

Kutney Woods Walk

Southern Tier Chapter Event

May 20, 2017

Deer Exclosure, AVID and Timber Growing Contest

Deer Exclosure

Peter Smallidge, PhD. NYS Extension Forester, discusses the application of a deer exclosure fence. In this photo to the right, Peter explains the use of batten boards attached to trees at corners of 50' x 50' exclosure. Galvanized nails are used to attach boards with washers to allow boards to move with tree growth while causing minimum damage to tree. Methods using plastic fence material as shown, as well as separate strands of wire were discussed as it relates to cost and labor efforts.



The photo at left demonstrates effectiveness of the exclosure at inhibiting deer browsing. Notice sapling growth inside the fence is much greater than outside of the fence.

The photo to the right shows use of flagging material suspended from fencing. Flagging is used as visual deterrent to deer and other wildlife from charging enclosed area.



AVID

As part of the AVID (Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer) program criteria being developed by Cornell, landowners establish 6' circle areas for study of deer browsing on various tree and wildflower species. Specimens are labeled, and growth is monitored and recorded for data development by quadrant. A new phone app will soon be available for uploading of data to Cornell website. Those wishing to take part in this project may obtain further information, and materials by contacting their local CCE office.



Timber Growing Contest

Another part of the woods walk had Dave Williams and Peter Smallidge provide information on the timber growing contest rules. Various instruments for set up of 1/4 acre areas for the contest, as well as measurement of basal area were also discussed.

Larry Lepak looks through range finder as Sharon Semanovich watches. The range finder is being used to establish the outer perimeter of the site. Larry looks for objects at a distance of 19.3 yds which provides the maximum distance from center for inclusion in the 1/4 acre area. Subject trees over 6" dbh (diameter at breast height) are then marked, and measured.



Above Peter Smallidge uses diameter tape for measuring dbh.

Sticks made by Dave Williams for purposes of the contest ensure consistent measurement from ground to dbh.



The above photo shows the group gathered outside of the deer enclosure, listening to Peter Smallidge. The enclosure fence flagging can be noted in the far right background.



Afterwards the group enjoyed a hot lunch of burger, hot dogs and chicken. This provided an opportunity of comradery and enabled us to further visit with one another and continue our discussions.