

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2017

Volume 31, Number 4

Annual Dinner Meeting

by Mike Seager

Our chapter held its annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, October 18, and it was another successful event. We had our largest crowd ever with 90 people registered. We met at the Monsignor Schnacky Community Center in Mendon again; this is a very good facility, and centrally located. Once again Brad Stevenson of Laurier Catering provided an excellent dinner.



all photos by Jim Minor

Attendees sit down to dinner at our annual meeting.



WFL member Tony Ross spins his self-built raffle drum as author Mike Seager looks on,

(Annual Meeting, continued on page 7)

Game of Logging

Level 1 Classes October 25 and 26
Dale and Eileen Schaefer Woodlot
Springwater, NY

by Peter Muench

The Game of Logging is chainsaw safety and productivity training offered in four levels. Level 1 is the introduction to chainsaws, personal protective safety equipment, safety features, notching, bore cutting and felling. Level 2 builds on that with saw performance, maintenance, limbing and bucking and more felling. Information on the other levels and other training may be found at www.gameoflogging.com. The WFL Chapter and NYCAMH (New York Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health) have cosponsored Level 1 programs for the past several years and continued with two Level 1 programs this year in Dale and Eileen Schaefer's woodlot in Springwater.



all photos by the author

Hands on instruction for chain sharpening

The weather was cool but dry for both days. Bill Lindloff, the GOL trainer, provided instruction to nine students the first day and ten the second. Hands on instructions are the most valuable part of this program with detailed review of the saw, the chain, the safety features both of the saw and the PPE needed for safe operation. Sharpening is critical component of a safe

(Game of Logging, continued on page 9)

In Our Woodlot

by Edward Piestrak

W e as forest owners work very hard to be safe in the woods, and rightfully so, since we can be easily injured. That being said, a local family consisting of a mom, dad and four small children were recently run over by a car while walking in their quiet neighborhood. Some of the children are still in the hospital. It got me thinking we have multiple roads that pass through our property and sometimes we need to remember to be cautious and slow down.

Thus, I had two signs made and placed along the roads of our property. By seeing a sign of that nature, I immediately think of the family and the importance to be extra careful.

Being in a rural area, could create a sense that we are all immune from the traffic. However, that is not the case. If we can save one person from being injured it would be worth the effort.

Note: one of our neighbors has five young children. See attached photo of the sign.



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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 Spring 2018 issue is February 15th

NYFOA's Chainsaws for Charity (C4C) - The BIG Haul!

by Dean Faklis

Two teams of Rotarians showed up for work on October 7 to transport and deliver 24 face cords of the finest C4C firewood. This firewood was pre-sold earlier in the year by The Rotary, with all of the purchase price going to support Camp Onseyawa, a camp for children with special needs. So far, C4C and The Rotary have donated approximately \$3,000 to Camp Onseyawa (<https://www.onseyawa.org/>). In addition, please recall that C4C has already donated approximately \$1,000 to NYFOA's excellent and active youth forestry programs, with more in the queue. Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County has also benefited financially from C4C's efforts. This project is really producing excellent results!



It is important to note that none of this would be possible if it weren't for Tom Gerow and Wagner Hardwoods (<http://www.wagnerlumber.com/>). They are an extremely generous partner and they supply the fine hardwood logs for the operation. The logs are clean and are top quality, making our process a pleasure. A big THANKS! to Tom, his team, and Wagner!

The Rotary of Walworth-Ontario, under the leadership of Jonathan Wordingham, arrived at 8:30 am to load up four face cords bound for delivery to points north and

east. They returned on October 14 to gather up another six face cords. Jonathan will forward some pictures of their team soon and we'll upload them to the C4C page on the NYFOA WFL website. Here is a link to it (<https://www.nyfoa.org/news/western-finger-lakes-news/wfl-chainsaws-charity>), or, as a shortened link, goo.gl/4ejKuC.

The Rotary of Canandaigua, under the leadership of Dr. Greg Gullo, arrived at 11am with an army of volunteers to load and deliver 20 face cords. Check out the pictures of the happy team mates. They demonstrate that Team Canandaigua survived the haul!

The team brought four trailers and an array of pickup trucks, thanks to the kindness of the volunteers. Dr. Greg had a monster-sized dump trailer courtesy of Admar (<https://www.admarsupply.com/>) in Canandaigua. Thanks Admar!

On our end, we had the hard work of Gary Koplun and David Deuel, and I was able to hide enough and talk enough to not have to lift a single stick!

I'm happy to report that the C4C firewood mountain is....no more. We'll need to get back to it here soon, to generate some more firewood for our charitable partners.

If you're a NYFOA member and would like to join the effort, please contact Eileen ASAP (dschaefer1@frontiernet.net). If you'd like to make a donation of equipment and/or cash to help C4C and the charities, please send me a note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net). We'll get together at David and Celia's soon, and I bet the after-cut social will be great!



Welcome New Members

Antonia Gilligan	Naples	NY
Terry Hafler	Rushville	NY
Sonya Marker	Springwater	NY
Jim Papin	Fairport	NY
Kevin Schrader	Romulus	NY

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

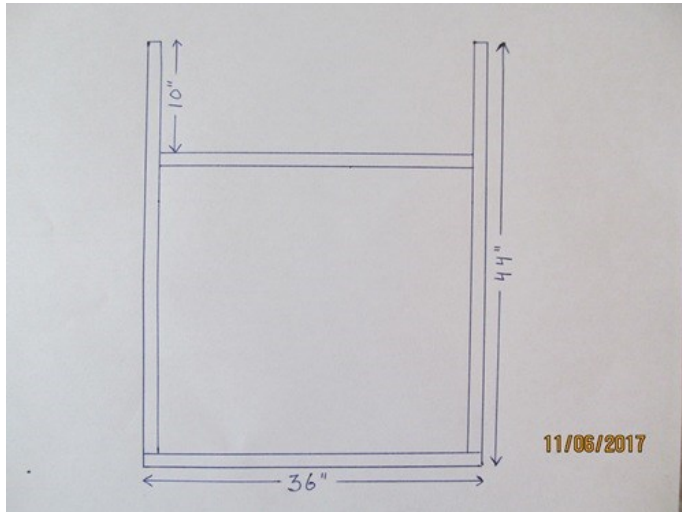
Bucking Table

by Dick Starr

The arrival of heating season reminded me I need a new cross buck for dicing and bucking firewood to length. In the past I've found the "X" style cross bucks to be heavy, awkward to move and a tad cumbersome to use. This probably explains why I haven't tackled the chore of making one. I do enjoy having the logs at waist height which is superior to bending over a log on the ground with chain saw in hand. My aging back soon objects to this position.

While reading a recent issue of *The Family Handyman* magazine I saw a wooden table intended to hold boards for cutting to length. Why, thought I, couldn't it hold firewood logs as well as boards? Would such address some of my problems with the "X" cross bucks? The table should hold several logs at waist level, allow bucking into one foot lengths (what our stove prefers), prevent smaller logs from spinning when encountering a moving chain and be sturdy but easily moved. Also the frame should not be in the way or prone to banging my shins.

What I settled on is more or less a "square" made of 2 x 4s (see sketch) held together with 3.5" deck screws.



all photos by the author

Dimensioned Sketch of Bucking Table

Three of these squares, with bracing, completes the unit (see picture). The three squares are 18" apart so the table's footprint is 3' x 3'. It was an immediate improvement on the "X" buck as I could move it with a 2 wheeled hand cart. The problem of small diameter logs spinning is still an issue but easily solved by placing smaller logs near the bottom of the log pile.



The Completed Table

The 36" on the sketch is front to back depth. The 2 x 4s that extend 10" hold the logs in a cradle 34" off the ground. Dimensions are approximate and can vary depending on how long one likes firewood chunks and convenient height above ground. All things considered I'm pleased with how it turned out.



WFL Vice Chairman, Dale Schaefer, serving as emcee at our Annual Meeting

The Hut

by Dick Starr

I've never seen "increase my tax load" given as an objective for owning forest land. Having my own hunting preserve is a biggie for me and there are many who share this objective. Save an uncle, I'm the only one in 4 generations who got into chasing the white tail deer. As soon as I was old enough I joined the ranks of those outmaneuvered, outsmarted and outwitted by *Odocoileus virginianus*. What a magnificent creature.

In my teen years I walked and wandered the woods giving meaning to chasing the white tail. Mostly what I saw were tails and tracks. It took some pretty nasty weather to keep me from going afield. As I matured I graduated from being a walker to a watcher and built ground blinds to hide in. My ground blinds were basically 4 walls and no roof. Then I

purchased ladder stands to get a bird's eye view of my surroundings. The ground blinds didn't give much shelter from *Meteora*, the goddess of weather and the ladder stands exposed my fidgeting limbs to the prying eyes of deer as well as *Meteora's* wrath. Deer eyes provide a 300 degree field of view. The other 60 degrees is only a slight head turn away and they focus on the slightest movement.

Not good for a fidgeting hunter who often wonders if a chain saw in hand might get more accomplished than a gun in hand.

Next came portable pop up blinds, essentially a small dome tent without a floor. These do a good job of hiding restless limb syndrome and keeping the weather at bay, especially the wind. Even the dreaded human odor is somewhat contained although a poor excuse for not bathing. But the pop ups get cold when the temperature drops and mine specifically prohibit the use of heaters. Not expecting to get caught I have ignored that admonition but the thin fabric walls allow the heat to disappear as soon as it's generated. Meanwhile I buy one pound bottles of propane for my portable heater and still shiver on cold days.

As my golden years – read that older, fatter, softer – set in my personal creature comforts have taken top priority while hunting and I got serious about a more permanent weather proof hunting stand. The accompanying picture shows the "Hut" that resulted. It's 8 feet square and sits atop stilts 4 feet high. It was intended as a place to sleep as well as hunt from. I've convinced myself that when we enter the woods in the early morning darkness every deer for several hundred yards knows it and those that don't get warned by those that do. Wouldn't it be better to wake up, open a window and be on stand? Plus who would argue with another hour in the sack?

The size of the Hut is big enough for some creature comforts including space for sleeping, a kitchenette area and even a washroom of sorts. My version of a tiny house. The walls are mostly windows with one on each side fitted with hinges to open. The windows are all recycled from replacement projects I've encountered and

cost me a coat of paint and a bit of time.

The Hut, while small, is just a tad large for my small portable propane heater to keep cozy warm on a cold day or night. I've been there on both. I'm considering a larger heat source and small wood stoves capture my attention. I'm intrigued by the small pot belly stoves shown on YouTube videos made from portable air tanks, ammo boxes, helium bottles, water



tanks and the like. I've actually constructed a prototype, as yet untested, from an old metal mail box. I'm pursuing this contraption as it costs little to make and the fuel is free. It also fits well with my leanings of being independent and self sufficient. Time will tell if it also satisfies my leanings for being warm while hunting from the Hut.

Apple Pruning Workshop

by Mike Seager

The Seager farm in Swain hosted an apple pruning workshop on August 19, the third such workshop in as many years. This year we had 10 people, some new faces and some veterans of previous workshops.

Forester Bruce Robinson led the workshop, as he has in past years. This year he emphasized three main themes:

- Keep records of how each tree produces each year;
- Review past work to learn from what you have done well and what you haven't;
- Understand the energy equation of a tree to get the best results

At the first workshop in 2015 Bruce suggested (read: ordered) that I label each tree and keep notes on how they fare each year. I bought a box of 100 numbered aluminum tags, nailed them to the first hundred apple trees I came to, and then tried to keep track of them.

The data I collect is still evolving, but this is the system I have developed so far. I have notes on each tree: its location, surroundings and general condition. Then I survey all of the trees twice in the spring to gauge the number of blossoms, and three times in the fall to gauge the number of apples. As I am doing each survey I also jot down notes about work to do, such as pruning dead limbs or cutting out competing hawthorns.

The goal of all this is to help identify which trees bloom early and which late, when trees develop fruit and how long into the fall they hold their fruit. Since few trees bear good crops each year, it takes several years of data to understand each tree. Eventually this data will be used to identify the better-performing trees: when two are crowding each other and one should be cut, this data will make it easier to pick which one stays and which goes. The data is useful even if my notion of "better" performance changes over time. In general I am interested in grooming trees for the benefit of wildlife, so a tree that produces a consistent but light crop of apples each year, and keeps those apples into December, might be "better" than one that produces a large crop of apples every third year and that drops its fruit by the end of September. Other people may have different preferences, but the accumulated data is useful regardless.

On the first part of our walk we reviewed what had been

done in previous years. Branches that have been pruned properly should show a "donut" of new wood growing around the wound and no sprouts. A poor pruning job will show little or now wood covering the wound, and likely will have lots of sprouts around the branch stub. Good pruning technique helps the tree heal more quickly and also saves future work, since those sprouts should be trimmed. It is important to look at the results of past work to improve your technique.

Sometimes the health of the tree can be balanced with other objectives. Proper pruning requires cutting a branch quite close to its parent limb; a stub left several inches long will rarely heal well and will probably introduce rot into the wound. While this is not good for the tree, it might be desirable for other reasons. Bruce indicated that he sometimes leaves a stub when pruning, because after a few years the stub will rot out and form a cavity suitable as a nest site for chickadees, bluebirds or other songbirds.

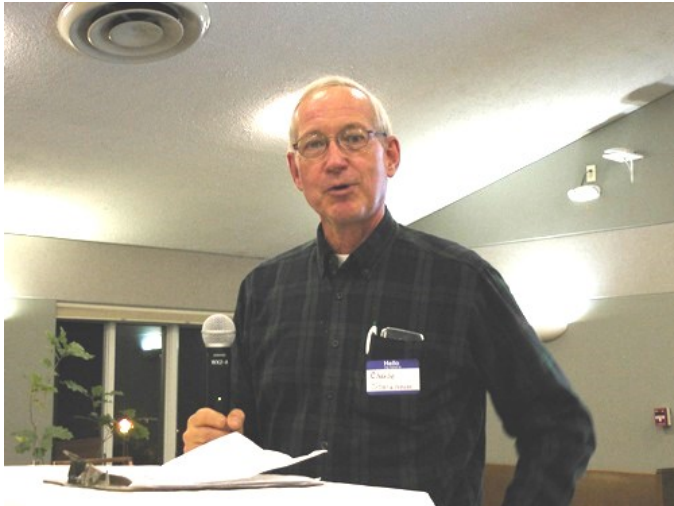
Understanding the energy in a tree is the key to managing trees and is Bruce's recurring theme. Cutting too much out of the crown of a tree might mean that the tree's stored energy manifests itself in a burst of new branch growth at the expense of fruit production. On the other hand, if a tree is declining and can't capture enough energy to support all of its branches, branches will begin to die. In this case pruning can reduce the energy required to maintain the tree to a level that it can support. The energy equation of a tree is a complicated topic even for professionals, but there are a few guidelines to keep in mind as a practical matter:

You should prune dead or mostly-dead limbs.

When pruning healthy limbs, remove at most one third of the crown at one time, then let the tree recover for a year or two before removing more. It is generally better to remove less than a third at one time.

Expect it to take several years to rehabilitate a wild apple tree to a productive state – don't try to do everything at once.

If you have any wild apple trees, consider giving them some attention; it is fun and rewarding work, and they are one of the most valuable trees in the forest for wildlife. Our chapter is already tentatively planning another apple workshop next year, but probably at a different venue. Watch for an announcement in the newsletter.



NYFOA President Charles Stackhouse addresses the meeting.

The business meeting was brief but took care of some necessary work: electing our chapter's board of directors. The proposed slate of directors was passed by voice vote without dissent. As always, the list of current members of the board is on page 2 of this newsletter.



Mike Seager, on right, presents John Holtz with the personal protective equipment.

Each year we present a Chapter Service Award to recognize a member for their contributions to WFL and NYFOA. Cathy Gardner is this year's recipient. We announced Cathy's selection at the chapter dinner; the formal award and plaque will be presented at the NYFOA annual meeting in the spring. Watch for more details and pictures in the subsequent newsletter.

After the business meeting we started the fun part of the evening: prizes. Marty Gardner won about \$100 in the 50/50 raffle, which he generously donated back to the chapter. Chris Didion won the Stihl chainsaw and John Holtz won the package of personal protective equipment, both donated by Dan Ras, our regional Stihl representative. We also had our usual complement of door prizes, which

ranged from gift certificates from local stores to bottles of whiskey to forestry tools, and lots more in between. Our thanks to everybody who brought something to donate as a door prize, and especially to Dan Ras and Stihl for their much-appreciated donations each year.

With all of the preliminaries behind us, we got to hear from our keynote speaker, John Dobies. Mr. Dobies is an investigator with DEC's Environmental Forensic Unit. He told a number of interesting stories about his career investigating environmental crimes and bringing modern forensic techniques to the DEC. "We love garbage" was a rather surprising statement, but it turns out that garbage dumped illicitly often contains envelopes or other papers that identify where it came from. Other evidence is less pleasant to collect, such as searching through animal carcasses to determine whether they were taken legally or not. It is not necessarily glamorous work but Mr. Dobies conveyed great enthusiasm for the job he has held for the past 30-some years. He also gave us a solid appreciation for the continuing need to track polluters, monitor hunting regulations and enforce other environmental laws.



Our keynote speaker, John Dobies.

Over the summer the WFL board decided to purchase a projector and screen. In the past, we have had to borrow these items or rely on a venue to provide them for each of our meetings. This year's annual meeting was the first where we have had our own equipment, and we are happy to report that it worked quite well. We hope this will eliminate some of the struggles we have had in past meetings in trying to figure out who brought what equipment and how the pieces connect to one another. This equipment represents a significant investment of chapter funds, but we feel it will prove a good investment for the quality of our presentations.

While the dinner meeting was generally successful, there is always room for improvement in any project. If you would like to provide feedback about our annual dinner or other chapter activities, contact any board member listed on page 2 or attend a board meeting – they are open to all members.

Position Announcement

Director of Organization Development New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA)

NYFOA is a non-profit corporation, founded in 1963 to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately-owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA also represents the interests of private forest owners to governmental and non-governmental entities. For additional details about our organization see www.NYFOA.org.

NYFOA is seeking a professional to work on a part-time basis, assisting our volunteer Board of Directors, Standing Committees and regional Chapter leadership in maximizing operational effectiveness. The applicant will be called upon to advise the Board regarding organizational structure, procedures and controls, but the primary emphasis will be support for the ten regional Chapters. This will include coaching Chapter leadership on best management practices for recruiting, training and motivating volunteers, and optimizing Chapter organization and procedures for maximum effectiveness. A secondary objective is to work with the Board and Chapters in the development and implementation of programs to increase NYFOA membership. Over time, additional responsibilities may be assigned by the Board.

Applicant must possess excellent communication and leadership skills, have extensive experience working effectively with volunteers, and be familiar with various organizational models suitable for the management of non-profits. A familiarity with natural resource issues and organizations is highly desirable. A successful applicant will be expected to travel and meet with leadership of each of the ten NYFOA Chapters at least once during the first several months on the job, and to attend the three Board meetings held each year, most often conducted in Syracuse.

The Director of Organization Development will have a contractual relationship with NYFOA, provide their own office space and equipment, follow a flexible work schedule, and report to the NYFOA President. Contractual compensation can range up to \$35,000 per year, depending on qualifications and time available to pursue the responsibilities of the position. A travel expense budget of up to \$10,000 per year will also be provided.

Direct requests for additional information, application letters and resumes to NYFOA Personnel Committee, info@NYFOA.org, or PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485.

(Game of Logging, Continued from page 1)

saw and each student was quizzed on the five parts and the function of the cutters on saw chain along with how to sharpen the different types of chain.

Coffee and donuts provided by the hosts kept fingers comfortable and helped the discussion along. The crew ate lunch and headed into the woods to practice notches, observe and discuss felling a white pine with the acronym H.E.L.P. (for Hazards, Escape Route, Lean of the tree and Planning).



Putting theory into practice.

Each participant dropped one tree under Bill's direction during the afternoon session. The second day was the same with a different group and in a second woodlot, also belonging to Dale and Eileen.

The WFL has approached NYCAMH about 2018 GOL training and discussed cosponsoring a Level 2 course in our area. We will have further information in the spring newsletter and on our website so watch for upcoming announcements. Classes fill quickly once schedules are



Evaluating tree hazards preparing to fell tree.

announced; contact NYCAMH early if you are interested. Further information may be obtained by contacting NYCAMH at 1-800-343-7527 or emailing the chainsaw committee at chainsawsafety@bassett.org.



A successful fall.

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.

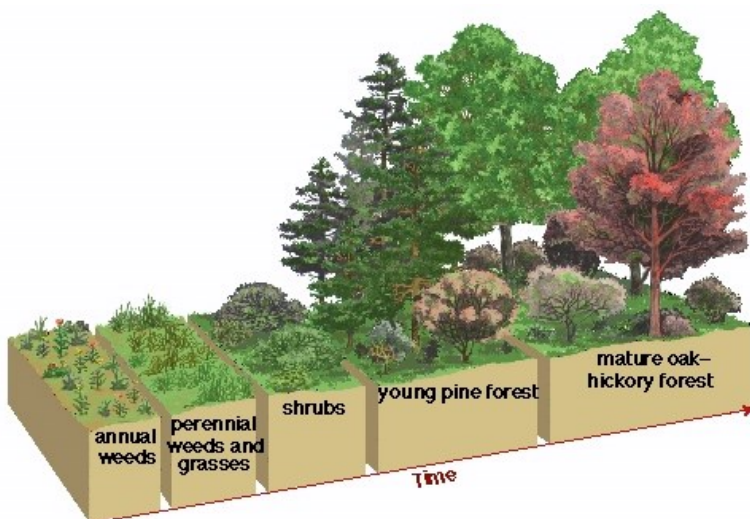
Successional Forest

by Dick Starr

I recently did some internet reading to improve my understanding of the successional forest. This will review my current understanding of the topic. Succession is defined as "the act or process of following in order." Several examples come to mind. a) If a child says, "I'm in 3rd grade" we can safely assume last year s/he was in 2nd grade and next year will be 4th grade, if all goes well. b) We recite the alphabet by starting with letter A. Imagine reciting the alphabet if the letters were randomly arranged each time. c) If a hitter gets a double in baseball we assume s/he went to 1st base before ending up on 2nd base. We would laugh at a little leaguer who skips 1st base entirely and runs over the pitcher's mound to reach 2nd base. Following in order gives some order to our world and helps us make sense of things and perhaps remember them more easily.

So what does it mean when we put the terms succession and forest together? Basically it is the predictable order of change from no trees to a forest. It doesn't happen overnight but it does happen. The initial conditions of succession are characterized by full exposure to the sun, rather severe fluctuations in temperature as a result and rapid changes in available moisture. Flora and fauna hardly enough to live and thrive under these conditions are called pioneer species. Pioneer plants at this early stage include crab grass, ragweed, golden rod, Queen Anne's lace, ferns and dandelions. Many are called forbs which is any herb that is not a grass. Most of us would call them weeds.

Consider a farm field prepared for planting then abandoned before seeding. What will happen to the field when exposed to the whims of Mother Nature? On its journey to becoming a forest the field will go through several stages. Grassland stage Initially various grasses, forbs and perennials such as blackberries will start to grow. After producing lots of seed each year in their attempt to dominate the site the annuals among them die at the end of each growing season. Their decomposing



Upcoming Events

A Board of Directors meeting for WFL will be held **Tuesday, January 16, 2018**. Any NYFOA member is welcome and invited to attend. We meet at the Lima Hotel at the stop light in beautiful downtown Lima. The meeting starts at 7 PM and a pre-meeting dinner gathering is at 6 PM for those interested.

Upcoming General Meeting -

7 PM, Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at the Church of St. Jerome, 207 Garfield Street, East Rochester, NY 14445. At press time the program and speaker were still in flux. As the time draws near, an e-blast will alert members to the details. To make sure you get these e-blasts send a blank email to-

nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org

Note, we usually send out only 3 -4 of these e-blasts a year and the list is not available to 3rd parties. Also, the latest information on events is posted on our web site, www.nyfoa.org in the Western Finger Lakes Chapter section,

www.nyfoa.org/chapters/western-finger-lakes

bodies enrich the soil nutrients. This might characterize the first 5 years. Shrub stage Next perennial shrubs become dominant. Being larger with deeper roots than grasses and forbs, shrubs can better absorb and utilize sunlight and rain water. Softwood saplings may start to grow. The shrub stage might occupy the next 20 years of our former farm field. Young forest stage With improved soils, conifers arrive on the scene along with deciduous softwoods like aspen and beech. Eventually the trees become dominant and a young forest forms. Decomposing leaves further enrich the soils and only shade tolerant species continue beneath the canopy. This represents years 25 to 50. Mature forest stage The fast growing conifers and soft hardwoods die out leaving gaps in the canopy. Larger hardwoods like oak, maple, black walnut and hickory become established and eventually dominate the site. At this point the under story is composed of shade tolerant species. This stage might be from 50 to 150 years. Climax stage The various plants and animals within a community achieve a state of equilibrium. Without natural catastrophes or chain saws things remain more or less unchanged within the community as species intolerant of the conditions die out and those that are tolerant continue. The climax stage follows the mature forest stage beyond 150 years and is often called old growth.

(Note: As a courtesy to our readers we buried these as far back in this issue as possible, although we realize that some of you would have gladly lent us a shovel to bury them even further.)

Wood you like to hear some tree puns?

Here are a few that have been growing on us (insert obligatree groan here, then read on fir more)...

- We were going to pick the red oak as Tree-of-the-Month, but aspen was more poplar.
- The birch couldn't figure out how to branch out. He was stumped.
- When the trees start turning green again each spring, it's a big releaf.
- Sure, I will help you find a weeping tree, but you willow me one.
- We asked the bushes what they thought, but they just shrubbed.
- Don't go to the movies with a maple unless you like sappy ones.
- The tree doctor said he sees a lot of buttonwoods. Apparently they're sycamore.
- Some of these tree puns are really acorny, but some are okay.

The original to this appeared in a flyer from Davey Tree Service so we'll ascribe the original sin to them. We're just the messenger here.



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

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

Credit Card No. _____

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NYFOA
P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485

Questions: 1-800-836-3566

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Our Western Finger Lakes Chapter display as set up at our recent annual meeting. We use it to promote NYFOA at various events. The handsome wooden sign at the top was a recent gift from Greg Lessord, it's creator. Greg is a member of our WFL Board of Directors and our rep to the state board.

Mark Your Calendar

- ♦ Wednesday, January 16th, WFL Steering Committee Meeting*
- ♦ Wednesday, March 14th, General 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