



## 2025 ESFPA/ARC Fall Forestry Roundtable

**Location:** SUNY Adirondack, Northwest Bay Conference Center, 640 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY 12804

**Date and time:** Monday November 3, 2025, 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM

**Organizer:** Dan Fitts, (518) 241-6186, [adkresearchconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:adkresearchconsortium@gmail.com)

### Overview:

- **8:00 a.m. Registration**
- **8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks:**
  - Dan Fitts, Executive Director, Adirondack Research Consortium
  - John Bartow, Executive Director, Empire State Forest Products Association
- **9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Session 1 NYS Reforestation Program**
  - **NYS DEC**
- **9:45 – 11:15 a.m. Session 2 – RPTL 480a and Future Forest Tax Policy**
  - For almost as long as Real Property Tax Law Section 480a was adopted in 1972 there has been talk of amending it to make it simpler and more inclusive of forest stewardship objectives. As part of the work of the Climate Scoping Plan Agriculture and Forestry Working Group there were several recommendations for amending RPTL Section 480a and to adopt new provisions for broadening forest stewardship tax benefits. This panel will flush out some of those proposals from the Climate Scoping Plan as well as new concepts that have arisen in the years since the Scoping Plan. The panel will also discuss what may be necessary to bring diverse stakeholder along to reach consensus on changes in forest tax law that would make the program more attractive to forest landowners and beneficial for New York's forests.
  - **Moderator – Robert Malmshaimer**, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
  - **Panelists:**
    - Christopher Prentiss, NYS Association of Consulting Foresters
    - Jeff Denkenberger, Molpus Woodlands Group
    - Jackie Bowen – Adirondack Council
    - Claudia Bramer – Executive Director, Protect the Adirondacks
    - Robert Somers – Private Forest Landowner, NY Forest Owners Association
    - Jim Townsend, Esq. – Advisor & Counsel, Adirondack Landowners Association
    - Fionna Watt, NYS DEC, State Forester, Director, Div of Lands & Forests
- **Session 3: 11:15 – 12 noon**
  - **Dr. Obste Therasme**
  - Dr. Therasme will provide an update of the research associated with the “Tool for Assessing Carbon Storage Materials (TACSMA) underway at SUNY ESF and the benefits of using this life-cycle assessment and environmental product declaration for manufactured wood products. ESF is also looking for wood product manufacturers in New or that TACSMA can be prototyped on and will be interested in hearing from ESFPA members on possible applications.
- **Lunch 12:00 p.m.**

- **Session 3: 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. – Forest Connects**
  - **Cornell CALS**
- **Session 4: 1:45- 3:15 p.m.- Mass Timber**
  - The future of New York’s forests needs new opportunities in markets and uses for wood products. Using wood in mass timber and in addressing embodied carbon is one opportunity we want to explore in this panel. Mass timber construction is still in its infancy, especially in the US. But there are clear reasons to believe that it will become much more common. Mass timber provides a much-desired carbon sink, allows for rapid construction and can provide cost savings not just in time but also in a reduced need for finish materials because the structural wood product can also serve as a finish. Bringing together panelists that have design and research experience in the use of wood in buildings and in deploying mass timber projects is the primary goal of this panel.
  - **Moderator** – John Bartow, Empire State Forest Products Association
  - **Panelists:**
    - Martin Hopp – AIA, RIBA Martin Hopp Architecture
    - Dr. Paul Crovella – Associate Professor, SUNY ESF
    - Eamon Carey – Dir. Of Jurisdiction & Agreements, NYC and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters
    - Gizem Karazog – Assistant Vice President, NYC Economic Development Corp.
- **3:30 p.m. – Action Steps and Wrap-up**
  - Moderators John Bartow and Robert Malmshaimer
- **4:00 p.m. Close**



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