

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2013

Volume 27 Number 1

In Our Woodlot

by Ed Piestrak

During the spring of 2012 we did a project of building rabbit houses in and around some open areas that rabbits frequent. When we did TSI we would build houses with a layer of cinder blocks, stones, or some larger hardwoods. After that stage we would pile multiple stems to make a large type hut. In all we build six houses.

During mid January 2013 I walked the property after a couple inches of fresh snow fell. The snow was on the ground about a day and a half and was quite soft. I checked the rabbit houses and five of them had multiple rabbit tracks going in and out of the houses. I was careful not to disturb them but just observe them from a short distance.

It was nice to see our work produced the desired effect and I am sure the rabbits enjoyed the protection from the weather and predators alike.

During my hike about the property I noticed a large maple "wolf" tree that fell across the trail and was thinking the tree would make an excellent seventh rabbit house. During February, I plan to cut the tree in six foot and eight foot sections to form another hut. Since the rabbits are utilizing the present houses I am encouraged to continue the process. Therefore as the material falls to the ground in desirable areas I will continue to build houses. The saying "if you build it, they will come" takes on a new meaning. Maybe one will leave me a rabbit's footprint for good luck.

A New O. O. Champion

by Dick Starr

It dawned calm, clear, cold and frosty. A lovely day on tap for mid November. I was looking forward to the morning field trip of observing an official measurement of a potentially new state champion tree.



Photo courtesy of the author

Ron and Brice Work on the Circumference

with Ron and he said, "I think mine is bigger." I suggested he double check his numbers and call DEC if his tree approached 207. Plus call me if an official measurement is in the offing. I want to watch.

So on that bright November morning DEC forester Brice June had already arrived at Ron's when Marlene and I drove in. Ron said, "The tree's in the duck pen." Huh? Sure enough we entered a fenced in area where 4 ducks and a large Osage Orange tree cohabitate. There was still ice on the duck's water pan but the bright sun, blue sky and lack of a breeze made up for any nip in the air.

Brice got to work and measured the tree's circumference as 138 inches.

To determine height he measured a distance of 1 chain (66 feet) from the tree at which point he used his clinometer (photo) to determine the angle to the top of the tree. With the angle known Brice judged the height as 68 feet. The tape was now



Photo courtesy of the author

Brice Using a Clinometer

Continued on page 2.

A New O. O. Champion (continued from page 1)

used to get crown spread (photo) and it came out at 7 feet. 138 inches + 68 feet + 7 feet totals 213 points for Ron's tree, greater than the current champion at 207 points.

Brice said he'd submit his measurements to Albany where the official records for NY champion trees are kept. At some point Ron's tree should be listed as the NYS Osage Orange champion. Marlene asked, "What does Ron win?" Besides the satisfaction of owning a champion tree, nothing. Perhaps that's enough since satisfaction isn't currently taxed.

What does one do if they have a large tree and wonder if it might dethrone the current champion? First, verify the tree species and check the current champion on the DEC website. Then take estimates of circumference 4.5 feet above ground level, height and 1/4 of average crown spread. If the sum of these three values exceeds the state champ, call DEC and request an official measurement. However, note that circumference is a very large component of the final score, usually more than half. If your tree's circumference doesn't match or beat the champ, chances of a dethroning are greatly diminished.

The ducks provided morning entertainment. Ron placed an ear of corn in their feeding dish and they flipped into hyper drive, quickly turning ear into cob. Then the 2 females engaged in a cat fight – can ducks do that? It was comical because they don't have arms to punch each other. Instead they entwined their necks and engaged in a shoving/pushing match accompanied by much quacking and caterwauling.



Photo courtesy of the author

Brice Measuring the Crown

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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.

For event reminders and late-breaking news, **subscribe to our email list** by sending a blank email to nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org

Note: The deadline for our next, Summer, issue is June 1st.

Hypsometers

by Dick Starr

In the late 1800s Gifford Pinchot and Carl Schenck were hired to restore 125,000 acres to a healthy forest on the Biltmore estate in Asheville, NC. To help in estimating the diameter, height and lumber volume of a tree, Schenck developed a yardstick like device that could easily give estimates in the field. This has become known as the Biltmore stick. The B-stick is good for quick estimates but is not generally considered a precision instrument. However, for the non professional it is inexpensive and gives reasonable results. Enter “make biltmore stick” in your search engine to find on line plans for DIY versions. I made one out of a Home Depot yard stick by smoothing one side with my thickness planner and then adding the scale.

One side of a B-stick uses a log’s diameter to estimate the number of board feet it contains. The other side determines a standing tree’s diameter at breast height and the number of logs in the standing tree. On the B-stick this last estimate is done with a Merritt hypsometer

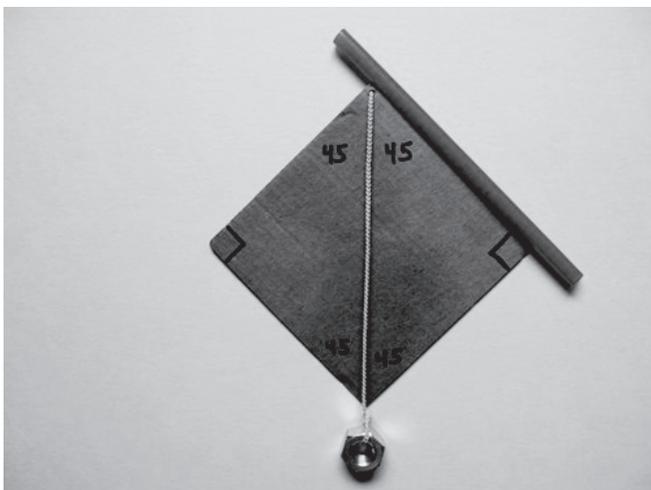


Photo courtesy of the author

Home-made Hypsometer

and requires one to stand a known distance from the tree being measured, usually 66 feet also known as one chain.

Hypsometers, from the Greek hypsos meaning height, are devices to obtain tree height. Modern versions use laser range finders for precision measurements and can cost upwards of \$3000. Before lasers the approach used trigonometry and angles were measured with clinometers. There are electronic clinometers ranging from under \$30 to over \$200. Manual clinometers give the amateur some reasonably priced alternatives. Clinometers are also called inclinometers since they can be used to measure angle of incline.

In the spring 2012 issue I reviewed how a protractor can be used to estimate how tall a tree is. In that context the protractor was a manual clinometer, a device to measure an angle in order to determine tree height. Protractors are available at many stores in the school supply section and cost about \$1.25. I do not own an electronic clinometer or a laser range finder hypsometer. I do

have a protractor and an occasional need to estimate tree height.

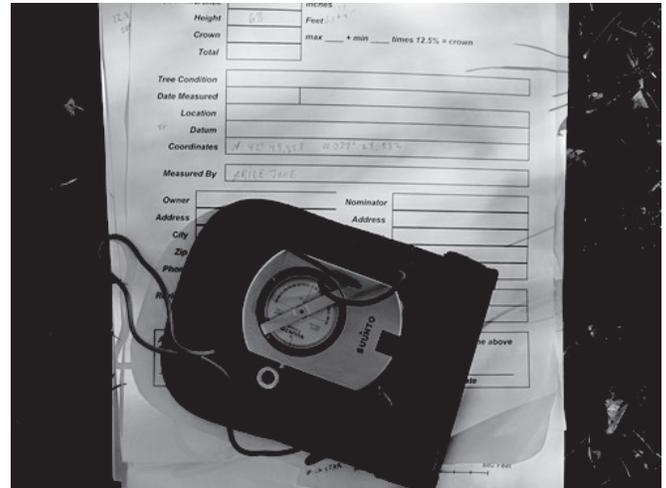


Photo courtesy of the author

Brice 's Clinometer

If a protractor is unavailable there’s a simple device to estimate tree height that’s free. Cut a square from a piece of cardboard, perhaps 4” x 4”. The one shown was made from a pizza box. At one corner secure a length of string with a small weight at the opposite end. The weight ensures the string hangs straight down. Attach a drinking straw sighting tube as shown in the diagram. Since cardboard tends to warp with changes in humidity, other materials can make more substantial versions. When the string cuts the cardboard square in half corner to corner, two 45, 45, 90 triangles are made.

When making an estimate of tree height, look at the tree top through the straw and move away from the tree to a position where the cardboard clinometer is cut in half diagonally by the string. This position is as far from the tree as the tree is tall.

WFL January Member Meeting Report

by Mike Seager

Our January chapter meeting was held on the 15th at Ontario County Cooperative Extension. About 25 people turned out to hear Russell Welser, Senior Extension Educator in Natural Resources and Agriculture, talk about apple trees. They were treated to a wealth of information.

There are two fundamental axioms that guide working with apple trees: apple trees require two trees of different varieties for successful pollination, and “it is all based on light access”. Branches or trees that are shaded will not bear fruit.

Beyond that, Mr. Welser covered three general aspects of apple trees: rehabilitating old trees, planting new ones, and pruning.

When rehabbing old trees to restore their productivity, the primary tools are saws – chainsaw, bowsaw, pole pruner. It is usually too big a job for loppers or other small-scale tools. The first step in working with an old tree is to cut out dead branches, then vertical suckers, and major branches that are too crowded. Because you should not remove more than 25-30% of the leaf area at once, each tree can be a multi-year project.

Trees should also be released by cutting any other trees that infringe on the dripline or nearby. This can lead to some difficult decisions, but remember – it is all about light access.

Fertilizing trees is not necessary but can be beneficial. Nitrogen is the most important component. A gallon of 10-10-10 fertilizer should be adequate for each tree. Beware that cutting branches and nearby



trees will allow a lot more light to reach the ground, which can result in a lot of brush growing up around the tree. Fertilizer can compound this problem.

Apple trees are very attractive to deer and newly planted trees will need fencing to protect them from deer. Dwarf varieties will never be safe from deer but larger trees will eventually grow tall enough to be

safe from deer and at that point the fencing can be removed.

There are different methods of pruning trees but a common one is to develop a couple of whorls of branches around the trunk. To develop this method, cut the main leader at a bud that is about 32 inches high. Then cut any branches below knee height. Then try to retain branches that form an angle of about 45-60 degrees with the trunk, distributed around the trunk and within about 6 inches vertically of one another. These form the first whorl of branches. Form another whorl a couple feet higher. Small vertical branches should be removed or braced out to a 45 degree angle to the trunk – vertical branches will not produce much fruit,

but they can be trained to an angle that will make them more productive. Most pruning should be done in the late winter or early spring, but vertical suckers can be cut in summer to reduce their tendency to resprout.

Mr. Welser concluded by saying that one moderate sized tree, properly cared for, should produce 5-7 bushels of apples each year.

Welcome New Members

Paul Forsay

Ontario

Ron Morris

Victor

Steven Ketchum

Penn Yan

Barb & Marty Reeners

Rochester

Rich McHale

Geneva

Robert A. Wink

Canandaigua

Robert Meenan

Phelps

Stumpage Price Report

Species	Western/Central Doyle Rule			New York State Stumpage Price Report Winter 2013/#82	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
Most Common Species					
Ash, White	100-415 (200)	220-500 (300)	275-625 (410)	Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet	
Cherry, Black	200-700 (400)	300-1000 (600)	450-1750 (800)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	50-300 (150)	125-400 (250)	175-500 (325)		
Maple, Sugar (Hard)	200-500 (375)	350-750 (550)	450-1160 (720)		
Oak, Red	100-655 (300)	300-685 (450)	360-800 (580)		
Pine, White	20-80 (50)	40-125 (80)	60-185 (110)		
Less Common Species					
Aspen	10-30* (20)	25-50* (40)	50-80* (55)		
Basswood	35-125 (100)	75-250 (125)	100-300 (175)		
Beech	30-90* (45)	50-120* (50)	50-150* (80)		
Birch, Yellow	50-200* (100)	75-300 (200)	100-400 (250)		
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Butternut	60-200* (150)	50-550* (200)	150-600 (325)		
Elm, American	NR	100-100** (100)	NR		
Hemlock	20-80* (50)	30-125 (50)	60-100* (95)		
Hickory (spp.)	50-150 (100)	75-240 (150)	125-300 (200)		
Oak, Chestnut	50-185* (110)	120-300 (200)	150-400 (250)		
Oak, White	90-300 (165)	110-450 (250)	120-650 (335)		
Pine, Red	20-150* (55)	50-200* (80)	50-250* (115)		
Spruce (spp.)	40-85* (80)	50-105* (100)	80-150* (120)		
Tulip Poplar	50-275* (100)	75-300 (170)	100-310 (200)		
Walnut, Black	200-600* (500)	700-1000* (750)	990-1500 (1000)		
Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord					
Aspen	1-5** (2)	2-15* (5)	6-7** (6)		
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Hemlock	NR	2-15* (8)	NR		
Mixed N. Hardwoods	2-10* (6)	2-20* (8)	5-17* (10)		
Pine	2-5** (4)	3-15* (6)	4-12.5* (10)		
Spruce/Fir	2-7** (5)	3-10* (8)	4-14** (12)		
Firewood	2-12* (6)	2-14* (8)	5-18* (15)		

Low Price Range - reported range of the absolute lowest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Average Price Range - reported range of the average price paid for "middle quality" timber by survey respondents over the last six months.

High Price Range - reported range of the absolute highest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Median - One-half of reported prices are higher and one-half are lower than this price figure.

Doyle, International 1/4" and Scribner Rules - Provide an estimated volume in board feet of a given tree or stand of trees. In most cases, each rule will provide a different volume estimate when applied to identical trees. Each region of the state has a most commonly used rule, but the use of other rules in a region is possible.

NR - No Report.

* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 20 survey responses.

** All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 5 survey responses.

Try Spruce by Dick Starr

The list of things a deer will eat is rather lengthy. Without consulting that list I ordered 100 Norway spruce in January 2012 from the DEC Saratoga nursery. I wanted a reasonably fast growing tree to provide a visual barrier along a busy county road that borders our property. Come spring the seedlings arrived without much thought having been given to their protection from nibbling whitetails.

Somewhat akin to placing a horse in the barn and then contemplating what kind of door to install.

The planting began along with consideration of various schemes to protect the babies. One proposal was to buy \$400 worth of fencing to protect \$70 worth of trees. No thanks. Another was to place a selenium tablet in each hole, which I did. I read someplace the tree takes up the selenium and then emits an odor the deer don't care for.

Sometimes fate favors the foolish. We

arrived one day and noticed fresh deer hoof prints mere inches from several of the seedlings. Turns out we planted in the middle of a deer trail. The amazing thing was not a single seedling had been nibbled. See the photo on the outside cover. Could the selenium work in mere days? Being skeptical I checked with DEC forester Mark Gooding and learned deer eat spruce only when they are in starvation mode. I have the feeling I should have known that. It's nice to know our deer are not starving.

Depressed ??? Rx: Take a Walk in the Woods! by Dick Fitts

If you come back from walking or working in the woods and feel a kind of "high", then you have had more than just a good workout; you have benefitted from actual chemical changes in your body resulting from your interaction with the natural environment.

This is the thought-provoking message that Les Moore left with us at the March 5 WNY NYFOA Chapter meeting. Les Moore, ND, MSOM, RH, LAC, Director of Integrative Medicine at Clifton Springs Hospital and Clinic, quotes numerous studies that report a direct correlation between being in a forest environment and a resultant lowering of blood pressure, improvement of the immune system, decreased blood glucose levels and improved autonomic nervous function.

"Alternative medicine" - a term used some years ago, tends to reflect an "either

or" choice whereas the term "Integrative Medicine" acknowledges the availability of a wide range of approaches to healing. Practitioners in China and Japan as well as in the former Soviet Union continue to enjoy wide acceptance of many forms of healing.



Photo courtesy of Jim Minor

Speaker, Dr. Les Moore

If you are a doubter, you will probably continue to be, but if there are areas in life where you have had experiences that lead creditability to his observations, then you

will be strengthened in your belief.

The Clifton Springs Hospital, just a few miles east of Canandaigua, has been known for the healing powers of its mineral springs for over 200 years. It is no surprise that it provides an

environment that is supportive of research and application of other forms of healing as they become known.

Les quoted several studies from industrial and health facilities where improved worker or patient health resulted from the presence of plants. Looking at it in the other direction, he cited examples where plants thrive when provided with positive human support and conversely where plants die when subjected to a hostile environment.

Les is a strong believer that Forest Medicine can effectively relax our minds and that research

has shown that brain activity is slowed down after only 20 minutes in the forest.

The next time you're in your forest, check it out.

Small Scale Woodlot and Sugarbush Evaluation Workshop

Saturday, May 18, 2013,
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Woodlot at 2355 County Road 6, Phelps, about 3 miles north of Geneva.

How many maple taps are possible? How much firewood can I cut? Do I have a lot of "good" trees? Maple producers and woodlot owners often need to know

specific details about the volume or number of trees they have.

This interactive workshop will guide owners or tree enthusiasts through the process of learning why and how to sample and measure the trees in a sugarbush or woodlot. Dr. Peter Smallidge, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University is the instructor. Participants should bring a clipboard and pencils. The workshop will be outdoors with modest gentle walking. Dress for the weather.

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Pre-registration is required by May 10, 2013 by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County at 585-394-3977 x 427 or email Nancy at nea8@cornell.edu with your full contact information (name, address, phone number).

Contact: Russell Welser, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County | 585.394.3977 x 436

Upcoming Events



Happy Birthday

by Dick Starr

NYFOA turns 50 years old in 2013, a milestone of note. After some discussion it was decided to have a state wide woods walk. The public will be invited to enjoy a woodlot experience on a spring day in May. The hope is each of the chapters throughout the state will host a walk(s) in the May 11 to May 19 time frame. Naturally NYFOA members are invited to the party.

This state wide event is being called Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) to draw attention to the various factors having a negative impact on the ability of our forests to regenerate. Western Finger Lakes chapter will sponsor 4 visitation sites. In no particular order they are:

- 1) **10 AM Saturday May 11** at the Swanson farm, 7014 Begole Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510 in Livingston County. Dave and Helen Swanson invite you to visit their old growth forest of approximately 5 acres and perhaps get a peek at a large bur oak. Long time NYFOA/WFL member Dave Swanson will lead the walk and invites all to bring a lunch and enjoy the family's picnic pavilion.
- 2) **10 AM Saturday May 11** at the Morabito property, 6067 White Creek Rd. (County Rd 17), Belfast, NY, 14711 in Allegany County. Dave and Colette have approximately 400 acres and NYFOA member and forester Bruce Robinson will lead the walk. They invite you to "please join us for a light lunch of hot dogs cooked over an open fire". This is cosponsored by the Allegany Foothills Chapter.
- 3) **10 AM Saturday May 18** at Cracker Box Palace 6450 Shaker Road, Alton, NY 14413. Alton is near Sodus in Wayne County. This is a farm animal rescue facility with wooded paths to enjoy. Cheri Roloson is director and hostess. Visit their website at www.crackerboxpalace.org. NYFOA/WFL member and MFO volunteer Jim Miller will lead the walk.
- 4) **9 AM to 3 PM Saturday May 18** at the John Holtz property in South Bristol, NY, Ontario County. Walks will continue throughout this time period. This site and walk are part of the Town of South Bristol's 175th anniversary celebration. Dale Schaefer will lead the walks.

For more information about the entire RNYW initiative, these walks and others across the state, visit www.nyfoa.org and follow the RNYW links.

WFL Chapter Meeting: Geneva Experiment Station

Friday June 14, 2013 1:00 pm.

Due to the NYFOA Restore New York Woodlands events scheduled in May, we have pushed our general meeting back to June this year. In addition, this meeting will be a two hour tour of the Geneva Experiment Station instead of our usual sit down classroom presentation. We will meet at Jordan Hall on the campus of the Geneva Experiment Station, 630 W North Street in Geneva. Please rsvp to Eileen Schaefer at 367-2849 by May 30th if you are planning on attending. The tour is limited to approximately 25 to 30 people.

Save the date- Tuesday October 29, 2013, for the Annual NYFOA Dinner Meeting at the Monroe County Cooperative Extension 249 Highland Ave. More details to follow.

Neighboring Chapters

For those of you willing to travel a little here's what's going on in some of our neighboring chapters. For the latest updates go to www.nyfoa.org -> "Announcements" -> "NYFOA and Partner Events".

- **April 28:** Game of Logging I, Arnot Forest
- **April 29:** Game of Logging II, Arnot Forest

A Gift

A gift membership to NYFOA is a wonderful way to introduce a friend or family member to the wonders of the woodland. Send a check for \$30 individual or \$35 family to NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Now you can also enroll on-line at www.nyfoa.org.

Classifieds

Tree Tubes for Sale - Member/Non-Member price: 4' (\$4.50/\$5.00); 4' w/ stake (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 5' w/ stake (\$6.00/\$6.50). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

Polymer Nails for Posted Signs - 100 tough non-metal nails, 2 1/4" long. Be kind to your trees and sawyer. \$12 + \$3 S&H = \$15, check to Perluma at PO Box 74 Springwater, NY 14560. Information: dfaklis@perluma.com.

PLEASE NOTE: SPACE PERMITTING, THE WFL STEERING COMMITTEE ALLOWS MEMBERS TO PLACE FREE CLASSIFIED ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER PERTAINING TO GOOD STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES. HOWEVER, ADS PRESENTED HERE ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY WFL.



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Spring 2013

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Photo courtesy of Dick Starr

A spruce seedling ignored by a deer. See Dick Starr's story, "Try Spruce", inside on page 6.

Mark your Calendar!

- **April 17, 2013** WFL Board Meeting Lima Hotel 7 PM
- **May 11, 2013** RNYW woods walk, Swanson farm *
- **May 11, 2013** RNYW woods walk, Morabito property *
- **May 18, 2013** RNYW woods walk, Cracker Box Palace *
- **May 18, 2013** RNYW woods walk, Holtz property *
- **May 18, 2013** Small Scale Woodlot and Sugarbush Evaluation Workshop *
- **June 14, 2013** General Meeting, Geneva Experiment Station *
- **October 29, 2013** Our Annual Dinner, Details to follow.

* See inside for details

Note: For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe to our email list by sending a blank email to-
nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org