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# NFC NEWSLETTER

Spring  
2011

Niagara Frontier Chapter

New York Forest Owners Association [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

## Saving Tax \$\$\$ On Your Forest Lands

*David Colligan to present talk on assessments at Spring get together*

Who better to talk on taxes and assessments as they impact our woods and forests than David Colligan, whose law practice at Watson Bennett has expanded to the legal issues surrounding forest land ownership and timber production.

As a result of representing a diverse and extensive landowner clientele, David's practice has expanded into all areas of natural resource law including oil and gas leasing, FERC hydroelectric relicensing, windmills and mining.

A long time active member of the NFC chapter of NYFOA, David has shared his expertise many times.

His background includes chairmanship of Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, co chairman of Re-Tree WNY, and he has been honored numerous times for his work in the field of forestry law.

In 2003, David received the prestigious "Heiberg Memorial Award" for outstanding contribution to the fields of forestry and conservation in New York State given by the New York Forest Owners Association.

He has authored an article, "Forest Land Taxation in the New



Millennium: Stewardship Incentivized" which appeared in the Denver University Law Review.

David's avocation of maple syrup making is well known and in the past, he has welcomed NYFOA members and families to his maple grove and sugar shanty.

He's on the board of directors of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, the state-appointed agency entrusted with developing Buffalo's downtown waterfront. He is subcommittee chair of the Outer Harbor subcommittee which is seeking to re-energize and beautify over two linear miles of waterfront land along Buffalo's outer harbor.

For more information, call Rita Hammond at 937-0744.

### Join Us

**What:** NYFOA Get Together

**Where:** Holland Community Center (formerly American Legion Hall)

**When:** 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23.

**Cost:** Free, bring your friends Refreshments provided.

**Directions:** Route 16 into Holland. Turn east on Garfield Street to Canada Street. Turn left. Legion Drive is on the left. The Center is at the end of Legion Drive.

## From the Chairperson

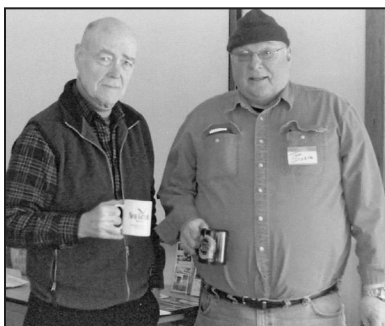
Greetings Friends

• On January 29, NFC Chapter members enjoyed a beautiful winter day at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve.

At this, our annual potluck luncheon, we ate delicious food and heard an inspiring talk by Gerry Rising, Buffalo News columnist.

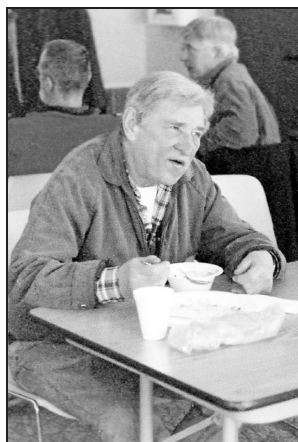
It was wonderful to meet and speak with others who share our common interest in promoting healthy forests. Hope to see everyone at next year's luncheon.

• Barbara Tucker and I had the opportunity to attend "Canada Blooms" in March in Toronto. Although the primary fo-



*Gerry Rising and Tom Dibble share some information over a cup of coffee.*

cus was flowers, there were also presentations on planting trees and shrubs, particularly native varieties.



*Ed Janulionis, NFC treasurer, enjoys his lunch at the Jan. 29 potluck event.*

• Our next presentation, our own David Colligan will address the topics of saving tax dollars on our woodlands and forest land assessments as Dave has a wealth of information.

We will have our first split club raffle and, of course, refreshments will be served.

Our meeting place, the Community Center in Holland (previously the American Legion Hall), will take us back to our roots.

See you there!

*Rita Hammond,  
NFC Chairman*

## Remember the MFOs

Master Forest Owners (MFO) role is to help landowners link up with those persons who can help them with their forest objectives.

They are the first line of information, They can aid in forming objectives for your land, help think through what you want to do on your land.

MFOs can identify resources, help develop a master plan and recommend a professional forester.

They provide a free, objective resource to people who are concerned about their land and forest.

Please encourage any landowner that you know to call an MFO with their questions and concerns.

If you would like assistance or want to discuss features of your woodlot, please call any of the MFOs listed below.

Rita Hammond -937-0744

Fred Thurnherr - 941-3248

Bob Preston -- 632-5862

## A Need to Understand Forest Health

Understanding forest health is crucial if we are to provide forest resources for future generations. So, "what is a healthy forest?"

The use and abuse of this term has made it difficult to define forest health in a clear and meaningful way. Understanding is made even more difficult by the many and diverse definitions that have been offered.

Forest health is both a perception based on personal values or organizational agendas and a condition or circumstance. ... Many federal and state agencies by necessity focus narrowly on forest "health."

For example, the mission of the U.S. Forest Service's National Center of Forest Health Management is aimed at forest pests. The center emphasizes research needed to develop biorational management tools, biological control strategies, and an understanding of non-target effects of pest management options. Clearly, this is a narrow agenda relative to the complex nature of the overall forest health issue, but appropriate for the organization's mandate within the Forest Service. ...

We tend to forget that many disturbances such as "pest" outbreaks and fire are natural phenomena that play key roles in processes such as nutrient recycling and plant succession. Their occurrence often signifies a healthy condition from an ecological standpoint, even though they may be of concern for social or economic reasons.

Any evaluation of forest "health" must be based on an informed balance and understanding of human needs and ecological requirements. ... The former to meet societal demands and landowner objectives, the latter to assure that a particular forest and the landscape within which it is nested will provide goods and services for generations to come (sustainable). ... The key to good stewardship from the standpoint of forest health is to utilize management practices that reflect the economic and ecological limitations for a specific ownership. Whether or not one chooses clearcutting as a regeneration method, applies an insecticide to protect foliage, or excludes fire, for example, depends on landowner objectives, site conditions, the structure and composition of the forest relative to neighboring forests, and the economic and ecological costs associated with each decision.

*Taken from an article by Professor Douglas C. Allen at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*

## Get Outside, Do a NestWatch

**Make this a memorable Spring with NestWatch.**

**Birds across the country are pairing up and starting to nest!**

**If you keep a close lookout while they do, you can find nests right in your own neighborhood and watch as birds raise their young.**

**Share your observations with the Cornell Lab's NestWatch project to help scientists learn more about the nesting success of birds.**

**To participate in this free project, visit [NestWatch.org](http://NestWatch.org). You'll learn how to find nests, how to safely monitor them, and how to record your data so scientists can learn from what you see.**

**Get started today.**



## NYFO Members Reap Benefits

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 interest of woodland owners.

Membership in NYFOA 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.

In addition, the NFC Newsletter is published three to four times a year for members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association.

Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes subscriptions to this newsletter and to The New York Forest Owner, a statewide publication; attendance at chapter and statewide meetings.

For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Rita Hammond, NFC chairman, at 716-937-0744.

## Some helpful Web sites

**For NYFOA: ..... [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)**

For free topomaps: [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com)

U.S. Forest Service tree info database:

[www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree](http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree)

To learn the legal framework of Timber Trespass: [www.NYS-TimberTrespassLaws](http://www.NYS-TimberTrespassLaws)

For information on NYS DEC: [dec.ny.gov/lands/4972.html](http://dec.ny.gov/lands/4972.html)

**For newsletter ideas, articles, suggestions - [wgtbt@aol.com](mailto:wgtbt@aol.com). Please put NYFOA in the information line.**

## Stumpage Price Report

Winter 2011

This report is for the Western/Central Region, DoyleRule. Price paid to owner for standing trees.  
Listing is most common price and low-high, (median) per thousand board feet.

Species	Low Price Range	Average Price Range	High Price Range
	(Median)	(Median)	(Median)
Ash, white	50-425 (170)	185-530 (250) (250)	215-550 (300)
Aspen	25-90 (35)	25-85 (40)	35-140 (50)
Basswood	50-200 (100)	70-200 (150)	35-275 (185)
Beech	20-100 (50)	25-150 (65)	60-250 (95)
Birch, white	50-100 (75)	75-200 (140)	75-300 (190)
Birch, yellow	30-150 (90)	25-250 (125)	50-400 (175)
Butternut	30-200 (200)	75-600 (100)	60-1000 (475)
Cherry, black	100-800 (498)	400-1200 (700)	550-1400 (900)
Elm, American	NR	NR	25-150 (90)
Hemlock	20-100 (40)	30-125 (50)	45-150 (75)
Hickory (spp)	50-250 (100)	50-290 (140)	150-410 (200)
Maple, hard (sugar)	100-610 (315)	250-800 (500)	400-1100 (700)
Maple, red (soft)	50-290 (150)	150-315 (200)	150-460 (250)
Oak, Chestnut	50-375 (100)	100-400 (200)	200-720 (250)
Oak, red	100-600 (300)	250-675 (450)	400-830 (600)
Oak, white	50-400 (175)	200-500 (250)	200-800 (340)
Pine, red	30-80 (50)	50-120 (75)	60-165 (110)
Pine, white	20-80 (50)	50-125 (75)	50-175 (120)
Poplar, Tulip	50-150 (100)	75-200 (125)	100-350 (200)
Spruce	50-130 (105)	60-165 (100)	100-225 (165)
Walnut, black	300-800 (500)	500-1200 (850)	900-1800 (1200)
Firewood	5-10 (7)	5-15 (10)	12-24 (15)

### *Let the Celebration Begin for the Year of Forests*

When many people think of the Empire State, images of New York City come to mind. But most people would be surprised to learn that the state is actually one of the most heavily forested states in the country. In fact, more than 60 percent of the state is covered in forest: an acre of forest for every resident.

Forests and trees are essential to the health of our planet. They protect water and air quality, shelter us from the sun and wind, sequester carbon, provide wildlife habitat and generate employment for thousands in the forest products, outdoor recreation and tourism industries.

The UN General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of

Forests, to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all forest types.

Forests cover 31 percent of land area worldwide, house 80 percent of our terrestrial biodiversity as well as the livelihood of more than 1.6 billion people who depend on forests and trade in forest products.

Our state has a wonderful legacy of forests and a proud history of forest conservation worthy of celebration.

For more than a century, the Department of Environmental Conservation has worked with many partners to conserve and protect our forest whether in the wilderness or the tree-lined streets in our communities.

Without trees, your local reservoir, campground, town, street, yard and work place would no longer be places where you'd like to be.

Planting trees, practicing sustainable forestry and conserving our forest lands are among the most cost-effective strategies we can take to keep New York green while building our communities and contributing to the state's economic recovery.

The state boasts more than 100 commercial and non commercial tree species, with the most common forest types of maple, beech and birch. It's estimated that there are 253.6 million urban or community trees!

*Excerpts from an article in "Conservationist" by  
Gloria Von Duyne,*

## Michael Greason's death: Losing a Friend of Forestry:

The forestry profession has lost a friend and advocate with the recent death of Michael C. Greason of Catskill, who died March 8 while in his favorite habitat — the woods.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Forestry Management in 1964, he was hired by the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources, managing 100,000 acres of State Forest.

For 29 years, Mike enjoyed a career with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

As a field forester, he annually marked 1,000 acres of wood products, wrote 6,000 acres of management plans, and in 10 years had walked over 65,000 acres of forest in Albany County. He was co-author of the state's present forest tax law, develop-

ing policies and their implementation. In 1985 he became Section Chief over service forestry and urban forestry programs.

The state led the nation in the implementation of the Stewardship Incentives Program which led the NYS Forest Owners Association to present Mike with their prestigious Heiberg Award in 1993.

In 1996 Mike became Chief Forester, overseeing private and urban forestry, utilization and marketing, forest health programs and the state seedling nursery.

He retired in 1998 to start a private forestry consulting practice. Demand for his services grew steadily. Mike's passion for forestry manifested by the endless hours of volunteering, mentoring, and educating anyone who

wanted to learn about sustainable forest management.

He was a Society of American Foresters' Certified Forester from 1970, 1993 Forester of the Year and 1999 Communications Award, among many accolades. He was a NYFOA member since 1990 and helped develop the Capital Region Chapter and was newsletter editor for eight years.

He wrote articles for NY Forest Owner, Tree Farm National Woodland Owners, Kaaterskill Life, the Conservationist, Northern Woodlands, and the Journal of Forestry.

He will be missed by all.



As I look out my window and see that the snow has finally melted, the damage from rabbits is even more

apparent.

Over the winter they chewed the leaves and berries off the holly bushes in front of my house, leaving their "droppings" behind. It's as if they are telling me that they'll exchange the "pellets" for the leaves. No deal, but no way to stop them either.

They also chewed the bark off a new spring flowering tree. Doesn't rabbit stew sound delicious?

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**If you have e-mail**, it would be helpful so we can send every newsletter and meeting notice by e-mail saving the chapter money. So, if you would like to be on our e-mail list, just send an e-mail to Barbara Tucker at wgtbt@aol.com.

Also send along any ideas of places to go and things to see related to the woods.

Barbara Tucker

### Selective Logging Results in Long Term Problems

Decades of high grading, "cut the best and leave the rest" practices in New York are showing. It is estimated that a high percentage of saw timber sized trees are cull, low value species are of poor quality. Large high value trees are scarce with only 1 percent of NY's saw timber trees worth more than \$60. NYFOA member James Bulich says, "The trees that are left behind after a timber harvest are more important than the trees that were cut."

Forests that have been high graded also suffer from reduced growth after a harvest since the remaining trees are of inferior quality. Our loss is apparent when a comparison is made between NY forests and those in Germany where good management practices have been followed for generations. New York forests get 0.6 million tons per acre of new growth annually, while Germany has 2.5 million. We average 0.2 million tons of harvest per acre, Germany, 1.3 million tons.

*From "The Hidden Disaster of New York's Forest Economy"  
By Capital District Chapter*