

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2017

Volume 31, Number 1

Conservation Easements (Part 1)

by Mike Seager

(note: see page 11 for a meeting related to this subject)

Many of us have owned a plot of land for many years. We have hiked, hunted, watched wildlife, maintained the trails, managed the woodlot and often lived on it. And so it is natural to want the land available for such uses to future owners – our family, descendants, or perhaps total strangers. The prospect of our land being turned into a housing development, a park-and-ride lot or a strip mall is appalling.

There are several ways landowners can try to protect their land from future conversion or exploitation. One of the strongest legal protections a landowner can provide for his property is a conservation easement. In this article I will explain what a conservation easement is and offer some points to consider as you think about whether a conservation easement is appropriate for your property. A subsequent article will look in more detail at the process of executing a conservation easement.

Property ownership includes the land itself and specific rights to do certain things with it. While there are local

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Conservation Property

The Owner of this property has granted a conservation easement that ensures that the natural resources, wildlife habitat, and scenic values of this property will be preserved.

Tar River Land Conservancy
Louisburg, NC
919-496-5902
www.tarriver.org



Sycamore Trees

by Dick Starr

I looked up sycamore tree in our *Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* and it said see plane tree. I looked up plane tree and it said, “plane tree or sycamore.” I conclude the tree has two names something like a tamarack tree is also called a larch. Doesn’t giving trees two names double the effort needed to learn tree names? Sycamore catches my attention because it has bark that looks like camouflage. So besides having two names it’s trying to disappear. Not easy for our largest deciduous hardwood tree.

The encyclopedia says this tree is native to the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. It has been known to reach 170 feet tall. The fruits are borne in 1” brown spheres that persist on the branches during winter. The fruit balls also give it the names of buttonwood and buttonball. Not two names but four! The agreement that formed the NY Stock Exchange in 1792 was signed under a sycamore tree. It was called the Buttonwood Agreement for that reason. That does sound more exciting than the Plane Agreement. If the names are difficult to remember, the tree’s appearance is not.

The bark is rigid lacking elasticity and the ability to stretch as the tree grows so the tree sheds its bark annually. The brownish older bark peels off in large flakes revealing

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Expand Your Knowledge of NYS's Woodland World

Did you know that all NYFOA chapters' newsletters are on the web? Go to www.nyfoa.org, click on "Chapters" to see that each chapter (including our own Western Finger Lakes chapter) has its own web page. Click on any one of them (underlined 3-letter acronym) and scroll down to see the list of their newsletters. Click on the desired issue to download and read. Enjoy!

Also Note: On or about March 15th our NYFOA web site, www.nyfoa.org, will have a whole new look!

WANTED

Are you a good listener, able to analyze and think creatively, work well with individuals and groups? Are you friendly, do you possess a good sense of humor, and have personal integrity? Would you like to make a difference and have extra time to volunteer for the improvement and continuity of NYFOA?

The WFL Chapter of NYFOA is looking for a candidate to sit on the State Board to represent us.

There are 3 meetings a year: Annual meeting in April and meetings in both June and September.

6-year term limit and mentoring is available for your suc-

cess. Reporting back to the WFL Board with the State information keeps us all linked to the goals and mission of NYFOA.

Some of the various projects presently organized: Northeast Timber Growing Contest, Silent Auction to benefit youth forestry programs, Restore NY Woodlands initiative, work with DEC and others regarding 480A tax relief as well as cost-sharing money for woodland owners, influencing policy makers that affect forest owners, etc.

Please consider volunteering. The respect and gratitude of the membership is "tree-mendous"!

Contact Dick Starr for information on this quality, volunteer opportunity.

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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 youngsters 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 \$45 and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and to statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level \$50-\$99; Sponsor level \$100-\$249; Benefactor \$250-\$499; and Steward \$500 or more 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 Summer 2017 issue is May 15th

New DEC Forester Patrick Lafler

In July, the DEC staff in Region 8 welcomed a new Forester to their Bath Office. Patrick Lafler is the new Service Forester for Yates, Schuyler and Chemung Counties, taking over the responsibilities formerly held by Jim Bagley.

Lafler is a graduate of the Forest Technology Program at the SUNY-ESF Ranger School, where he received his A.A.S. in 2012. He went on to get his Bachelors in Forest Resources Management from SUNY-ESF in 2014. Following graduation, he worked as a Forester for a private consulting company, marking timber, collecting forest inventories as well as completing timber stand improvement and herbicide application projects.

He joined the state in February of 2016 as a Forest Technician, working on state lands conducting forest inventories and marking timber. Five months later he transitioned into his current position which has provided him the opportunity to work in the area he grew up in (Middlesex, Yates County).

DEC Service Foresters offer assistance to private landowners, municipalities, governmental and non-governmental organizations with matters of forestry and arboriculture. There are three broad categories of assistance: Cooperative Forest Management (CFM), Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF), and Natural Resource Education. CFM includes site visits and consultations, forest health inspections, stewardship plans, EQIP inspections, 480a Forest Tax Law Administration and forest landowner education events. U&CF includes assistance to municipalities and town or village tree boards with urban forestry management. This program also hosts urban forestry outreach and education meetings and workshops, collectively known as ReLeaf. Natural Resource Education has traditionally included participation with events directed toward youth environmental education (i.e. Conservation Field Days and Envirothon).



For more information visit the DEC public website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/> or on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

The following are the DEC region 8 office locations as well as the counties served by each Forester:

Avon Office – (585) 226-2466
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414

Mark Gooding – Regional Forester

Brice June – Livingston, Ontario, Seneca

Gary Koplun – Orleans, Genesee, Monroe, Wayne

Bath Office – (607)776-2165
7291 Coon Road
Bath, NY 14810

Greg Muller – Steuben

Patrick Lafler – Yates, Schuyler, Chemung

Certified Firewood 2

by Dick Starr

Having explored and essentially dismissed solar as a source to heat the core of firewood to 160 degrees F. what's next? Is it possible that the heat from burning wood could kill critters hitchhiking in firewood? One website I looked at stated that using the flue gases from burning wood to reach USDA standards is "... probably not safe." If a metal chimney ran through the pile of firewood being certified heat could penetrate the pile and simultaneously contain sparks and smelly smoke. There's no question a single walled metal chimney can get hot. Hmm.

I was mulling this "how to heat and certify firewood" question when the July 4, 2011 holiday arrived. The family wanted to use our BBQ smoker to do some ribs. As I watched them work with the smoker and ribs I had to wonder if the rack of ribs could be replaced with a rack of firewood? To test this notion I drilled a hole to the core of a piece of green poplar 2.5" diameter by 9" long. The diameter of this hole would accept the probe of our meat thermometer and enable monitoring the poplar's core temperature. The fuel would be seasoned red oak in fist sized pieces.

The setup was ready in August and the air temperature was 80 degrees F. on test day. Besides monitoring the core temperature of the firewood, a second thermometer monitored the temperature inside the meat chamber where the poplar was located. The core temperature of the poplar reached 160 degrees 35 minutes after striking the match. The core stayed at or above

160 degrees for the next 170 minutes, over double the required 75 minutes. The accompanying graph shows both meat chamber temperature and wood core temperature over time. Readings were taken at 10 minute intervals. A reference line is drawn at the desired 160 degree mark.

After 4 hours I was pleased to be in possession of one piece of firewood heated and certified to DEC standards as bug free. I could transport this piece of firewood anywhere I wanted and had the data to back it up. The exterior of the poplar was jet black, rubbed off on everything and smelled strongly of smoke – much like the first chicken breast I tried to do with the smoker. But any critters calling the poplar home were dead, maybe from the

smoke, maybe from the heat and maybe from the noxious wood gases. It was very clear that any future attempts must keep the firewood being certified out of the fuel smoke stream.

It was a challenge to keep the meat chamber temperature stable. I was constantly adjusting the draft openings and/or adding more fuel. At one point I stepped away for a few minutes and returned to find the meat chamber thermometer at 700 degrees F. Wood can ignite at this temperature. However,

the temperature reacted quickly to adjustments which were more or less continuous. This was not a strike the match and walk away operation. I suspect that charcoal might be a better fuel than wood as it burns with little smoke and has a more consistent heat output which might be easier to control. That's probably why we tend to grill with charcoal not wood.

The highest core temperature reached by the poplar was 201 degrees after 90 minutes. I stopped adding fuel at this point. At the 130 minute mark I opened the drafts completely and the temperatures decreased as the fuel was consumed. Now the question is how to enlarge the system to safely certify more than one piece of firewood. In truth I could probably squeeze several firewood chunks into my smoker's meat chamber but never a face cord so this setup was for test purposes only.

Between the points where the wood core began 160 degrees (35 minutes) and left 160 degrees (200 minutes), the difference averaged 90 degrees. That is, the chamber temperature averaged 90 degrees hotter than the wood core temperature during the time the wood core was at or above 160 degrees. Since I was striving for a wood core temperature of 160 degrees or higher it suggests the chamber temperature should have been maintained at about 250 degrees = 160 + 90. That's good to know for any future attempts. It also argues that a flat solar collector would probably not do the job.

How the size of the wood pieces and the wood species would affect all this is unknown. Also, how do I scale up to do a face cord of firewood? If you're aware of anyone else trying this let me know.



Welcome New Members

John Costello	Pittsford
Dan deRoos	Scottsville
Larry Duke	Hemlock
John Egan	Brockport
Jeffrey Emerling	Naples
David Engel	Springwater
Renee Boon & Keith Knight	Springwater
Brent Maynard	Seneca Falls
Ray Passmore	Pittsford
Rich Pitt	Hemlock
Nancy Sterling	Corning
Jim Zavislan	Canadaigua

Biocontrol of Emerald Ash Borer: Hope for the Future of Ash

Michael Jones

Note from MyWoodlot editor Josh VanBrakle: The emerald ash borer is the most destructive forest pest we've seen in decades and threatens multiple species with extinction. But as doctoral student Michael Jones explains, an emerging technique called biocontrol offers hope that we can save millions of trees from dying.

If you're a woodlot owner, you've probably heard about the destructive forest pest emerald ash borer (if not, you can get introduced here). This invasive green beetle has spread over half the US, killed more than 25 million trees, and threatens ash trees with extinction.



Though smaller than a penny, the emerald ash borer is devastating. Its larvae kill trees by eating the tubes ashes use to transport nutrients throughout the tree. Photo credits: Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org (adult); Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Forestry, Bugwood.org (larva), both CC BY v.3.0.

Until recently, the best way to deal with emerald ash borer was to slow its spread by never moving firewood to or from your woodlot (still a good idea, by the way). But in the past few years, another method for dealing with emerald ash borer has gained new promise: biocontrol. Biocontrol is the introduction and establishment of specialist predators from the native range of an invasive pest. I've been fortunate to contribute research to this control technique, and I wanted to share our work with you.

Biocontrol starts with a visit to the ash borer's native range in Asia to see what animals keep it in check there. Researchers found several

specialized predators, called parasitoids.

Parasitoids are amazing insects. They're small, stingless wasps about 1/4" long. When a female parasitoid finds an ash, she taps the bark with her antennae to feel for vibrations of moving ash borer larvae. When she locates a larva, she uses her ovipositor (a modified stinger) to drill through the bark and paralyze the larva. She then lays eggs on the larva, and when those eggs hatch, the wasp larvae eat the borer larva.



***Spathius agrili*, one of the parasitoid wasps being researched to control emerald ash borer. Photo credit: Jennifer Ayer, Bugwood.org, CC BY-NC 3.0.**

In Asia, parasitoids kill up to 50% of emerald ash borers in infested trees. The hope is that if we bring these parasitoids to the US, they could have the same impact in controlling ash borers here.

But before we can release the parasitoids in North America, we have to make sure they don't attack native insects. To do that, we first test them against native insects similar to emerald ash borer inside a closed lab. If the parasitoids don't attack the other insects, they're considered suitable for release.

Based on that research, ash borer parasitoids are indeed specific to ash borers. When we gave them a choice between the ash borer and a native insect, they attacked the ash borer.

With that success in hand, we received permission to release small numbers of the parasitoids in New York, and other researchers have released parasitoids in 22 of the 25 states with known infestations. So far the parasitoids are establishing at almost every site, but it will still be a few years before we'll know if they can impact ash borer populations. Still, our initial results have been promising, and the parasitoids' establishment is a great first sign of hope that we can save ash from extinction.

Author Bio: Michael Jones is a PhD student in Forest Entomology at the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He worked for the US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection for three years in California as a field entomologist studying gold-spotted oak borer, a forest pest similar to emerald ash borer.

Note: This article first came to our attention courtesy of the NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter's newsletter. They originally got it from MyWoodlot.com who gave us permission to reproduce it and which is another great resource for NY woodlot owners.

(Easements, continued from page 1)

regulations that limit your activities, such as zoning laws and building codes, you can largely do what you want with rural property. The rights you have to your property can be separated from the land and sold, leased or given away piecemeal. Common examples of this separation include leasing hunting rights, allowing a neighboring farmer to plant crops on a field, and selling oil and gas rights. In these cases you retain ownership of the land but give others the right to use it for certain purposes. A conservation easement is another way to separate some property rights from the ownership of the property, such as the right to subdivide or develop the property. Property is protected from future exploitation by removing those rights from the property and terminating them.

A conservation easement conveys a stake in the property to another organization. In some cases the other organization might be a county or town government, but typically it is a land trust. A land trust is a non-profit organization specifically chartered to conserve land. Land trusts are often founded to combat a perceived regional threat to the community or the environment, such as loss of farmland or degraded water quality. Land trusts typically work in a limited geographical area and have a mission that reflects their conservation goals.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement that terminates or restricts certain rights to a property. A conservation easement gives a land trust the right - and the responsibility - to monitor the property for adherence to those restrictions, and to enforce the restrictions if necessary. The conservation easement is what gives the land trust legal standing to defend the terms of the easement. In the world of legal contracts, giving this right to a qualified land trust is the strongest mechanism to guarantee protection of the property in perpetuity.

Like any real estate transaction, all the terms of a conservation easement are negotiable between the parties involved, so there is no definitive list of rights a landowner gives up in the process. Qualified land trusts must comply with both New York State law and IRS regulations and will accept an easement only if it meets both legal requirements and their organizational mission. Typically, limits are placed on how many times a property can be divided, the number, size and location of buildings, and other development such as mining or drilling. Within these broad categories there is room for a great deal of flexibility in the specific terms of an easement.

The first step in any big project is to identify your goals. Landowners must think carefully about what rights they are giving up with a conservation easement, and what rights they want to retain. This is the subject of potentially difficult negotiation with the land trust. Understand that lots of things can be tailored in the easement, but once it is done it is unlikely that you will be able to modify it. In addition to identifying those activities that are prohibited by the easement, it is best if rights the landowner retains are identified as well. A few examples of activities that a landowner might want to explicitly identify as allowed by the easement are farming, forest management including harvesting firewood and commercial timber, constructing additional outbuildings, or running a small business from the house. A land trust might accept a conservation easement that permits these activities, but might put conditions on them, such as: farming and forestry must conform to current best practices, new outbuildings must be contained within a limited area, and a home-based business must not require constructing a parking lot.

The landowner also has costs associated with a conservation easement. An easement is a real estate transaction and you should have a lawyer review it, so there are legal fees. The easement is filed with the county clerk; there are filing fees. The land trust might require that the property be surveyed, and that could be costly. It is important to realize that donating a conservation easement could require a significant out-of-pocket outlay.

A land trust is required to monitor property for compliance with the terms of the easement. They do this by visiting the property, usually annually. The easement will typically give the land trust the right to visit the property, walk around on it and perhaps take photographs to document its condition. These visits are usually not intrusive and can be fun – I enjoy walking my property with people who appreciate it – but some landowners might view it as an invasion of their privacy. Conservation easements generally do not require that the landowner open the property for public access. Again, many of the terms are negotiable but make sure you understand the terms and carefully consider how you feel about them before signing the paperwork.

There are dozens of land trusts, so it can be a challenge to find the best one to work with if you want to explore a conservation easement on your property. The coarsest filter is geographic – most land trusts work in a fairly small area, although some operate throughout the state or country. In

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Bodies in Motion, Stay in Motion

by Dean Faklis

It's never a good idea to mess with Newton's First Law and NYFOA's age-defying Chainsaws for Charity Team is absolutely staying in motion. It's been a bit quiet at the log landing since the holidays, but all that will change soon as Spring kicks into gear.

As you know, NYFOA has begun a fun project whereby firewood is generated for the purposes of raising money for charity and providing a social function for NYFOA members. The project's short-term goal is to generate 100 face cords in the first year, which may net up to \$10,000 for charity. For example, thanks to The Rotary, Camp Onseyawa for disabled children (www.onseyawa.org) has already received significant firewood money and NYFOA's youth forestry programs are being funded.

With special thanks to William Anderson (Bath, NY) and Rich Gamrod (Rich's Karts & Parts, Honeoye, NY) and the hard work of our Chris Howard and Dale Schaefer, C4C has added a log splitter to improve productivity. Mr. Anderson donated the splitter and Mr. Gamrod donated parts and labor to



Rotarians Loading Up: Steve Smythe, NYFOA's David Deuel, and Dr. Ben Gullo, with Dr. Greg Gullo behind the camera.

make the splitter functional again. Rich diagnosed the problems quickly, added electronic ignition, new gas line and filter, and recoil starter. We're extremely grateful for their generosity!

Do you want to stay in motion? Do you love woodlands and want to help people in need? Please join us in Avon, the camaraderie and food are great. Some folks cut, some split, some stack and some walk around, eat, and look busy

like me! Just let Eileen

(dschaefer1@frontiernet.net) know and she will put you on the mailing list. If you would like to make a donation of cash to help with expenses, delivered logs/firewood, or equipment, please send me a note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net).

There are several C4C articles at the Cornell Forest Connect Ning site. Lots of pictures and explanations of how things work, including information on the beneficiaries. Check them out!

<http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/>

Click the Blogs tab near the top and search for Chainsaws for Charity or C4C; there are several articles with a bunch of fun pictures.

Our region is large. If Avon is too far to drive for you, won't you consider helping to create a new C4C location in your area? Let's hear from you!

Developing the Art of Stewardship

by Dean Faklis

Our trees grow at a glacial pace but our forests can change drastically in an instant. A forest owner decides to sell, or dies, and the forest becomes endangered in that moment. The unfortunate cycle of high grading followed by neglect tends to continue and we must take the long view and work to stop it. Given the lifetimes involved, the long view extends beyond us; will NY's children become good stewards of our forests?

NYFOA is taking action to address the long view with NY's children and is bringing forest stewardship concepts into the classroom. It created the Woodlands Mini Grants for Educators and it supports NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team. The NYFOA Auction has been rekindled to help fund these stewardship programs. These programs are important and our website has all of the details (http://www.nyfoa.org/time_sensitive/auction2017.php). That's a long link to type in, so just visit nyfoa.org where there is a link to the auction page. There you'll find a list of donors and pictures of their auction items. We are grateful for the generosity of these fine people.

NYFOA's 2017 auction effort has already received pledges of near \$2,000 towards its goal of \$5,000. Please consider

the importance of the long view and make a donation today using the form at the auction website. Or send me an email (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) and I will streamline the process. Let's meet our goal.

NYFOA's silent auction coincides with its annual meeting on April 8, 2017 so there is not much time remaining. Your donation to the NYFOA auction of cash, services or items and your willingness to bid on items helps to develop the art of forest stewardship in NY's children. Please download the donation form, check it over and please give a generous gift today. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

The auction team considered having an online auction as well, but not for 2017, so the physical items will only be available for bidding at the annual meeting on April 8 in Syracuse, mostly to keep shipping costs down. If you have interest in bidding on an item or service but cannot attend the annual meeting, please send me an email and we'll try to make it work together. We want all of the auction items to find happy homes!

If you have questions about the auction or making a donation, please send me a note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Given the importance of the effort, please make a donation today. Thank you!

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most counties in Western New York there are three or four land trusts operating. The Land Trust Alliance maintains a web site (<https://www.landtrustalliance.org/>) that has lots of general information about land trusts and conservation easements, and also has an interactive map that shows all of the local and national land trusts active in each county.

Each land trust has its own mission, and this is the next filter to consider when looking for a land trust – its mission should be compatible with your goals for the property. Most land trusts are trying to protect open space and reduce fragmentation of the landscape, but some focus on agricultural land, some on wetlands or riparian areas, some on locations of cultural significance such as historic battlefields. The more closely your goals align with those of the land trust, the smoother your negotiations will probably go. The Land Trust Alliance web site also gives a brief statement of the priorities of each land trust, and each land trust's own web site usually displays its mission prominently.

When a land trust accepts a conservation easement, it is taking on a responsibility to monitor and enforce that easement into the future. This is a real cost to the organization, in terms of staff time to visit the property and keep records of its status. The land trust also has large potential costs to enforce the easement if there is a violation – it has to be prepared for litigation if it can't resolve the problems any other way. These costs are why a land trust will not accept just any conservation easement, and why it

will have some very detailed requirements when negotiating with a landowner about an easement – the easement on a parcel must advance the organization's mission sufficiently to justify the costs the land trust will incur.

Conservation easements are a powerful tool to protect property from future development while allowing traditional uses like farming and woodlot management. They have the advantages of allowing you to negotiate terms you are comfortable with and obligating all future owners, so you can be sure your property will remain open space forever. They also benefit local communities by protecting the character of the area while it remains in private ownership and on the tax rolls. They have the disadvantage of being complicated legal documents that take time, thought and effort on all sides to craft so everybody's goals are met. This article has been a very high level view of what easements are; in the next newsletter we will cover more about the process of donating an easement, the financial ramifications and other aspects of using an easement to preserve your property.

Some of the land trusts that are active in the area of the Western Finger Lakes chapter are:

Finger Lakes Land Trust (<http://www.fllt.org/>)

Genesee Land Trust (<http://geneseeandtrust.org/>)

Genesee Valley Conservancy (<http://www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org/>)

Western New York Land Conservancy (<https://wnylc.org/>)

(Sycamore, continued from page 1)

mottled patches of smooth, whitish inner bark with varying shades of green and brown. This all combines to give the camouflage look, in my opinion and still another name of ghost tree. Some think the bark gives the tree a "sick" look thus the name "syc"amore. They're a popular and fast growing street tree with a row of them lining the sidewalk outside the Aldi store near route 250 in Penfield. They've been known to be 60 feet tall at 10 years of age. They are not drought tolerant so are often found along river banks, lakes and streams. In Britain the tree is called lacewood. Is that name #6?

They're the largest of all American hardwood trees with diameters that can approach 10 feet. Larger ones were recorded in pioneer times. In 1744 Joseph Hampton and 2 sons supposedly lived most of a year in a hollow sycamore in Clark County, Virginia. George Washington reported one at nearly 45 feet circumference three feet above ground level. Even the leaves are large sometimes approaching 10". The DEC website shows the largest sycamore in NYS to be in Dutchess County at 117' tall with a cir-

cumference of 27 feet. One website states there's a sycamore in the Zoar valley south of Buffalo at 155 feet tall and located on Skinnydip Terrace.

Sycamore is hard wood and has a reputation for being difficult to split. As a result it has been used for butcher blocks, flooring, handles, pallets, food holding baskets, barrels and musical instruments. In pioneer times its toughness made it good for wheels on ox carts. The reddish brown wood has an interesting grain pattern and finds use as trim and accent wood.

In Luke chapter 19 of the New Testament we read that Jesus was entering Jericho on his way to Jerusalem and the crucifixion. A vertically challenged fellow named Zachaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to get a better look at Jesus amidst the throng. I've often wondered if that sycamore tree is the same as our multi-named camouflaged sycamore. The answer is no, they are different species. So not only does the tree have many names, the same name is applied to more than one species of tree.

Apple Syrup

by Dick Starr

There used to be a Perkins restaurant near us. We didn't go there very often which probably contributed to their closing. I was always intrigued by the variety of syrups available. Even though I'm an avowed maple syrup fan, I couldn't resist loading up the pancakes with strawberry syrup, blueberry syrup, raspberry syrup and whatever else was available. I've made maple syrup but how does one make fruit syrups? A few years ago we visited an Amish store and in the syrup section were several fruit syrups. I asked the owner how fruit syrups are made and she didn't know, claiming they simply buy it and sell it. That sent me to the internet and I found many recipes.

Wikipedia defines syrup, or sirup, as a thick viscous liquid condiment consisting primarily of a solution of sugar dissolved in water and showing little tendency to deposit crystals. The Merriam-Webster dictionary adds that flavoring or medicine is often added to syrup as in cough syrup. The Food Network says simple syrup is made by dissolving 2 cups of sugar in 2 cups of water. Without even trying it I knew this was too sweet even for my love affair with sugar.

Then I found a recipe for apple syrup that seemed, on paper, to be what I was looking for. I tried it and can recommend it for your consideration. It's quite simple. I used home made apple juice and the recipe is:

- 1 tbspn corn starch
- ¼ tspn cinnamon
- ¼ tspn nutmeg
- 1.25 cups apple juice or cider
- 4 tspns sugar

Combine everything but the sugar in a saucepan until smooth. Bring to a boil and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened to your satisfaction. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar. One can experiment with the amount of sugar. The nutmeg cinnamon combination adds an interesting flavor complexity just as it does for apple pie. Why am I salivating?

I used plain table sugar but next time I'm going to use turbinado sugar. Turbinado sugar comes from the first pressing of the sugar cane and is to sugar cane what extra virgin olive oil is to olives. Both Wegmans and Tops carry it. Turbinado sugar has minimal refinement and processing, is medium brown in color with large crystals. It can easily be mistaken as brown sugar. Many consider it a healthier variety of sugar with its minimal processing. Is healthy sugar an oxymoron?

I assume any liquefied fruit can substitute for the liquid apple. One can liquefy fresh fruit or use one of the many prepared juices available. One grocery store I checked had 8 varieties of juice starting with "cran" such as cran-raspberry. There must have been two dozen juices to select from. The sweetness of juices can vary so some experimentation might be in order to determine how much sugar satisfies your palate. Disclaimer: this will never ever take the place of maple syrup but it does offer some variety.

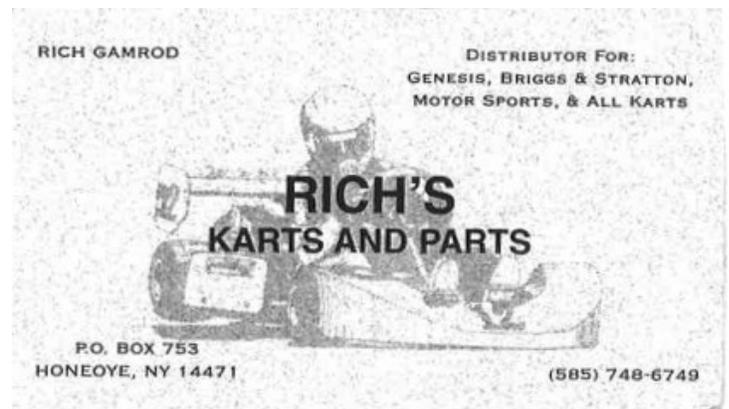
Classifieds

Wanted: Woodlot and Related Activity Photos. We're building a small collection of photos for publicity and similar NYFOA purposes. If you have photos from woodswalks, woodlot activities, NYFOA activities, etc. and are willing to share, please e-mail them to Jim Minor, jcminor@rochester.rr.com.

Tree Tubes for Sale - Member(/Non-Member) price: 4' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 4' w/ stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 5' (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' w/ stake (7.00/\$7.50). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

For Sale: Bluebird Nestbox, \$20 ea. Call Dean, 585-669-2956 for pictures and to order (check or Paypal). All of the purchase price benefits the Springwater Historical Society's Museum. Pick up in Springwater.

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.



Upcoming Events

Oak Wilt Workshop Detecting and Controlling a Lethal Disease

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 9am-noon

Studio 14, Finger Lakes Community College,
3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua, NY, 14424

More information in the flyer at: [http://
fingerlakesinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/
OakWilt.pdf](http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/OakWilt.pdf)

WFL General Meeting Dealing with the Loss of Ash Trees

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 PM

United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye.

(note: not Honeoye Falls)

Jim Engel, owner of White Oak Nursery on Kipp Road in Gorham, will present a program on, "Diversifying the Forest Plant Community after the Loss of Ash". The death of ash trees across NYS from Emerald Ash Borer will significantly alter our forest composition and result in significant ecological disturbance. What species will fill the void left by the death of ash? Will it be an invasive plant or a desirable native species? Collecting and planting seed of native trees, shrubs and forbs is one way to shape the composition of the future forest. Jim has been propagating and growing over 80 species of native shade trees and native flowering shrubs since 1995, and grows the majority of species that are native to the northeastern United States. His technique is to use tree seed to diversify and establish ash seedlings.

Light refreshments will be available.

Genesee Valley Landowner Workshops

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2016

Time: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Cost: \$20/person, includes 3 workshops and dinner

Location: Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (BOCES), 100 Lackawanna Dr., Mount Morris NY

Genesee Valley Conservancy and Livingston County Cooperative Extension are happy to bring you the Genesee Valley Landowner Workshops. The Workshops are intended to provide landowners the opportunity to learn land management strategies and practices that will assist

them in reaching their land ownership goals. *Seating is limited: Register Today!* For more details as they become available, and to register, see [http://
www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org/events/other/GVLW](http://www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org/events/other/GVLW).

"How Sweet It Is!" - Wohlschlegel Sugarbush Woodswalk

Saturday, May 13th, 11AM

The Wohlschlegel farm is located about 15 minutes west of Naples, in the heart of the Finger Lakes. The operation combines a modern maple syrup sugarhouse with great respect for history of maple syrup, the sugarbush itself, and the environment. Nothing is sweeter than the taste of warm maple syrup by itself, on top of something such as ice cream, snow, pancakes or as a natural sweetener for baking.



The Wohlschlegel Sugarshack
Starting point of our May 13 tour.

Join us on Saturday, May 13th at 11AM for a tour of the Wohlschlegel Sugarbush, with Garry and Bobbi Wohlschlegel, on their working family farm in Naples NY. The tour will include the sugaring operation and a look at the sugarbush and its collection system.

They are located at 8064 Coates Rd, Naples. The best directions are on their website, listed at below or Google will map you right to their driveway. The website alone is worth visit. We will meet at the sugarhouse at 11AM, on May 13th, so join us for spring in the maples.

www.fingerlakesbulkmaplesyrup.com

(Continued on page 11)

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Tour

Saturday May 13th, 10:30 AM

Hosted by the Niagara Frontier Chapter of NYFOA

One of the best kept secrets in WNY and we found it!! The Niagara Frontier Chapter will host a presentation and guided tour of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Shelby/Basom/Alabama, NY on Saturday, May, 13, 2017 at 10:30am. The refuge serves primarily as a nesting, feeding, resting and staging areas for migratory waterfowl. The varied habitats support approximately 266 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, plus reptiles, fish, amphibians and insects. Bald eagles have maintained an active nest on the refuge since 1986. Management goals also address the needs of species of special concern including black tern, black ducks, osprey, American woodcock, and peregrine falcons which use the refuge during some time of the year. This will be a great family and guest event, the trails are well groomed for easy walking. Bring a bagged lunch, your cameras and binoculars!

WFL General Meeting Conservation Easements

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 PM

United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye.

Zachary Odell, Director of Land Protection, Finger Lakes Land Trust, will deliver a program on conservation easements. Easements are voluntary agreements that enable landowners to permanently protect conservation values associated with property by limiting allowable uses. See the related article in this issue of the WFL newsletter..

Apple Pruning Workshop

Saturday, 19 August

Apple pruning workshop at the Seager farm in Swain. This will be a hands-on workshop for a small group to learn proper techniques for pruning wild apple trees to encourage tree health and fruit production, led by forester Bruce Robinson. Watch for more details in the summer newsletter.



Wait! Instead of recycling this issue of the *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner*, why not pass it on to a friend/neighbor to give them a hint at what they're missing by not being a member of NYFOA.

Join and/or Give

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests. Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

Note: For Gift Memberships, list the recipient's information (must not have been a NYFOA member for 3 years) directly below.

- I/We own _____ acres of woodland.
- I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State/ Zip: _____

Optional:

Telephone: _____
 Email: _____
 County of Residence: _____
 County of Woodlot: _____
 Referred by: _____

Regular Annual Dues:

- Student \$15 (Please provide copy of student ID)
- Individual/Family \$45
- 1 Year Gift Membership \$25
 Gifto's (NYFOA member) name _____

Multi-Year Dues:

- 2-yr \$80
- 3-yr \$120

Additional Contribution:

- Supporter \$1-\$49
 - Contributor \$50-\$99
 - Sponsor \$100-\$249
 - Benefactor \$250-\$499
 - Steward \$500 or more
 - Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues)
- NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) taxexempt organization and as such your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Form of Payment: Check Credit Card
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 Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____
 Signature: _____

Make check payable to NYFOA. Send the completed form to:
 NYFOA
 P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485

Questions: 1-800-836-3566

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WFL members Trish & Paul Lambiase tell us, "This was taken through our kitchen window as a pileated woodpecker was working on an old stump about 20 feet from our house in Naples, New York."



Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ **March 22**—Oak Wilt Workshop*
- ◆ **March 28**—WFL General Meeting: Dealing with the Loss of Ash Trees*
- ◆ **April 5**—Genesee Valley Landowner Workshops*
- ◆ **May 13**—Wohlschlegel Sugarbush Woodwalk*
- ◆ **May 13**—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Tour*
- ◆ **May 16**—WFL General Meeting: Conservation Easements*
- ◆ **August 19**—Apple Pruning Workshop*

* 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