Call (888) 769-7243. Lines open 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday, and 8am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. You can also register online at www.labor.state.ny.us. Their helpline is (888) 329-7540 (8am to 5pm Monday - Saturday). **Registration deadline is September 5, 2006** to be considered for this program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Now that the caterpillar chewing and flooding is behind most of us and the hot days of summer are with us, we can begin focusing on enjoying ourselves and the forests that surround us. But, let's not forget those of the Catskills and surrounding areas that are still dealing with the onslaught of what the heavy rains brought us in July. Many homes, roads & businesses are still in a state of flux and will be for quite some time. If you get an opportunity to help those less fortunate than you please do so.

CFA HAS MOVED ITS ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION from the Cruickshank's property in Big Indian to Roxbury due to a restaurant closing, the loss of the temporary logging bridges (a little more temporary than anticipated) and the difficulty in walking that would be required to visit the harvest area. We are now holding the meeting at the Roxbury Art Group's building in Roxbury. Same date – Saturday, October 21st from 10am 'til 3pm. We will start with a very short business meeting, then reports from the staff about CFA's activities and what your organization is doing. In the afternoon we will be bringing back the live auction -- then walk down to the park in Roxbury where CFA's "Forestry On Wheels" will be set up. Everyone will be able to experience first-hand, the new educational program being developed by CFA for taking on the road to students and landowners alike. Don't pass up this great opportunity!

Finally, and best of all, I'm pleased to let you know that CFA was able to obtain a matching grant from the O'Connor Foundation to help pay for the building improvements

necessary for the occupancy of our new office. All we need to do is raise \$20,000 from other sources and the Foundation will match it. That, along with funds we already have will enable CFA to get into the new building by the end of May of 2007 – OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR!!! Be forewarned: You will be hearing from us about this campaign and ways in which you and others can help us achieve CFA's fund-raising goal.

- Jim Waters



Jim doing membership outreach with "Forestry on Wheels"

Please Note: The location for this year's Annual Meeting has been changed to Roxbury, NY

We will be holding the meeting at the Roxbury Arts Group's Art Center building on 5025 Vega Mountain Road, immediately off State Route 30 in Roxbury, Delaware County. The meeting is on Saturday, October 21st from 10am 'til 3pm. See Executive Director's Message above for information about the activities planned. Dress for the weather.

CFA HOLDING WESTCHESTER COUNTY WORKSHOP

On Saturday, September 23 the Catskill Forest Association will be holding a workshop in Westchester County at the Lasdon Park & Arboretum in Katonah, NY at 2610 Amawalk Road (Route 35). We will spend the morning learning about native forest trees of the region, and forest health concerns related to deer and invasive plants. After lunch, which is provided, we will spend the afternoon walking the park property learning to identify trees and invasive plants, as well as visiting a deer enclosure. The walk and talk portion will be casual with opportunities for discussion on the topics presented. At the conclusion of the workshop, we will discuss opportunities that are available landowners

in that region for funding or further information.

This workshop is being held in partnership with the Watershed Forestry Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council, New York Forest Owners' Association Hudson Highlands Program, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation.

The workshop has a \$25 fee which includes lunch and handouts provided. Registration is required and class size is limited, so make sure to call and hold your spot today.

**Saturday, September 23
9am-3:30pm
2610 Amawalk Road (Route 35)
Lasdon Park & Arboretum
Katonah, NY**

Help us spread the word for this workshop. If you live in this area, or know landowners in the area, have them give CFA a call (845) 586-3054.



QUILT RAFFLE

CFA is going to be raffling off a tree-themed quilt to celebrate its 25th anniversary next year. The quilt was designed by the Birmingham Quilters Guild in Birmingham, Alabama. (Yes, Mom & Dad - your state!) The Sunbonnett Quilters of Denver-Vega, NY (Outside Roxbury) have been gracious enough to offer to make this quilt and donate it to CFA for the raffle. As you can see, it's beautiful and will come in handy for those chilly mountain-air nights. It will measure 84" by 101" and will fit a queen-sized bed.

We will begin selling raffle tickets at this year's Annual Meeting October 21st. Tickets will be \$1.00 each, or \$5.00 for six. While the guild is busy making this beautiful quilt, we hope you will be busy buying tickets to support CFA and win a chance at taking their handiwork home!



INTERNATIONAL MEETING HELD AT CFA



On May 25th the Catskill Forest Association hosted several Chinese delegates at our office in Arkville. The delegation hailed from the Shandong Province of Eastern China with a land area of 60,235 square miles (NY 47,000sq.mi.) and a population of 91.8 million (NY < 20 million). With history tracing back 5,000 years, they are an origin of Chinese civilization. Shandong is also the birthplace of Confucius the philosopher, educator and statesman.

They were interested in learning about our organization and our forests - both were puzzling to them for several reasons. Natural regeneration of hardwood trees is not common to their forests. Nearly all the forests they manage are plantations of conifers or hybrid poplars. As Jim and I continued to explain that land left idle in NYS reverts to hardwood forests, their faces changed from skepticism to wonder. They explained that intensive land-use by several million people over many generations, has resulted in erosion that has limited their soil productivity.

Less surprisingly, they were fascinated that the majority of land in our six-county region is held by private landowners. Their rural land is held collectively and not owned in a sense that you can sell or mortgage it.

The most difficult task, by far, was trying to explain what CFA is... a non-profit private landowner association. Looking back now, I realize every word in the description we gave represented a new concept for them. Eventually

we gave up the topic and took a short hike outside to relax.

At lunch I had my greatest surprise. The delegation and I sat together eating quietly and enjoying each other's company. When finished eating, I tried pronouncing some of the words that were becoming familiar and talking in pantomime about the Asian Longhorned Beetle (native to China but nonetheless a serious threat there). When our gestures started to fail at communication, we started looking for the translator who had wandered off. Unperturbed, I flipped over the menu and started drawing. The delegation laughed heartily at my stick figures and grabbed their own pens and started writing. I sat amazed, realizing that while they could not pronounce English, they could read & write it quite well. We enjoyed teaching and learning from each other and next time I'll have pen and paper ready! - Tom Foulkrod



Upcoming Events

August 11



August Forest Tour: Wildlife Species & Habitat Management, 2pm - 4pm, Andes, NY, Delaware County. The focus this month will be on learning about different wildlife species and habitat management at the property of CFA past-president and icon, Jack McShane. Please call (845) 586-3054 for info & directions. Free; held rain or shine!

August 12



2006 Catskill Forest Landowner Workshop, 10am - 3pm, NYS Route 28, Big Indian, NY, Ulster County

Learn how to be a good steward to your property from unbiased forestry experts. Presentations will be followed by demonstrations in the field. Participant fee will include lunch, refreshments, and handouts. Registration required. Catskill Forest Association (845) 586-3054. Funding provided, in part, by the Watershed Agricultural Council.

August 14 - 19

Delaware County Fair, County Fairgrounds, Walton, NY. For an event schedule contact the fair at (607) 865-4763, or visit their website at: www.delawarecountyfair.org

August 18 - 20

2006 Woodsmen's Field Days at Boonville, Oneida County, NY. Forestry exhibits, parade, lumberjack contests, several instructional workshops for landowners and professionals, National Finals for *Game of Logging*, and much more. For information call Phyllis White (315) 942-4593, or email: fielddays@aol.com

August 19

Mushroom Walk and Identification, 9:30am-12:30pm, Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra, NY, Greene County. Accompany mushroom expert, John Boyle to learn wild mushrooms. John will talk about the mushrooms found in this rich woods and discuss their edible, medicinal, and other uses. After the walk the mushrooms will be sorted and displayed on tables in a hands-on session, where you can both help and learn some of the methods used in identifying them. Dress for the weather. Preregister by August 17th by calling (518) 622-9820. \$10 fee.

August 26

Ginseng: A Primer For Beginners, 10am - Noon, Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra, NY. Presenter Bob Beyfuss will teach individuals how to get started growing American ginseng on forested land. Covering basic ginseng botany, economics of ginseng production, site selection criteria, harvesting and marketing. Aimed at landowners looking for alternative forest income as well as individuals interested in growing small quantities of ginseng for personal use. \$15 fee includes "The Practical Guide to Growing Ginseng" (a \$6 value). (518) 622-9820.

September 3

Andes Lumberjack Round Up, All day, Bobcat Ski Center, Andes, NY. The Round Up has been a local competition since 1974, featuring professional and amateur competitors. Crafts, displays, & more.

September 8



September Forest Tour: Contrasting Forest Management, 2pm - 4pm, Teichmann Road off of State Route 30, Roxbury, NY, Delaware County. At the Property of CFA Member's Michael & Nancy Feldman. The Feldmans have managed their property for years, improving forest access roads, timber quality, and more. The property has a mix of Northern hardwoods (maple, beech, etc), as well as central hardwoods (oak & hickory). We will contrast the management and talk about options for both as well as look at neighboring forests that have not been managed as well. Free; held rain or shine! Call for directions.

September 9

Red Hill Knolls Interpretive Hike, 10am start, Red Hill Knolls Road, Denning, NY, Ulster County. Join Grahamsville Land Supervisor John Green and Forester Nathan Hart for a hike through old stone foundations, stone walls, & log roads along the ridge that contains the highest point on the Rondout-Neversink basin divide. Call (845) 985-0386 for information.

September 23

Tree ID & Forest Health Workshop, 9am - 3:30pm, Lasdon Park & Arboretum, 2610 Amawalk Road (Route 35), Katonah, NY, Westchester County. Learn how to identify native trees and forest health concerns including invasive plants & deer. Funding provided, in part, by the Watershed Agricultural Council. See page 4 for more details!



4th Annual Cauliflower Festival, 10am - 4pm, Margaretville, NY. For information, call (845) 586-4464.

5th Annual Catskill Mountain Ginseng/Medicinal Herb Festival, 10am-5pm, Historic Catskill Point, NY, Greene

*Don't
forget to
check our
website for
recently
announced
events!*



www.catskillforest.org

May Forest Tour at the Lennox Model Forest in Delhi, NY

County. More information on page 9.

October 13

October Forest Tour: Forest Management Public Land, 2pm - 4pm, Masonville, NY, Delaware County. We will meet with NYS DEC Region 4 Forester Ben Peters, and tour management activities taking place on state land. Call the Catskill Forest Association for directions. Held rain or shine.

October 14



Herb Day at Harmony Hill Retreat Center, All day, East Meredith, NY, Delaware County

A series of educational activities celebrating the importance of herbs and herbalism by local people devoted to preserving our Natural world's future. Workshops on starting culinary & herb gardens, therapeutic & functional wild edibles, tree identification by CFA, sustainable living practices, wood biomass energy project proposed for Oneonta with CFA. Keynote speakers include Eliot Edwards, naturopathic doctor and Bob Beyfuss, ginseng specialist. Workshop schedule available from Chris Rosenthal (607) 278-6609.

October 21

Catskill Forest Association Annual Meeting, 10am-3pm, Roxbury Arts Center, Roxbury, NY, Delaware County. The day will be fun & informative - like you've come to expect from us! Our Annual Meeting is our principle fund-raising event, so don't forget the auction! Dress for weather for the afternoon activity. See page 4 for more info.

November 10



November Forest Tour: Hardwood and Pine Sawmill Tour, 2pm-4pm, Wightman Lumber, Route 35A just off State Route 28, Portlandville, NY, Otsego County. We will visit and tour the Wightman's sawmill. The company officially started in 1945, and has remained a family-owned business. Held rain or shine. Call CFA directions.



The Friday Forest Tours

have been very successful this year and we have seen many members and new faces alike.

The April tour started at our current office in Arkville, NY and we learned to identify trees of the Catskills in a drenching rain!

The May tour was at the Lennox Model Forest in Delhi, NY. We learned to identify and talked about the uses and ecology of several woodland plants, spring wildflowers, and understory shrubs.

In June, we were at the home of Bob & Myrna Greenhall in Margaretville, NY to learn about pruning fruit trees as well as thinning forest stands for health and profit. Like most events this summer we also spent considerable time addressing the caterpillar defoliation (photo at right).

The July tour was a visit to a well-managed property as well as a chance to meet and talk with Henry Kernan. Henry retired after a long and rewarding career in forestry, having worked in dozens of countries around the world. He shared his experiences locally and from abroad. Temperature and percent humidity both exceeded 83 that day, so it was a smaller group. Those of you who didn't brave the heat missed some great group discussion and lively world commentary. We can meet there again next spring when Henry offers his annual seedling giveaway on the first Saturday of May.

Make sure to put the upcoming dates on your calendar. Friday Forest Tours are always Free, open to the public, and held rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you soon!



With dozens of people attending the June 9th Friday Forest Tour, and Myrna & Bob providing refreshments, the only thing missing was shade!

UP-COMING FRIDAY TOURS; **DATES & TOPICS!**

August Forest Tour – Wildlife Species & Management
Friday, Aug. 11, 2pm, Bussey Hollow Road, Andes, NY

September Forest Tour – Forest Management
Friday, Sept. 8, 2pm, Teichmann Road, Roxbury, NY

October Forest Tour – State Land Management
Friday, Oct. 13, 2pm, Masonville, NY

November Forest Tour – Wightman Lumber Mill Tour
Friday, Nov. 10, 2pm, Portlandville, NY



THE MORE NAMES THE BETTER!

Some common names are more descriptive than others. If a tree has three different common names, the description of that tree is made even more complete. Decide whether you think this is true by reading about *Acer pensylvanicum*, the striped maple.

This small tree is aptly named striped maple. Upon inspection of the bark, you will notice stripes of color that run vertically along the tree's green bark. Distinctive purple, black and white lines are visible on the bark and young stems. This striping is visible on young and old specimens, although the color begins fading after the tree exceeds diameters of 6 inches. This does not create a problem for identification because the tree rarely attains such sizes and is more often found growing as clusters of small diameter stems like shrubs.

Striped maple is found from Michigan and Wisconsin, east to Maine, and south along the higher elevations of the Appalachian Mountains into northern Georgia. Size does vary across its range, but the National Champion is in Nassau County, New York with a height of 77 feet and a diameter of nearly 16 inches! On Catskill sites, height is often restricted to below 30 feet, with shrub-like multiple stems and layered growth. More favorable sites will support better growth allowing trees to reach heights of 50 feet.

The leaf is pale to rich green in color with three lobes that resemble a goose foot. This is the inspiration for the common name goosefoot maple, a favorite for young people due to its recognizable shape. Goosefoot maple shows a lot of color with twigs varying red to green, and large red buds in the spring. These buds give way to the leaves as well as the flowers. When the leaves are reaching full-grown, the small yellow flower clusters are visible near the tips of the branches. The fruit matures into a winged seed that looks just like the maple family "helicopters" you are familiar with.

Goosefoot is quite tolerant of shade with leaves arranged oppositely along the twig, and optimal branch spacing for light gathering under tall trees. Goosefoot responds well to changes in the environment, often found in gaps of the forest canopy and in the understory of cool, northerly slopes with moderately moist soils. Some foresters grumble about striped maple and how it "takes growing space away from more desirable trees". Good forest managers take account of stands that need to be thinned or harvested with abundant goosefoot maple. The tree out-competes most others when the forest canopy is disturbed, so follow such activities to ensure that a good diverse mix of tree species are regenerating, not just striped maple.

But at the end of the day, foresters and other naturalists are fond of striped maple and know it by yet another name, moosewood. This common name comes from the northern range of the tree where it overlaps with that of the moose, the characteristic animal of the North. Moose prefer moosewood as a winter browse,



The goosefoot-shaped leaves of striped maple.

even pushing trees down to get to the highest branches. The leaves and/or bark are feed: elk, deer, beaver, rabbits, hares, squirrels, chipmunks and porcupines. The buds, flowers and seeds support game birds like grouse and turkey, as well as songbirds like finches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, and chickadees.

Even when deer aren't feasting on branches, they can impact a striped maple's progress, specifically bucks. They look to strengthen up before entering the mating season, and accomplish this by rubbing off velvet from their newly grown antlers. Buck favor moosewood for the exercise. This rubbing often girdles young trees but with a

healthy root system, new shoots will answer next spring. Look for evidence of previous year's antler-rubbing two feet up on the bark of older trees, as well as the fresh yellow wounds made from scrapes of the current season.

If there could be only one, which common name would you choose? Before you decide, know that there are other names for you to consider too, like whistletree. Apparently, spring-cut shoots can be used to make a traveling whistle. I have not looked into it myself, so I leave that discovery for you! -Tom Foulkrod



Bark of distinction - photo contributed by Bill Foulkrod

CATERPILLAR KILLERS? WORKSHOP

On Friday, June 16th from 7pm- 9pm the Catskill Forest Association teamed with Jason Denham of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to hold the *Caterpillar Killers?* Workshop at Belleayre Mountain's Overlook Lodge. We discussed the culprits of this year's heavy caterpillar defoliation and the impacts that they are likely to have. While we knew that there was a lot of interest, we were still surprised at the large turn-out. Glad to see so many of you out on a Friday night!

Early next spring we will hold a caterpillar workshop to

prepare you for what to do when entering the growing season with caterpillar defoliation in mind. For many of you, your trees were defoliated so quickly this year that there were few opportunities to take action. The best opportunity to limit the caterpillar population is in the early spring when caterpillars first emerge and are small and very susceptible to control measures.



Slideshow and handouts were graciously provided by the NYS DEC.



5th Annual CATSKILL MOUNTAIN GINSENG & MEDICINAL HERB FESTIVAL October 8th 2006, 10am to 5pm, Greene County, NY

This year the keynote speaker will be Scott Persons, author of American Ginseng Green Gold and the recently published Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal and other Woodland Medicinals (with coauthor Dr Jeanine Davis from North Carolina State University). This new book is the most comprehensive and scholarly textbook on the culture of woodland medicinal plants written to date. In addition to signing his books and talking with festival attendees, Scott will speak on The International Culture of American Ginseng at 1 PM and will relate his experiences with ginseng growing internationally as well as the United States.

Scott will not be the only author speaking and signing books this year as we will be joined by David Taylor, author of the just published book Ginseng, the Divine Root. David will speak at 11 AM on The History of the Ginseng Trade in North America and will autograph copies of his book also.

Other featured speakers include Andy Hankins, Alternative Agriculture Specialist for the State of Virginia, Cooperative Extension. Andy will conduct a shiitake mushroom planting demonstration using several different types of spawn at 2 PM. At noon, Bob Beyfuss, American Ginseng Specialist for Cornell University Cooperative Extension will pre-

sent a power point presentation on Growing Ginseng in Your Woodlot. Bob will also discuss the latest rules and regulations regarding the harvest of wild American ginseng. There will be other educational lectures on topics related to Herbal medicine as well as demonstrations of making herbal vinegars and other activities throughout the day.

The festival will feature both food and music all day long as well as free samples of Catskill Mountain ginseng tea with flavoring honey donated by the Catskill Mountain Beekeepers. Other vendors will be on hand selling all sorts of herbal products, gourmet mushrooms, honey, maple products, crafts and other related items.

There will be both dried and fresh ginseng roots to buy as well as ginseng seeds and roots just in time for fall planting. This is perhaps the best opportunity one person could have to learn about ginseng and actually bring home some seeds and or roots to get started growing or using this truly unique, Native American Wildflower.

The Catskill Mountain Ginseng/Medicinal Herb Festival is sponsored by the Heart Of Catskill Association and Cornell Extension of Greene County. For more information call Bob Beyfuss at (518) 622-9820 or email at rlb14@cornell.edu.



American ginseng root

GIANT HOGWEED & WILD PARSNIP; Shining Light On Bad-Carrots

The Parsley-Carrot Family of plants (Umbelliferae) includes excellent edible plants like carrots, parsnips, and celery, as well as spices like anise, caraway, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel and parsley. The Umbelliferae family name refers to their broad umbrella-shaped flower clusters called umbels. The family also has some “bad-apples” in the bunch. These “bad-carrots” include deadly plants like poison hemlock and water hemlock, as well as the subjects of this article, wild parsnip and giant hogweed. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) are not considered deadly, but they are undesirable invasive plants that pose a health threat to people.

Both plants contain psoralens which make human skin hypersensitive to sunlight causing mild to serious injury. Phytophotodermatitis! It sounds awful, but broken down begins to make sense: inflammation (itis), skin (derm), caused by plant (phyto), when exposed to sunlight (photo).

The process commences when sap from broken or bruised stems and leaves contacts and is absorbed by skin. When those areas are exposed to ultraviolet rays in sunlight, the psoralens are activated and begin altering the DNA of your skin cells. Results range from mild cases of itchy sunburn-like discomfort, to severe cases of raised blisters and scalding. Blisters rupture and turn purple/black, clearing up in about a week. The reaction can develop rapidly on sensitive skin areas like your neck, face, inner arms, and back of the knee. On less-absorptive/porous skin it can take days to develop. Wild parsnip is more common and has a mild affect, one that I have experienced too often. Giant hogweed is more serious, with blister and scar conditions that can persist for several months and exposure to the eyes alleged to cause blindness!

Some people are not affected by wild parsnip but, giant hogweed should be avoided by everyone. You can eliminate exposure by learning to recognize the plants and avoiding them. It is also a good idea to wear gloves, long pants and long-sleeve shirts when whacking weeds to avoid both sap and sunlight. An immediate soap and water wash after exposure followed by retreat out of the sun can also limit reactions.

WILD PARSNIP: Although non-native, wild parsnip has become “naturalized” throughout NYS. Wild parsnip grows scattered or in large patches along roadsides, in abandoned fields, pastures, and disturbed areas. It can take over an area, out-competing native plants and very common in the Catskills. Look for grooved, yellow-green stems with a single flower stalk reaching 4 feet and topped with 4-6 inch yellow flower umbels. The leaves are pinnately compound with 5-15 leaflets that are oppositely arranged on the main stem, giving it a layered appearance.

GIANT HOGWEED: Giant Hogweed, also a non-native invasive plant, can be distinguished by its massive size, including heights reaching 14 feet tall and compound leaves that are commonly 3-5 feet across. For positive identification, look for ridged stems 2-4 inches in thickness, with purple blotches, and coarse hairs. It was once cultivated as an unusual ornamental, hogweed is now found in NYS preferring rich, damp soils along stream banks, roadside ditches, and moist waste areas.

There are several related species that are similar but lack the combination of features. On sunny days a field, make sure to look for these “bad-carrots” before your next weed whacking adventure! - Tom Foulkrod



GIANT hogweed! Inset: hairy, purple-blotched hogweed stem.



Wild parsnip showing yellow flower umbels.

CFA “Envirobits”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

May

David Douglin – Hamden
Richard Markiewicz – Denver
Barry Gragg & Amanda Stulman Downsview
Francis Wood – Walton
Robert Wiczowski – Walton

June

David France – New Kingston
Bernadette Albrecht – Samsonville
Steve Strutt – Denver
Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower – East Meredith
Eric C. Groom – Andes
Debbie Stark – New Paltz

July

Eleanor Bell – Big Indian
Kathy Duboveck – Margaretville
Mike Critz – Oneonta
Haym Gross & Nina Jordan - Hardenburgh

Making Kids Care Starts <11!

If you want your children to grow up actively and care about the environment, give them plenty of time to play in the "wild" before they're 11 years old, suggests a new Cornell University study.

"Although domesticated nature activities (caring for plants and gardens) also have a positive relationship to adult environment attitudes, their effects aren't as strong as participating in such wild nature activities as camping, playing in the woods, hiking, walking, fishing and hunting," said environmental psychologist Nancy Wells, assistant professor of design and environmental analysis in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell.

Wells and Kristi Lekies, a research associate in human development at Cornell, analyzed data from a USDA Forest Service survey conducted in 1998 that explored childhood nature experiences and adult environmentalism. The complete Cornell news release is available online at <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/March06/wild.nature.play.ssl.html>

Wild parsnip's compound leaves are arranged opposite each other along the stem giving it a "layered look"-see white arrows below. Photos by author, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.



The luna moth photo above was taken by CFA member, Carl Middelmann of Margaretville, NY.

It is the most distinctive and probably the most beautiful moth of our region. Many people know of it but far fewer have seen it. It flies by night and uses its large green wings to mimic a leaf by day (somewhat risky with all the leaf-eating caterpillars this year). Adult moths live for only a few days. Thanks for sending the photo in!

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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 _____
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Membership Categories (You select the level & amount):

Membership	\$45 - \$74
Contributing	\$75 - \$149
Business / Supporting	\$150 - \$249
Sustaining	\$250 - \$749
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
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