

NYFOA - Southern Tier Chapter Spring Newsletter 2006

NYFOA - Southern Tier Chapter Board of Directors

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Upcoming Southern Tier Chapter Meetings and Programs:

April 22: Bluestone Quarry Tour:

It is common knowledge among forest owners that the most valuable black cherry in the world comes from the southern tier of New York and the northern tier of Pennsylvania. But did you know that all of the bluestone in the world is quarried within a 90-mile radius of Deposit, NY? Several of our members have been approached about prospecting for bluestone deposits on their properties and have expressed an interest in learning more about how a quarrying operation might fit in with their overall forest management plans.

The Mirch Family, owners of Tompkins Bluestone in Hancock, have invited us to tour their facilities and a nearby quarry on Saturday, April 22nd. We will learn how they prospect for stone deposits, cut and remove stone from the quarry, and restore the site when the quarry is closed. Current regulations governing quarry operations and typical royalties and contracts with landowners will also be covered. We will also tour the Tompkins stone finishing operations, including an awesome computerized, 10-foot diameter diamond saw. After leaving the Tompkins stone yard and processing facility, we will visit a nearby operating quarry and a quarry that has been closed and restored.

We will assemble at 7:45 a.m. in the rear parking lot at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Front Street, Binghamton. We will organize and travel to Hancock in car pools as much as possible, and will depart promptly at 8:00 a.m. Four wheel drive SUV's and extended cab pickups appreciated since the road to the quarry can be rough. We plan to be finished by noon, and be back to CCE by 1:00. Tour will take place regardless of weather. Tour is free, but pre-registration is required Call Kevin Mathers at CCE (772-8954, x130) or Jerry Michael (648-2941).

Directions to Tompkins Bluestone Co.:

Drive East (from Binghamton) on Route 17 and exit at Fish's Eddy Exit, about five miles East from Hancock. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and drive west on Old Route 17 for about 2 miles. Turn right on the bridge over Main Route 17. After crossing the bridge, turn right and drive about ¼ mile on Tar Hollow Road. Tompkins Bluestone will be on your left.

June 17: Tree ID, Measurement, and Value

If you would like to be able to identify the trees on your property, learn how to measure the volume of wood in a tree, and learn about some of the factors that determine the value of timber, this workshop is for you. The tree ID portion of this program will be conducted at nearby Wolfe Park in the Town of Chenango. Prior to visiting the park, Gerry Kachmor, DEC Forester, will explain how trees are measured to estimate their volume, and discuss factors that determine the economic value of timber. The workshop starts at 9 a.m. and ends at approximately 11 a.m., and will be held at Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Broome County, 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton (just north of exit 5 from interstate 81). The program is free, but registration is required, please call (607) 772-8954 to register.

Membership: Current Membership in the Southern Tier Chapter is 181

Welcome new members

Jeff Flanagan, Greene, NY
Gary Nemeth, Middletown, NY
David & Eileen Relyea, Bayville, NY
Stephen Sluznis, Whitney Point, NY
Alexandra VanDerWoerdt, East Meredith, NY

What You Missed:

February 23: Managing competing vegetation to promote successful regeneration

Richard Pancoe, DEC Forester, will discuss the importance of managing competing vegetation when planning forest regeneration efforts.

March 13: Forestry Awareness Day in Albany

Members of several chapters of NYFOA, along with Mary Jeanne Packer our Executive Director, Peter Smallidge (and family), Alan White and yours truly (George Franke) attended and participated in the events of Forestry Awareness Day in Albany. We met with several legislators to discuss everything from funding for Arnot Forest to Eminent Domain to Conservation Easements to the "Tree Tax". This was a great trip, well taken by the politicians and we'd love to see more members next time around

March 22: Chapter Pot Luck Dinner & Amphibian Talk

Kevin Mathers from Cornell University Cooperative Extension presented an after dinner program on forest amphibians. The presentation will highlight some of our common local amphibians. And of course, dinner was served by those attending....such treats as baked ham, venison stew and a slew of homemade desserts filled the bill. Past President Larry Lepak was presented with an award for his many years of leading the SoT Chapter.

Other News:

The tree tax has been the big hub-but lately What this you ask? Well...it turns out that there has been a method on the books of the Office of Real Property Service in Albany, a method for assessors to collect more money based on the value of your standing timber on your land. Well this "tax" has been around for a very long time, long ago when most of us weren't concerned about our trees because they had more aesthetic value than dollar value. But that has been carried along and now some town assessors are basing the value of your property on the additional value of your standing timber. Some landowners have seen their property taxes quadruple because of this In an age when we can hardly manage to pay the highest taxes in the nation on our forested lands, where do they think we'll get the money to pay them four times higher? Several things come to mind really quick...one, the fast solution will be to clear cut. You can't tax something that isn't there. This will be devastating to our forested lands. The second thing that comes to mind is, our trees are inventory. Not one single entity in NYS other than forest owners are being taxed on their inventory. Farmers are not taxed on standing crops! Warehouses are not taxed on their goods stored there! Imagine the far reaching consequences!!! Hey, lets start taxing the jewelers down in the Manhattan diamond district on their inventory and we'll see how fast things change!

Anyhow, its time YOU got off your backside and let your feelings known! Senator Young has proposed legislation (S. 6818) and Assemblyman Parment has a similar bill in the Assembly (A. 6638) that would exclude the value of our trees for the purposes of real property tax assessments. WRITE, EMAIL or CALL EVERYONE YOU KNOW to support this legislation. I for one see two options here if we don't take action NOW...chainsaw or for sale sign.

Other bills of interest that require your attention are:

Eminent Domain - S.4834, S.5938, A.9079, A.8865, A.9043-a

Property Tax - S.2320, S.3309, S.3352, S.6657, A.2055, A.7200, A.155, A.569

Wetlands - S.2081, S.1974, A.2048, A.5819, A.293

Land Use - S.2810, S.3153, S.4474, A.4463, A.6450, A.7404, A.1564, A1566

The text to these bills can be found online at www.senate.state.ny.us or www.assembly.state.ny.us

Emailing Newsletter

In an effort to expand some of the programs and services provided by the Southern Tier Chapter, we'd like to try and cut some of the printing and postage costs incurred with sending out the newsletter. Each newsletter mail-out costs about \$225 in printing and postage. As stated, we're going to make every effort to begin printing the newsletter on a quarterly basis (around Feb., April, Aug., Oct.). To help defray some of the costs associated with this, we'd like to ask for your email address so that we can send along the newsletter electronically. While we do realize that not everyone has computer access, we'll still print and mail newsletters to those who need to get it that way, but with the rising costs of stamps and printing, emailing seems to be the way to go. I hope that you will send me your email address and we can start sending you the SoT Newsletter online. Every penny saved goes back into programs . . . hey, it's your money at work, lets use it wisely! Please send me an email at GeorgeFranke@hotmail.com and just put in the subject line NYFOA NEWSLETTER and I'll start sending you the newsletter electronically. I only have 37 people STATEWIDE signed up to receive the newsletter electronically...come on folks, where are the rest of you?

Newsletter Advertising

Beginning in the next issue (May 2006) the Southern Tier Chapter will be permitting members to advertise in the newsletter. We will be soliciting BUSINESS CARD size advertising from the membership at a cost of \$60 for the year (four issues). So if you have a business that you want to showoff send me your check made out to NYFOA - SoT for \$60 and your BUSINESS CARD and I'll get your card printed in the next issue. I generally mail-out 270-280 newsletters each time and currently 50 electronically submitted newsletters. So, do the math! It's less than \$0.05 (yes, five cents) to reach each member in each issue. Surely that's a bargain when you compare what it would cost to direct mail 275 local forest owners!

Organization Spotlight:

Empire State Forest Products Association - ESFPA

In 1906, the Adirondack Lumber Manufacturers and Shippers Association was formed to help track declining inventories of Adirondack softwood and promote the emerging science of forestry. Three years later the name was changed to the Empire State Forest Products Association to reflect the addition of new members from other regions of the state and a growing statewide interest. Today the Association enjoys a diverse and growing membership. Membership stands at over 400 businesses and individuals and is growing. Members include forest landowners, timber harvesters, furniture companies, lumber manufacturers, pulp and paper companies, and other wood product manufacturers from across New York state. Members own and manage 1.2 million acres of New York forests and employ over one-third of the 65,000 individuals employed in the forest products industry in New York state.

ESFPA is a member of the Council of Forest Resources Organizations, along with NYFOA and currently hosts the Forestry Awareness Day in Albany (along with NYFOA and several other organizations). For more information on joining ESFPA, you can go to their website at www.esfpa.org I've found lots of useful information there on their Forestry Facts and Economic Impact web pages. Go take a look!

Got Trees?

Leo Covell, with Evergreens Unlimited is looking for Norway, Colorado Blue, White, Serbian Spruce and Concolor Fir. All trees must be full skirt and branched to the bottom. Hemlock and Douglas Fir as well . They pay top dollar for quality trees. His office # is 732-777-1175 and fax # 732-777-1154 cell # 732-684-4080 They are looking for trees from 7'--18' and taller, if available.

Wild Turkey Update

For info on the DEC Wild Turkey Management Plan that was mentioned in the last issue of the SoT Newsletter, please go to: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/turkey/turkplan.htm

Under the “In Case You Don’t Know Who to Call” Heading:

The DEC puts out a short pamphlet listing the consulting foresters who’ve signed up with the NYS Consulting Forester Program. This booklet is available free by contacting your regional DEC Forestry Office. In Region 7 its Cortland (607) 753-3095, Kirkwood (607) 775-2545 and Sherburne (607) 674-4036. In Region 4 its Stamford (607) 652-7365...other regions are accessible by calling the DEC Central Office at (518) 402-9425.

Additionally Master Forest Owners (MFOs) are available for free woods walks on your land and offer advice on many things involved with your forest. MFOs are volunteers who have undergone training and many times are woodland owners themselves.

The goal of the MFO/COVERTS Program is to provide private, nonindustrial forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests to enhance ownership satisfaction. MFOs do not perform management activities nor give professional advice. Rather, they meet with forest owners to listen to their concerns and questions, and offer advice as to sources of assistance based on their training and personal experience. The success of this volunteer program is grounded in the power of “peer” counseling. Knowledgeable and experienced forest owner neighbors can interact as unbiased peers with less-experienced forest owners. There are over 200 active volunteers across NYS who annually interact directly with hundreds of neighbors and indirectly with thousands through various outreach activities, such as newspaper articles, educational workshops and work with youth groups. These informed and dedicated volunteers are a great resource in their communities to assist other organizations and agencies in promoting the wise use of forest resources. For more information on MFO’s see the Cornell website, www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo

Additionally, there is a call for folks who would like to become MFOs. Mr Gary Goff at Cornell would like to ask your help in nominating and soliciting candidates for the 2006 NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program. This year we will be conducting 2, new volunteer training workshops:

1. June 7 - 11, at Camp Shankitunk, Delhi, NY
Applications due by May 22, 2006

2. Sept. 13 – 17, at Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest
VanEtten, NY (south of Ithaca in Schuyler Co.)
Applications due by Aug. 28, 2006

Workshops run from Wed. evening to Sun. noon.

Volunteers (MFOs) can attend either workshop depending on convenience of their schedule and travel considerations. Volunteers can commute daily, or accommodations are available free at both sites. There is a \$50 fee for attendance of the 4-day training. Both workshops combine classroom and outdoor field experiences on a wide variety of subjects including; tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, sawtimber economics, wildlife and sawtimber management, communication techniques, and a visit to a nearby sawmill.

If you know clientele or people from your association (including yourself) who would make good volunteers, please send us their names and addresses and we will send them an application packet. Applications can also be made via the program website www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo

The New York forest Owners Association Newsletter is published for members of the Southern Tier Chapter of NYFOA 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in NYS by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Southern Tier Chapter encompasses Delaware, Chenango, Broome, Cortland and Otsego Counties. Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the State, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the boys and girls of today. For information on becoming an NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA Statewide publication, The New York Forest Owner; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two Statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50-\$99), Sponsor (\$100-\$249), Benefactor (\$250-\$499) and Steward (\$500+) are also available. For more information, please visit www.nyfoa.org

