



CFA NEWS

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CFA NEWS

Spring 2022

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Contents

From the President's Desk Spring 2022	4
Director's Message: The Maple Are Falling In The Forest?	8
What is Forestry?	14
100: 1? And the Symphony of Destruction	18
Why Delaware County Has Fewer Bark Roads	22
The Economy of Nature	28
CFA Scholarship News	34

Welcome, New Members!

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As a member you can see upcoming events
and learn more about programs at; www.catskillforest.org.
Refer a friend or neighbor to the
Catskill Forest Association and receive gift from us.

From the President's Desk-

By: Mike Porter - Board Pres.

Our forests are one of the most valuable assets our land has to offer here in the Catskills, in fact, almost any place that has trees and lacks mineral deposits would be included in this statement. How we manage our woodlands is something that should be very subjective in terms of what we want from them, though there should be some objective goals that always lead to better quality forests. When we are at a loss for what these objective goals are, we must contact reputable foresters or managers. CFA has those people in house or just a phone call away. Your membership in CFA indicates you have some interest in your forests. Your membership opens you up to special deals on Consultations, Apple Tree Pruning and Grafting, Invasive Species control, Tree Planting, care for a special tree around your home, Bird feeding and nest box placement, sawing of your own timber, and wildlife

habitat improvement. If CFA cannot handle the size job you might have, they, certainly, will recommend someone who can meet your needs.

If it is overwhelming to think about thinning, managing or harvesting your trees, there are people out there who can and will do this work for you. CFA can recommend those people very quickly. There might be some financial incentives to do certain things with your land. CFA can also point these sources out to you and may help with application quirks. You will never know of the incentives unless you ask.

If you are interested in using your forests for hobbies like maple sugaring, ginseng growing, growing wild edibles on your land or maybe, even, mushroom farming, CFA can help you get started and most likely succeed in your quest. Becky and I have a part of our land that is devoted to edibles. This came about after our Woodland Use Guide was completed and we saw the merit in having all the foodstuffs within sight of our cabin. We can all do this with just a little sweat equity and plant purchases. CFA can direct you to suppliers who are selling stock that is viable in

our growing zone.

If you are a woodworker, there is nothing more satisfying than building something out of materials harvested from your own lands. If you want to harvest particular trees and get them processed, CFA can aid you in getting your trees cut, milled and dried by referring you to local loggers or mill owners. I have built several furniture items from oak grown on our land. It is very satisfying to say, "This wood came from my land." Even if you are not a wood worker but like items made from wood, you could have one of your trees harvested and converted to the piece of your choosing. Even that is special to family members. CFA can again point you towards an artisan who can carry out your wishes.

I think, by now, that you can see that I am touting the Catskill Forest Association and all it can do for its members. I am only touching the surface as I have just talked about things I am interested in seeing happening in my world. With each of us looking for our own special things, CFA can direct us.

As President of the

Board of Directors, I don't know all of our members, or even a moderate percentage. I would say this is true for all of us. I would like to see all members become more familiar with all the rest of our membership. Each of us has expectations and activities associated with our woods. My wife, Becky, and I use our woods for firewood, logs for lumber, wildlife and hunting, forest foods and rest and relaxation.

I am real interested in what other members are doing with their forestland and would like to invite members to send in accounts of "what's up in your woods." With around 1100 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.

Maybe you are not as connected to your woods as others, but never discount what you know. Maybe this sharing will lead to you become more knowledgeable and "into" your woods. Maybe we will get so

many shares that we will have to start a CFA discussion group on line. Maybe I am dreaming, maybe, I'm not.

Send your stories, anecdotes or questions to CFA, PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406 or email to cfa@catskillforest.org. We will get them in the next newsletter as long as there is space. To talk to a CFA staff person, call 845-586-3054 or email cfa@catskillforest.org. Someone will talk to you or get right back to you by phone or email.





THE MAPLE ARE FALLING IN THE FOREST?

By Ryan Trapani, Director of Forest Services

1944 was a glorious year for America; We were “back-to-back World War champs” and had saved western Europe from Germany and Italy. On the other side of the globe were Americans like my grandfather, Costanzio (“Cos”) Trapani that fought as a tanker and Corporal in the US Marines against the Japanese. Because he returned, I am here today in my liberated state. One tragedy ended successfully, but another – though far less dramatic – quickly germinated in its place, grew roots, and later bore fruit in the minds, perceptions, and later actions of the American people. Although America’s war planes, ships, and men would be called back home, some of them would be used to fight domestically, against fire. According to Author and University of Arizona’s – Stephen Pyne (former guest on CFA’s From the Forest radio show @ www.catskillforest.org/radio or Spotify) – the USFS used a lot of this surplus military equipment and tactics to close width, and fight forest fires. In 1944, Smokey Bear made his first appearance.

According to Wikipedia, “Smokey Bear is an American campaign and advertising icon of the U.S. Forest Service. In the Wildfire Prevention Campaign, which is the longest-running public service announcement campaign in United States history, the Ad Council, the USFS, and the National Association of State Foresters, in partnership with creative agency FCB, employed Smokey Bear to educate the public about the dangers of unplanned human-caused wildfire.” Preceding Smokey Bear, the USFS used Walt Disney’s iconic character – Bambi – among his family of woodland friends to promote fire prevention. However, Disney owned these characters and the USFS wanted their own. Smokey Bear was their creation.

Lights Out by 10

As successful as Smokey Bear was in convincing Americans to suppress fires, so were the military tactics used on-the-ground. Fighting forest fires precede Smokey. Capitalizing on the Great Depression’s overabundance of cheap labor, over 250,000 young men

were tasked with building fire-lines, towers, roads, etc. In 1935, Chief Forester of the USFS, Gus Silcox, used his army to realize his “10am policy.” This policy “demanded that all wildfires, regardless of how remote, be brought under control by 10am the morning following ignition.” After World War 2, the fight used less men, and more power and technology: Tracked vehicles, air tankers, bulldozers, planes, etc. It worked. Between huge marketing and military campaigns, fires were being suppressed successfully. Public service announcements focused mainly on the southern US where fire was more intertwined with culture. Before then, southerners would burn “the piny woods” to remove ticks and chiggers and unwanted vegetation. Even up north in New York State where fire is far less prevalent, towers dot the landscape and serve as a reminder of the 20th Century’s war on fire.

It was soon learned that fire was important to forest ecology. Fire can enhance wildlife habitat, foster shade-intolerant vegetation (i.e. nuts, berries, etc.), add younger age classes of plants that fauna requires, and even reduce unwanted pests or plants. Periodic or frequent fires can also reduce “fuels” in the woods and prevent their build-up. A build-up of fuels – i.e. woody material – can lead to catastrophic fires. The 1988 Yellowstone fire imprinted in many Forester’s minds that Smokey’s fire suppression had led to a huge blunder, or unnecessarily huge fire. It literally backfired into something more destructive.

Smoky Bear Lives On

So how did all this start? Some like Professor Pyne trace back its roots – in part – to the timber industry just wanting to preserve its asset. Some to an overreaching government in the 1930s looking to put people to work. Others to a post-World War 2 looking to put machines to work. Or maybe it was just a well-intentioned policy that – like the fires they were chasing – got away from them. It was probably a combination of things. Ultimately, Foresters and Forest Ecologists would question the absolutism of fire suppression. Despite the exorbitant expenditure of tax dollars, labor, advertisement, promotion, and more, Smoky Bear and fighting fires is still practiced

unnecessarily to this day. Although fires in New York State are not nearly as severe as out West, they are normally suppressed. Forest fires are not a “tool in the Forester’s toolbox.” In some states, fire is part of that toolbox though. In Kentucky for instance, a Forester from the State will visit your property and gladly write you a burn plan to meet forest management goals. Prescribing fires – or fighting fire with fire – is a way to reduce fuel loads and reduce catastrophic fire. Still, the USFS is still famous to this day for promoting Smoky Bear’s 1944 message, “Only you can prevent forest fires.” In 2001, the USFS did update the slogan to “Only you can prevent wildfires” perhaps to give a nod to prescribed fires. It should be noted though, that in the northeastern US, we don’t get natural or “wild” fires of any significance. They are artificially-ignited – whether accidentally or deliberately – due to our wet weather, among other factors. Still, the message of fire as being positive is not resonating. It is still that fires should be suppressed and are destructive. Not only are fires suppressed, but when they do rarely occur, they are often treated as a crime scene. A few years back when a large fire occurred on Minnewaska State Park Preserve in Ulster County, yellow tape was put around much of the access to the fire area. Not only does this signify that something “violent” or perhaps “criminal” occurred, but it served as a lost educational opportunity. The regrowth is cool to see.

The Impacts of the Message of Fire Suppression

The impacts of fire suppression – in the northeast – can easily be seen in parts of the Catskills today, especially near areas that used to be burned by humans for thousands of years. The escarpment area as well as the Shawangunk Ridge represent some of the most biodiverse areas due to this fire. Pyrogenic leftovers are low-bush blueberry, American chestnut, sassafras, chestnut oak, bear oak, mountain laurel, wintergreen, and pitch pine, to name a few. Many of these tree species are now getting over-run by plants intolerant of fire or disturbance, and instead tolerate dense forests – red maple. Growing up near the Shawangunk Ridge, I was happy to see as a kid that the Nature Conservancy had bought and preserved some of it; It qualified as one of their “Last Great Places” since it had so much

biodiversity. But many of these trees are suffering, mainly from fire suppression, despite a few efforts to prescribe burning. It just hasn't been enough compared to what the locals did prior to World War 2, when they burned for blueberries, or the Natives did thousands of years prior. In other words, the USFS may have changed since the 1930s/40s, but their message being conveyed seems to have not. For instance, in the 1970s, the USFS gave up the 10am policy. Today, they believe more in prescribed fire. But it's hard to let go of Smoky Bear when he has given so much relevance to the agency. The media and public still seem to believe that fire suppression is mostly good. Just look up "Smoky Bear items" and see the frenzy. But, as I say about science, "Science isn't about being popular."

The Message of Climate Change & Forests

It seems the USFS is at it again. Fast forward to the early 2000s and there is another message that seems to be unfairly resonating in the forest. Recently – and often – a member will ask us about what southern tree species they should plant given climate change. Full disclosure, before you read on. I am not saying climate change is not impacting our environment. What I am relating only is climate change to tree species and the message from the USFS (and others) that is being promoted today. The message is that northern species – i.e. American beech, sugar and red maple, etc. – will decline due to climate projections, and southern species – i.e. oak, hickory – will increase. The USDA projects these findings on their "Climate Change Projections for Individual Tree Species." Although it does include a small caveat about local conditions, the message that speaks loudest is that "only you can prevent maple decline." But are we really going to have to part ways with our bottle of maple syrup anytime soon?

Some Background

CFA has written, broadcasted, interviewed, and experienced quite the opposite of this notion or message. Northern hardwoods (i.e. maple, beech, black birch) are increasing dramatically in the Catskills, Hudson and Schoharie Valleys and across New York State. In fact, they are beating out or outcompeting oak and hickory forests since the latter require more disturbance via cutting, fire, or farm

abandonment. Our 300 plus Forest Consultations/year with members at various topographic elevations, aspects, and sites indicate this by sampling the “remarks” section of each one of those. A common remark after visiting a member’s forest, is “forest contains dominant red oak, with younger age class of maple beginning to overtake. If wildlife is important, red oak should be released from competition to preserve acorn component.” And so on.

While some of this “succession” may be in part from climate change, we feel cultural changes are highly under-rated. For instance, the exclusion of fire and cutting fosters shade tolerant plants over time. The work of PSU’s Marc Abrams – former guest on From the Forest radio show – reenforces this notion, among others. In other words, these models are projecting something that is highly improbable since the younger age classes of oak/hickory just don’t exist. Younger trees are more likely to be northern species such as red and sugar maple. Red and sugar maple are NYS’s most abundant trees species and will most likely continue to be. Unlike in the west, fire suppression in dense maple stands may not lead to greater fires. As Auburn University’s Dr. Heather Alexander explained on our radio show, maple trees take rainfall and move it down their stems and foliage in a way that fosters damper forest floors and litter, which retards fires. In comparison, litter beneath oak will be much drier and can promote ignition. In conclusion, maple will have even more advantage in the future since humans are disturbing the forest less via fire, cutting, etc. despite some climate change. Culture seems to matter more.

Messaging Matters

My point here is that the USFS – among many in media – are over-emphasizing climate change when projecting tree species in the future and under-emphasizing local conditions (i.e. forest land-use history, present condition, forest management, etc.) in their messaging. The impacts of this poor messaging may be wasted money, time, and labor, just as the war on fire may have been. For instance, energy used towards planting southern species in the northern climates could have been used towards forest practices that improve biodi-

iversity, health, wildlife habitat, maple syrup, forest edibles and medicinals, or future local timber products. When I reached out to the USDA (Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science), their representative agreed that local conditions may outweigh climate projections. However, my point to her was that this was not the message coming through. Rather it was, things are warming, say goodbye to northern hardwoods, and hello to southern hardwoods.

There are 2 problems with the above message. One is that its premise that northern hardwoods will decrease, and southern hardwoods will increase is extremely inaccurate. The second is that climate – which I guess they are mainly going off temperature – is a far second to cultural impacts that have occurred in the last 300-plus years. In other words, how humans have cut, not cut, burned, or not burned, farmed, or not farmed, has far more reaching influence on the trees you see or not see, than these climate projections. That's why I like the saying, "Cut the right tree." If anything, your oak and hickory need some cutting around them to survive maple.

WHAT IS FORESTRY?

By: Laurie Raskin



My name is Laurie Raskin and I started DHW Forest Consulting, LLC (DHW) 5- years ago. Did I ever imagine that my career would take me here? NOPE! Prior to studying forestry, I thought that I was going to be an elementary school teacher, then a geneticist, but little did I know that this path would lead me to forestry, and I love it! Before starting DHW, I worked for one of the largest sawmills in the northeast as a procurement forester, but before that, I was charged to learn the logistical operations in the log yard and the sawmill. This led me to the development of standard operating procedures for the company. What an invaluable experience! I feel very fortunate to have this background knowledge as it has helped me be able to view the world from 30K feet, but closer when necessary. Also, I dabbled in utility forestry for a short while, but learned quickly that I need to interact with people, so inevitably I became a private consulting forester.

There is so much to learn and enjoy about the ecosystem. Dovetailing this knowledge with sound goals and objectives for private landowners is very rewarding to me. I view the practice

of forestry like it's a cascading event of relationship building with people and the forest. Then the magic happens!

So, what is Forestry?

What do you think about when you hear the word forestry? Almost a decade ago I graduated from SUNY ESF with a bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management, and the answer I have to the former question today is not the answer I would have given you a decade ago, or even 5 years ago!

Today, I think of forestry as a respectful allocation of time towards sustainable, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound goals and objectives. A great amount of time is spent discussing the order of operations necessary to maintain compliance with state and local ordinances, cost scenarios, market conditions, weather constraints, etc., and then practicing forest-based activities can commence. However, all of this can take a lot of time. For example, most, if not all, timber harvest contracts require a two-year time investment.

A two-year timber harvest contract is very reasonable for several reasons:

1. The weather has seasonally become warmer and wetter throughout the year in NYS and surrounding areas. Ground conditions that are soft must be harvested during times when the ground freezes, but that hasn't happened like it used to, so loggers need more time to responsibly harvest the timber.

Below are recent photos (Image 1 & 2) of a bridge crossing for a logging operation that I am managing. The stream courses through a state regulated freshwater wetland, and a permit was obtained through the NYS DEC and the local municipality. It took about two months to obtain this permit. In addition, the only appropriate time to harvest was this winter due to soft and sensitive ground conditions. It took a great amount of planning and deliberation to place this bridge properly as it's the only access point on the property too.

Image 1. Ulster County N.Y Image 2. Ulster County N.Y



Photo taken by Laurie Raskin. 1/2022



Photo taken 12/2021. Not a spec of debris entered the stream.
Notice the bank stabilization.

2. Through the NYS DEC, we can learn if properties are coined for rare, threatened, or endangered species. In some cases, NYS may regulate that it's only permissible to harvest timber between November 1st – March 31. Therefore, a two-year contract may only permit a logger to harvest the timber a few months out of the year. It is also important to consider that logging crews already have several contracts ahead of yours, and those should be chronologically honored.

In the essence of time, let us discuss forest management programs that are available in NYS. The NYS DEC offers the 480-a Forest Tax Law. This program gives private landowners, who own 50 acres or more, the opportunity to save up to 80% on their taxes. Consequently, there are a lot of caveats to this law, so it's important that you understand the details of this timber management focused program and consult with a knowledgeable forester.

Another program that NYS recently launched is Regenerate New York. NYS is finally acknowledging that our forests have been poorly managed in the past, but remediation can be costly, so to help landowner's offset these costs, like a timber stand improvement, for example, Regenerate New York will pay for 75% of the costs. Keep in mind that the covered costs are specific in supporting afforestation/reforestation, timber stand improvements, herbicide, and deer fence.

The above two programs don't conflict with each other either, so you can tap into both. Thereupon, we must create a specific timeline to execute the above properly and efficiently. Hence forestry being an activity that deserves a lot of time and respect.

When it comes to forestry, I think that the world is our oyster so to speak. There are many opportunities to maintain the health and vigor of your forest. We just need to keep in mind that a methodical approach will yield the greatest rewards! Cheers to Forestry!

Would you like to learn more about forestry programs? Which ones? Please feel free to log onto our survey at:
https://www.allcounted.com/s?did=wfomnnla9mj9a&lang=en_US, and select what you'd like to read about, by March 31st, 2022, for our next newsletter.

100: 1? And the Symphony of Destruction

By: John MacNaught - Forest Program Manager



Hinge-Cut Red Maple from 2016 Beginning to Shade Apple

Break the Cabin Fever – Go Cut a Tree

It is the last week of February 2022 as I write this article. Like many at this time of winter, cabin fever is at its worst for me. The weather hasn't quite broken into its pre-spring temperatures that initiate the maple trees to begin the sugaring season and by this point I am already far ahead of replenishing the wood stack I've burned this winter. So, feeling anxious to get outdoors in my spare time, I decide to take to the woods with my smallest chainsaw in

hand and my silky hand saw on my hip.

My destination is a family owned 80-acre property in Delaware County. The parcel is about 75 percent forested of varying age classes and the other 25 percent is a long rectangular field. My grandfather once farmed this parcel and now it primarily serves for recreation, hunting, and some firewood harvesting along with the hay crop that gets cut once per year by a local farmer down the road. I grew up across the street from this piece of land and over my short 29 years have witnessed the decline of some keynote wildlife species over these years. Mainly what sticks out is the decline of ruffed grouse. The forest here is of varying age classes, but the youngest of them which is still dominated by hawthorn and apple trees

is now being slowly taken over by pole sized red maple and ash trees.

I have always paid close attention to the grouse numbers here in the fall because of my passion for hunting. But in the past decade or so we notice less grouse every year, to the point where now we no longer hunt them here because there are only 1-3 resident birds around anymore. I've decided it is time to give back to this species and to do that, I need to turn back the clock.

Wildlife Habitat Requires Management

I have decided to invest into the property this year through planting some trees. I recently placed an order through the county soil and water conservation district of about 100 trees and shrubs to plant on the land which will add some diversity to the tree and shrub community, specifically to provide more food for wildlife (focusing of ruffed grouse). I will be expecting some oak, elderberry, American Hazelnut, various dogwoods, American plums, pear, apple, fir, and spruce trees this coming April. These trees and shrubs have one major thing in common and that is the need for sunlight.

I hiked up on the hill this weekend with saws in hand knowing that I needed to make some space for these younger trees and shrubs to be planted. With several spots in mind, I spent about 2 hours cutting away red maple and ash poles out of a hawthorn thicket to make some patch openings for these younger tree and shrub species to have the space and sunlight they need. I haven't done much for active management here since a major effort in 2016 after some cost sharing money became available to help pay for the expenses of opening up the roughly 50 or so apple trees on the property. At this time, we cut 10–20-foot circles around every apple tree, felling any competing hardwood around. We also cut many of the large red maple trees down that would not produce a future saw log to gain course woody debris and might provide a grouse drumming log in the future.

That fall/winter and the years following, the wildlife benefit was noticeable. Ruffed grouse numbers returned the following year from the direct cover that was provided through new course woody debris on the forest floor and increased food availability from the unexpected herbaceous growth that responded to the added sunlight. Also, songbird abundance and diversity grew remarkably. But now those benefits are beginning to wane as those same trees which were hinge cut and felled are growing back and reversing the efforts of the past. So, what to do? Cut them again!

100: 1? And the Symphony of Destruction

As I cut and cut and cut, I began to think, maybe one of these days I should count the ratio of how many trees I cut per how many trees I preserve through releasing to sunlight or direct planting. I bet it could be anywhere from 10-100: 1. Meaning I bet you that I cut up to 100 trees down for the benefit of 1 single tree released or planted. How can this be justifiable? More the merrier right? Aren't I considering the climate? Or carbon? I must be some sort of murder, or a mastodon! I've been called these names and many more with a chainsaw in my hand before, and it once bothered me, but now I've learned to treat this more as a comedy routine and move on. "Don't you know you are going to cause tornadoes?!?!?" "You boys are like two mastodons in the woods!" "Your saws are like the symphony of destruction!". These last two were phrased as a compliment, but still noteworthy quotes. Chainsaws sure are a good way to get attention here in the Catskill Mountains!

Go be a Mastodon This Weekend

We have several messages here at CFA we like to get across as we meet with landowners. One of them is that not all trees are created equal in all situations. Some trees provide more value to the forest in the form of food and shelter for wildlife species, others in the form of firewood. This brings us to the second message, and that is cutting the right tree for the right reason is a good thing. Removing a tree leaning over your bedroom keeping you awake and worried during a thunderstorm is a good thing. Or felling an ash or maple wiggling its way through an apple crown shading the apple tree to death is also a good thing. We as humans can help make some management decisions to allocate the right amount of light to higher value trees for wildlife by doing some cutting and releasing to sunlight.

If we want to maintain a diverse forest that is resilient to pests, diseases and fruitful for wildlife, the set-it-and-forget-it mentality needs to be re-examined. Mother nature doesn't always tend herself in a way that meets the specific needs of wildlife diversity. Here in the Northeast, the preservation mindset of set-it-and-forget-it is had its time and place about 100 years ago. There is a time and place for everything, and preserving a space might serve a purpose, but that means there is also a time and a place to do some cutting too. So, if you truly do care about your forest, woods, and wildlife, find that spot in your neck of the woods that could use some work and go be a mastodon this weekend, create the symphony of destruction through that screaming chainsaw, and fell 10-100 trees to 1 if you really would like to make a difference.

CFA offers Wildlife Habitat Management services as well as

Legacy Tree Planting and general Consultations to discuss your goals and help point you in the direction you want to go. We can also show you results of management actions if you so choose. Give us a call to schedule and learn more. (845) 586-3054.



Sprouts Re-Hinged in 2022 for Additional Habitat

WHY DELAWARE COUNTY HAS FEWER BARK ROADS

By: Michael Kudish



Did you ever wonder why Delaware County has fewer bark roads than the Catskill high peaks portion of Ulster and Greene Counties? I did. And now I have a clue why.

Our Middletown Town Historian, Diane Galusha, found a ledger in the town Historical Society's archives from Clark's Tannery, located in the hamlet of Clark's Factory. The hamlet is now called Dunraven and is three miles southwest of Margaretville. The ledger dates back to the 1850s and 1860s. The tannery ran

from before 1811 to after 1880.

ULSTER AND GREENE COUNTIES

In the high peaks of Ulster and Greene Counties, the major tanneries most often built their own bark roads on their own lands up the mountainsides to haul the hemlock bark out on sleds in the winter time. The bark had been peeled from the trees the previous spring and piled up in the woods.

This writer has mapped some of the bark roads built by the Wey Tannery in the Big Indian - Oliverea Valley (see Kaatskill Life, winter 2011, pp. 66-71) and

some of the bark roads built by Edwards' New York Tannery in Stony Clove (see Kaatskill Life, summer 2014, pp. 60-67). The complete network built by the Simpson and Snyder Tanneries in Woodland Valley has been mapped by Paul Misko, a frequent guest on the WIOX radio program "From the Forest" (see Paul's article in Kaatskill Life, winter 2013, pp. 10-18).

CFA's Ryan Trapani recently included a photo of a bark road in one of his recent email announcements to the membership. This road climbed out of Traver Hollow almost to the summit of Samuel's Point. The rough terrain at the upper end, well above the farms, suggests that the tannery owned the land; I cannot be certain. The nearest tanneries were in Boiceville and in West Shokan.

DELAWARE COUNTY

But in Delaware County, tanneries operated differently, assuming that Clark's Tannery was typical for those in western portions of the Catskills. The ledger shows that the Clarks owned only a small portion of the lands that they barked. One example is in Kelly Hollow (see map) where they also had

barking rights to two farms. Most of their bark was purchased from farmers and other early settlers. Sometimes the Clarks would peel the bark themselves and haul it to the tannery. Other times the farmers would peel the bark and leave it in piles in the woods for the Clarks to haul. Still other times, the farmers would peel and deliver the bark to the tannery.

Most roads used to haul the bark down the mountain sides therefore had been previously built by the farmer and other land owners. These roads were therefore already existing farm, log, and quarry roads. The roads were eight feet wide and improved to accommodate a wagon with two horses or oxen pulling. In contrast, roads built by the tanneries solely to haul bark were only four feet wide - wide enough for a one-horse or one-ox sled, and very rough because the bark was sledged out in winter in deep snow over smaller rocks.

Another feature of the Clark Ledger is how far and widespread the Clarks had bark contracts with land owners. The general rule for the whole Catskills was that bark was hauled up to ten miles to the tannery. It seems as if at times the Clarks exceeded this ten-mile limit.

Here are some examples from 1850 and 1851 shown on the accompanying map:

- Dry Brook Watershed, Town of Middletown and continuing into the Town of Hardenbergh (Ulster County) – Bark from the Stephen J. Baker Farm on Old Baker-Armstrong Road, and the William Avery Farm on Wranovics-Whipple Road. I've been told that bark piles still lay in the woods around Seager at the upper end of the valley, but cannot confirm it.
- Dingle Hill, Town of Andes – the Sebastian Roundmann Farm. I can't locate it exactly.
- Barkaboom Valley, Town of Andes – the Hitt Farm. Also Ellison Farm on Nick Huntley Road which I also cannot locate exactly.

There are other places the bark came from that I cannot locate because their names, no longer used, are not readily available in the history books. Do any CFA members know where the following places were?

Jones Lot, McKay's Mill, Elder Hill, Smith & Hall's.

One bark road, I assume built by the Clarks, climbs

the ridge on the south side of Huckleberry (also called Cold Spring) Hollow, and is now used as a portion of the Huckleberry Loop Trail.

Other examples of bark roads used as hiking trails in the High Peaks are Simpson's from Terrace Mountain almost to the summit of Wittenberg Mountain. Another is the lower portion of the Warner Creek Trail (Long Path) up Daley Ridge from Silver Hollow Notch. Two of Edwards' bark roads out of Stony Clove, one in Becker Hollow and one up Plateau Mountain, serve as hiking trails today.

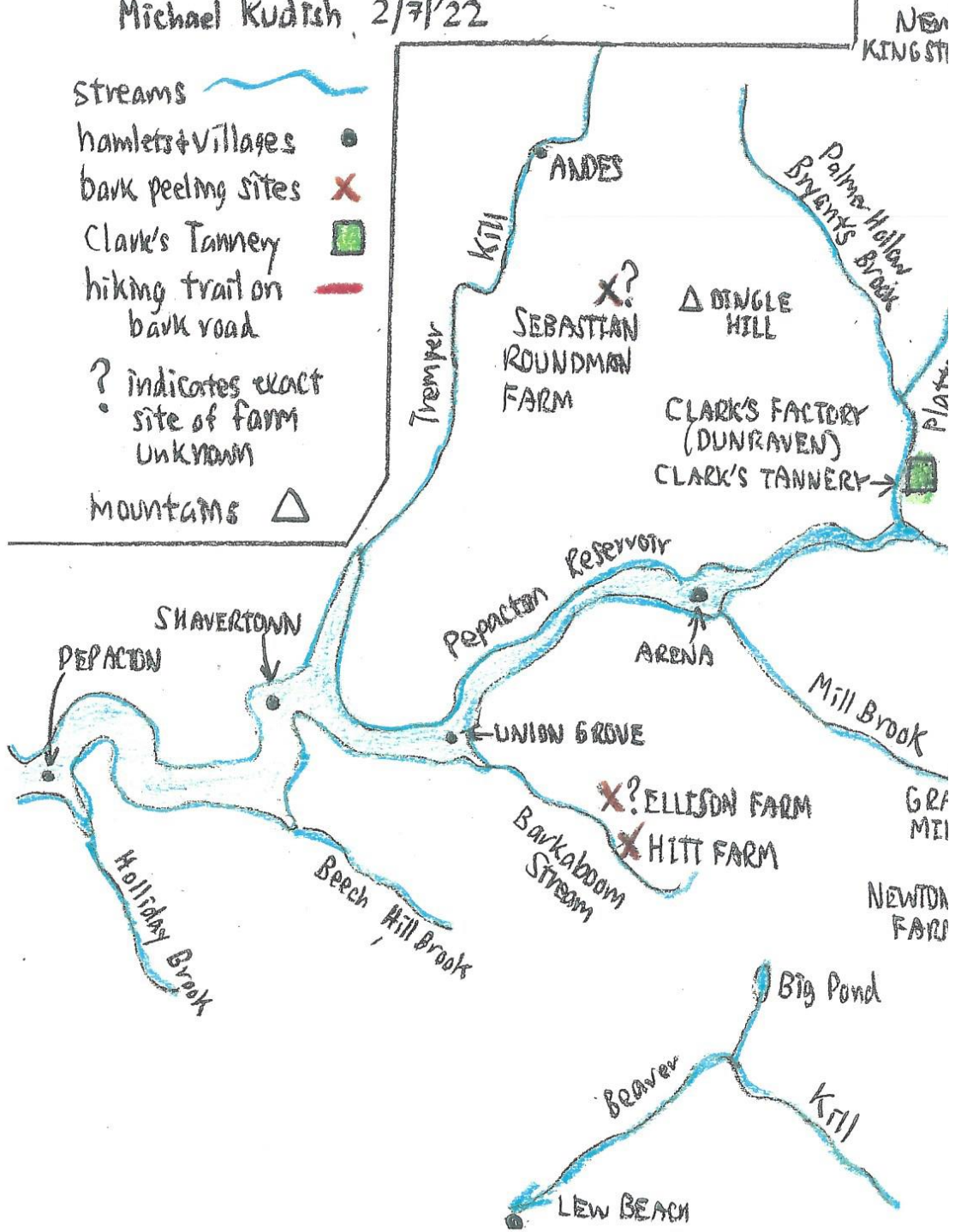


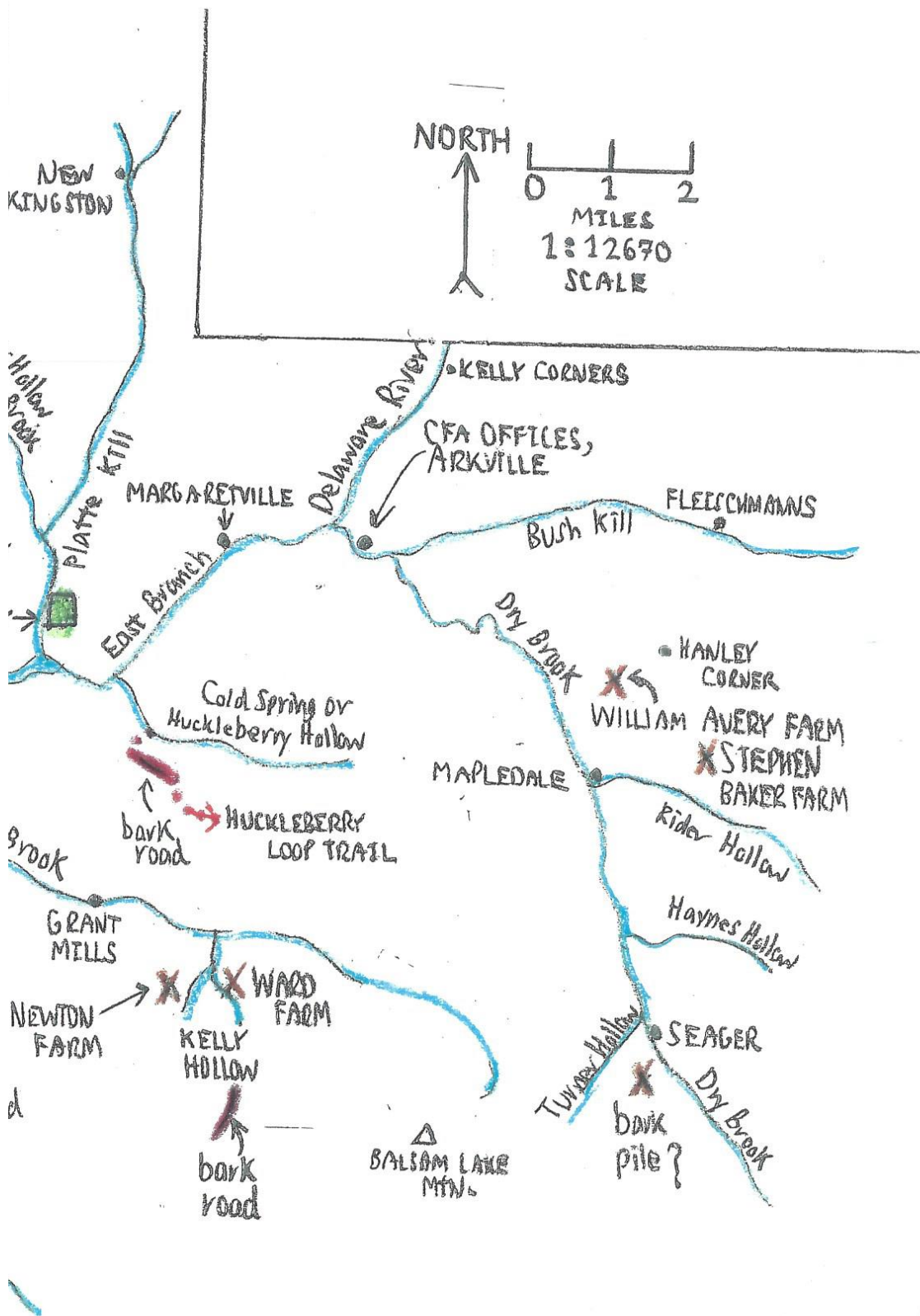


CLARK'S TANNERY BARK PEELING SITES

for Spring 2022 CFA NEWS

Michael Kudrsh, 2/7/22





The Economy of Nature

By: Zane Lawyer - Education Arborist

Home Economics

It has been a long time since I escaped the gravitational pull of junior high, but I do remember having to take a home economics class at some point. At that time, it would have already been rebranded away from associations to ‘homemaking’ and the problematic term of ‘housewifery’ to something like ‘domestic science’. Either way, I recall writing many fake checks to myself and attempting to assemble a lemon layer cake with a fellow aproned classmate before the bell rang. My big takeaway from that time being that running a home is a lot like managing a business. Or is it that running a business is like managing a home?

Since the mid-19th century, schools and universities in the U.S. began including some form of home management into their curriculum. These courses sought to teach valuable life skills like financial literacy, cooking basics, and simple handicrafts. By the end of the century the field looked to distinguish itself as a legitimate profession under a universal term. According to their website, before settling on their name as the American Association of Home Economics (now called the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences) they briefly considered appropriating the term *oekology*, from the Greek *oikos* meaning ‘household’ and *logos* ‘the rational study of’, to describe their science of right living.

Instead, the field of biology later adopted usage of the term under its modern spelling: ecology. As a branch of science, it studies the relationships of organisms to each other and their environment. Much like economics, literally ‘the laws governing the household’, the focus is on how beings influence one another when resources are scarce. It’s both surprising and not how the metaphor of a household is used as a handy framework to guide our thinking about interactions in the larger world: how best to live, how to make a living, and the patterns of life itself.

It's Evolution, Baby

Forest ecology deals with the complex interactions of trees, other species, and their shared environment. Forest ecologists study the ways insects, fungi, animals, and other plant life act to promote, share in, or threaten the foundational role of trees in a forest setting. Its subject seems overly broad and theoretical but not without some justification. For instance, the whole idea of species coexisting in the same environment seems to run counter to the crowning glory of evolutionary theory: natural

selection.

The theory of natural selection (a fact at this point, really) holds that given a group of the same species, individuals within that group differ genetically from one another, and some of those differences will affect the individual's ability to survive and reproduce in its environment. One plant may have inherited a genetic makeup for vigor allowing it to grow and reproduce faster than others while another may have received a poor set of genes that suppressed its vigor. Another may have received a novel mutation which codes for resistance to a parasite while another may have a thinner seed coat allowing it to spread by wind alone and escape the parasite by colonizing new terrain. When these plants produce the next generation, the 'better' genes that lead to higher survival and reproduction will be relatively more common in the population than the 'worse' genes.

Over time, a species will gradually become more and more adapted to its environment as helpful mutations arise and spread throughout the population while the unhelpful ones are eliminated. Evolution by natural selection is both a random and lawful process. Random due to the occurrence of chance variation in the individual genetic makeup and lawful because as an ordering process selection will favor those successful individuals who are more likely to produce offspring that are similarly successful. Evolution doesn't happen when a species simply reproduces successfully but rather when the offspring of that reproduction reproduce successfully.

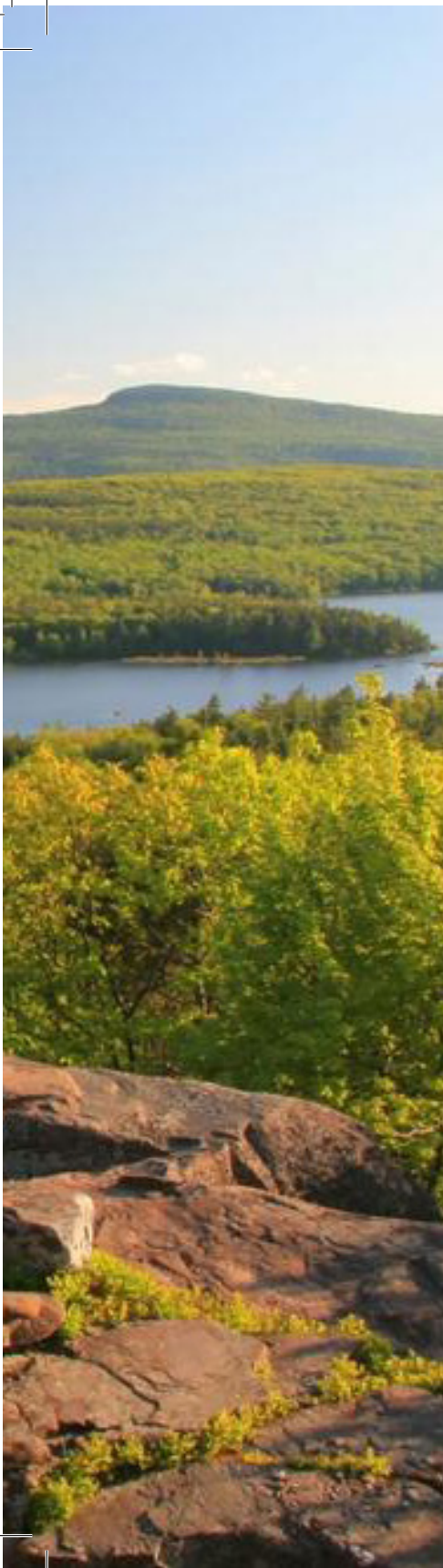
So, if natural selection exerts strong pressures that favor the evolution of the 'better' adapted species over the maladaptive then how do you explain the evolutionary formation of entire plant communities i.e., diverse populations of species occupying the same environment? Why is it not the case that only one species evolved to flourish in it? How is it that different plant species, requiring the same resources of light, water, and minerals, coexist in ways that are relatively stable over time? From an evolutionary point of view, how are forest ecosystems even possible at all? The answer: niches.

The Role of a Lifetime

A forest is more than its trees. The niche of an organism is more than the place it occupies. It's also what it does to utilize available resources, how it protects itself from competitors, when and where it reproduces. This functional role describes all the ways it interacts with other organisms or its non-living environment.

The role of any organism is to survive and reproduce. It will need space, water, energy, and essential nutrients to complete this life-long task.





Yet even though all organisms require the same resources for their own individual needs, they require them in more or lesser amounts, at different times, and in different forms. There is some competition and some cooperation but neither state is dominant. This is key to understanding why forests are so stable and resilient to stressors like wind, fire, drought, and disease. A fully functioning ecosystem is like an economy in which the rate of unemployment is equal to the rate of employment. As one role comes to an end another one is created.

In a way, a niche is analogous to the ‘job’ it has in the biological ‘household’. Just as a busy household is sustained when its members fulfill roles for the tasks that need to get done, so the plants and animals sustain the forest ecosystem by utilizing the incredible variety of habitat and resources in their own way. One is the result of human choices about right living and the other is the result of a finely tuned evolutionary process millions of years in the making.

An economy where humans make their living working in, on, and around trees is one that sustains the forest too. As stewards we can and should look at our role in the ecosystem more like a job creator. We keep the forest productive by managing for quality timber. We open up new ‘markets’ for wildlife by clearing patches for young growth or releasing a nut bearing oak or hickory. By participating in what’s going on out there, and making a living at it too, is how we earn our keep in the economy of nature.

Business Member Spotlight!



Amex Bois Franc—Hardwood Inc.
CP 186 succ Bureau-Chef
Plessisville, Québec, Canada
(819) 998-0520

Arkville Caboose LLC
(845) 586-1122

Ashokan Turf and Timber
Chainsaws - Logging Supplies -
Maple Sugaring Eq.
(845) 657-6395

Catskill Mountain Forestry Services
607-330-5701
catskillmntnforestry@yahoo.com

Coldwell Banker Associate
Broker Sue Doig
845.706.4311



COLDWELL BANKER
TIMBERLAND
PROPERTIES

Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties
info@timberlandproperties.net
845-586-3321



DELAWARE BULLDOZING CORP.
(607) 538-1185
klafever@delawarebulldozing.net

Dudley Street Entertainment, LLC
sweetsciencecinema@yahoo.com

32

Field & Stone
607.832.4488



**FLOWERING SUN
FARM & CENTER**

Flowering Sun Ecology Center
floweringsunecology@gmail.com
(802) 303 3745



Freshtown Supermarket
(845) 586-4384



Frost Valley YMCA
(845) 985-2291



Gardens by Trista, Inc.
(607) 588-6762

LEFT BANK CIDERS

Left Bank Ciders
150 Water Street, Catskill, NY
www.leftbankciders.org

Ginger Works -
High Meadow Catskills
(917) 371-7386

Eric Dahlberg Construction, Inc
(607) 588-6449

Christopher Hopstock
Architecture
adschopstock@gmail.com
646-673-1402

Jeffrey Keiter Landscape
Architect
jeffkeiter.rla@gmail.com
(917) 723-8810



Mountain Dog Cafe, LLC
5 Harper Street Stamford, NY
(607) 214-4324



Margaretville Telephone
Company
845-586-3311
mtc@catskill.net

NYS Chapter American Chest-
nut Foundation
<https://www.acf.org/ny/>



Part 2 Events
(845) 244-0353

PGK Logging, Inc.
(607) 326-6923
pklogger242@hotmail.com

Rose Mountain Cottages
(718) 208-3399

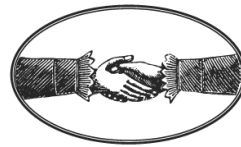
Rush Brook Lodge
rbl@actorsart.com



Sluiter Agency, Inc.
(845) 586-2641



Sundial Studios Architecture
& Design, PLLC
(718) 852-6708
kyle@sundial-studios.com



The Hunter Foundation, Inc. /
Fromer Market Gardens
518-589-4143

Upper Delaware
Welcome Center
(845) 252-3100



White Feather Farm
dallas@whitefeatherfarm.org



Wolf Hollow Camp
(917) 497-7670
mail@gfeazell.com

CFA Scholarship News

By: Kathy Fox, CFA Financial Manager

The Catskill Forest Association Scholarship was established in 2015 through a generous donation from CFA Members, Ernie and Lucy Muller. The Scholarship provides financial support for up to four qualifying students who will be pursuing a degree in Forestry or Natural Resources Management by attending SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, located in Syracuse, New York, annually.

CFA is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020-2021 CFA Scholarship Award, as follows;

Gabriel Cavallaro, Continuing Senior
Ulster County- Glasco, NY
Forest Resources Management

Alexander Schmidt, Continuing Junior
Ulster County- Milton, NY
Forest Resources Management

Katherine Flores, Continuing Junior
Ulster County- Napanoch, NY
Natural Resources Management

Dylan Pettit, Continuing Senior
Delaware County- Sidney, NY
Natural Resources Management

If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, please make your check payable to the Catskill Forest Association, Inc., and list CFA Scholarship Fund in the memo line; or log on to our website www.catskillforest.org to make your donation. Thank you, in advance, for helping to support this wonderful cause.

Programs & Services

[Learn more at catskillforestry.org/programs](http://Learnmoreatcatskillforestry.org/programs)

Program	Description	Time
Consultations	<i>One-hour property visits by field staff to help you learn about what your property holds</i>	All Year
Apple Tree Pruning	<i>Pruning helps keep apple trees healthy and improves quality and quantity of yields</i>	Jan. - March
Apple Tree Grafting	<i>A horticultural technique to help bring old, neglected trees back to fruition</i>	April - May
Forest Bird Program	<i>High-Nesting Bird Boxes for ducks, owls, etc. And/or Canopy Bird Feeders that protect against squirrels & bears</i>	All Year
Invasive Species Management	<i>Care for trees against invasive insects, and care for forests against invasive plants</i>	May - Sept.
Portable Sawmill Program	<i>We bring a state-of-the-art portable sawmill directly to your property and mill your logs to lumber, on the spot</i>	Spring - Fall
Property Mapping	<i>Custom property maps highlighting the property features you want to see</i>	All Year
Tree Care: Cabling	<i>Preserving large-sized individual trees with structural defects.</i>	Spring - Fall
Tree Care: Structural Pruning	<i>Establish dominate leader for tree structure.</i>	Spring - Fall
Tree Planting	<i>CFA will find prime placements for up to 3 trees</i>	Spring - Fall
Wildlife Habitat Management	<i>Forestry practices to help improve your woodlot for wildlife</i>	All Year



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member at www.catskillforest.org/membership or send a check/cash with this application to:
Catskill Forest Association, Inc. PO Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

TOTAL ACRES: _____ FORESTED ACRES: _____ POND [] STREAM [] RIVER []

CATEGORIES (PLEASE CIRCLE)

BASIC (\$75)	CONTRIBUTING (\$175)
Events free or discounted; CFA News Subscription; CFA Member Property Sign; Access to CFA Programs	SAME AS BASIC + 20% Discount on Services; CFA Totebag
BUSINESS (\$200)	SUSTAINING (\$500)
SAME AS BASIC + 10% Discount on Services; CFA Website Listing; Email Referral 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: \$_____