

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2017

Volume 31, Number 2

In Our Woodlot

by Ed Piestrak

Whenever we have a woodwalk on our forest land, my daughter records a video of the proceedings. I have a tendency to review these videos from time to time and find them enlightening. We don't realize how quickly time goes by.

The videos have an underling theme. Our forester Mr. Bruce Robinson's major emphasis is that of releasing crop trees. He explains how important it is to release the dominant trees in a woodlot and the results of this can be phenomenal. The residual forest puts on exceptional and noticeable growth.

We are in the process of releasing a large area of our Tannery Creek forest lands. I could not pass up the opportunity to have a sign constructed to show the process. See photo.

As Mr. Robinson explains, timber stand improvement (TSI) is OK but the emphasis needs to be on releasing. A woodwalk on the Morabito property last year, led by Mr. Robinson, found the term and process of releasing to be common through his presentation. Hopefully, more professionals and land owners will consider the process of releasing and further improve our forests.



SUGAR MAPLES & SUGARBUSHES

Or How I Spent A Saturday In May

by Peter Muench

Twenty-one people, all presumably with an affinity for maple products in some form, spent a sweet three hours visiting the Wohlschlegel's Naples Maple Farm as guests of Bobbi and Gary Wohlschlegel. The 60-acre family operation was established in 2010 but Garry and Bobbi have had their hands in syrup production for many years prior to that.



All photos by the author



We began in the sugarhouse with Garry walking us through the development of the site and buildings and the complex operation of the process from tree to product. From reverse osmosis, through the holding tanks to the evaporator and the finished syrup, the group reviewed the smooth flow of their process.

We moved to the sugar bush itself, a beautiful stand of sugar maples, which has seen TSI to improve sap production. Vacuum tubing is laid out in a ladder pattern of drops, laterals and trunk lines that collect to a pump house, at the bottom of the hill, that sends the raw material to the sugarhouse. The intricacies of drawing the vacuum, maintaining and cleaning the lines and the automated pumping were discussed.

We wandered back to their maple kitchen for a taste of numerous maple products, coffee and further questions. The WFL Chapter would like to thank the Wohlschlegel's for their hospitality. Additional information may be found at their site

www.fingerlakesbulkmaplesyrup.com.



Our New Web Site is Up and Running!

In mid March we made the switchover to our new web site (same web address... www.nyfoa.org) and the feedback has been very positive.. We've taken virtually all the capabilities of our former web site and added many more., including:

- ◆ Rather than just a single page, each chapter now has their own subsection including chapter news, and chapter events.
- ◆ Each event has it's own page allowing for more information..
- ◆ The events from all the chapters are fed into one section containing a statewide map so users can view all the events across the state so they can see other chapters' events that they may wish to attend.
- ◆ An active link to our Facebook page so that posts there are linked into our web home page and which can easily be followed back to their source.

Plus many more. Be sure to check it out!

Note also that this newsletter incorporates our new logo.



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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 Fall 2017 issue is August 15th

Bluebirds in Steuben County

by Ed Piestrak

On our Steuben County property, we have 75 acres of open fields that we mow to keep the invasive species under control and provide habitat for animals and birds. We got in contact with the National Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Mr. David Dupont, about 2005 and he advised that there was a bluebird program that we may be interested in. It involved mowing 1/3 of the field each year for several years, placement of multiple bluebird boxes and cost sharing for needed lime and fertilizer.



The program sounded very interesting, but we had no experience with the bluebirds. We decided to go forward with the program anyway. Thus, we signed up and placed 40+ bluebird boxes out. (we now have approximately 60 bluebird boxes).

We have continued the program on our own and continue to mow the fields, clean out the bird boxes each fall and provide maintenance on the boxes. (examples: repainting, repairing, replacing, etc.)

The program was very effective in getting our family involved in bluebird housing and restoration. We have a few bluebird families utilizing the boxes but the majority are swallows. Also, the program was instrumental to our family joining The New York Bluebird Society (NYSBS).

This past winter we purchased another parcel of land in Steuben County that contains 61 acres of open field that would be ideal for such a bluebird program if any are available. New comers in bluebird restoration can be enticed and helped in the continued enhancement of the bluebirds. We are committed to the bluebird restoration. We have already placed 14 boxes on the property and will continue to mow it yearly.

With our extraordinary workload on the properties we have not been able to get more involved in monitoring except to maintain the boxes and clean them on a yearly basis. Keep up the good work and explore the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) bluebird program as it once was. The New York state bird, "Eastern Bluebird" is worth it.



Note: Every second year for the past 12 years we have hosted a woods walk on our property through the New York Forest Owners Associates (NYFOA). For each woods walk we offer various items our family provides for free. We have been offering bluebird boxes for the attendees to take home and utilize on their land. We are trying to get other people involved in bluebird restoration. Feedback from the bluebird boxes have been very positive and well appreciated. Thus, we usually add the bluebird boxes on a regular basis.



all photos by the author

March Meeting: "Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer"

by Mike Seager

On 28 March we had a meeting in Honeoye attended by about 30 people. Jim Engel of White Oak Nursery gave a well-received presentation about how to prepare for the arrival of emerald ash borer in your woodlot.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small beetle that infests all varieties of ash trees. The larvae live under the bark, eating the cambium which girdles and eventually kills the tree. While there is some hope of finding a biological control for EAB (see "Biocontrol of the Emerald Ash Borer" in the spring 2017 newsletter), many people fear the worst and are planning for the loss of all ash trees in the years to come.

This dire forecast was the basis of Jim's talk: assuming all your ash trees are going to die, what should you do to reconstruct a healthy and diverse forest environment? A major part of the dilemma is that lots of other invasive species are also present in woodlots. Many stands that have a significant component of ash also have a shrub layer that includes a lot of honeysuckle, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, buckthorn and other invasive plants. In the absence of any other action, the death of the ash overstory will allow a lot more sunlight to reach the forest floor, resulting in a dramatic increase in the density of these undesirable invasives.

Jim recommends following a two-step approach to regenerating a desirable forest composition. The first step is to control the invasives before they have a chance to expand their grip on the forest floor – that is, before the ash die. Then plant seeds of desirable native plants so that the ground is not left bare, and thus susceptible to another generation of invasives.

Controlling the invasives is a lot of work, but will be a lot more work if they are allowed to grow without the overstory shade. There are a variety of control methods, and which is appropriate depends on the details of your woodlot. A sparse occurrence of honeysuckle might be uprooted manually; a dense layer of multiflora rose might require chemical control. There are lots of resources available that describe how to control various invasive species; see, for example, ForestConnect.com, or your local Cooperative Extension office.

The main thrust of Jim's talk was how to collect and plant seeds to establish new components in the woodlot that can prevent or limit the spread of invasives and eventually form a new canopy layer to replace the ash. Collecting seeds is not difficult to learn, can add a fun new activity to your time outdoors, and is more cost-effective and requires less labor than buying and planting seedlings.

A healthy woodlot contains a variety of species at several levels:

on the ground, in the shrub layer, and in the canopy. It is probably quicker to establish shrubs than trees because the seed is easier to collect and the plants are established more easily. It is important to select plants that are well-suited to your site based on its soil type, slope, aspect and other characteristics. In general, good choices for the shrub layer include various dogwoods, elderberry, spicebush and viburnums. Valuable native trees include basswood, sugar maple, black cherry and oaks.

To collect seed, you first have to find a source. Try to locate a seed source well in advance of when you will collect the seed, and mark these plants so you can find them easily in the future. You should be able to reach the seed – another reason that shrubs are easier to work with than large trees. Monitor your selected sources closely to see when the seed matures. For most species this will be in August or September. Once the seed is ripe, move quickly to collect it before wildlife harvest it all. Seed should be collected from the plant itself, if possible, rather than from the ground.

Once collected, seeds must be cleaned and stored until they are planted. To clean the seed, let the fruit soften, then remove seeds from the pulp and wash away the remaining pulp. Try to keep only viable seeds; in general, good seeds will sink in water, and bad seeds will float. Store the cleaned seed in moist (not wet) potting mix, peat moss, compost or similar medium in plastic bags. These should be kept outdoors, because the fluctuating natural temperatures over the winter are better than the constant environment of a refrigerator. However, be sure to protect the seeds from mice and other predators. Most seeds should be planted in the spring. An exception is sugar maple, which should be planted in the fall.

Collect and plant lots of seeds, because even with proper care the survival rate of seeds is fairly low. To help ensure survival, clean and store the seed carefully, make sure the plants are appropriate for your site, plant a mixture of species, and make sure the seeds are in contact with soil, not just on the leaf litter. Even with these precautions, Jim estimates that only about 20% of seeds will germinate into a plant that survives the first few weeks of the spring, and this number will be even smaller if there is a high deer population in the area.

Jim's web site contains much more specific information about seed collection and planting for many species of trees and shrubs that are native to our area – check it out at www.whiteoaknursery.biz.

Welcome New Members

Douglas Axtell	Canaseraga
Donel Howe	Arkport
Bill Kelty	LeRoy
Ken Rosenthal	Newark
Thomas Schwartz	Canandaigua

NYFOA Central New York Chapter Event: "Forest Management- Wildlife, Ecology, and Timber Harvesting"

by Colette Morabito

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, I had the pleasure of attending a Forest Management Program organized by Daniel Zimmerman who is the Central New York (CNY) Chapter Chair. This event was well attended by both private forest owners and NYFOA members. Professionals were also in attendance as they could receive Continuing Forest Education (CFE) credits. These professionals included Foresters, members of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) as well as Cornell Cooperative specialists. The varied, up-to-date information was of great interest and significance to woodlot owners. The food was also an alluring draw when registering for this workshop. The roast beef lunch or cook your own steaks, catered at the Vernon National Shooting Preserve, was beyond my expectations. A bull's eye!

Traveling to new areas of New York State on a beautiful spring day was particularly gratifying. Crisscrossing into the countryside of Oneida County was a breath-taking opportunity to take in the forested landscape before the leaves fully develop thus blocking views of churning streams, forest-floor flowers, and large nest structures high up in the trees. Presently, our family is a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter (WFL). However, our wood lot is physically located in Allegany County which is in one of the counties encompassing the Allegany Foothills Chapter (AFC). Unfortunately, we rarely reach out to attend events offered by other chapters. So, with great anticipation I travelled to Central New York to attend a CNY workshop, a good two-hour commute from home! As you may know, NYFOA is made up of 10 Chapters. With the newly updated website (and impressive new logo), it is so much easier to investigate countless new opportunities happening in all the NYFOA Chapters. Meeting forest owners from adjacent areas of the State will certainly offer resources for refining your own personal forestry goals as well as improving best practices in your woods. And who knows, you may just make a new friend over lunch consisting of fiddle heads, wild leeks and roast beef!

The speakers at the workshop discussed diverse topics with plenty of up to date information that affects forest owners. At the end of the day, we were all able to see firsthand how the forester and the owner of the Preserve worked together to decide which trees to release, impacts of deer, identification of woodland flowers, regeneration, all the while enjoying the countless bird calls that made our tour of the woods delightful. An exquisite spring day for a short, instructional walk in the woods. The weather also teased many of the Preserves' members to the shooting range that day.

Workshop topics included the abundance and distribution of moose in New York State. Although moose need aquatic plants as a staple to their diet, it appears that they also gravitate to managed forests and/or disturbed lands with strong regeneration for grazing. Woodcock and Grouse survive best in patchwork forest cover. This habitat is clearly short lived and demands consistent woodlot management. Attendees were blessed with a small bag of American Chestnuts to take home to begin our own Mother Orchard. Raptor biology and nesting was presented. Care should be taken during a timber harvest to identify and locate nests, especially during the spring breeding season, which would prevent the destruction of eggs and/or invasives. We concluded with logger training certification updates, tax incentive news, condition of the Hemlock forest, and a question and answer period regarding current legislation and the lumber industry in New York State.

In conclusion, I would encourage all members of NYFOA to check out and see what neighboring chapters are offering. You are sure to garner new ideas and techniques for improving personal goals in your woodlot or to expand upon your present silviculture practices. Visiting new areas of our beautiful State is a gratifying bonus and perhaps you will break bread with a new "woodland" friend.

Editor's note: Our web site, www.nyfoa.org, now shows what NYFOA events (plus others) are taking place across the state.

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.

Maple tree tap lease wanted. Any number of taps. Need within 45 minutes of downtown Rochester. Tubing only, vacuum preferred. 3 year lease minimum. Road access. Year round installation. Land purchase considered. Insured and experienced. Write Greg at gmichne@gmail.com

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.

Conservation Easements (Part 2)

by Mike Seager

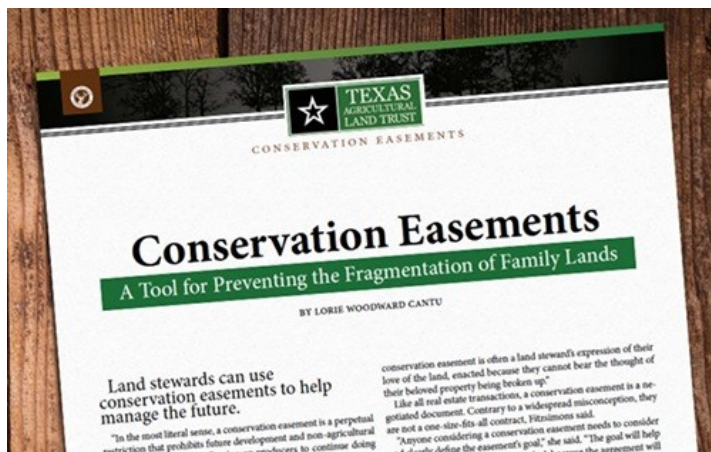
An article in the previous edition of this newsletter introduced conservation easements as a tool to protect property from future development, and land trusts as organizations that guarantee that protection. This article deals with more details of the process for executing a conservation easement on your property and its financial ramifications.

The first step in any major project – and a conservation easement is a major project – is to make sure you know why you are pursuing it. Think about your goals for the property. It helps a lot if you write them down. If there are other people with a legal or emotional stake in the future of the property – a spouse, partner, children, other family – see if they share the same goals. Easements are usually considered in terms of the restrictions they impose, such as limits on building, mining (such as shale gas drilling or “fracking”) or division into smaller parcels. It is equally important to consider the activities that you want permitted, such as farming or logging.

Once you have decided that a conservation easement might be a good mechanism to accomplish your land-preservation goals, open a discussion with one or more land trusts to see if your goals align with theirs. You can find a list of land trusts that work in each county at the web site for the Land Trust Alliance (<https://www.landtrustalliance.org/>). This site shows the general goals of each land trust as well as its web site where you can find contact information. Pick the land trust whose goals most closely match yours, and call them or send an email with a synopsis of your property’s location and characteristics and your goals for it.

If the land trust staff feel that conserving your property aligns with their goals and advances their mission, they will want more details about the easement you envision. This is where having thought about your goals ahead of time pays off, as it makes this conversation easier. The land trust might want to have this conversation in person, and could send somebody to visit your property to get a better idea of its situation and whether they want to pursue the easement. It is important to remember that the land trust has its own mission to pursue – protecting habitat, or water quality, or something along that line, and that mission will guide their decision. Some of the factors that might be very important to the landowner – it is where Mom grew up, or it has been in the family for generations – might not be relevant to the land trust and its mission.

When and if you and the land trust reach a general agreement



that you both want to proceed with an easement for your property, the land trust staff can guide you through the process. They will have to collect a lot of information. Some of this is typical for any real estate transaction, such as definite boundary lines and title history. Some is specific to a conservation easement; in particular, they will prepare a “baseline document” showing the condition of the property at the time the easement is established. This document serves as a reference during future inspection of the property to ensure that the conditions of the easement have been observed.

The most important document, of course, is the easement itself. This is the formal contract that spells out the restrictions on future use of the property. Unless you have expertise in easements it is probably best to let the land trust write the initial draft. If everybody has been diligent during the earlier discussions, drafting the easement should simply be a matter of putting the proper legal language on paper to record the factors you have already agreed on. Like any contract, you should review it carefully, make sure you understand what is in it, and make sure it contains everything you want to be in it. And like other contracts, you should have the easement language reviewed by a lawyer who is working for you, not for the land trust. By agreeing to a conservation easement you are giving up significant and valuable rights to your property, for yourself and for future owners. That is the point – you pursue an easement because you want to protect the property from future exploitation. Make sure you and any others with a stake in the property understand what you are giving up, because once the documents are signed you are unlikely to be able to negotiate changes to the terms of the easement.

With the documents prepared, the rest of the process is formality. The landowner and land trust staff will meet, perhaps along with their lawyers, for a formal closing, much like buying a house. Papers are signed, copies are exchanged, and then the documents are filed with the county clerk. At this point you can relax, knowing that you have done your best to preserve your property in perpetuity.

Establishing a conservation easement can be a long process, and an expensive one. Depending on the complexity of the property and the details of the easement terms, the entire process could take as little as a few months or it might take a year or more. There is little to be gained by rushing things, and much to be gained by taking the time to ensure you get the result you want.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

The financial aspects of a conservation easement are complicated and vary depending on the land trust, the property, and the landowner. In the short term, there are costs to establish the easement. These include legal fees for the land trust and the landowner, fees to file the documents with the county clerk, and printing costs for the easement and baseline documents. In some cases there might be a significant outlay for a survey of the property. The land trust will invest a significant amount of staff time in a project.

The land trust also has long-term expenses associated with each easement they take on. They visit the property each year to ensure that the owner is adhering to the terms of the easement, and they record any significant changes that have taken place to keep the baseline document updated. In a worst-case scenario the land trust might have to take legal action to enforce the terms of the easement, and they need sufficient financial reserves to fund that activity if it becomes necessary. Typically the land trust will have an endowment set aside specifically for this purpose, and they will try to increase the funds in the endowment with each new easement.

It is very important to understand early in the process who will pay these costs. In some cases a land trust may cover all of their expenses from their operating funds; in others they may ask the landowner for a donation to cover all or part of the expenses, or even require such a donation as a condition of starting the process. The difference will depend on the philosophy of the land trust, their financial situation, and the value of the property being conserved. The amounts involved are significant; the initial expenses could be in the range of \$10,000, or even more if a survey is required on a large parcel. Talking about money is often awkward but a landowner should raise this question early if the land trust staff does not. Leaving it to late in the process can result in unpleasant surprises.

There is also good news on the financial front. There are tax incentives designed to encourage property conservation, and these can be a great benefit to the landowner. At a federal level, donating a conservation easement is considered a charitable contribution. As such, it can be deducted from your income if you itemize deductions. The value of the easement could be significant, but that value must be determined by a qualified appraiser – another expense for the short term. New York State also offers a tax credit to the owners of property protected by an easement. The value of this tax credit is based on the property taxes paid, but not on income or residence – it is available to all landowners, even to those who live outside the state. These laws change over time. The land trust staff will have general knowledge of the tax incentives at the present time, but you might have to talk with an accountant to understand how they will apply in your specific circumstances.

If you choose to get the valuation of a conservation easement from a professional appraiser, it will show that the expected sale price of the property is lower with the easement than without it. This is because the restrictions on the property reduce the pool of potential buyers; if the easement prohibits subdivision, for example, real estate developers will no longer have an interest. In theory the reduced value of the property should be reflected in a reduced property tax bill. Anecdotal evidence suggests the contrary; don't expect your tax bill to go down just because of a conservation easement. If there is a professional appraisal that shows the new value of the property is significantly lower than the current assessed value, that might be sufficient evidence for the local assessor to reduce



the valuation. If the property tax bill is a major consideration in the easement, consult the assessor ahead of time to get an idea of whether it will affect your assessment. In New York, the tax savings due to an easement will probably come from the income tax credit rather than from a reduced local tax bill.

If you are passionate about protecting your property even after you no longer own it, a conservation easement can be a very effective tool. Easements are complicated real estate transactions with many ramifications, both financial and in the future use of the property. As such, you need to approach an easement cautiously, and ensure that you understand the costs as well as the benefits of placing an easement on a parcel. If you navigate the process successfully, you can sleep better at night knowing that you have, in the land trust, a partner in ensuring that your property is eternally protected from exploitation.



Lithuanian Wooden Crosses

by Dick Starr

I recently learned that a town in Lithuania is known for its wooden crosses. Anything about wood immediately has my interest and attention. Lithuania, along with Estonia and Latvia, are known as the Baltic States since they border the Baltic Sea. They also border Russia where they were part of the USSR. The area was settled around 2000 BC by a people called the Balts. Lithuania is devoutly Catholic and many believe that upon death a male's spirit enters a hardwood tree while a female's enters a softwood tree. Displaying a wooden cross thus honors the dead.

Lithuania's history is one of conflict, sometimes the occupier and sometimes the occupied. In 1831 an uprising against Russian occupation was put down. Relatives of dead rebels, often with no bodies to bury, left crosses on a hill in the town of Siauliai (Shoo-lay) to commemorate the fallen. Siauliai was founded in 1236.

During the Soviet era religion and its symbols were forbidden. In 1961, 1973 and 1975 the hill was leveled by Soviet authorities, the crosses burned and the area covered by waste and sewage. In a show of defiance the crosses were soon replaced. Thus a wooden cross became a symbol of resistance to the communist regime and probably foreign invaders in general.

In 1991 Lithuania gained its independence from Russia and the hill of crosses became a symbol of Catholic faith and national identity. It is estimated there are over 200,000 crosses, carvings and shrines at the site with more added almost daily. To learn more and see additional pictures enter "Hill of Crosses" in your search engine.

On September 7, 1993 Pope John Paul II visited the hill. Lithuania's population is about one third that of New York City's 8.5 million.



The Lithuanian Hill of Crosses

Readings

by Dick Starr

If you prepared a list of all the things we get from trees would it include words? According to an article by Cathy Newman in the March 2017 issue of "National Geographic", it should. According to Ms. Newman trees inspire, comfort and remind us how life moves on. Every tree tells a story with some eloquent and others holding memories, embodying belief and marking sorrow. In fable and legend, a forest shelters spirits, witches, and even a big bad wolf.

We incorporate rich metaphors in our language that trees provide. Consider the following examples: 1) we turn over a new leaf 2) we branch out 3) ideas blossom and bear fruit 4) though our momentum is sapped our resolve remains deep rooted 5) there are times when we can't see the forest for the trees

For inspiration from trees, what can top the story of Sir Isaac Newton and the apple tree? In 1666 young Isaac was home in Lincolnshire, England since the plague had closed schools. Newton's friend and biographer William Stukley wrote, "The notion of gravity came into his mind ...occasioned by the fall of an apple as he sat in a contemplative mood." Is it a stretch to say no apple, no gravity? Surely someone else would have stumbled on the notion of gravity with or without an apple. When was the last time you sat in a contemplative mood? Was it in your woodlot?

Sir Isaac is considered by some to be the greatest scientific mind in human history. He was born prematurely on Christmas day 1642 and

not expected to live. He surprised them all by living to be 84. He was supposedly once stumped by a problem that the mathematics of the time couldn't solve. Isaac's solution was to invent calculus and thus solve the problem. He once stated, "Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."

He also had a firm grasp on treeology as the following quote shows. "The seed of a tree has the nature of a branch or twig or bud. It is a part of the tree, but if separated and set in the earth to be better nourished, the embryo or young tree contained in it takes root and grows into a new tree."



Certified Firewood 3

by Dick Starr

My mullings about certifying firewood as bug free has rambled over several years. My initial thinking about solar as a heat source started in 2010. It was summer 2011 when I smoked a piece of poplar in my BBQ (part 2 in the last issue). About this time we purchased a woodlot 10 minutes from

home so meeting the DEC 50 mile limit for transporting firewood became a mute point.

**Don't move firewood,
it BUGS me!**
www.emeraldashborer.info

However, all that wonderful firewood near the Pennsy border continues to weigh on me. I even contemplated moving a face cord of this firewood to Dale Schaefer's where I would leave it (less than 50 miles) and then pick up a face cord of Dale's firewood and bring it home (less than 50 miles). I don't think this would violate the 50 mile rule. Dale and I talked about it but dismissed the idea.

Then in the spring of 2016 I acquired some windows as part of a replacement project. One of them was a square 5 foot double glazed picture window with plastic frame. This is a nice window and it reignited my interest in the sun as a heat source. But the same issues remained as before. It might not get hot enough, would likely only work on a hot summer day, might get hot enough but not for long enough, etc etc. Which cycles back to wood as a potential heat source.

I was reviewing my dilemma with our son in law and he said, "Have you considered a rocket stove?" My clever reply was, "A what?" After watching a few You Tube videos I became convinced this could be the answer on a heat source. If you're unfamiliar with rocket stoves, put it in your search engine or watch some You Tube videos. A rocket stove has an angled burn chamber for combustion of fuel and a vertical riser



(chimney) that drafts a good supply of oxygen for a hot efficient burn.

An article by Josh Brewer in the October/November 2016 issue of "Mother Earth News" says Ianto Evans and Larry Winiarski designed the first rocket stove in the 1980s. These stoves have a central 90 degree elbow and burn minimal fuel while producing little smoke, little ash and much heat. Evans and Winiarski were aiming squarely at woodstove cooks in the developing world where wood might be scarce or inefficient use of wood contributes to deforestation and pollution.



Upcoming Events

Conservation Easements and Forest Management Woodswalk

June 17th

Jim Zavislan Property
6353 Grimble Road
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Conservation easements provide landowners with voluntary agreements and various options for ensuring their lands are protected or managed for their desired values for the years to come. How those easements affect the owner's use and management of the property is the subject of this upcoming woodswalk.

On June 17th, at 11:00AM, NYFOA/WFL is sponsoring a woodswalk on Jim Zavislan's property to examine how a Finger Lakes Land Trust and a well-managed forest coordinate to assure the owners goals are maintained and the land is protected.

Cory Figueiredo, Future Forest Consulting, has managed the woodlot on this 110 acre property, with the Land Trust Easement, for both Jim and the previous owner and will guide us through the coordination of the programs. Join us as we tour the woodlot to examine how the management and the Land trust are guiding the use of this parcel. Bring some boots and your questions to examine this process, and we'll hike and enjoy the woods in all its late Spring beauty.

Managing Wild Apple Trees

Forester Bruce Robinson will lead a hands-on workshop about managing wild apple trees at the Seager farm on Saturday, August 19th.

Wild apple trees are a valuable resource that produce food and shelter for a wide array of wildlife, from game animals to songbirds and insects. Managing apple trees can keep them healthy and make them more productive. In this workshop, Bruce will discuss the principles of pruning and other management activities. We will then work in small groups to put these principles into practice by pruning some trees under Bruce's guidance.

This is a full-day workshop and will be held rain or shine, so be prepared for the weather.

Previous workshops have covered shaping young trees, pruning trees growing in the open, and rehabilitating trees that are overgrown in the woods. The specific topics for this workshop will be driven by the interests of the participants, so come prepared with questions and be ready to work.

When: Saturday, August 19, 2017, 10:00 am (promptly) – 4:00 pm (roughly).

Location: Seager farm, 11885 State Route 70, Swain NY 14884. Google Maps will find this address. It is on the Allegany/Livingston County line between Swain and Dalton.

Cost: Free. There is no fee for this event, but bring your own lunch.

Registration: Limited to the first 10 people who confirm that they will attend. You can sign up, or get more information, by contacting Mike Seager at (585) 414 6511 or seager_michael@yahoo.com.

Additionally-

- ◆ **WFL Board of Directors meeting** Wednesday July 12th. Meeting at 7 PM with pre meeting meal 6:15 PM. American Hotel at the stop light in Lima, NY. Open to all NYFOA members.
- ◆ **Empire Farm Days** August 8 – 10. We need volunteers to help staff our table. If you can help out contact Colette Morabito. Her e-mail & phone are on inside cover.
- ◆ **Western Finger Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting** will be Wednesday October 18th this year. Speaker is John Dobies DEC Police Investigator in the Environmental Forensic Unit. Details in the fall issue.
- ◆ **A "Game of Logging", Level 1 Event** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th at Dale and Eileen Schaefer's property near Springwater. More info in our Fall newsletter.

Stumpage Price Report

Winter 2017 / #90

The Stumpage Price Report is published semi-annually (January/July) by:

NEW YORK STATE Department of Environmental Conservation
DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS
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www.dec.ny.gov

Report prices are provided to DEC voluntarily by various buyers and sellers of standing timber in four price-reporting regions. Prices should be considered historical since the reports provided reflect prices paid over a six-month period previous to the printing of this report. They are intended to serve **ONLY AS A GUIDE** in understanding the market value of timber. The actual market value of timber can be significantly influenced by many factors, some of which are provided below. Reported prices likely reflect the financial objectives of the reporting companies. The report is not intended to substitute for an appraisal or other determination of value by a forest professional. Use of this report for any purpose other than as a rough guide to standing timber values should be done with caution.

NEW YORK STATE Stumpage Price Report Reporting Regions

Factors Affecting Value of Standing Timber:

1. Timber quality
2. Volume to be harvested per acre
3. Variability of terrain
4. Market demand
5. Distance to market
6. Density of forest
7. Distance to public roads
8. Cost of harvesting
9. Size of timber
10. Species mix
11. Zone of logging equipment
12. Landowner requirements for harvest
13. Landowner knowledge or values
14. Insurance costs
15. Management plans and other requirements

Definitions:

- 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 by "typical" timber buyers over the last six months.
- High Price Range:** reported range of the absolute highest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

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

Doyle, International™ and Barber Rules: Provide an estimated volume in board feet of a given tree or stand of trees. To make accurate estimates, 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 user of other rules is responsible.

* All price figures in this call were produced from less than 20 survey responses.
** All price figures in this call were produced from less than 5 survey responses.
*** No Report

Stumpage Price Report

We didn't have room in this issue for the semi-annual DEC Stumpage Price Report but you can see it on-line at

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

As of this writing the latest report is for Winter 2016.

Polish Pine Puzzle

by Dick Starr

In western Poland near the German border is a grove of 400 pine trees with an odd crooked shape. Each tree bends sharply just above ground level then curves upright after a sideways extension of 3 to 9 feet. Estimates suggest the trees were planted about 1930 and grew 7 to 10 years before something or someone forced the change now visible. The grove is within a larger forest of straight trees.

As you might imagine, theories on the cause range from the believable to the bazaar and include 1) German tanks as Poland was invaded during WW II. If so, why just the grove? 2) Heavy snow weighted the trees down and spring buds emerged from this prone position. Why was the snow so deep only in the small grove? 3) Local farmers did it to ensure curved timbers for furniture and/or boat building. Plausible. 4) Aliens. Whether illegal or extraterrestrial is unknown.

If local residents were indeed the cause, their activity was most certainly disrupted by WW II. The local village was devastated by the war and not reestablished until the 1970s. It's well known that early boat builders searched for appropriately curved tree limbs to use in their construction efforts. Why not do some "grow your own" curved limbs? Current resi-

dents are clueless as to the cause or purpose of the crooked trees.

To see more pictures enter **Crooked Forest Poland** in your search engine.



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:

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 Contributor \$50-\$99
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 Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues)

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Questions: 1-800-836-3566

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The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



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Even the locals aren't sure what's going on here. To learn more see "Polish Puzzle" on page 11.

Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ June 17—Woods walk in Canandaigua *
- ◆ July 12th WFL Board Directors *
- ◆ August 8 – 10 Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls *
- ◆ August 18 – 20 NYS Woodsmen's Field Days, Boonville
- ◆ August 19th Apple Pruning Workshop *
- ◆ Wednesday October 18th Annual Dinner Meeting *

* 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