

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2017

Volume 31, Number 3

## Conservation Easements

**Walking the Walk at  
Jim and Jeanette Zavislans'**

(June 17, 2017)

*by Peter Muench*

Conservation Easements provide a useful method for landowners to provide for the protection of their properties for current and future preservation. While they are a complicated legal procedure, owners may negotiate their desires into a protective plan that will transfer with title to the property.

Prospective buyers should review existing easements to ensure the easement conditions are compatible with their interests for the property.

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Spring and Summer 2017 Newsletters, contained "Conservation Easements Part 1 and 2 examining the benefits and procedures for establishing land trust on an individual property. June 17<sup>th</sup> was the day to examine an existing Finger Lakes Land Trust and the management of the woodlot protected by that easement. Seventeen people, along with Corey Figueiredo From Future Forest Consulting joined Jeanette and Jim Zavislan on their property in Canandaigua for a guided tour of the management



***Heading into the woods.***

of the forest with the land trust in place.

We met at the house on beautiful summer day to discuss some of the history of the property and the land trust. Corey provided a brief history of the management of the woodlot and we headed through a recently mowed meadow toward trails into the forest. We examined the different compartments and the effect of the increase sunlight from thinning on the vegetation on the forest floor. A stream flowing through the wood lot was left with buffer for stabilization, cooler water temperatures and erosion control following best management guidelines.

As we walked through the woodlot we examined the species change with the slight change in elevation on the hillside. Hop hornbeam through out the woodlot is being managed both by girdling and by firewood harvesting by the landowners.

This is a strong, healthy woodlot that will provide the owners with benefits and the Land Trust has proven to be a permanent tool in providing for those benefits.

For further information on the Finger Lakes Land Trusts, refer to the latest two Western Finger Lakes Newsletters, on line at [nyfoa.org](http://nyfoa.org), or visit the Finger Lakes Land Trust at [www.fllt.org](http://www.fllt.org). Also, the Genesee Land Trust may be found at [www.geneseeandtrust.org](http://www.geneseeandtrust.org). Visit all these sites if just to review their information and see what is available if you should need.



***Explaining some of the particulars of the easement.***

# Empire Farm Days, Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY

by Colette Morabito

A sincere thank you to our invaluable volunteers who were able to staff the Western Finger Lakes/ Master Forest Owner/New York Forest Owner Association table on August 8, 9 and 10. This is an important part of our Chapter's outreach program. A great event to enjoy countless opportunities to speak with other forest owners, listening to their woodlot goals, as well as harvesting new members! Again, WFL appreciates the generous gift of time that these members offered to our organization.

Day One: Dale Schaefer, Peter Muench, Jim Miller

Day Two: Dick Starr, Tony Ross, David Deuel

Day Three: Sarah Stackhouse, Greg Lessord, Colette Morabito

\*Empire Farm Days is a yearly event. It is scheduled for **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Please feel free to contact Colette Morabito (see "About Us", below) if you would like the opportunity to become more involved with this important outreach. You will enjoy free parking and admission. All NYFOA and MFO information is provided. Consider coming with a fellow WFL friend or neighbor. It is always a great day.



Inside the Cornell Extension building where NYFOA has its booth, at a previous EFD.

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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](http://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](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)

**Note:** The deadline for our Winter 2017 issue is November 15th



# Upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting

*by Dick Starr and Mark Gooding*

Mark your calendar – **Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>** is the date for this year's chapter dinner meeting. Chef Brad of Laurier Catering will once again prepare a food feast for us. Chef values the meal at \$28 but WFL chapter offers it at \$23 per person. To reserve your place send a check made out to NYFOA for \$23 per person to Ron Reitz, 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater, NY 14560 by Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 4:30 PM for registration and snacks with dinner at 6.

Once again we meet at the Monsignor Schnacky Community Center of St. Catherine's of Sienna Church at 26 Ionia-Mendon Road in Mendon, NY. Mendon-Ionia Road is Route 64. The big parking lot is well illuminated and the facility is handicap accessible. Door prize donations gladly accepted. Stihl once again will donate a chain saw and safety equipment package for a '2fer' raffle in which each ticket is entered in 2 raffles.

The speaker at this year's dinner will be **John Dobies** from the Avon NYS Department of Environmental Conservation office. John is an Investigator with the Bureau of Environmental Crimes and has over 32 years' experience in DEC law enforcement. His talk will focus on recent cases including timber theft and illegal bear hunting. He will also touch on the new techniques used by the Environmental Forensics Unit that began in 2016. Investigator Dobies has received many awards and commendations in his career and presently teaches Wildlife Forensics at Finger Lakes Community College. John's experiences and engaging personality should provide for an entertaining presentation.



**Attendees at our 2016 dinner.**

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## Another Bear Situation

*by Edward Piestrak*

I have noticed that the Western Finger Lakes chapter is having an Apple Pruning Training by Mr. Bruce Robinson in the near future. Since we have dozens of apple trees on our property, both wild and planted, it would be very educational to learn the proper method of pruning.

However, our resident "bears" have taken it upon themselves to prune many of our apple trees to the point of destruction. The bears removed almost all the branches. In most cases they clawed to death the apple trees. See attached photo.

It would not be practical to take the bears to the training but we wondered if we could somehow train our bears to be a little more careful in removing the limbs.

I asked Bruce if anything could be done about the excessive pruning that the bears do. Bruce related to no experience in training bears. He has a difficult time just training us forest owners.



**The author with an apple tree "pruned" courtesy of an unidentified member of the resident bear community.**

# May Meeting: Conservation Easements

by Mike Seager

Our chapter's spring meeting was held on May 16 in Honeoye. About 30 people attended the presentation by Zach Odell, Director of Land Protection for the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Zach spoke about the work of FLLT and how conservation easements on private land fit into that work.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust was founded in 1989 with the goal of preserving the area's scenery, agriculture, clean water and wild places. There are three main ways the land trust works to protect land: by establishing Conservation Areas that are open to the public (such as...), by holding conservation easements on private property, and by providing technical assistance and educational programs to local governments, landowners and the public.

Zach emphasized that one of the challenges of working in the "Finger Lakes region" is the diversity found in that region: communities range from small hamlets to bustling cities, geography ranges from rugged gorges to cultivated fields, and current uses range from forestry and agriculture to residential development and manufacturing to extractive industries such as gravel mining. FLLT's goal is to find significant natural areas and protect them in perpetuity, while respecting the rights and needs of families, communities and economic activity. Given the diversity of the landscape and the people in it, it is remarkable that FLLT has been able to protect more than 20,000 acres of wetlands, forests, farms, grassland and gorges.

Conservation easements are the land trust's main tool for protecting private land. A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a land trust in which the owner agrees to certain restrictions on future activity on the land and the land trust agrees to monitor and enforce those restrictions forever – the restrictions extend to future owners. The restricted activities vary depending on the nature of the land and the desires of the owners, but typically include things like subdivision, residential or commercial development, and mineral extraction. Economic activities such as farming and timber harvesting are often allowed on conserved property provided they are conducted using with best practices for sustainability.

There are a couple common misconceptions about conservation easements:

- Entering into an easement on your property does not require that the property be open to the public. The land trust has the right to visit the property to check for compliance with the terms of the easement, but you do not have to make it accessible to the general public.

- Your tax bill probably won't go down. There is a credit on your state income tax that offsets some of the taxes paid on conserved property, but the tax bills you receive from the county and the school district probably won't change much. On the other hand, they might not increase much if development pressure is driving up land values in the area, since the conserved property is not available for development. Many local assessors are not well-versed in conservation easements, and so tax ramifications can vary greatly from one district to another.

We often speak of "donating" a conservation easement on a parcel to a land trust, and that is usually the official nature of the transaction. In addition to the state income tax credit mentioned above, donating an easement can also qualify as a charitable contribution and thus a deduction on your federal income tax.

But Zach made an important point about the effective nature of the transaction. Rather than being a simple donation, a conservation easement is more of a partnership. One of the partners is the landowner, who brings to the deal valuable property rights. The other partner is the land trust, whose contribution is a commitment to monitor that property forever, and to use whatever measures are necessary to protect it from future exploitation. That perpetual commitment is quite valuable, although it is hard to quantify. In many cases, the landowner will be asked for a financial commitment to the land trust, in the form of a monetary contribution, to make the partnership fair for both sides.

Zach concluded with a reality check. Protecting 20,000 acres is a significant accomplishment, but it is a small fraction of the land in the 12-county Finger Lakes region. Residential, commercial and industrial development and other interests compete with those who want to preserve undeveloped land. The Finger Lakes Land Trust and other land trusts play an important role in helping communities find the appropriate balance among these disparate interests.

## Welcome New Members

Burch Craig	Springwater	NY
Mike Foley	Fairport	NY
Mike Haramis	Mitchellville	MD
James Stewart & Virginia Goyer	Penn Yan	NY
Sharyl & Paul Stump	Springwater	NY
Dave Venezia & Maryellen Tuttle	Hammondsport	NY

# Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer

by Gary Koplun and Mike Seager

**E**merald Ash Borer is a destructive insect that arrived in western New York some 10-15 years ago and is now well-established throughout much of Western & Central NY. While there is some hope that scientists will find a biological control (see the Spring 2017 edition of *The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner*, or <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/biocontrol.php>). Most people are resigned to the eventual loss of all ash trees over the next several decades. Faced with this situation, landowners have several options: carry on as normal and hope for the best, harvest as much ash as possible now before it is killed, **strategically treat some trees (if affordable)**, or try to get a head start on establishing the next forest before the ash die.

Joe Magee is in the latter group. Owner of 88 acres in Genesee County, Joe has several large stands on his property that are 80% - 90% ash. Most of these trees are only 3" - 6" in diameter, making them too small to interest a commercial logger. EAB is common in the area, and Joe expects that it will infest his ash stands within the next five years or so. He is working hard to prepare for when that time comes.

The presence of invasive plants makes the situation more difficult. The current understory is thick with honeysuckle and buckthorn. Both species can take over the forest floor and prevent other species from getting established, but have no commercial value and little value for wildlife. There is also a dense population of deer, so that when an oak or cherry seedling does get established is it **cropped by deer almost immediately**. If he does not take some sort of action, Joe can expect that over the next decade or so, as the ash die off and more light reaches the ground, the honeysuckle and buckthorn will grow even more vigorously and form thickets that are nearly impenetrable.

Joe's situation is not unique. Conditions are similar in many woodlots in Wyoming, Genesee and Orleans counties, where former farm fields have grown up to woodlots as cultivation stopped over the past 50 years. Many other areas have similar circumstances; the unholy trinity of ash density, deer density and invasive understory shrubs seems especially common in areas of high human population near abandoned farmland.

Joe has enlisted help in his fight to prepare for the next generation of trees. He has worked with DEC Service Forester Gary Koplun to develop a management plan to help him create the forest he envisions for the future: a mixed stand of hardwoods that have value for wildlife as well as for commercial timber. Joe has also received some funding from various incentive programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. But while professional help is important to making sure that the



plans are feasible, Joe is the one who puts in the hours and hours of labor to implement those plans.

The prescriptions called out in Joe's management plan sound pretty straightforward:

- Remove honeysuckle and buckthorn. This will allow more light to reach the ground to encourage regeneration of desirable hardwoods, and will also make access to the woodlot more convenient for subsequent steps.
- Cut ash as necessary to allow light onto the ground to promote growth of desirable seedlings.
- Establish desirable seedlings, mostly oak and cherry. These have to be protected from deer with tree shelters.
- Allow the ash overstory to fade away as EAB progresses, or remove and utilize ash as desired.

The order of these steps is very important. Currently, the ash canopy provides a lot of shade, and that helps suppress the invasives in the understory. Cutting the ash first would provide more light to the invasive shrubs; they would probably grow so dense that it might no longer be practical to control them.

While this all sounds logical, anybody who has done battle with invasive species knows that honeysuckle and buckthorn don't go away just because you cut them down. Joe uses a tractor with a front-end loader to uproot them, but might have to include chemical treatments in the future to keep them down to acceptable levels.

The silvicultural practice that Joe is undertaking is most accurately described as a *supplemental planting*. This practice is usually applied when the landowner or manager feels the forest stand is not adequately stocked with enough desirable seedlings or saplings. It is not a common practice, and it is typically associated with softwood stands where natural regeneration of the desired species can be more difficult to achieve. Hardwood forests usually regenerate with only minimal or moderate interven-

(Continued on page 10)



# So Much to Learn, So Little Time

by Colette Morabito

There are countless opportunities all around this beautiful State to learn how to better manage your forest and achieve your woodlot goals. Some examples might include: seminars at college and university settings, webinars, woods walks, invasive species workshops, farm shows, lumberjack festivals, reading books/journals/magazines, Master Forest Owner training, Game of Logging/chainsaw hands-on training, YouTube videos, State and National Forest presentations, meeting with your forester, joining NYFOA, talking to neighbors, volunteering at local parks, or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension-- to name a few!

I recently attended two well-planned seminars organized by profoundly qualified individuals, one at the University of Pennsylvania at Bradford and the other located at the SUNY Environmental School of Forestry/Syracuse

University. The topics were presented by many highly-trained professionals who discussed the boundless complexities of forest life. These seminars are of great value, thoughtful, respectful to our resources, and science based. The scientists, professionals, and academics care deeply about how we, the private forest owner, manage our properties to enhance our goals in the silviculture management of our woodlots. They advocate for the best management practices for the health of the greater forested lands of New York and beyond our borders. Their focus and emphasis, of course, is consistent with a northern hardwood forest and ALL the wildlife that inhabit the environs.

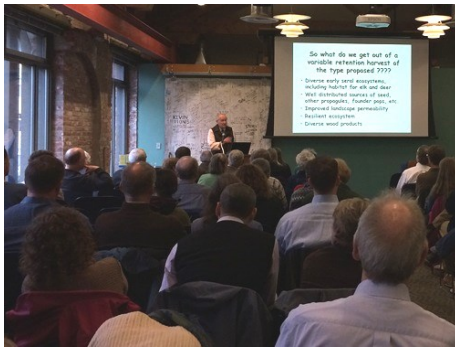
Although we are very careful about our personal boundary lines and the posting of our properties, the forest does not identify with our man-made lines. Therefore, proper forest management would require us to have neighborly, human contact and appropriate communication to better achieve what would best serve our overall, mutual goals. Our forest inhabitants do not have any deference to these man-made boundaries but only those created by the land itself.

As our private forester, Bruce Robinson, has told us many times, "When you release one tree, it changes everything." The simple act of removing one stem from your woodlot creates an entirely new set of circumstances. Considerations as to your forest goals, the stage of succession of your woods, and the benefits to that particular

stand of trees will be forever changed by the felling of that one stem.

How do we disseminate and decide what to embrace in the way of all the education and information that we are acquiring? Sometimes there are very clear and distinct philosophies from people you know and trust. Then you hear the opposite from other well-respected, highly-trained resources. For the brand-new woodlot owner, this can be a challenge. Mankind has forever changed the landscape. Forests have been compromised by either ignorance, greed or good-honest intentions. All this talk about goals for your woodlot as a direction for Best Management Practices is so very important. Trust me when I say that with all the new information that I continually acquire, my woodlot goals have changed tenfold. With my new-found respect for Mother Nature, she continues to be very understanding with our mistakes, spoils us with beauty, and teaches me in ways that go beyond my expectations or the classroom.

There is nowhere I would rather be than in my woods, surrounded by the thousands of living organisms all around me. Many of those are visible and many are still invisible to me, due to lack of education and a microscope. Although I am still a sapling in the world of forest management and some goals I have had to let go because of lack of time on this earth, I am proud to be a partner in the classroom I call my woodlot!



**A forestry seminar in session.**



**Moving the classroom outside...**



**...to see what it's all about! . Photos by the author at Allegany State Park**



# Thurber's Gully Disc Golf Course

by Paul Thomas

Over the past several years since inheriting our de-commissioned family farm from my grandfather, my family and I have been exploring a variety of ways to try and reinvent the property, and attempt to turn it into a business that can at least net enough income to help defray the various taxes and other expenses associated with the property. None of us are farmers, however, we all have very busy lives, and few ideas have been conceived that are practical for us. It was only a couple of years ago that we decided that a disc golf course might be one small part of the solution.



**The author and friends during the inaugural run.**

Disc Golf (also commonly known as "frisbee golf" or "frolf") is a rapidly growing sport akin to traditional golf, where players must throw their disc (frisbee) into specially designed steel baskets, in the fewest number of throws. Unlike traditional golf, disc golf can be played in a wide variety of environments, are far less manicured, often with many more trees and radical elevation changes. Many of the best disc golf courses are hiked, and cannot be traversed by golf cart. You can see much more about this sport at [www.pdga.com](http://www.pdga.com).

Since the early 1980s my uncle, also Paul Thomas, and myself thought that we invented the game of disc golf. Each year we would deploy 18 sticks about 5 feet high, with 1 gallon plastic milk jugs attached to them, and if you hit the stick hard enough to move the jug, the shot counted as "in the hole". As we would later come to realize, the sport had been invented long ago, and there were already hundreds, and now thousands, of professional courses all around the world. I knew, even as an early teenager that I wanted to one day have my own disc golf course that I could share with my friends, family, and fellow golfers.

The disc golf baskets, a piece of property connecting our family land to the main road, and providing parking space were all purchased by my mother, Janice Glover, and myself after much saving. Both of us have invested

much sweat equity- the darn honeysuckle doesn't rip itself out of the ground unfortunately- and have had some generous volunteers and friends also help carve the course from the forest.

Our family has lived in Caton, NY for several generations. The Twenty Percenters Disc Golf is based in nearby Corning, NY and boasts over 100 active members. They will be the local players that play the course most of the time.

Once the course is more fully completed, probably after a lumber company pares the 22 acres down, and removes some trees, then course publicity will follow, getting the course listed on various disc golf websites, etc. to welcome folks to come play the course from anywhere.

We recently enjoyed our inaugural round on Thurber's Gully Disc Golf Course, located south of Corning, NY, in late June 2017, and while there is still much work to be done on the course before its existence is announced to the international disc golf community, and the Southern Tier Region, it has been played many times since that evening, and will continue to be played into the future.

Under forester



**Golfers watch as the disc sails hundreds of feet across the creek. Even with all of our beautiful trees the player was able to make a hole in one!**



**Players using steps embedded in a bank as part of the course.**

(Continued on page 8)



## Readings – American Chestnut

by Dick Starr

The following is summarized from an article by Jeff Mulhollem in the June 16, 2017 issue of *New York Outdoor News*.



Sometime after 1904, a blight entered North America that rendered the American Chestnut functionally extinct. A nearly century old effort to rescue the chestnut employing selective breeding will eventually succeed but take longer than many expected. That's what a research team from Penn State, the American Chestnut Foundation and SUNY concluded after reviewing decades of breeding records, transgenic experiments and new experimental data. "These estimates are why we know, now, for sure that it is just a matter of time" states Kim Steiner, professor of forest biology at Penn State.

The intent of the research was an accurate and comprehensive status report on the chestnut rescue effort, identifying the next steps and expectations of progress. The ultimate goal is to give the chestnut the genetic where-

withal to survive and develop on its own.

Two approaches summarize the chestnut rescue effort 1) American Chestnut Foundation system of hybridizing with blight resistant Chinese Chestnut then back crossing to recover a resistant American type tree 2) State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry's effort to introduce a resistance conferring gene into the tree's genetic code. Several decades of effort have been invested in each approach with many more remaining. Professor Steiner states the chestnut restoration effort, "...is the most ambitious, protracted and technically difficult rescue of a species that ever has been undertaken."



**The chestnut blight in action.**



**Range of the chestnut blight  
(centered on the Appalachians).**

Please note, this issue (as well as previous issues) of the *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner* is also available online (with all photos in color) in the WFL section of the NYFOA web site... [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org) .

*(Thurber's Disc Golf, continued from page 7)*

Bruce Robinson's direction a company will soon be harvesting many trees from the 22 acre disc golf course (another means to try and eke out some profit, that will hopefully result in an overall healthier forest too), which will interrupt play and force us to close the course down during the time they're actually harvesting the trees. But we will re-open it immediately after, and begin working hard on cutting up and moving the many tops and tree leftovers that will no doubt litter the current fairways in the company's wake.

It is unlikely the meager fees (most private disc golf courses charge visitors only \$5 or \$10 to play disc golf all day) will enable any of us to realize a living wage purely through course fees, but we are confident that within the next 3-5 years we'll enjoy enough paying players that their fees will at least blunt the painful taxes we'll be paying regardless, and enable us to sustain our beautiful, small 22 acre forest for decades to come. As of this writing the course is not quite open to the public, but I expect it will be publicly announced, and opened in the late fall of 2017. Readers interested in visiting the course should contact Paul Thomas at his office during regular business hours at 607-535-8080.



## Certified Firewood, Part 4

by Dick Starr

To get a sense of how a rocket stove might work I set up a simplified version in July 2016. Two 24" sections of 6" diameter sheet metal piping were joined by a 90 degree elbow making an "L" shape. The horizontal section was the fuel chamber while the vertical (riser) was the chimney. A shelf was placed in the horizontal section to hold the fuel off the bottom. YouTube videos deemed this to be critical, probably for unobstructed air flow.

I placed a mix of thumb sized dry twigs picked up off the ground plus some newspaper on the fuel shelf. Before striking the match I placed magnetic thermometers on the chimney section and the horizontal fuel chamber. My objective was to get a sense of how hot these sections get. I took readings every 10 minutes for 2 hours, adding fuel as needed. See data chart.

At the 40 minute mark the chimney temperature had risen to 250 F. and the horizontal fuel chamber was off scale at over 900 F. I removed the fuel chamber thermometer at this point to avoid damaging it and as a result there are no readings at 50, 60 and 70 minutes. It's very impressive how hot a few yard twigs became.

At the 100 minute mark I added 3 more pieces of thumb size twigs. They caught fire almost immediately and 10 minutes later the chimney was nearly double the previous reading at 250 F. while the horizontal fuel chamber was at 900 F. more than triple the previous reading. It's rather impressive considering the fuel was twigs that had fallen from trees in the yard and had to be removed anyway.

I conclude from this limited experiment that a rocket stove just might work as a heat source for killing bugs living in firewood. Also, the firewood being certified should probably not touch the rocket stove's sheet metal components, especially the horizontal fuel section. It's interesting that the chimney riser reached 250 F. exactly the temperature I concluded was needed in part 2 of this series. I'm also wondering if the horizontal and vertical components must be of equal length. In a wood burning stove the chimney will not draw sufficient air unless it's high enough.

The next step is to build a test container, perhaps from a metal barrel. This would allow a run with real firewood involved. A friend is willing to give me a rusty old one yard metal dumpster. It's so heavy I couldn't even wiggle it when I attempted to do so.

Elapsed time (minutes)	Chimney Temp (degrees F)	Fuel Box Temp (degrees F)
0	100	100
10	140	200
20	170	400
30	175	390
40	250	900+
50	160	-
60	155	-
70	180	-
80	160	325
90	150	290
100	130	270
110	250	900
120	260	530



**The author's rocket stove. See our Summer issue for more information on rocket stoves**

tion. A supplemental planting is an intensive intervention, and it is rarely a sensible or feasible option due to the investment and labor required. However, in Joe's forest supplemental planting is a promising option. We know with reasonable certainty that the ash overstory – as much as 80-90% of the canopy – is going to die in a short period of time. And Joe is willing to commit the necessary labor and dollars to implement the plan properly.

It is unlikely that desirable tree species will seed-in on their own and reforest the gaps. Honeysuckle and buckthorn are already aggressively competing for space in the understory. Without the shade of the ash overstory these invasives will likely become more aggressive, and they will probably win the fight to populate the openings left behind by dying ash. Just planting trees under the canopy will not be enough to get them established. The deer alone are likely to wipe-out all of Joe's choice species. In addition to the deer, the new seedlings will be competing against well-established invasive shrubs. A newly planted seedling stands a poor chance in competition with invasive plants with established root systems. Buckthorn and honeysuckle also have the advantage because they produce massive amounts of seed that germinate well under a variety of conditions.

In the course of ripping out the invasive shrubs, Joe finds lots of small desirable seedlings. He marks and immediately protects them with tree tubes or wire cages; any left exposed when the surrounding honeysuckle is removed are promptly munched by the deer. Murphy's Law dictates that desirable seedlings will sprout in clumps, so that only a small fraction of them could survive to be pole logs. Conversely, there will be large areas where there are no desirable seedlings at all. So another job for Joe is to transplant some of the seedlings to even out their distribution through the area. When there are not enough seedlings to reach the target numbers, he buys seedlings to fill the gaps.

Joe has a lot of work laid out for him for the next several years. And a lot of expense – he has already put up around 1600 tree tubes, with perhaps thousands more to go. And there is no guarantee of success, as the invasive species he is combating are legendary for their resilience. Despite the intense level of work ahead of him, Joe is enthusiastic and ready for the challenge presented by Emerald Ash Borer. Re-establishment of the forest canopy will take a long time, and Joe won't likely see the fruition of his work. However, like many landowners Joe is into forest management for the long haul and he has a very strong land ethic. His work will be part of his lasting legacy.

# Upcoming Events

## GAME OF LOGGING: Level 1

October 25, 2017

Dale and Eileen Schaefer Woodlot

6037 Co Rt 37

Springwater, NY 14560

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and the WFL Chapter of NYFOA are cosponsoring a Level 1 Game of Logging in Dale and Eileen's woodlot on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, in Springwater, Ontario County.

Contact Erika Scott at NYCAMH by calling 1800-343-7527, x2204 for course details and to sign up for the program, or email her at [Erika.scott@bassett.org](mailto:Erika.scott@bassett.org). NYCAMH manages the event and will provide all the necessary information to register and attend. Cost for the one-day program is \$25. Other programs are scheduled around the state and NYCAMH will be able to provide information on those.

### Additionally-

- **WFL Board of Directors meeting** Wednesday, October 4th. Meeting at 7 PM with optional pre-meeting dinner at 6:15 PM. American Hotel at stop light in Lima, NY. Meeting open to all NYFOA members.

## 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 woodwalks, woodlot activities, NYFOA activities, etc. and are willing to share, please e-mail them to Jim Minor, [jcminor@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



# Final Four Floor

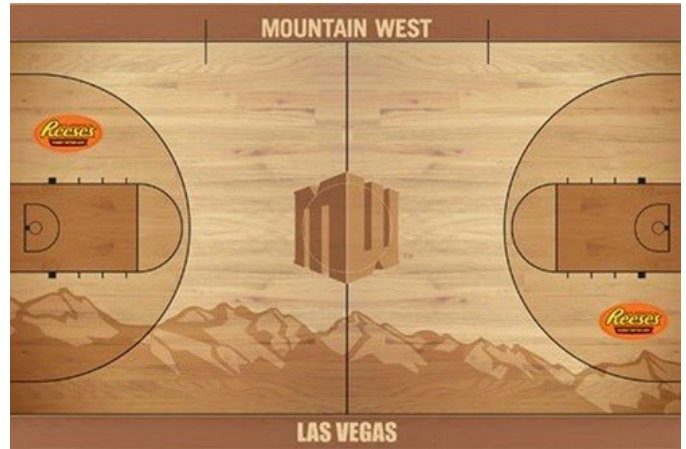
by Dick Starr

Did you follow March madness this past Spring? I'm thinking here about basketball not syrup making. One might ask what does round ball have to do with trees? More than might be suspected as the playing floor is wood which = trees. The men's final three games of March madness 2017 were played at the University of Phoenix stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Each team playing had a story and so did the playing floor.

The floor in Glendale began with the selection of 500 sugar maple trees, sustainably harvested, from a 24,000 acre forest in Michigan. Each tree was cut into as many 8 foot pieces as possible. A Michigan mill debarked the pieces, cut them into planks and dried them. The planks eventually became 10 miles of boards. The boards were then shipped to Idaho for measuring, sanding and finishing. At this point the floor became a giant paint by numbers picture. Every inch was stained and then painted using NCAA graphics stencils.

The finished floor was 9,800 square feet of surface and had 14 different colors, 13.25 gallons of stain, 4.5 gallons of paint and 80.5 gallons of finish. The floor arrived in Glendale on two 18-wheelers ready for the 5 hours of assembly. The floor checked

in at 39.3 tons and traveled 2300 miles from Michigan to Idaho to Arizona all for 3 basketball games. In total 125 workers spent 144 days from tree to game time.



The University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV) Court

See a video of the Arizona court from tree-to-stadium at <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/hardwood-floor-final-march-madness-game-made-michigan-46557211>



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, woodswalks, 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

Giftor'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

On-line: [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)



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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2017

Volume 31, Number 3



With basketball season fast approaching, fans/ readers might want to take note not only of the games but of the flooring underneath as well, Pictured, Oregon's Matthew Knight Arena. Please see page 11 for more information.

## Mark Your Calendar

- ♦ Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> WFL Steering Committee Meeting\*
- ♦ Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting \*
- ♦ Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> Game of Logging \*

\* 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](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)