

Beech tree wilt huge risk to bears

By Ben Westcott
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Adirondacks' black bear population is "robust," but the spread of beech wilt disease puts at risk nutritious beech nuts, bears' key food source.

"This beech wilt thing is going to be devastating" and "may be catastrophic," Charlotte Demers said in the Lake George Land Conservancy's Living Land Series Aug. 26 at LGLC's Bolton Landing headquarters. The Land Conser-



vancy said, "Charlotte Demers has spent more than 35 years working as a research technician at the SUNY ESF Newcomb Campus."

Now retired, Ms. Demers said, "The bear population in New York is very healthy, if not a little higher than DEC would like to see it" — roughly 8,000 black bears in the state, 50-60% of them living in the Adirondacks.

Beech Wilt — or Beech Leaf Disease — is "a nematode (microscopic roundworm) that gets into the leaves and causes the leaves to die and eventually causes the death of the tree after a number of years," she said. First found in Ohio, it was discovered in the Adirondacks in 2022.

"It is pretty scary what might happen," Ms. Demers said. "It may be that instead of having 8,000 bears we have 800 bears. It might change things dramatically if

Beech nuts their nutritious food; 'we could go from 8,000 to 800 bears'

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Blake Gendebien ▶ 19 Chronicle interview

Air show grounded

By Cathy DeDe
Chronicle Managing Editor

The Warren County Board of Supervisors voted Friday against committing approximately \$400,000 in Occupancy Tax funds to help bring an air show to the Warren County Airport in early September 2027.

The weighted vote was 311 for and 555 against. (See box for list of how each supervisor voted.)

County Budget Officer Nate Etu of Queensbury voted no. He told *The Chronicle*, "Air Race X had the **potential to be a win-win** for both the event hosts and our region, **but ultimately, the timing & financials weren't enough** in our region's favor."

Air Race X president Ted Morris messaged *The Chronicle* after the vote declaring, **"Huge**

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Dueling Farmers Markets as of 11/7: At The Ed & Aviation Mall

By Cathy DeDe
Chronicle Managing Editor

Starting Saturday, Nov. 7, there will be competing farmers markets — at The Ed on South Street in downtown Glens Falls and at Aviation Mall in Queens-

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Treasurer's attorney addressed board ▶ 3-4

Kevin Luibrand is representing embattled Warren County Treasurer Christine Norton. *Chronicle photo/Cathy DeDe*

Sasquatch ▶ 9

Jam bands ▶ 30

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