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# NFC NEWSLETTER

July 2009

Niagara Frontier Chapter

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

## Get ready for a fun woodswalk: 'Life Is a Beech!'

**Fred Thurnherr** has enthusiastically agreed to sponsor a woodswalk at his home, 7885 Center St., Holland at 9:30 a.m. **Saturday, July 18.**

His theme for discussion is "*Life Is a Beech*," with the focus on controlling less desirable tree species.

The event promises to be an entertaining and educational morning. All are welcome.

Bring a friend, whether they have a woodlot or not.

If you need more information or directions, call Fred at 941-3248.

## Visit to Tom Draves' arboretum shows off beauty of nature, trees

On Saturday, May 30, only three NYFOA members and two guests took advantage of one of the most wonderful and memorable woodswalk visits the NFC chapter has organized in many years.

Tom Draves was a gracious and informed host at his arboretum in Darien. He welcomed the group with coffee and delicious treats.

The walk through his woods and beds showed off the best of what forest owners should be doing on their own property.

Unfortunately, and embarrassingly, only three of the 22 NYFOA members who had signed up for the event attended.

Each person who signed up received a post card the week before as a reminder. But no one called to say he or she would not attend and so it was assumed that most would be there.

As president of the NFC chapter, I found it difficult to explain to Tom where our group was.

He was gracious and made us feel at home as he led the tour.



*Tom Draves, right, poses at the start of the tour with, from left, Mary Johnson, Keith, Linda Weiland and Fran Harrison.*



*Tom Draves, left, answers questions by NYFOA members.*

In the September-October issue of the *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*, Tom and his family were highlighted in an article called "A Man in Trees and Into Trees."

And so he is on is 25 acres. As an arborist, Tom works and pursues his hobby at the same time. He studied at Cornell University, is a certified nursery professional, a certified pesticide applicator and a member of the WNY State Nursery and landscape Association.

He teaches for Cornell and his brother, Richard, works with him at the arboretum.

Tom researches and pursues trees for their rarity. Among some of the rarest trees we enjoyed are Willowleaf magnolia, leatherwood, bigleaf dogwood and Japanese oak.

Tom said he plants three specimens of any new tree, fences them and hopes that in 10 or 12 years he'll have one or two vital survivors.

The arboretum is not open to the public, which made the visit even more special.

A sincere thanks to Tom for a wonderful day!

## Gas rights and right-of-way leasing pointers for forest owners

New technologies and markets have created opportunities for forest owners to lease natural gas formations deep below the surface of their properties.

These formations, known as “plays,” show tremendous potential to benefit forest owners and their communities.

However, the development of gas plays through seismic testing, drilling operations, access roads, pipeline construction and right-of-ways can also have enduring negative impacts on the forest if not carefully contemplated and executed.

The following is a list of recommendations for leasing gas rights and associated right-of-ways on forest land.

1. **Be patient and learn more.** Leasing your gas rights or right-of-way is an important decision that will have lasting consequences on both your forest land and finances, so avoid hasty decisions.

2. **Start with a sound lease.** Terms specific to forest land are usually placed in the lease addendum. A list of special considerations for forest land can be found at the end of this article.

3. **Utilize a Consulting Forester.** For a relatively small fee, a Forester will represent your interests throughout the gas development process, overseeing numerous technical tasks that most forest owners lack expertise in.

4. **Consider joining a coalition.** If no coalition exists in your county, you can form your own by organizing neighbors into a contiguous block of at least 500 acres. The collective bargaining power of coalitions often allows landowners to obtain compensations and lease terms that would not otherwise be made available to individuals.

*For more information related to gas leasing, visit:  
<http://gasleasing.cce.cornell.edu>*



*This scene from the walking tour of Tom Draves' arboretum was taken by Rita Hammond and, in color, is even more spectacular.*

### 2009-2010 NFC Chapter, New York Forest

**Rita Hammond, President — 937-0744**

**David Preston, Immediate Past President — 632-5862**

**Ed Janulionis, treasurer — 847-1289**

**Barbara Tucker, Newsletter — 874-4074**

**Fran Harrison, Photographer**

**Fred Thurnherr - Chapter Delegate — 941-3248**

### Considerations for Leases on Forest Land

- Permanent and temporary right-of-ways should be clearly marked before executing lease agreement so that the exact extent of impact is known.

- Loss of existing timber should be appraised exclusively by your Forester, and not left open to contention by the lease holder.

- Cleared timber should be harvested by conventional logging methods (not pushed out by heavy equipment) and left neatly piled in designated areas if to be later sold or utilized by the owner. Otherwise, the timber should be chipped or hauled away. Burying the debris will cause unnecessary soil disturbance.

- You can exclude surface rights (no activity) on your property while still leasing your subsurface (gas) rights, but this may decrease the value of the lease.

- If currently enrolled in the NYS 480-A Forest Tax Law, conversion penalties should be paid by lease holder. If you are contemplating enrollment in 480-A; will you still qualify if additional forest land is cleared?

- How will temporarily impacted areas be restored?

- What penalties and provisions are there for non-compliance, such as failure to revegetate temporary worksites, damage to unmarked trees, delays in completion, erosion damage, spills, etc? You should require a performance bond and your Forester should be the final authority on compliance.

- Location of all drilling sites, roads, pipelines and temporary structures should be approved by you or your Forester to minimize surface, visual and noise impacts.

- What measures will be taken by the lease holder to prevent trespass problems on right-of-ways and access roads?

- Will you be allowed to use new access roads created on your property?

- You should require the lease holder to construct at least one permanent crossing in a designated location if you expect to cross the pipeline with heavy equipment, such as a future timber sale or pond excavation.

- Are there unique wildlife habitats or sensitive areas on your property? If so, you should exclude surface rights on these areas.

- How will you be compensated if development activity conflicts with a primary ownership goal, such as hunting?

- What measures will be taken to reduce the establishment of invasive plant species near disturbed areas, such as planting tree screens along cleared edges?

- If noise will be a concern, exclude the right to maintain a permanent compressor station on your property.

- If water for drilling will come from your property, you should be compensated for it, and limits should be set that protect the source. Drilling fluids should be stored in tanks, not lagoons, and disposed of off site.

- Do not allow access on your property for any activities without first receiving a copy of an executed lease. Even seemingly harmless activities can become a nuisance and liability if not controlled through a sound lease.

## Just for fun: Take this tree wellness quiz

Are you prepared to plant and rear a healthy tree? Take this tree wellness quiz to see just how prepared you are to successfully raise a healthy tree. (Answers on Page 4)

**Q:** You are about to acquire a tree to plant and raise on your own. The most important first step is to...

- purchase the appropriate tools for planting including plenty of fertilizer
- get your soil tested and check for insects and diseases on trees in the neighborhood
- visit a trusted nursery or garden center and invest in a high quality tree

**Q:** Out of every five yard and city trees planted, four fail to live out a happy life because...

- existing conditions like drainage, soil compaction, light, human and animal traffic and pollutants limit vigor
- many trees are not genetically adapted to urban life
- many trees are non-native species that aren't as hardy as local trees

**Q:** The number one cause of tree death outside the forest is...

- a disease or other pest coming from other trees
- planting the wrong tree for the setting
- human vandalism and animal damage

**Q:** Transplanted trees suffer enormous stress. They will be infinitely more comfortable and healthy if...

- they are correctly planted and mulched for optimum water retention
- they get a large initial application of plant food immedi-

ately after planting

c. they are staked and wrapped to protect from wind and pests

**Q:** Planting trees should include a commitment to five years of regular maintenance including...

- deep watering, weeding at the trunk base, pruning and annual fertilization
- a visit from you arborist or extension agent annually
- actually, trees need very little maintenance after planting

**Q:** With few exceptions, trees like a good drink. Eastern US trees need supplemental water...

- only during periods of long drought or in droughty soils
- when the leaves become slightly wilted or needles take on a bluish tint
- in the equivalent of five gallons per inch of trunk diameter twice a week

**Q:** When pruning a tree, you should remember to...

- shear sides and top trees to control shape and height
- cut off branches inside the "collar" and flush with the trunk
- avoid shearing or topping trees and always prune branches outside the "collar"

**Q:** Fertilizing your tree after the first year is fine...

- but should be done using recommendations from the nursery or your arborist.
- and should be done in combination with a lawn herbicide to reduce weed competition
- but should only be applied around the base of the tree

## Summertime is a good time to remember the lessons of Smokey Bear

Smokey Bear came to us by necessity. At the beginning of World War II, Americans feared that an enemy attack or sabotage could destroy our forest resources at a time when wood products were greatly needed.

In the spring of 1942 a Japanese submarine fired shells onto an oil field in Southern California near Los Padres National Forest. Government officials were relieved that the shelling did not start a forest fire but were determined to provide protection.

The USDA Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program in 1942. It encouraged citizens nationwide to make a personal effort to prevent forest fires. It was a mobilized civilian effort in support of the war effort to protect valuable trees. Walt Disney's "Bambi" character was very popular and was used on an initial anti-fire poster. The success of this poster demonstrated that an animal of the forest was the best

messenger to promote the prevention of accidental forest fires.

On August 2, 1944, the Forest Service and the War Advertising Council introduced a bear as their campaign symbol.

Albert Staehle, noted illustrator of animals, worked with this description to paint the forest fire prevention bear. His art appeared in the 1945 campaign, and the advertising symbol was given the name "Smokey Bear."

Rudy Wendelin, an artist for the Forest Service, long after retiring, created the art for the Smokey Bear's 40th anniversary commemorative U.S. Postage stamp. Many within the Forest Service still acknowledges Wendelin as being the true "Smokey Bear artist."

But it was not until the 1965 campaign and the work of Smokey artist Chuck Kuderna, that Smokey's image evolved into the one we know today.

## Artisan Forest Products

When creativity and craftsmanship meet New York State wood, beautiful products emerge. Northern New York artisans produce a variety of artisan forest products.

Some artisan wood products come with "green certification," which is meant to attest to the health of the forest from which the forest product came.

Artisan forest products customers can look for logos that indicate a third party-verified level of environmental and social 'Best Management Practices' practiced on the land where the wood came from. Smartwood, FSC, and SFI are some examples. Certification programs vary widely with FSC certification generally considered the most stringent.

Many artisan forest products for sale are not green-certified, but are sustainably grown and harvested. Be sure to ask where the forest edibles came from and how the forest is managed.

Forest Stewardship Council 'Green' wood products: [http://www.fsc.org/en/getting\\_involved/buy\\_sell](http://www.fsc.org/en/getting_involved/buy_sell)  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/sfilabel.cfm>

## Active NYFOA member, remembered for her love of life

On April 27, 2009, Jean Preston, an enthusiastic, creative and charming NFC Chapter member, died at age 46.

Jean, along with husband Dave, led the chapter for a number of years.

She welcomed the board into their home for meetings, always finding the bright side of a project or idea and throwing her support and fun-loving nature into those projects.

When, a few years ago, the chapter sponsored a day-long seminar in Lockport and the weather turned snowy and cold, Jean never quit working to make things right.

Our most sincere condolences to Dave, Jean's parents, Phillip and Carolyn Daigler, her in-laws Bob and Julie Preston and all who were touched by her caring and love.



Jean Preston — 1963-2009

### Forest Management Information

The first two links below connect you with two of the most comprehensive on-line resources for private forest landowners. They have a wealth of information and links that address nearly every aspect of private forestland management.

- Forest Landowners' Guide to Internet Resources: States of the Northeast <http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/flg>
- Cornell Cooperative Extension's ForestConnect — [www.ForestConnect.org](http://www.ForestConnect.org)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Web site for forest owners <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/priv-land/privassist/i>
- Stewardship Handbook for Family Forest Ownerships (award-winning handbook produced by the National Association of State Foresters) <http://www.stateforesters.org/pubs/p&ghandbook.pdf>

### Quiz Answers from Page 3

c, a, b, a, a, c, c, a.

### A few Web sites you might find interesting

For NYFOA: ..... [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org) or just Google New York NYFOA

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)

#### For information on tree insects and related issues:

For Asian longhorned beetle: [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7255](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7255)

For Emerald ash borer: [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253)

For firewood regulations: [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359)

To learn the legal framework of Timber Trespass, various statutes are available in a special state legislative report at [www.NYSTimberTrespassLaws](http://www.NYSTimberTrespassLaws)

To learn more about how Foresters can assist you: [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info)

For Forest Management information for state woodlot owners: [www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage)

For an online version of "What Tree Is That?", visit [arborday.org/whattree](http://arborday.org/whattree) which walks you through the easy-to-understand series of questions that end up with the tree's name.



We include E-mail addresses as they come to us. If you would like to be on our e-mail list, just send an e-mail

to Barbara Tucker at [wgtbt@aol.com](mailto:wgtbt@aol.com) and we'll be glad to oblige.

If you have any ideas of places to go and things to see related to the woods send them along

*A personal note on the death of Jean Preston. Although my knowledge of forestry is elementary, at best, Jean always helped out with information, checking things out on her lap top computer, and together with her husband, presented ideas for each newsletter.*

*She will be sorely missed by all. Condolences to the family.*

NFC Newsletter  
Barbara A. Tucker, Editor  
849 Delaware Rd.  
Kenmore, N.Y. 14223  
716-874-4074