



Annual Potluck Luncheon

By Pat Glidden

Our Pot Luck Luncheon again proved to be an enjoyable and informative get together. Two great guest speakers highlighted our afternoon along with a Chapter Service Award presentation.

Jajeon Rose-Burney, Development Director of the WNY Land Conservancy, spoke about the current projects underway with the Land Conservancy highlighting the Stella Niagara Preserve. He also discussed the Niagara Escarpment Legacy Project,



Jajeon Rose-Burney

property owned by former NYFOA member, Frances Harrison.

Kim Sherwood, Hydrologist and Secretary of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter NYFOA gave a great unbiased presentation on hydro-fracking explaining Marcellus Shale, and what is hydraulic fracturing, along with the environmental impacts. An informative question and answer session prevailed.

Bob Glidden gave a recap of the State meeting he attended on March 18th and is looking for a State Delegate to represent our Chapter. Please contact Bob if you are interested. It generally is 2 meetings per year.

Barbara Tucker has stepped down from Newsletter Editor after several years and we thank her for her outstanding effort. Kayla Birch, one of our new members, has offered to take on the respon-

sibility and has published this as her first NFC newsletter!

Our luncheon concluded with a 50/50 drawing, the proceeds going towards postage and printing for our newsletter.

Lunch itself consisted of many great dishes, lots of laughs and many helpful hands. Thanks to all who helped with the set up and clean up. A special thanks to Dave Preston for coordinating the use of the Community House.



Kim Sherwood

Chapter Service Award to Hammond Family

By Bob Glidden

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association awarded Rita Hammond our 2014 Chapter Service Award.

Rita had been a member of NYFOA for over 20 years, and very dedicated to conservation and environmental issues that affect rural land owners.

Rita always had enlightening comments on the subject at hand. She always gave you food for thought.

For the last 6 years Rita had been Chairperson of

the Niagara Frontier Chapter arranging for speakers and getting members to host woods walks.

Her hard work and dedication has been instrumental in maintaining the success of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of NYFOA.

Due to Rita's untimely passing, her son Luke Hammond received the award on her behalf at our Pot Luck Luncheon.

The chapter also donated \$50.00 to the East Aurora Art Society in remembrance of Rita.



Member's Corner: First Time Maple Musings

By Mitch Banas

Who among us hasn't been fascinated by the simple notion that sap from a tree can be magically transformed into that sweet delicacy we know as maple syrup? For several years I had been meaning to give that magic a whirl, but the press of other demands never allowed it to climb to the top of my bucket (literally) list. This year, I finally was able to scratch that maple itch.



My preparations started last fall. Quickly realizing that the 90-minute drive from my house to my southern tier forest would present a practical obstacle to the rather regular attention the process requires, my sights soon turned to the six-tree "sugar bush" occupying my suburban Niagara County backyard. I set out to identify the types of maple I had and was disappointed to learn that only one of them was in fact a sugar maple. I was encouraged again when some internet research revealed that other types of maple were suitable for sugaring, although their sap contained less than half the sugar content of a sugar maple (hence the name). I decided to press on, even if the 40:1 sap:syrup ratio of a sugar maple would be nearly twice that with my other trees.

Over the winter, I made an internet purchase of a maple sugaring starter kit for around \$100: 3 buckets; 3 lids; 3 spiles (or taps); 3 hooks to attach it all; cheesecloth; an instruction book; and even the right-sized drill bit to tap the trees. I was now ready for the days to warm while the nights remained cold so the sap would start flowing.

Since the thermometer never rose above freezing all of February (an evident prerequisite for sap production), that didn't happen until early March. One weekend day, I dutifully tapped three maple trees (the lone sugar maple, a silver maple, and one maple of still-unknown species) and hung the two-

gallon buckets. Sure enough, after a few days of warm weather the sap began to flow, sometimes overflowing the buckets within a 24-hour period. Out of curiosity, I naturally had to sample the sap; the faintest sugary taste bore not the hint of maple, and betrayed not at all the distinctive taste of

the end product I was aiming for. I even acquired the habit of drinking the trees' unprocessed output by the glass, only to later learn that some have been hailing maple sap as the next coconut water.

Once I had collected ten gallons of sap in two five-gallon buckets (the limits of the largest kettle I had), I began the process of boiling the water out. I placed my vessel on a big propane burner and boiled away – and boiled, and boiled, and boiled. It was an all-day affair, with the liquid level in the pot dropping as imperceptibly as paint dries. At the end of that long day, though, it was well worth it. Going simply by look, taste, and feel, and after some rudimentary screening of the inevitable small amount of flotsam and jetsam that my "low tech" – or, more accurately, "primitive" – method produced, I had nearly 2 quarts of the best-tasting maple syrup I ever had. Not, of course, because it *was* the best-tasting maple syrup I ever had (I'm quite certain that it wasn't), but rather because it came from the trees of my own forest, the sweat of my own brow, and my appreciation of and respect for the land which so unselfishly gave it up – in short, because it was the product of all the things I love about being a forest owner.

** Send us your article and photo if you would like to see your article here.*

Gutchess Lumber Sawmill Tour Scheduled for July 31, 2015

Have you ever wondered what a state-of-the-art sawmill operation looks like? Come see for yourself at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015 when Gutchess Lumber, 10660 Maple Grove Road, Freedom, New York 14065 will be treating NYFOA Niagara Frontier Chapter and Allegheny Foothills Chapter members to a tour of its "cutting edge" facility. No reservations are required, but please let Mitch Banas know at mbanas@jaeckle.com (preferably) or 716/983-6895 if you plan on attending so you can be notified of any last-minute changes in schedule (the tour date being so far out, it is somewhat dependent on mill operations). Come join us for what will no doubt be a fascinating visit – and come meet some fellow NYFOA members from neighboring chapters at the same time. See you there!

Welcome New Spring 2015 Members

William Arthur, Ray, Jo Ann & Kayla Birch, Matt Christopher, Tom DiCamillo, Wayne & Brenda Forrest, Mr. & Mrs. John Hughes, Shawn Klager, Jesse Litwinik, James Schaus, and Eric Stellrecht.

Chairman's Corner

By Bob Glidden

As I look out the window, the sun is shining brightly but some snow banks will not surrender. This had to be the longest winter for cabin fever in many years. I did catch up on some reading that I have been putting off though, lots of naps and lots of birds at the feeders.

Yesterday I ventured out on the Blue Bird trail (where you could walk without snow) and managed to clean out 14 houses and 2 Wood Duck boxes- half way there (wear a face mask and wear gloves so as not to contract Hantavirus). It was really great to get outdoors in the fresh air, I only



have to do 8 more Blue Bird houses, 3 Wood Duck boxes and put up the 2 straw Duck tubes, not to mention the Purple Martin houses.

Last week I started preparing for this year by tuning up the chain saw, sharpening the chains and pruning shears for the spring cleanup of our trails, only need the temperature to cooperate!

We have a great program scheduled for 2015 with 2 Woodswalks scheduled (May 30, September 12). We all have similar concerns and likes so come out and see what other members are doing to enhance their lands sharing their first hand experiences and pick up some great management tips. We are currently working to schedule a saw mill

tour later this summer, haven't had one of these in a few years. Watch the Newsletter for dates and times. We will also be publishing the Allegheny Foot-hills Chapter schedule of events.

Our committee strives to select a diverse program so I encourage you to contact me with your ideas or suggestions. I also would like to welcome Kayla Birch as our Newsletter Editor. Feel free to contact her with anything newsworthy that we may consider for future newsletters. We are still looking for someone or a couple to fill the position of Chapter Delegate to the State Association. Please let me know if you have any interest!

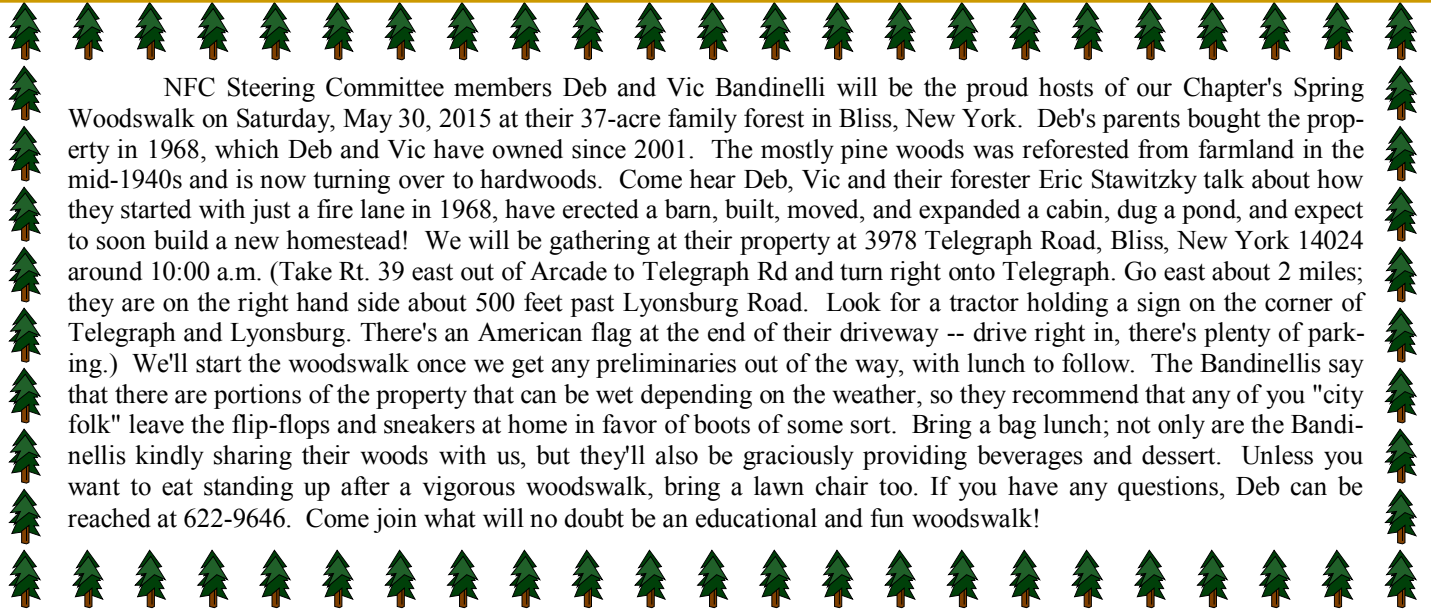


NFC Steering Committee 2015

Feel free to contact any committee member with suggestions, articles or general information that can further enhance the Chapter and its members.

Bob Glidden – Chairman/ State Delegate 795-3305 rkglidden@verizon.net	Marks & Jenn Gallo – Program 525-5973 mgallo@niagara.edu
Mitch Banas – Vice Chairman/ Newsletter 983-6895 mbanas@jaeckle.com	Ed Janulionis 847-1289 allanherschell@gmail.com
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Jim DeLellis – Woodswalks 634-3843 jdel634@gmail.com	Barbara Tucker 874-4074 wgtbt@aol.com

Spring 2015 Woodswalk



NFC Steering Committee members Deb and Vic Bandinelli will be the proud hosts of our Chapter's Spring Woodswalk on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at their 37-acre family forest in Bliss, New York. Deb's parents bought the property in 1968, which Deb and Vic have owned since 2001. The mostly pine woods was reforested from farmland in the mid-1940s and is now turning over to hardwoods. Come hear Deb, Vic and their forester Eric Stawitzky talk about how they started with just a fire lane in 1968, have erected a barn, built, moved, and expanded a cabin, dug a pond, and expect to soon build a new homestead! We will be gathering at their property at 3978 Telegraph Road, Bliss, New York 14024 around 10:00 a.m. (Take Rt. 39 east out of Arcade to Telegraph Rd and turn right onto Telegraph. Go east about 2 miles; they are on the right hand side about 500 feet past Lyonsburg Road. Look for a tractor holding a sign on the corner of Telegraph and Lyonsburg. There's an American flag at the end of their driveway -- drive right in, there's plenty of parking.) We'll start the woodswalk once we get any preliminaries out of the way, with lunch to follow. The Bandinellis say that there are portions of the property that can be wet depending on the weather, so they recommend that any of you "city folk" leave the flip-flops and sneakers at home in favor of boots of some sort. Bring a bag lunch; not only are the Bandinellis kindly sharing their woods with us, but they'll also be graciously providing beverages and dessert. Unless you want to eat standing up after a vigorous woodswalk, bring a lawn chair too. If you have any questions, Deb can be reached at 622-9646. Come join what will no doubt be an educational and fun woodswalk!

2015 Niagara– Orleans Regional Envirothon

On Thursday May 7, 2015 from 8am-2pm our Chapter will have our display along with handouts at Bond Lake Nature Center, Lower Mountain Road, Lewiston, for the 2015 Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon. Their anticipation is about 80 students and 10 volunteers and staff.

Competition revolves around knowledge in environmental areas of wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics and current issues. We have made a donation to support this event. Bob and Pat Glidden will be representing our chapter with the display and hopeful of encouraging new membership!

Western New York Land Conservancy Hikes

Saturday, May 2, 1-3 pm Wildflower Hike on the Niagara Escarpment Preserve; Saturday, June 6th, 8:30-10:30am Birdwatching at Stella Niagara Preserve; Sunday, August 9th. Geology Hike at the Kennegleenn Nature Preserve.

All hikes are free

Registration is required for all events. Call 716-687-1225 or email info@wnylc.org

Allegheny Foothills Chapter Woodswalk

Woodswalk will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 on John & Gayle Rembold's in Cattaraugus, NY. Registration begins at 8:30, start time at 9am. The farm is located at 6666 Sweeney Hill Road.

Directions from Buffalo: 62 south to Dayton, 353 south out of Dayton, through Cattaraugus, and then right (west) onto Rte 5. Continue on Cty. Rte. 5 (approx 2.5 mi) to the first right hand road which is Sweeney Hill Rd. Take Sweeney Hill Rd for .7 mi. to our house on the right side of the road.

“DO NOT FOLLOW GPS OR GOOGLE”



STUMPAGE REPORT

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>

**In lieu of including the full stumpage report, please follow above link to provide you the most current pricing Information. If you miss seeing the report please let us know.*

Featured Website: My Land Plan

The home page for My Land Plan, a free resource offered by the American Forest Foundation, says it all: "Get More Out of the Land You Love." The website, found at <http://mylandplan.org>, then goes on to quite accurately elaborate that "My Land Plan can help you explore and discover how to manage your woodlands". Easy to use tools guide you to map your land, set goals, keep a journal and connect with woodland owners and foresters." Simply by clicking on a "Get Started" button, you are first invited to set up an account and profile (including a name for your property). You can then use street address, longitude/latitude, or other identifying information to access satellite images on which to draw property boundaries, add features like trails and stands, and save it

all for future access/revision/modification. The website also has tools which allow you to formulate goals and activities (including from pre-populated menus), and from there create "to do" lists and monitor your progress. My Land Plan also has an extensive "FAQ" along with an "Ask a Forester" feature in case your particular question is not so "frequently asked." Of course, the website also has an e-newsletter and links to external resources which can help you enjoy, protect, improve, profit from, and pass your forest on to the next generation. The website even has easy-to-follow tutorials for the "technologically challenged." All-in-all, My Land Plan is an excellent "first stop" for those who want to get more out of their land – as well as providing useful tools for the veteran landowner.

Useful Resources

My Land Plan:

Don't know where to start managing your woodlands? Try <http://www.mylandplan.org/>. You're just one click away from mapping, planning, recording, and other tools to help you both enjoy and profit from your forest.

DEC:

The DEC's website has a wealth of information helpful to forest owners, including how to find a forester (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5230.html>), timber harvesting (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5242.html>), and additional topics and resources (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/93912.html>).

Master Forest Owner

Program:

Need to know more about New York's highly successful Master Forest Owner's Program, sponsored by the USDA Renewable Resources Extension Program, NYSDEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and our own NYFOA? Go to <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/>.

Cornell Forest Connect:

Many of you know of the excellent resources available at Peter Smallidge's Cornell ForestConnect website <http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/>, but do you know about his monthly one-hour webinars which each month highlight some important aspect of forest ownership? You can register for the webinar e-mailings at <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/web.html>.

Penn State Extension:

Just like Cornell, Penn State has a wealth of resources available to forest owners on its website at <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests>.

Buffalo Niagara Rare Bird Alert:

Is bird watching a favorite pastime...even if only watching at your feeders. Here is a great Facebook page to "like" that features local birdwatchers and appreciators with some really great pictures!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BufaloNiagaraRareBirdAlert/?fref=nf>

**New York State Forest Owners
Association**

Niagara Frontier Chapter

Kayla Birch, Editor

227 Rumbold Ave.

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **May 2**-WNY Land Conservancy Wild Flower Hike
- ◆ **May 7**- Niagara Orleans Envirothon
- ◆ **May 9**- AFC Rumbold's Woodswalk
- ◆ **May 30**- NFC Bandinelli's Woodswalk
- ◆ **June 6**-WNY Land Conservancy Bird Watching
- ◆ **July 31**- Gutchess Sawmill Tour
- ◆ **Aug. 9**-Kenneglenn Nature Preserve Hike
- ◆ **Sept. 12**- NFC DeLellis Woodswalk

DeLellis Woodswalk

Jim DeLellis one of our Steering Committee members was featured in the March/April issue of New York Forest Owner as the "Member Profile".

Most of you have probably seen the article and hopefully it created some excitement!! Jim will be hosting our Fall Woodswalk at his property in Allegheny County on September 12, 2015. More details will be forwarded in our August issue.



Join NYFOA

Help Support Sustainable Forestry

The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests. Please consider joining because your support helps make a difference. Regular annual dues is just \$45.00 for an individual or family.