



# CFA NEWS

FALL 2019

• VOL 37, No. 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.





## **Mushroom Woods Walk w/ Catskill Fungi**

September 28, 10 am - 12 pm | *Rider Hollow Road Trailhead, Rider Hollow Rd, Arkville, NY 12406*



## **CFA's Annual Membership Meeting**

October 12th, 10 am - 2 pm | *Pine Hill Community Center, 287 Main St, Pine Hill, NY 12465*



## **Deer Processing Workshop**

December 7th, 10 am - 12 pm | *CFA Office, 43469 NY-28, Arkville, NY 12406*



## **Wreath-Making Workshop**

December 7th, 1 pm - 3 pm | *CFA Office, 43469 NY-28, Arkville, NY 12406*

**Call (845) 586-3054 to register or sign up online at [catskillforest.org](http://catskillforest.org)**



# CFA NEWS

FALL 2019

Vol 37, No. 4

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Daria Chadwick

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## From the Director of Forest Services

**RYAN TRAPANI**

### FALL PLANTING

You've heard the saying before:

"The glass is either half-empty or half-full." In any case, it's about being optimistic or pessimistic. Labor Day weekend is kind of like that. For some, it marks the regretful end to a summer's vacation and re-awakening of old man winter from his sleep. To others, it marks the beginning of fall; the harvest season of both fruit (apples, pears, etc.), big game hunting, and reprieve from summer's tropical brutality. While fall demarcates the beginning of leaf senescence or die-off before winter's dormancy, it can also mark the beginning of future life. For instance, I've come to prefer fall for tree planting and here's why.

# Welcome, New Members!

Hanne Ghijsen  
Harriet Irgang  
Adam Pollock  
Lauren Cohn  
Claudia Slovinsky  
William Scullion  
John Petrera  
Michael Shay  
Annina Lavee  
Andrew Fritsch  
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Christian Turek  
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Mike Lacika  
Joshua King  
Keith Bloomgarden  
David Johnson  
Bill Siegrist  
Jorge Rodriguez  
Ann Spananese  
John Maelia  
Bjorn Boyer  
Eva Figueroa

First, summer can be used to plan places for fall planting. If you have a few trees you want to install, kill the grass during the summer. Grass competes heavily with young and tender tree roots, especially locations that have been a hay-field or lawn for decades. You can use chemicals for larger areas, or if it's just for a few trees, I place a heavy rubber mat or tarp over the area to be planted. When fall arrives, I simply plant the tree and mulch afterwards. If you've failed to plan ahead, then cut the grass on the lowest setting and mulch the area on the day you plant; Mulch about four inches deep but leave some space surrounding the stem or trunk for air-space. You can also add a metal screen around the tree's base to ward away hungry voles which can eat the bark under winter's snowy cover. As you might imagine, a fence to ward off deer is a necessity.

Second, fall normally represents a return to more moist soils. Since trees are transpiring less due to leaf-drop, more moisture is available in the ground to keep roots adequately quenched. The soil should be tested periodically to ensure adequate soil moisture, but mulching helps to moderate moisture levels.

Third, there are plenty of "deals and steals" from local nurseries seeking to off-load their tree and shrub inventory from summer. Of course, some of these trees weren't sold because they are "ugly", but some are still good. Check each tree's roots, stem and branch-pattern for adequate root mass, vigor and form. It's not unusual to find trees more than 30% off during the fall.

# CFA's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Saturday, October 12th | 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Pine Hill Community Center**  
287 Main St, Pine Hill NY 12465

*Refreshments & Lunch will be served*  
*Door Prizes / New Program Introduction*

## RSVP:

By returned invitation  
Visit [www.catskillforest.org](http://www.catskillforest.org)  
Call (845) 586-3054

Andrew Avery  
Michael Augenbraun  
Peter Neumann  
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Peggy Chapman  
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Lydia Rosa  
Richard Tokatyan  
Christine Johnson  
Guy Smit  
Eleanor Rago  
Joan McCoy  
Karen Saminski  
Michael Morgenfruh  
Andrea De Vos  
Luke Sanders  
Linda & Bill Sposito  
Montine Jordan  
Mary Ann Maurer  
Ellen Rosenthal  
Sara Finch  
Michelle Spark  
Michael Collison  
Marilyn LaMonica  
Lisa Scalf  
Mark Bertin  
Silas Riener  
Susan Taylorson Ziff  
T. Leo Schmitt  
Jeff Lebir  
Maryallison Farley  
Elliot Gitler  
Kevin Pfeiffer  
Andy Consuegra  
Lori McCarthy

Fourth, it seems less is growing or competing with your newly planted tree at this time of year. For instance, grass isn't growing as vigorously due to cooler nights and shorter days; That much less to for your roots to fight with for water and nutrients.

Fifth, is about familiarizing your roots to their new home. I don't have much data on this, but read awhile ago in the International Society of Arboriculture's – Arborist News – that tree roots continue to grow into late fall/early winter or as long as the soil isn't frozen, despite the lack of leaves. In this way, perhaps fall gives young roots a better chance to "make themselves a home" in its new spot before the leaves come out and begin making demands? Maybe.

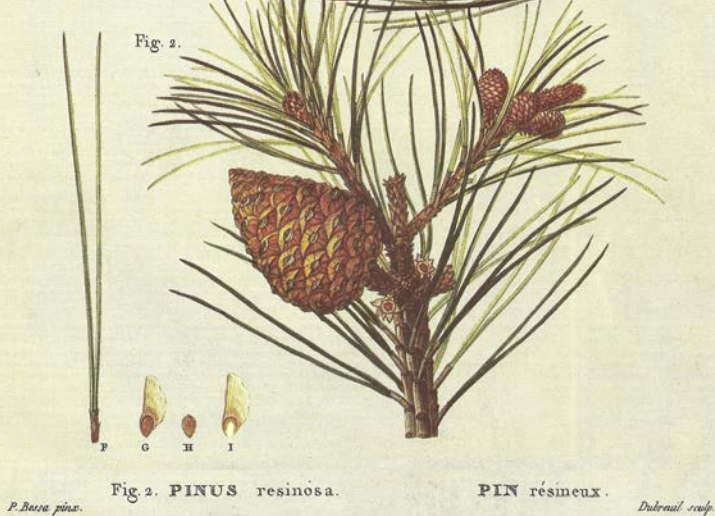
In any case, I recently bought two more pear trees for the back orchard. While searching for the two best in the bunch a guy came up to me and warned me not to buy any. "Don't even bother," he said. "Unless you have a fence or something. I had a pear tree that was recently ripped apart by a bear just when it began bearing." I told him I fortunately had a fence, but am skeptical it can hold back bears. And I thought deer browse was bad. Bears are another story for another time.

In any case, now is the time to locate cheaper trees for planting.

***May The Forest Be With You,***

**Ryan Trapani**  
**Director of Forest Services**





# Red Pine and Wintergreen: Two Unlikely Species To Combine

BY MIKE KUDISH

A single article on red pine and wintergreen? What an unlikely combination! One (*Pinus resinosa*) is a native coniferous tree, and the other (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is a native evergreen subshrub in a completely unrelated family – the Heath Family, or Ericaceae (wintergreen is also known as teaberry or checkerberry). In some places, wintergreen grows under red pine, but in other places each grows without the other.

What have they in common? The answer lies in the reasons for their distribution – different reasons for the Catskills than those for the Adirondacks.

## ADIRONDACKS –

In the Adirondacks, the two species OFTEN grow in areas that have been repeatedly burned over historically by Native Americans for centuries or millennia; these areas are within several miles of Lake George and Lake Champlain. But the key word here is OFTEN. The two species occur also commonly in the Adirondacks interior where repeated burns have not been part of the history.

Red pine – native red pine that is, not reforestation plantations – is most abundant along the shores of lakes and ponds where it can tolerate the dehydrating effects of especially winter winds better than most other species; it is most abundant along the windiest eastern shores. Here, with minimal competition from other trees, this shade-intolerant pine can form nearly pure stands, sometimes mixed in with its cousin eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) on sites a little farther from the water and therefore a little less exposed. Red pine stands are notoriously open – with sunlight reaching the forest floor – enough to supply a diversity of





only moderately shade-tolerant shrubs and ground cover species such as wintergreen. Under the dense shade of northern hardwoods (sugar maple and beech), hemlock, red spruce and/or balsam fir, wintergreen cannot survive.

### CATSKILLS -

In the Catskills, red pine and wintergreen are almost always indicators of a history of repeated Native American fires, followed in many places by a century or two of burns set by European settlers. Red pine can mix in with eastern white and pitch pines, and with hardwoods that are shade-intolerant or shade mid-tolerant such as oaks, hickories, American chestnut, red maple, serviceberry, black and paper birches, and mountain laurel.

Therefore red pine populations follow the burned Escarpment from near the base of Shokan High Point on the south to the Stork's Nest Road area (near the hamlet of Round Top, southwest of Cairo) on the north. Red pine also exists in the burned lower Ashokan Basin on Tobias and Tonshi Mountains. See the map on page 42 of *The Catskill Forest: A History* (Purple Mountain Press, 2000 and reprinted 2015), and the map modified here by the superposition of wintergreen distribution upon it.

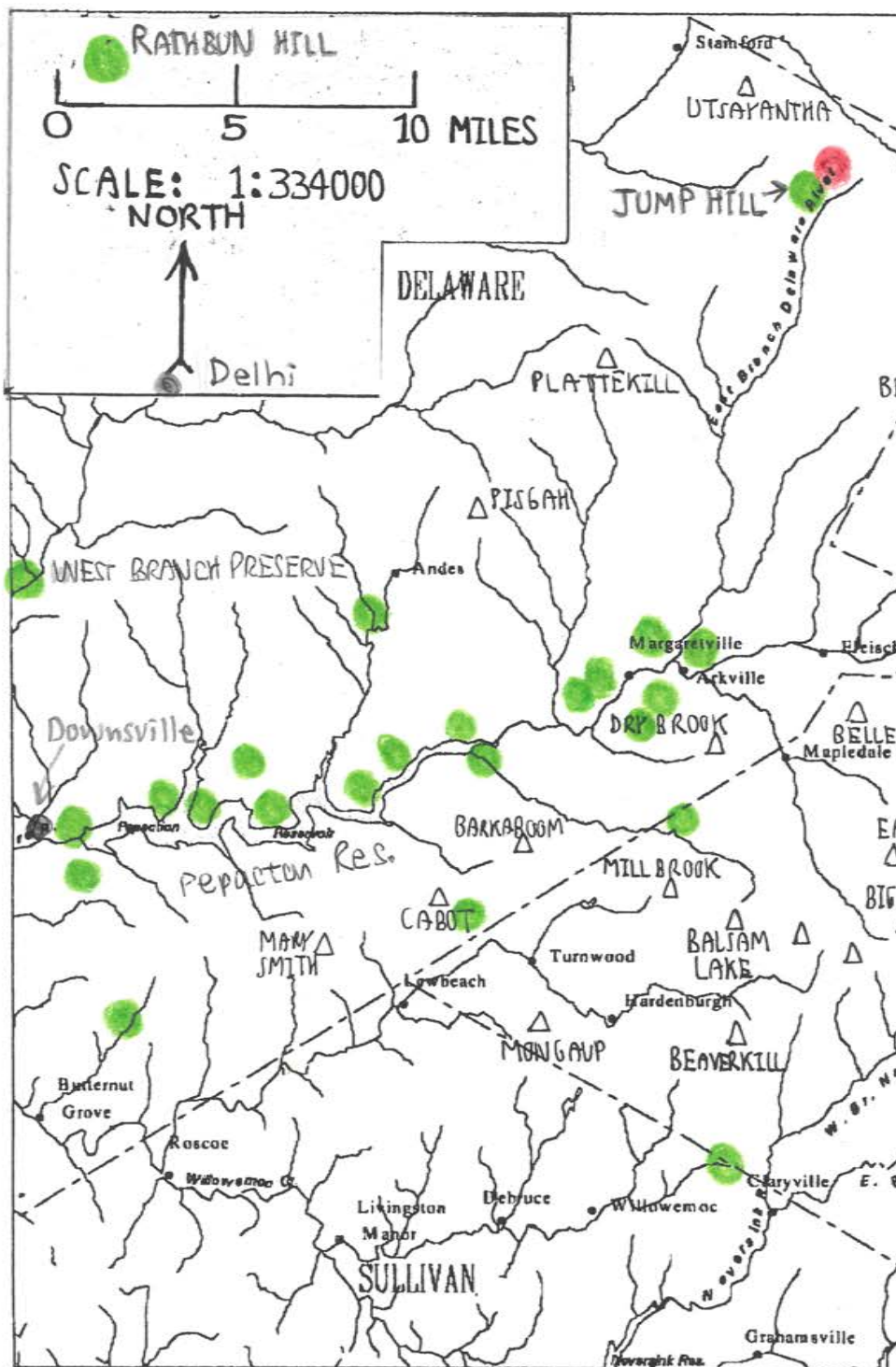
One interior outlier red pine population occurs on Jump Hill, southwest of the hamlet of Grand Gorge, but that is no surprise. The East Branch Delaware Valley was a major Native American travel and trade route between the Mohawks in the Schoharie Valley on the north and the Minsi (Lenni Lenape) in what is now

New Jersey and Pennsylvania on the south. The East Branch Delaware Valley was also the scene of multiple burns over hundreds, more likely thousands, of years especially farther south from Jump Hill in the basin now occupied by the Pepacton Reservoir.

Wintergreen, because of its shade-midtolerance, must follow forests that cast only moderate shade – i.e. southern hardwood forests. Therefore, its distribution in the Catskills is concentrated in areas where northern hardwoods (sugar maple and beech), hemlock, red spruce and/or balsam fir had been replaced millennia ago by the southern hardwoods. In addition, there is a small number of widely-scattered small populations outside of the burns (see map).

So do not expect to find wintergreen in the interior of the high peaks – such as in the Slide Mountain, Hunter-West Kill Mountain, and Big Indian Wilderness areas - where northern hardwoods, hemlock, and locally red spruce and balsam fir forests have remained intact since shortly after the Ice Age.

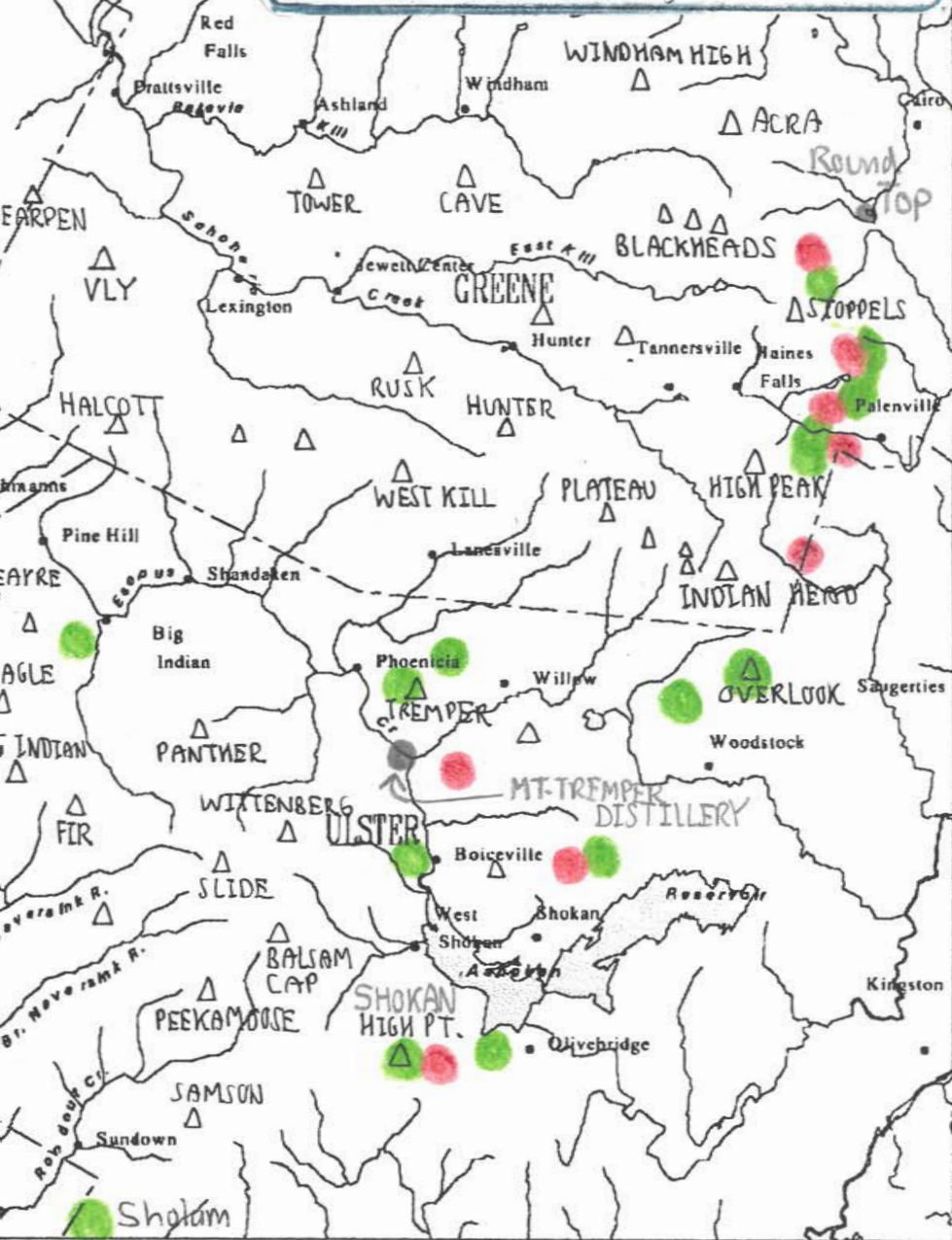
There is a report of folks picking wintergreen berries for its oil in the 19th century in the Shokan High Point area within the millennial burns region. In *The Catskill Forest*, pages 149 and 179, I noted a wintergreen distillery where the oil from the subshrub's fruits was produced commercially. It must have been in an area with a millennia-long burn history, and sure enough: Mount Tremper! One wouldn't expect to find a wintergreen distillery in unburned Frost Valley or Tannersville or Bovina!



CATSKILLS RED PINE ● AND  
WINTERGREEN ● DISTRIBUTION

Michael Kudish for CFANews

Fall 2019 VOL. 37, No. 4



1:334,000





# From the President's Desk

MIKE PORTER

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There have been many changes at the Catskill Forest Association over the past five years. Our membership has jumped to cover over 82,000 acres in the six-county region, members are pouring in daily, and we now have 11 programs that attract these members to join and to remain part of our family. We have five full-time employees, three of whom are in the woods every day, and two are in the office running things smoothly. One thing in particular I've noticed is that members increasingly have a genuine interest in making their woods healthier, in managing their woods better, or in improving their woods in some way. At the very least, members want to learn as much as they can about the land they've purchased.

Many members share their ideas and experiences with the staff, but not many share their experiences with the membership in general. As landowners, we all have something special to share about our properties,

our stewardship ideas, and our plans for our woods. In 2014, as the newly elected President of the Board of CFA, I asked members to share some of their experiences with their woods by composing something for the quarterly newsletter. This quarter, I am revisiting this request to all members to share updates on their properties. I am on a hiatus from the woods recovering from knee replacement surgery, so finding something to keep me busy will now hopefully include reading input from our members!

I'll get things started on the sharing front. Two days before my knee surgery, Becky and I hosted the "Portable Sawmill & Mule Logging Demonstration", a CFA event, at our property. CFA Education Forester Patrick Dolan and his friend, Dave Gibaldi of Stubborn Mule Logging, provided a wonderful, informative demonstration targeted at members who have smaller woodlots and are interested in harvesting timber on a smaller scale. Around 20 members and guests were in attendance. Dave, Patrick, and the mules put on a great show. There were good questions and lots of interest shown by all. Following the mule demo, Patrick and I showed attendees how to get the most out of a small woodlot with a small personal bandsaw mill. An untimely breakdown of the mill shortened the demonstration, but there was still plenty of discussion about the possibilities. Becky and I were very much pleased by the turnout and the results of the day. Thanks for listening.

See how easy it is to share something from or about your woods? I am very



PORTABLE SAWMILL & MULE LOGGING DEMONSTRATION, AUG 17TH, 2019







much interested in what other members are doing with their forests and would like to invite members to send in accounts of “what’s up in your woods.” With around 800 members, we have a large pool of information out there. Every one of us will be able to recount experiences, activities and knowledge gained from our land and share it with others. What a great pool of knowledge and experience! Through this we will become more familiar with our fellow members.

**Send your stories or anecdotes to PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406 or email them to [cfa@catskillforest.org](mailto:cfa@catskillforest.org), and we’ll feature them in a future newsletter.**

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## **Congratulations to the 2019/2020 CFA Scholarship Recipients**

**Aree Bray**

Stamford, NY | Freshman | Environmental/Natural Resources Conservation

**Sean Donnelly**

Glen Spy, NY | Freshman | Forest Technology

**Zaia Ivan**

Hannacroix, NY | Freshman | Forest Resources Management

**Dylan Pettit**

Oneonta, NY | Freshman | Forest Resources Management





COMING SOON:

# PORTABLE SAWMILL PROGRAM

LAUNCHING  
JANUARY 2020

Contact Patrick Dolan  
or John MacNaught to  
learn more:

[patrick@catskillforest.org](mailto:patrick@catskillforest.org)  
[john@catskillforest.org](mailto:john@catskillforest.org)





# One Underrated Pest

RYAN TRAPANI

---

The white-tailed deer and campers share one thing in common; They both prefer a stand of hemlock trees for bedding in. In the winter, when snow depths accumulate above 6 to 8 inches, deer will seek out these stands. Hemlocks provide a natural buffer from winter's cold winds as well as less snow to trudge through. Such areas are referred to as "wintering yards" since multiple families will congregate in these areas to save energy during winter's doldrums. On the other hand, campers seem to use hemlock stands mostly in summer. Back when I was a backcountry ranger for the NYS DEC, it was common to find old fire-rings inside deep, dark stands of hemlock. Who could blame them? Hemlock stands serve as a natural cooler against summer's doldrums and a "clean" place to pitch a tent. Hemlock trees cast so much shade that few plants can survive beneath them, making for a great camp-site.

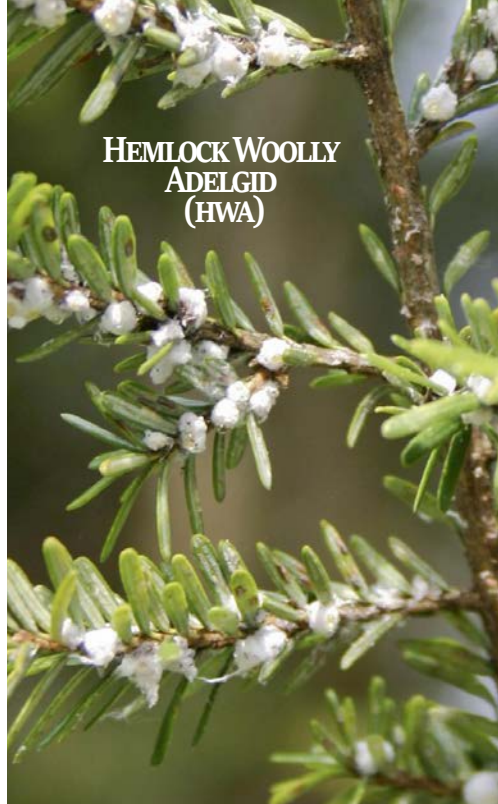
My own fondness for hemlock includes its proximity to water or mountain-streams. When I've got a fishing rod in my hand, and stare upstream towards some small water-fall with a "significant other" plunge pool beneath, I am full of hope. When I see this same scenario beneath the dark canopy of hemlock, I know the water is that much more "troutable." Brook trout

depend upon cold water to survive and hemlock helps an otherwise warmer stream remain within livable limits. I also think that those beautiful red and blue spots upon “brookies” seem to contrast beautifully beneath that same dark canopy; It’s a fit for sure.

### **Beyond the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**

Unless, this tree’s canopy is dying back. Unfortunately, hemlock has been suffering from pest issues in the last few decades. The most well-known pest of hemlock is the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), introduced from Asia in 1951. HWA (*Adelges tsugae*) is a relative of aphids. It literally sucks the life out of trees through its needles and trees normally succumb within 2 – 8 years. The crown or live foliage will begin to recede and appear less full. Widespread damage from this little guy became noticeable by the 1980s, especially in the Hudson Valley. However, there is a look-alike and its damage for some reason is less familiar; Maybe it’s because damage from this life-sucking insect is more isolated to southern areas of the Catskills in Sullivan and Ulster counties?

Elongate hemlock scale (EHS, *Fiorinia externa*) predates HWA and debuted in 1908 from China and Japan. It is located in 14 eastern states from southern New England to Georgia and west to Ohio. In its native territory, 95% are dined upon by a parasitoid. However, in North America the predatory-prey dynamic isn’t synchronized, leading to some sick hemlocks. Recently, I’ve spent a lot of time in Sullivan County looking at sick hemlocks. Sullivan County certainly



**HEMLOCK WOOLLY  
ADELGRID  
(HWA)**



**ELONGATE  
HEMLOCK  
SCALE (EHS)**





is well stocked with hemlock trees. In its past, Sullivan County lead NYS in leather-making due to its abundance of hemlock bark used in the tanning process in the 19th century. Although today, some sections have both HWA and EHS, while some stands merely have EHS.

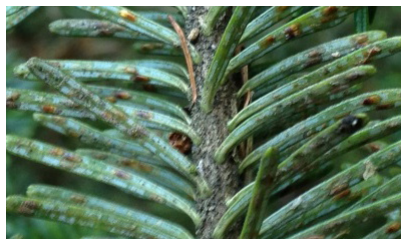
EHS is more difficult to treat than HWA, which surprised me since I hadn't previously known very much about it. EHS is an armored scale or tiny insect that also sucks the life out of the tree from the needles. It can be diagnosed by the presence of brown to dark-brown little spots on the undersides of needles as opposed from HWA which looks like puffs of cotton. Other symptoms of EHS are yellowing of needles, normally from the bottom up. Both insects cause the tree to appear lacking in the foliage department or otherwise less full.

### **Controlling EHS**

In southern portions of the Catskills, both these insects are causing widespread damage upon hemlocks. Currently there is no feasible forest-wide treatment for these two buggers. Hopefully the future will pan out for current experiments in biocontrols involving the release of predatory insects. However, on the yard-scale scale, there are chemical

controls that can be taken, but this is where the two pests diverge. HWA is more easily treated than EHS since it contains "softer bodies" making them more vulnerable to chemicals. HWA normally requires fewer treatments over a 10-year period. On other hand, the armored EHS is more difficult to control. Chemical treatments need to make contact when the insect is most vulnerable outside its hardened armored shell, or when the "babies" are outside crawling around. However, reproducing crawlers exist throughout the growing season making repeated treatments necessary or the use of longer-lasting systemic chemicals that pump throughout the vascular tissue of the tree.

In any case, I'm more concerned about EHS than HWA going forward. Trees that have been treated for solely HWA have bounced back well, while those with EHS seem to lag behind and demand more attention. If your hemlock tree is looking a little bit sparse and you fail to see any white cotton-like material on the needles, carefully look for small brown markings on the undersides; It just might be elongate hemlock scale. The good news is that both these insects normally take more time (2 to 8 years) to cause mortality in comparison to say, the emerald ash borer, which should be treated prophylactically.



# Programs & Services

LEARN MORE AT [CATSKILLFOREST.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://CATSKILLFOREST.ORG/PROGRAMS)

Program	Description	Cost
<b>CONSULTATIONS</b> ALL YEAR	One hour property visits for all private Catskill landowners with membership registration, and now with membership renewal. Get impartial and confidential advice about what your property holds, understand your management options, identify trees, and get an overall evaluation of forest health.	\$25
<b>APPLE TREE PRUNING</b> BEGINNING: WINTER	Pruning is key to establishing healthy fruit trees. Healthier trees yield better quality & quantity produce.	\$100/HOUR
<b>APPLE TREE GRAFTING</b> SPRING	Bring an old apple tree back to life, and even get multiple types of apple to grow on the same tree.	\$50/STEM (2-7 GRAFTS PER STEM)
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b> SPRING-FALL	<p><u><b>TREE SAVER</b></u></p> <p>Works to save trees from invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer (ash trees) Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (hemlock trees) and more, through the use of affordable chemical treatments. Use your consultation to figure out your options and receive an on-site quote.</p> <p><u><b>FOREST SAVER</b></u></p> <p>Works to save forests from invasive plants such as honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and japanese barberry that can overwhelm forest floors and replace native vegetation.</p>	ON-SITE QUOTES AVAILABLE
<b>TIMBER MANAGEMENT</b> ALL YEAR	Comprehensive timber management for a healthy and resilient forest that works for you.	\$40/HOUR
<b>WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT</b> ALL YEAR	Create fruitful forests for the wildlife on your property through cutting.	\$150/HOUR
<b>MAPPING</b> ALL YEAR	Custom, personalized maps of your property highlighting areas of interest such as log roads, water features, hiking trails, and more. Styles in physical or topographic. <i>Drone flights optional.</i>	BY QUOTE
<b>FOREST BIRD PROGRAM</b> ALL YEAR	<p><u><b>HIGH NESTING BIRD BOXES</b></u></p> <p>We'll make a home and hang a box up high for owls, thestrals, ducks and more.</p> <p><u><b>CANOPY BIRD FEEDERS</b></u></p> <p>Squirrel-resistant and bear-resistant bird feeders. Hung way out on the tree canopy, installed on 1/16" steel wire. The simple pully-system makes refills easy.</p>	\$200.00  \$100.00
<b>TRAIL CAMERAS</b> ALL YEAR	Ever wonder what kind of wildlife is around when you're not?	\$25.00





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member at [www.catskillforest.org/membership](http://www.catskillforest.org/membership) or send a check/cash with this application to: Catskill Forest Association, Inc. PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406. Dues & Donations are fully tax deductible.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_ FORESTED ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_ POND [ ] STREAM [ ] RIVER [ ]

### CATEGORIES (PLEASE CIRCLE)

BASIC (\$65)	CONTRIBUTING (\$150)
Consultation; Access to CFA Services; Events free/discounted; CFA News Subscription; CFA Member Property Sign;	SAME AS BASIC + 20% Discount on Services; CFA Totebag
BUSINESS (\$200)	SUSTAINING (\$500)
SAME AS BASIC + 10% Discount on Services; CFA Website Listing; Referrals; Advertisements; Free Booth at Forest Festival	SAME AS BASIC + 30% Discount on Services; CFA Backpack

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	\$
ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND	\$
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_