

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2010/2011

Volume 24, Number 4

In the Woodlot

Several people have asked how my timber sale has been going, so I will start with that: we are starting over. We signed a contract for a harvest of low-grade sawlogs and pulp back in June 2009, with a deadline of one year to get the cutting done. That year came and went with no activity, so we agreed to a three-month extension. At the time we signed the extension the logger paid in full for the timber, but still there was no activity. The extension expired three months ago, and my forester and I have spent the interim trying to figure out the best way forward. After considering a variety of options, we decided to go back to the start and send out a new round of requests for bids.

I am not completely comfortable with this decision, but I don't think I would be

Continued on page 4.

Lawn Mower Logging

I leave an 8 horse riding lawn mower at our land and have often wondered if it might work as a mover of small logs. Three years ago I acquired a welder and decided my first project would be attempting a log cart for the mower.

The local small engine repair shop gave me two tires from the front of a dead rider. I used an old boat lift for pieces of angle iron. I even had a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " rolled steel on hand that works as an axle. Essentially, I built a miniature boat trailer complete with rubber roller and hand winch. The roller helps ease the log onto the cart. With heavier logs the $\frac{3}{4}$ " axle has a tendency to bend unless a reinforcing piece of angle iron is attached.

I mounted a trailer ball on the rider and a matching coupler on the cart. Since the cart is almost always unhooked for the log loading process, I find a ball and coupler easier to reattach than a hitch pin. The winch, ball and coupler all came from Harbor Freight Tools which has two stores in the Rochester area or 800-423-2567 www.HarborFreight.com for mail order.

Continued on page 4.

Dick's lawn mower/log mover.



Photo courtesy of Dick Starr.

~ Upcoming Events ~

Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk

April 30th, 2011, 9:30AM to 2PM

Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow
8447 Pardee Hollow Rd., Springwater, NY 14560

This will be the 9th Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow – owned and operated by Chuck Winship. The focus of this year's gathering will be wildlife. Scott Smith, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist in Bath, will give a presentation about the wily eastern coyote (*Canis latrans var.*). Scott will provide information on coyote behavior, reproduction, habitat, range and diet. The group will then caravan to Phil Huber's nearby property (8116 Coates Road). Phil has installed a wide variety of wildlife habitat enhancement projects on his 80 acre parcel. We will visit as much as time allows with the highlights being a recently installed pond, pear and apple orchards, apple tree release in a woodlot, as well as clover and corn plantings. If time permits we may also visit areas with plantations, timber stand improvement work or recent harvests. After returning to the sugar house, Chuck Winship will provide information on new sap spout technology aimed at increasing production and how the 2011 syrup season panned out (pun intended). Chuck will also arrange to serve pancakes with fresh maple syrup during the woodswalk (donations welcomed) – always a tasty treat! We hope to see you again this year!

Directions to Sugarbush Hollow Sugar House:

- From the north or east take New York State Route #21 south through Naples, New York. Go one mile past North Cohocton, New York staying on Route 21. Turn Right on to County Route 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.
- From the west, south or south east take New York State Route 21 north from Interstate 86 (Route 17) through Wayland, New York. About 6 miles past Wayland turn left onto County Road 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn left on to Pardy Hollow

Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

For more information contact Chuck Winship at 585 943 3475 or cew9@cornell.edu

Mark Gooding

Protecting and Enhancing Your Woodlot

Saturday, March 12th, 2011, 9:00AM to Noon
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County
1581 Route 88N, Newark, New York 14513

This is mostly a repeat of our successful seminar last May, targeted to those who are new to owning a woodlot or who are just getting started in managing their woodlot. It is an indoor seminar that will cover the threats woodlots face from both invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer and human actions such as exploitative logging practices.

Registration is \$10. Send your payment along with your name, address and phone number to the address above. For complete details contact Laurie VanNostrand at (315) 331 8415 ext. 107, or Mike Seager at seager_michael@yahoo.com.

Controlling Invasive Species

Saturday, May 21st, 2011, 9:00AM to Noon
A Woodlot Near Sodus, New York

An outdoor hands-on session that will cover identifying and controlling invasive species and also introduce participants to crop tree management, a forestry method well suited for owners of small woodlots. This session is intended to build on the concepts introduced in the *Protecting and Enhancing Your Woodlot* seminar, but you need not have attended to register for this session.

Registration is \$10. Send your payment along with your name, address and phone number to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, 1581 Route 88N, Newark, New York 14513. For complete details contact Laurie VanNostrand at (315) 331 8415 ext. 107, or Mike Seager at seager_michael@yahoo.com.

~ Upcoming Events ~

Protecting Forests and Waters

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2011, 7:30PM
Cornell Cooperative Extension Bldg. Auditorium
249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620

Jim Howe, Executive Director, Central & Western NY (CWNY) Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will illustrate their efforts to work with landowners, government agencies, and others in order to protect the many conservation and economic values of the Western Finger Lakes region. The CWNY Chapter staff consists of fourteen professionals and they are responsible for the Conservancy's efforts in over half of the Empire State.

Using images and words, Mr. Howe will discuss the Conservancy's work to protect land and water and restore native species. The Nature Conservancy achieves lasting results by finding common ground with communities and partners. The CWNY Chapter has helped protect more than 10,000 acres in the Western Finger Lakes region.

Most recently, the Chapter played a crucial role in the negotiation and formation of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, which represents nearly 7,000 acres of unfragmented forest including the entire shorelines of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

Jim has a passion for nature and broad expertise in public policy and natural resources. He serves as an advisor to other conservation groups and is co-author of the book, "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities."

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. They have more than 1 million members, and were founded in 1951. They have helped conserve more than 119 million acres and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide.

Dean Faklis

Developing Biomass Energy

Tuesday, May 10th, 2011, 7:30PM
United Church of Christ - Meeting Room
8758 Main Street, Honeoye, New York 14471

Our guest speaker is Dr. Tony Nekut, who holds a PhD in Applied Physics from Cornell University, and is a native of Pennsylvania. Dr. Nekut worked in exploration geophysics for twenty years at Amoco's R&D Center in Tulsa, OK and returned to Ithaca in 1999 when he took a position with Vector Magnetics.

Tony is interested in promoting the increased use of energy efficiency measures and renewables to help ensure a sustainable future as fossil fuels are depleted. As a forest owner, he recognizes the benefits to forest health and productivity that could be realized by creating a market for sustainably harvested low-grade wood. In 2008, Tony traveled to Austria with a group of forestry professionals to learn how biomass energy has been systematically developed in Europe since the first "oil crunch" in the '70's. There he learned about the technologies and practices, including clean combustion, combined heat and power and district heating, that have enabled many EU countries to expand biomass energy utilization.

Tony believes that the use of biomass as an energy source and organic chemical feedstock will increase and biomass energy production will be important to our rural communities. In concert, forest health will be improved through proper management, which utilizes high-productivity, low-impact harvesting technologies.

This presentation will suggest ways that forest owners can act individually and cooperatively to promote biomass energy policies and practices that will lead to desirable, sustainable outcomes.

Tony is a Master Forest Owner and has written several published articles, created a website (www.ithacawoodheat.org) and worked on a NYSERDA-funded project to install a woodchip-fueled boiler that is now supplying heat at the Cayuga Nature Center.

Dean Faklis

Lawn Mower Logging

Continued from cover.

Once a log is loaded, a 2 x 4 frame prevents it from rolling into the wheels. Sometimes the choker chain catches on the framework as a log is loaded. A floor board(s) for the chain to slide on prevents this. Adding a 2 x 4 post at each corner turns the cart into a very adequate brush and limb mover.

The cart's draw bar is about 7 feet long, enough to hold the winch and coupler while still keeping a 9' log off the ground during transport. Off the ground is good since dirty logs quickly dull a blade be it chain saw or sawmill. Off the ground also allows backing up the log plus wheels require less horsepower and traction than a log being dragged.

The owner's manual says my mower weighs 466 pounds. Adding and shifting my 200 pounds has a significant impact on the balance and traction of the little machine. I consider this an advantage.

Safety is always a concern in the woods especially if you're working alone. Steep slopes require extra care when moving logs, particularly when going with the contour. It's important to downshift before heading up a slope and use a lower gear and engine compression to control speed going downhill.

Dick Starr

In the Woodlot

Continued from cover.

completely comfortable with any of the alternatives. I don't like the idea of selling the same thing twice, and if the logger was communicating with us at all about why he has not been able to do the work I would be happy to give him another extension. In the absence of such communication, we decided that the most expedient way to get the trees cut is to start the process over and find a different buyer.

The major factor in this decision is that our primary goal is to get the trees cut. This is not a sale of high quality logs that are increasing in value as the time passes. These are poor trees, many injured or diseased, and we want to get them cleared out to improve the overall health of the woodlot. Since the stand was originally marked for cutting – 18 months ago – a number of trees have broken off or been uprooted. We want to get those trees removed while they still have some commercial value and to give the higher quality trees more room to grow. The best way to do that, we think, is to give another logger a chance to cut them. I will let you know how it goes.

In the meantime, there are more fun things to work on. One of my ongoing projects has been to plant a variety of trees along the bank of a creek, to try to stabilize the bank and provide some shade on the water. The goldenrod and other brush is very thick along the creek, making it hard to see just how well the seedlings are faring. Over the Thanksgiving weekend I found that the goldenrod has died back enough that I could see a number of trees had survived the summer, even though I had seen no sign of them for months. The dogwood that I got from SWCD seems to be doing well, and quite a few willows put on a lot of new growth over the summer. I expect they will actually get above the level of the brush next summer, so I will be able to see them without having to work quite so hard to find them.

This summer the locust trees near my house in Webster produced a bumper crop of seed pods. I was unable to resist the chance to experiment, so I collected a bucket of the pods and extracted the seeds. They are currently sitting in a jar in my refrigerator. In the spring I will see if I can get them to germinate, and if so I will try planting some of them near the creek banks as well. I don't particularly like locust as a yard tree, but I would love to have a thicket of it holding the banks of the creek in place.

Finally, I grabbed a bunch of the osage orange fruit that Dave Swanson brought to our annual dinner. I am going to try planting some of that in the spring as well, not on the creek bank but along an old fence. I hope to grow it into a hedge rather than having to spend real money replacing the metal fence.

Mike Seager

Springwater Fiddlers Fair

It was another picture-perfect day at the Springwater Fiddlers Fair & American Craft Show, which is held annually at Sugarbush Hollow in Springwater, NY. Event organizers estimate that there were some 1,500 folks in attendance on September 18th, 2010 to soak up the music, food and sunshine.

Our Chapter was invited to participate again this year to demonstrate and explain the fun and important aspects of sustainable forest management. Our volunteers were located on the Upper Sugarbush Trail and they focused on several key topic areas. Consulting forester Bruce Robinson illustrated The Generation of the Forest, and how we can work with natural systems of diversity and forest structure. Chuck Winship led an informative tour of the sugarbush and explained micro



Photo courtesy of Dick Starr.

Dean Faklis demonstrating timber framing techniques.

climates and sap production. In addition to interactive discussions regarding Cornell's MFO program and forest management methods, NYFOA volunteers demonstrated timber framing techniques and built several trail benches. The benches were donated to the Town of Springwater by NYFOA and Old Mill Lumber of Canandaigua to benefit Springwater Parks and Trails.

Our Chapter is earning a fine following at the Fiddlers Fair and has been quite successful at gaining new members and providing for MFO interactions. It's not too early to plan for next year and the date is set: September 17th, 2011. If you would like to help plan our participation there, please contact me or any of your board members. It doesn't take much time and it sure is fun to be up in the woods!

Dean Faklis

Openings

We currently have 2 areas where a volunteer is needed.

1) someone to coordinate our out of doors activities. Woods walks come to mind but game of logging and sawmill visits do as well. Essentially be the point person for this important area.

2) use your video camera to make a record of the speakers at general meetings. This could then be viewed by folks who could not attend or those who simply want to hear it again. Contact Dick Starr or Dale Schaefer.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone for your kind thoughts and good wishes. My time as a board member and my association with fellow forest owners has always been enjoyable and educational. Although I am resigning as a board member, I will always be interested in NYFOA as well as a member. Thanks to all.

Harry Dieter

October 2010 Woodlot Workshop

Cornell's Dr. Peter Smallidge and NYFOA volunteers teamed up on October 9th to put on an excellent workshop for active woodlot owners. About thirty enthusiastic participants took to the woods at Tony and Anne Ross' groomed acreage on Marrowback in Conesus, New York.

With the hardwoods nearing peak color and the sun shining bright, the morning started with a full continental breakfast for all. Dr. Smallidge then proceeded with an interactive course in silviculture, safety and technique. The group discussed and worked through an array of nine scenarios based on different ownership objectives.

Given this training in basic principles and tree selection, the group then learned about the range of tools available for small-scale woodlot management. Cornell provided an ATV, logging arch, chainsaw and a variety of safety equipment and hand tools. All then witnessed the process of directional felling of a red maple stem and safe movement of the resultant sawlog and firewood.

A big Thank You to Tony and Anne Ross for their generous hospitality. Thanks also to Dr. Smallidge and all of the NYFOA volunteers who help make these events successful. If you would like to get involved and volunteer a bit of time, please call or write any of your board members.

Dean Faklis

A Very Successful Event

With about 70 people in attendance at our 2010 annual dinner meeting, we had our usual excellent dinner (catered by Chef Brad of Laurier Catering), abundant door prizes (thanks to all who donated prizes), and an excellent talk by Bruce Robinson.

I have heard Bruce give a number of talks in various settings, and it is always a treat. His topic this time was enhancing wildlife habitat. I mentioned to Bruce at the end of the evening that one reason his talks are always fun is that I never know from the title just what he is going to talk about. "Neither do I," was his response.

On this night Bruce made two major points that struck a chord with me. The first is that there is far more wildlife activity on your property than you realize. Many birds and animals are nocturnal, and others are very shy of human contact; in casually walking around your property you will rarely see them. Others are so small that you will never see them unless you know just where to look. Some birds and animals fall into this category but so do many insects and spiders. Providing habitat for insects may not be among your stated management goals, but they can serve as the base of a food chain that will attract birds and animals that you do want to have visit your property.

Bruce's other main point was that this vast array of mostly unseen wildlife is quick to respond to any disturbance in its environment. You don't have to manage large tracts of land to affect wildlife; cutting a single tree can change the character of the immediate surroundings, and wildlife will respond to that seemingly small change. Cutting a tree changes the amount of sunlight that reaches the forest floor, changes the airflow through the area, and adds more debris on the ground. All of these changes can affect what types of wildlife will use the area.

These changes cut two ways, of course. Changes that make an area more attractive to some species might make it less attractive to other species. It is important to understand the preferences of the species you want to attract, and how those species fit in the ecosystem, before going to work with the chainsaw.

Thanks to everybody who made the evening such a success: the organizing committee led by Dick Dennison and Ron Reitz; Chef Brad for a great dinner; Bruce Robinson for an entertaining and educational talk; all the people who brought door prizes; and everybody who attended.



Bruce Robinson.

Photo courtesy of Mike Seager.

Mike Seager

Service Award



Photo courtesy of Dick Starr.

Mike Seager receiving the 2010 Chapter Service Award from Dale Schaefer.

Mike Seager has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the WFL chapter Service Award. Mike is a vital member of the WFL board of directors and was a major contributor at the Forestry Forum held in Newark this past spring. He's currently working on another session for March 12th, 2011 that will be followed by an out of doors component on May 21st, 2011. He's been a NYFOA member for over a decade, WFL board

member nearly as long and serves our chapter as designated director to the state board. He currently serves as president of the state board of NYFOA. Congratulations Mike and thanks for your tireless efforts to promote good stewardship in forestry.

Dick Starr

Welcome New Members

Cal Adams
Geneva, NY

Doug & Karen Angold
Rochester NY

John Gilber
Rushville, NY

Darrick and Zachary Groet
Lima, NY

Jean Pease and Rich Ivins
Springwater, NY

Richard J Leo
Rochester, NY

Bill & Christine Livingston
Naples, NY

Jeffrey Smith
Clyde, NY

Jean Abbott & Roy White
Hemlock, NY

Amy W Wolfe
Cohocton, NY

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The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates 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 state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.



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Upcoming Events ~ Mark your Calendar

March 12, 2011 Forestry Forum
March 22, 2011 General Meeting
April 30, 2011 Sugar Bush Hollow

May 10, 2011 General Meeting
May 21, 2011 Woodlot Workshop
August 9 - 11, 2011 Empire Farm Days

September 17, 2011 Fiddler's Fair