

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

COMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, May 10, WOODSWALK

Our woodswalk will take place on a 36 – acre forested property owned by Dana Benjamin near Whitney Point. This very diverse woodlot is being managed to optimize wildlife habitat and has a comprehensive management plan prepared by Dana with assistance from DEC Forester Gerry Kachmor. We will have a chance to observe how each of the different features of this property have been utilized to support Dana's objectives. In addition, Dana will demonstrate the control of invasive plant species, including the use of the propane flamethrower.

The woodswalk will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at about noon. Carpooling is encouraged since parking is limited, and car poolers will meet at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Front Street, Binghamton at 9:15 a.m. and depart for Whitney Point promptly at 9:30.

Directions: Exit Interstate 81 in Whitney Point (from either direction) and proceed West on Route 26. Go approximately 3 miles, and about ½ mile past Ford Hill Golf Course turn right on Tiffany Road. Go to the end of Tiffany Road and turn left on Lamb Road. Go approximately 1 mile and look for the yellow NYFOA sign on the left. Park along the road.

IMPORTANT!! Wear waterproof boots, preferably rubber. We will have to cross several very wet areas during the woodswalk. Friends, neighbors and kids are welcome!!

Tuesday, June 10, A.D. BOWMAN AND SONS SAWMILL TOUR

This tour will take place at A.D. Bowman and Sons sawmill facilities, 1690 Route 11, Castle Creek, NY. The tour will begin at 1:30 and conclude at approximately 4:00. We will assemble in the conference room, which is in the office building on the East side of Route 11. There we will hear some background information on the Bowman operations and current markets for hardwood timber. We will then split into smaller groups to observe log grading and tour the sawmill operations and the pallet mill. The mills will be in operation during our tour. Car-pooling is encouraged since parking in Bowman's office lot is limited. Carpoolers will meet at Cooperative Extension at 1:00 and depart for Castle Creek promptly at 1:10. This tour is free, but preregistration is required because total participation cannot exceed 45. Please call or Email Kevin Mathers to preregister on (607) 584-5013 or kjm8@cornell.edu.

OTHER NEWS

Gerry Kachmor wins Chapter Activity Award for 2007

At the NYFOA Annual Meeting in Syracuse last February it was announced that Gerry Kachmor was selected to receive the Southern Tier Chapter Activity Award for 2007. The award, which is a beautifully inscribed hardwood plaque, was granted in recognition of Gerry's 20+ years of dedicated service to the Southern Tier Chapter.

OTHER NEWS (continued)

Southern Tier Chapter Officers Announced

At a membership meeting just prior to the March 19 Pond Management Workshop, the Chapter Steering Committee nominated Daniel Price for the position of Chapter Chair and Dana Benjamin as Vice Chair. All other officers were to continue in office. The membership voted affirmatively on the nominations. See the back page of this newsletter for a full list of officers and contact information.

Southern Tier Chapter Supports Cornell Cooperative Extension “Come Grow With Us” Capital Campaign.

Also at the March 19th Chapter meeting, it was agreed to contribute \$250 to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County Capital Fund Campaign. Most of our Chapter meetings and workshops are held at the aging CCE Broome County facility, and it was considered appropriate that we support the fund drive to construct a new Education Center.

Membership Fee Increase Postponed Indefinitely

At their meeting on February 23rd, the NYFOA Board of Directors voted to postpone indefinitely the membership fee increase that had been scheduled to take effect on June 1st. The action was taken at the request of several Chapters who requested time to implement plans to increase membership, which, if successful, would eliminate the need for a dues increase. Every member should be a salesman or saleswoman for NYFOA. Not only will a larger membership base keep our dues affordable, but reaching increasing numbers of forest owners is key to our educational mission, and will also make us more effective in our role as advocates for forest owners. So loan your old issues of The NY Forest Owner magazine to forest-owning friends or neighbors, and sign them up!

The Healthy Forest Agenda

NYFOA played a leading role in organizing the Council of Forest Resource Organizations (CFRO) about three years ago. CFRO includes eleven private and industrial organizations interested in sustainable management of New York State’s forest resources. Through the strength of their combined memberships, CFRO is able to wield greater influence on behalf of its constituent organizations than we could hope to achieve on our own.

NYFOA has participated, with other CFRO Affiliates, in developing the Healthy Forests Agenda, which appears on the following page. This Agenda is the centerpiece of our efforts to educate and influence the state legislature on the importance of healthy forests to the state’s economy and quality of life. Even if you have been a member for 20 years, and may think you have little more to learn about forest stewardship, NYFOA’s advocacy mission alone is reason enough to maintain your membership and work to bring others into the fold. Please take the time to read the Healthy Forests Agenda; and use it as a new member recruiting tool.