

Cornell Cooperative Extension Allegany County

32nd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop

Held at: Pioneer High School, County Line Rd. Yorkshire, NY



 **Saturday, March 1, 2025**
Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.
Refreshments/Exhibits in Cafeteria

Opening Session - Academic Room: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

An Introduction to Bat Biology and Conservation - Dr. Jonathan Townsend Royal Fern Nursery. A presentation on the uniqueness and environmental importance of bat species around the world and locally in New York State. Learn about these incredible creatures, and what you can do to help them! Dr. Townsend is a local bat expert and a member of the Buffalo Bat Habitat's Board of Directors.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSION I (PICK ONE)

Best Practices on a Small Wooded Acreage - Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources. Many woodland owners have parcels that are “small” compared to other owners. These parcels are endearing to the owners and provide many opportunities for activities to ensure they remain healthy and support the owner’s interests. This presentation will cover several simple and basic actions that owners can take to be active in the woods and enjoy the land to its fullest extent. This presentation is intended for owners of small parcels and resource professionals and educators who work with these owners.

Water Chestnut Management: There’s “nut-in” to it - Nick Farese, WNY PRISM Aquatic Program Manager. Ponds and creeks are synonymous with rural homeownership and provide important habitat to native species. Come learn how to manage some of the aquatic invasive species you might find in these habitats. This presentation will focus on identification and best management practices for water chestnut, water hyacinth, water lettuce, and European frog-bit.

Monitoring Bobcat Distribution and Abundance in NY – Jen Pettit, Wildlife Biologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In the late 1970s, bobcats were restricted to the Adirondack, Catskill, and Taconic regions of New York. Except for New York City and Long Island, bobcats can now be found throughout New York, but their secretive nature makes sightings relatively infrequent. NYSDEC uses a variety of techniques, including targeted camera surveys and reports from the public, to track the distribution and abundance of bobcats in New York.

LUNCH 11:30 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION II (PICK ONE)

Vegetation response to slash walls that exclude deer from hardwood forest regeneration harvests. - Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources. Slash walls were developed at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in 2017. Slash walls have proven effective to exclude deer. Annual measurements of permanent sample points have documented changes in vegetation inside versus outside of slash walls. This presentation will review 4 to 6 years of vegetative response, inside younger and older slash walls, to assess their association with the regeneration stocking, hardwood seedling diversity, seedling height growth, and other metrics of response. Traditionally problematic species such as beech may be of less concern, but early successional species can dominate some locations. The design and construction of slash walls will be reviewed.

Conserving Forest Soil - Zach Warning, USDA-NRCS Soil Scientist. How to maximize use of your forest soils while minimizing damage. Best management practices for all the most common uses of forest soils, such as trails, logging roads, culverts, and wildlife management.

Weatherization, Electrification, Clean Energy: How it benefits your Home and Land – Josh Randall, Natural Resources Educator Cornell Cooperative Extension Niagara County. Rural communities may have additional difficulties with accessing reasonably priced energy resources because of limitations posed by long distances, number of competitive companies, and increasing costs for all energy sources. Agricultural and forestry operations face similar challenges, requiring the updating of equipment and buildings to ensure safe and low-cost production environments. Learn more about NYSERDA and other public programs in this session aimed at reducing costs for residential and agricultural energy consumers in rural settings.

1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION III (PICK ONE)

Intro to Restoration of the American Chestnut for Rural Landowners - Lake Graboski, Northern Regional Science Coordinator for The American Chestnut Foundation. Learn about the history of the American chestnut: what it meant to people and what its status is. Get an update on The American Chestnut Foundation's scientific strategy, and how to help by growing American chestnuts on your property.

Getting to the root of the problem: Management of invasive trees and shrubs - Brittany Hernon, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Program Manager.** Learn how to manage some common invasive species that may be present on your property. This program will focus on Best Management Practices for invasive trees and shrubs including tree of heaven, buckthorn and honeysuckle. The session will review manual, mechanical and chemical methods. There will be a focus on specific treatment techniques including foliar treatment, cut stump and basal bark and an opportunity to see equipment used for management. We will also discuss management planning, prioritization and review some native tree and shrub alternatives to plant after invasive species removal.

Approved for 1 DEC Recertification Credit in Category 2, 3A, and 9.

Providing habitat for bats - Terry Lobdell, Bat House Specialist. Bat populations in the northeastern US have been decimated by White Nose Syndrome, wind turbines, habitat loss and other threats. Bat houses hold much promise for helping our affected species recover. For 25 years, Mr. Lobdell has experimented with different bat house designs specifically to accommodate big brown and little brown bats. Both species have site-specific requirements which often necessitate custom design adjustments. He will share his knowledge of bat house design, construction and lessons learned for successful bat house adoption in the field.

2:50 PM - NYFOA Membership Drawing – Cafeteria

Rural Landowner Workshop -- Saturday, March 1, 2025

Registration Form - Please mail back this entire form with payment - thank you! To help us estimate class interest, please choose one topic (per person) in each concurrent session by placing a **check for each person next** to the number of the class in each of the three sessions.

9:15 a.m. – Bat Biology and Conservation

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSION I (PICK ONE)

- 1. Best Practices on a Small Wooded Acreage
- 2. Water Chestnut Management
- 3. Monitoring Bobcat Distribution

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION II (PICK ONE)

- 1. Vegetation response to slash walls
- 2. Conserving Forest Soil
- 3. Weatherization, Electrification, Clean Energy

1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION III (PICK ONE)

- 1. Restoration of the American Chestnut
- 2. **Management of invasive trees and shrubs****
- 3. Providing habitat for bats

****Interested in DEC Pesticide Recertification Credits? Please check below:**

I understand I must arrive 5 minutes prior to start of the session to sign in, I must provide my NY applicator ID card and must attend full session to receive recertification credit.

Early Bird Registration deadline: Friday, February 14, 2025. Cost: \$35.00 per person; this includes lunch, a copy of the seminar proceedings, and all handout materials. **No Refunds. No Walk-Ins Please.**

Fill in registration information below:

Name(s): _____

Additional Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Number Attending: _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

Late fee (if received after February 14th): _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Lunch Choice: _____ Meat _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CCE – Allegany County.

Return this page with your payment to:

Cornell Cooperative Extension, 5435 County Rd 48, Belmont, NY 14813, Attn: RLOW
Thank You!