

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2018

Volume 32, Number 3

## Annual Members' Meeting October 10th (Note the New Date)



[See Page 13 For Details](#)



*All photos by the authors*

### Wagon load heading to the grasslands.

1.72 square miles. A middle aged couple. A young couple. A multi-generation family. Hiking and hunting. Glacial erratics. Wetlands. Homesteading and silvopasture. Drier fertile soils. Song birds and a lasting legacy. Shale and more shale.

And yet we are all more alike than not. For we are all private forest land owners. Our connection to the land runs deep. We

*(Piestrak - continued on page 7)*

### Piestrak Woods Walk 1.72 Square Miles of Room With a View

*by Greg and Kathy Lessord*

Eighty one acres or .13 square miles. Three and a half acres or .005 square miles. Eleven hundred +/- acres or

### Wild Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

Dale & Eileen Schaefer's, July 21, 2018

by Eileen Schaefer with notes by Ted Retzlaff



*All photos by the author*

### Bruce Robinson giving pointers to attendees.

Consulting Forester Bruce Robinson instructed a small group of eager apprentices on a warm Saturday morning on the finer points of pruning apple trees. The workshop began on the deck while Bruce gave us an overview of the stages of tree development and forest succession. One of the major points Bruce stressed would

*(Pruning - continued on page 9)*

### Invasive Species Workshop

Saturday, July 14, Dana and Linda Allison Property, Future Forest Consulting

*by Peter Muench*

Dana and Linda's land on County Rd 33 is a 170-acre property that started as a Christmas tree farm and is currently in the 480a Forest Tax program. Plantations of scotch pine, red pine, austrian pine and norway spruce are heavily infested with invasive species including multiflora rose, autumn olive, honey-suckle and some poison ivy for good measure. Corey Figueiredo and Tyler Jensen, Future Forest Consulting, were the Allison's forester and was for the previous owner.



*All photos by the author*

### The Fecon Mulcher

The density of invasive species required mechanical removal to provide access and while mowing creates an oppor-

*(Invasives - continued on page 12)*

### Economics vs. Biology - Burley Woods Walk

*by Colette Morabito*

On June 2, 2018, Forester Bruce Robinson presented a guided woods walk at the property of Gary and Betty Burley. Located in Wyoming County, about a dozen of us enjoyed an exposé of several different stands that the Burley's are proactively working to recover. They own approximately 10 different woodlots. A priority for their timber management plan/ goals was to utilize the wood from their personal forests for the construction and operation of their creamery. We visited several adjoining woodlots. Because of the previous owner's history of high-grading the



*All photos by the author*

### Rolling hills of pasture fed dairy cows and lush, green forests were a welcome sight at the Burley's property.

*(Burley - continued on page 11)*

In Our Woodlot by Ed Piestrak

## Tree Farm Sign



About 20 years ago, I attended a woods walk in Pennsylvania and encountered an interesting situation.

It appears that the Pennsylvania tree farm organization supplied about eight large tree farm signs (8ft x 8ft) to tree farmers that were located bordering an interstate, or

heavily utilized highways. It was a way to promote tree farm and get the general public aware that tree farm was a worthwhile program. This particular woods boarded interstate 81 and the land owner was given a sign to install along the roadway to be observed from the highway.

The sign was quite large and heavy. The landowner related it was quite difficult to install, but finally were successful with the install.

About 10 years ago I passed the sign and was impressed by it. After discussing the sign with my adult children, they surprised me one father's day with the gift of the sign. We had a place to install it along future interstate 99 (present route 15) from Williamsport PA to Corning NY, just over the Pennsylvania border into New York. Our land borders the interstate and on the opposite side from our property a NY welcome center is in the planning stage. Thus, the sign can be very visible for people passing by or stopping for a rest and refreshments. We keep

the area around the sign well-manicured on a regular basis.

The construction of the frame work was quite intensive and when my son Jeffrey builds anything, it will last for generations. (See construction photo and material list).

We have received many comments from people on the sign and a very good advertisement for tree farms.

Note: This past week, June of 2018, I passed by the tree farm sign in Pennsylvania along interstate 81 and the trees and brush have grown in front of the sign, hereby one could not see the sign, hopefully the landowner will read this note and clear the path to the sign.

- (2) 6x6x20 pressure treated lumber
- (3) 4x4x8 pressure treated lumber
- (15) 5/4 decking boards pressure treated lumber
- (4) 2x6x16 lumber
- (14) 80lb quickrete concrete mix
- (2) gallons white paint
- Various screws and nails
- 8x8x.080 aluminum sign



## About Us

### NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2018 Board of Directors

**Richard Starr, Director and Chairman**  
231 Farm View Dr.  
Macedon, NY 14502  
(585) 377-4849  
pockaa@aol.com

**Dale Schaefer, Director and Vice Chairman**  
6017 County Road #37  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 367-2849

**Cathy Gardner, Director and Secretary**  
7400 Corby Road  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472  
585-624-7636  
cathygardner10@yahoo.com

**Ron Reitz, Director and Treasurer**  
6086 Canadice Hill Rd.  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 367-2847  
rrrlpr@aol.com

**Dick Dennison, Director**  
137 Wood Creek Drive  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
(585) 586-9098  
Kibbycamp@rochester.rr.com

**Greg Lessord, Director and Chapter-Designated Representative to the State Board**  
449 Hubbell Rd.  
Spencerport, NY 14559  
(585) 703-8513  
buckslayergs@hotmail.com

**Jim Minor, Director and WFL Newsletter Publisher**  
22 Bryn Mawr Road  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(585) 247-7069  
jminor@rochester.rr.com

**Colette Morabito, Director, Program Coordinator and Empire Farm Days Coordinator**  
1100 Main St  
East Rochester, NY 14445  
(585) 248-0654  
cmorabi2@rochester.rr.com

**Peter Muench, Director & Outdoor Activities Coordinator**  
P.O. Box 473  
Naples, NY 14512  
(585) 736-7172  
munchme.444@gmail.com

**Mike Seager, Director**  
P.O. Box 1281  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
(585) 414-6511  
seager\_michael@yahoo.com

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 2018 issue is November 15th

## It's Still A Lean-To

by Greg Lessord

I freely admit I am a Jack of All Trades, Master of None. A mostly empty wallet necessitates I try to build or fix things most other people just hire done. I opt for function. If it's ugly and it works I won. If it comes out looking good - BONUS!

Kathy and I always wanted to build an Adirondack style lean-to on the little hill in our mature hardwood stand amongst the sugar maples, basswoods and beech. The lumber to come from our land.



All photo by the author

### Kathy and Boo making good headway

thousands of trees that will never be more than snags and large woody debris on the forest floor when all is said and done.

The choice of species was obvious for the lean-to. Going back to the Master of None. No way would I be able to cut, notch, fit logs together in a traditional fashion: functional it would be. I looked on-line for a set of plans having previously settled on a size of 8' x 12' and 6-1/2' tall at top of ridge pole. The very first ( and free ) set of drawings to pop up were for those dimensions. I had a good feeling.

My first order of business was to re-imagine the materials list as 4" and 5" square timber framing with 5/4" planking for the floor, sides, back and roof. All rough sawn and full dimension. To have some element of the original style, I would leave the live edge on the perimeter beams.

After calculating my lumber requirements, I commenced felling trees. Mostly large ones, but I did seek out specific small dbh ones so the curvature of the live edges would be to scale had I used actual logs. That BONUS thing!

I met the sawyer I would hire when he was milling boards at the C 4 C site for David Deuel. Chris Benedict is a school teacher by day and a Wood Mizer sawyer by summers and some weekends. He and his wife set up the portable mill behind my barn where I staged the logs and loaded them onto his table with my grapple equipped John Deere loader tractor.

The three of us spent the day working through my hit list for the lean-to plus some extras for the odd jobs that always pop up.

I stacked and stickered the lumber indoors to dry for several months. During that time I fine-tuned my drawings to the point I was comfortable pre-cutting, notching, making rabbits and dados and putting a finish on the timber frame, floor joists, flooring, ridge pole, back and sides up to point of the peak. The rafters would be my nemesis so those and the roof boards would be cut, finished and assembled when the time came.

So the spring was spent on all that pre-cut, pre-finish work and

We have been dealing with EAB for several years already and cut ash almost exclusively for firewood. We have a contract signed for ash salvage on 26 acres, but we will have hundreds if not

hauling block and gravel to the site to make and level the peers it would set up-on.

On Mother's Day afternoon under the scrutinizing eye of BOO

the wonder dog, most famous for her role as team leader for Chainsaws For Charity, Kathy and I began framing it up. The main support beams are 5" x 5" and the floor joists are 3" x 5". All framing timbers are 4" x 4" and the ridge pole is 2" x 4" and extends two extra feet to one side. Mounted there are two 1/4" diameter J hooks to hang whatever needs hanging - lantern, bug repelling candles, turkey. The back wall sports two gun ports and there is one on each side, all hinged to swing in and downward. There are a pair of 1" x 4" shelves on either side for storage. No A/C or hot tub at this time.

About a 100 yards away tucked into the soft edge of the woods I built a small commode for the ladies. Otherwise it's a half mile trek back to the house.

All the pre-cut, pre-finish work really showed it's worth as by Wednesday my friend Lance was over to cut and install rafters and by the weekend we finished laying down the roof. I caulked joints and Kathy stained/ sealed the roof.

I fed tree tops through the PTO chipper to spread in front of the lean-to, but the thought of the extra lumber we milled just sitting around being bored, pun intended, was too much. In about another two hours a 5-1/2' x 12' deck was down with a coat of stain/ sealer on that. I set a pipe in the ground on each side of the deck for Tiki torches. The finishing touch was putting down a gravel bed out in front of the deck upon which were placed cement blocks and the fire ring.

David Deuel felt it warranted a ribbon-cutting ceremony. So on a Saturday night I cut the ribbon and nine of us roasted hot dogs, made S'mores, ate cheese and crackers and beer may have been involved.

When the leaves are off you can see hundreds of yards. It's a great wildlife viewing platform. We have pileated woodpeckers who spend much of the year in that stand. Wood Ducks paddle around the flooded timber in the spring. Tom turkeys love to strut their stuff on the hill.

I already have more ash trees marked for lumber and this summer they will be milled into the next lean-to going up on the ridgeline at our cabin in the - where else- Adirondacks.

Until then, this weekend it's cheeseburgers on the hill out back.



Rafters going up on day four



The Ladies room

(Please see the outside cover for the end result of this project)

## WFL General Meeting Empire Forests for the Future Initiative (EFFI)

by David R. Morabito, Sr.

Discussion of 480a Program for Forestry Tax Law and the Proposed Amendments under the "Empire Forest for the Future Initiative – 480b."

On May 9, 2018, DEC Forester Mark Gooding gave an excellent presentation of the 480a program discussing the pros and cons of entering the tax abatement program. It was a very well attended event at the United Church of Christ in Honeoye, NY.

Mark gave an outstanding argument for forest owners to participate in the 480a program. There are very good tax incentives for participation but, in this writer's opinion, we need further amendments for forest property owners as the penalties for early termination or withdrawal from the 480a program can have potentially very serious tax consequences and tax penalties. However, all forest property owners should have serious discussions with their DEC foresters or private consulting foresters in making a decision that is unique to your own objectives of owning forested lands.

The Governor proposed last year to reform the NYS Forestry Tax Law called the EFFI. The implementation was an attempt to lessen the penalties and make it more accessible for landowners who own less acreage, the ability to participate and enter the new 480b tax program. Though proposed by the Governor, this tax law was not ultimately approved by the State Assembly in this year's budget.



Photo credit—Colette Morabito

**Mark Gooding's tutorial on the 480a program**

## 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 booth on August 7, 8, and 9. 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 and knowledge that these members offered to our organization. We also had an opportunity to offer numerous handouts regarding Invasive Species specific to woodlot owners. Many people were eager to take these resources. Many of the handouts had identifying photographs, directions on how to remove and destroy invasives, as well as how to report the location for the iMapInvasives initiative in New York State.



Photos by Colette Morabito

**Peter Muench (left) and Mike Arman (right) taking a roasted corn break at the Empire Farm Days.**

Day One: Dale Schaefer, Greg Lessord, Ron Reitz and Logan Dale

Day Two: Dick Starr, Tony Ross, David Deuel

Day Three: Mike Arman, Peter Muench and Colette Morabito

Empire Farm Days is a yearly event. It is scheduled for August 6, 7, and 8, 2019. Please feel free to contact Colette Morabito 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 volunteering next year with a fellow WFL friend or neighbor. It is always a great day.



**Peter Muench and Mike Arman consulting with passersby regarding Master Forest Owner visits, NYFOA membership, and invasive species handouts.**

## Conservation Learning Circle

May 24, 2018

by Colette Morabito

As always, I am a big proponent of education. At this point in my life, I can acquire the information that suits me, not what I am required to absorb and the tests that follow. The opportunities to learn from my fellow NYFOA members, Cornell Cooperative Extension folks, woods walks, learning circles, and workshops are some of the concrete means I have taken to avoid making mistakes in our forest management and timber stand improvement projects. Time is just too precious to waste!

I had the pleasure, along with Master Forest Owners' Sara Stackhouse and David Dueul, to assist Joan Sinclair-Petzen at a Learning Circle for women farm and forest landowners. Joan is employed by Cornell Cooperative as a Farm Business Management Specialist for the Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team. She was assisted by Emily West, from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as Emily Staychock from the Master Forest Owner Program (MFO). Approximately 17 women attended the round table discussion on "Whole Farm Planning". Each individual farmer has a unique farm, skills, goals and resources. Understanding the value of the many specific aspects of a farm, including the timber stands, crops, homestead, pasture, tenants, etc., assisted the attendees with both the best information and knowing who to call for help. The casual and uncomplicated setting for the Learning Circle was stress free and made for open conversation. We were treated to a great breakfast, lunch and plenty of cold drinks.

Woodlots are present on most every farm. They tend to be underestimated and overlooked by land owners in the sense that they simply provide a place for hunting, wood for the stove, or an opportunity for someone to offer you quick money for a timber sale when cash is needed. I can attest to the keen interest for all things related to the forest by this group of women landowners.

Simply, the discussions were focused on: landowner goals; where to go for the best information; leasing the property vs. personal use; preservation of the farm lifestyle; the different types of land we own--tillable, forest, wetlands, cropland; and the wildlife concerns for them all. Another particularly important subject was having your goals written down and



**David Dueul, Master Forest Owner Volunteer (front left) offers a tutorial along with Emily Staychock (2nd from left) in the wood lot of Joan Sinclair-Petzen (far left).**

prioritize on how to accomplish them. Make detailed lists of what resources and assets exist on your property. Some examples we discussed at length were regeneration, income, soils, and preserving your "little bit of paradise".

Half the day was spent in a round table discussion while the second half of the day was in the agricultural field with Emily West or in the forest with Sara, David, Emily and myself. We split into two separate groups to make the conversation more spontaneous. We offered as much information as we could about the value of the forest and all that lies beneath the soil, the wildlife that lives there, regeneration, basal area, invasive species, etc. Naturally, with boots on the ground in Joan's wood lot, many other observations were realized. Being in a classroom would not have provided this spontaneity. We did dance around a rather impressive crop of Poison Ivy on the edge of the forest!

There was plenty of time for everyone to share their knowledge and ideas, ask questions, obtain handouts, and make invaluable connections with other women. Although we may have different goals for our land and forests, we are all clearly motivated to do what is best for our families, working within our budgets, and enjoying the resources that we have the pleasure of owning. Like NYFOA, neighborly connections for discussion, sharing, and learning continue in many different forums. All this comradery will keep our properties managed properly and we get smarter in the process! Again, thanks to all who kindly offered their time and talent so articulately and generously. People wanted to be there; surely, they went home very satisfied by this educational experience.



*All photos by the author*

**David Dueul offers attendees information on utilizing the International Log Scale Stick for use in measuring approximate tree diameter and board foot volumes of trees and logs**

## Perspective(s) on Forests

A book review by Jim Minor

*The Overstory* by Richard Powers, 502 pp., April 2018, W.W. Norton & Company, \$27.95

Author Richard Power, the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship ("Genius Grant") and the National Book Award, a Pulitzer Prize and four-time National Book Critics Award finalist, has written a sweeping novel concerned with Americans' (mostly detrimental) interactions with their surrounding forests, but overall it's a paean to the forests themselves and those who love and want to protect them.

The novel, Mr. Powers 12th, starts with the richly detailed stories of eight individuals (in one case a couple) and sometimes their ancestors, from wildly disparate backgrounds, who eventually become staunch forest advocates. Although the individuals are unconnected at first, as the novel progresses, several sets of them become intertwined, principally in relating to the timber wars of the Pacific Northwest in the 1990's. Though some of our readers may rankle at the tree-hugger aspect of this, the overall flavor is forest-positive.

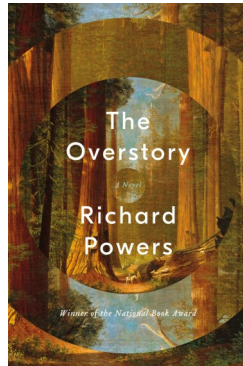
Although it would deviate from the central theme of the novel, a significant drawback, in this reviewer's opinion, is the failure to acknowledge the great forest regeneration that has taken place in the northeast over the course of the last century due to both economic factors (e.g., soil unsuitable for farming) and the implementation of sustainable forestry practices as advocated by NYFOA and many others.

The telling is majestic and evocative in nature (even interjecting a sense of mysticism at times) especially as it invokes the images of trees as a collection of interacting communities, many of whose entities span multiple human lifetimes. The author does stretch science a bit as he ascribes intent to natural evolutionary forces.

The novel lauds the many benefits we have derived from trees, frequently focusing on a specific species. The very first section of the novel is worth noting for us on the East Coast as it tells the story of Jorgen Hoel, a Norwegian immigrant, and his family who first settle in Brooklyn but eventually move to the new state of Iowa in 1847, taking several chestnut seedlings with them. Only one of the seedlings survives, and it subsequently becomes the subject of their new pastime of photography. Several generations of Hoels take a photograph of it from the same spot on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month, eventually forming a flip-book of over 500 pages, documenting its changes. What happens next, starting in 1904, is something that we in the northeast have heard about, but Powers gives it an immediacy and imbues it with powerful imagery...

*Twelve hundred miles East, in the city where John Hoel's mother sewed dresses and his father built ships, disaster hits before anyone knows it. The killer slips into the country from Asia, in the wood of Chinese chestnuts destined for fancy gardens. A tree in the Bronx Zoological Park turns October colors in July. Leaves curl and scorch to the hue of cinnamon. Rings of orange spots spreads across the swollen bark. At the slightest press, the wood caves in.*

*Within a year, orange spots fleck chestnuts throughout the Bronx-the fruiting bodies of a parasite that has already killed its host. Every infection releases a horde of spores on the rain*



and wind. City gardeners mobilize a counterattack. They lop off infected branches and burn them. They spray trees with a lime and copper sulfate from horse-drawn wagons. All they do is spread the spores on the axes they use to cut the victims down. A researcher at the New York Botanical Garden identifies the killer as a fungus new to man. He publishes the results and leaves town to beat the summer heat. When he returns a few weeks later, not a chestnut in the city is worth saving.

Death races across Connecticut and Massachusetts, jumping dozens of miles a year. Trees succumb by the hundreds of thousands. A country watches dumbstruck as New England's priceless chestnuts melt away. The tree of the tanning industry, of railroad ties, train cars, telegraph poles, fuel, fence, houses, barns, fine desks, tables, pianos, crates, paper pulp, and endless free shade and food- the most harvested tree in the country- is vanishing.

Pennsylvania tries to cut a buffer hundreds of miles wide across the state. In Virginia, on the northern edge of the country's richest chestnut forests, people call for a religious revival to purge the sin behind the plague. America's perfect tree, backbone of entire rural economies, the limber durable redwood of the East with three dozen industrial uses - every fourth tree of a forest stretching two hundred million acres from Maine down to the Gulf - is doomed.

Later in that section-

*If God had a Brownie, he might shoot another animated short subject: blight hovering a moment before plunging down the Appalachians into the heart of chestnut country. The chestnuts up North were majestic. But the southern trees are gods. They form near-pure stands for miles on end. In the Carolinas boles older than America grow ten feet wide and a hundred and twenty feet tall. Whole forests of them flower in rolling clouds of white. Scores of mountain communities are built from the beautiful straight-grained wood. A single tree might yield as many as fourteen thousand planks. The stocks of food that fall shin-deep feed entire counties, every year a mast year.*

*Now the gods are dying, all of them. The full force of human ingenuity can't stop the disaster breaking over the continent. The blight runs along ridgelines, killing peak after peak. A person perched on an overlook above the southern mountains can watch the trunks change to gray-white skeletons in a rippling wave. Loggers race through a dozen states to cut down whatever the fungus hasn't reached. The nascent Forest Service encourages them. Use the wood, at least, before it's ruined. And in that salvage mission, men kill any tree that might contain the secret of resistance.*

*A five-year-old in Tennessee who sees the first orange spots appear in her magic woods will have nothing left to show her own children except pictures. They'll never see the ripe, full habit of the tree, never know the sight and sound and smell of their mother's childhood. Millions of dead stumps sprout suckers that struggle on, year after year, before dying of an infection that, preserved in these stubborn shoots, will never disappear. By 1940, the fungus takes everything, all the way out to the farthest stands in southern Illinois. Four billion trees in the native range vanish into myth. Aside from a few secret pockets of resistance, the only chestnuts left are those that pioneers took far away, in states beyond the reach of the drifting spores.*

As an aside, I find the promise of plant scientists' work in reversing this particular disaster very encouraging and know that many of our readers are equally eager to help make it happen.

(Piestrak - continued from page 1)

understand our responsibility as stewards of the forest. But how do we fulfill that obligation and achieve our own goals of ownership?

Two words. The good old fashion Woods Walk. They are for everyone



**The selection of gifts for all attendees.**

no matter the size of your property, your skill level or the reasons for ownership. And while a single woods walk can't cover every topic, answer every question, there's probably another one coming soon to a woodlot near you that will answer a few more.

we attend have a DEC Service or a Consulting Forester guiding the outing and their knowledge is invaluable. For us, just as important are the peer to peer interactions. Someone who's already tackled a similar project and knows the best tools, the time of year to cut, plant, prune, spray or even avoid.

No matter the size of the parcel you own, the mechanics, the philosophies, the dreams are shared. So if you want to tap 10 sugar maples this coming season, attend that woods walk at the sugarbush who tap 10,000 trees are tapped and scale the plan to fit your goal/ budget. As



**Grabbing lunch in the garage.**

my friend always says "it's the same thing, only crunchy".

For years we've heard of this mythical woods walk held every two years in Lindley, NY down in Steuben County, spitting distance from the PA line. When Kathy and I missed the chance two years ago I vowed never again to let that happen even if there

were a death in the family. What are the odds two years to the weekend of June 16th my buddy's mother-in-law would pass and he would leave for Glens Falls for three days and leave me tending to his cattle and chickens? Stupid cattle and chickens can't tell time so they were none the wiser when I showed up at o' dark thirty to feed, water, grain and bed them. We were at Ed and Wanda Piestrak's with 20 minutes to spare!

Turns out the Piestrak Family Forest really is a mythical place, but tangible. Beyond the three generations of Piestraks on hand was none other than the man, the myth, the legendary Bruce Robinson, Consulting Forester, to lead the day's tour.

The Piestrak family takes very seriously their love of and for all things related to their forest including the animals, plants, riparian areas, open fields and woodland clearings. Ed explained that the Piestrak Family Forest is now an LLC and will guarantee it remains that way into the future for three or four more generations.

We gathered in their garage for coffee, donuts, cookies and some socializing. Ed explained the numbered gift bags on a rack and how corresponding numbered antler sheds were hidden along the woods trail. Find a shed, get a gift bag. There were also special gifts for all attendees to choose from including bluebird houses, wooden crosses and mounted wooden squirrel silhouettes. Attendees could also sign up for a DVD of the day's festivities. Members of the family spent the day filming with a camera on a monopod along with Go Pro cameras.

I counted 31 attendees on the tractor drawn wagon plus several more riding on a pair of large UTV's. First stop was over 4 miles away as the Piestrak's property is comprised of two large tracts on either side of the

Tioga River.

As we entered the property we traversed a 54 plus acre grassland established in conjunction with the NRCS as song bird nesting habitat. After nesting season it is mowed annually to keep it in grasslands and prevent natural succession from occurring. Our view from the top of the grasslands the vistas up and down the valley are spectacular.

Upon reaching the forest road we began our walk watching for hidden antler sheds. Bruce Robinson explained how the vernal pools were constructed as part of the road grading project to divert water, but also retain some of the water in temporary pools for amphibians and reptiles to breed. We saw many frogs, toads and polliwogs.

All along the road, markers were erected identifying different tree species with a brief description and common uses. A short discussion and Q & A period followed for each tree marked.

Most were the more common such as white oak, red maple, hemlock, hickory and white pine. Species that caught my attention as we don't have them around our home in Monroe County were black gum, cucumber and black birch.

Bruce noted the heavy presence of hemlock as the apex species and how management strategy was to reduce it's numbers and steer succession back in time to a more dominant oak, hickory forest. Apparently the hemlock wooly adelgid volunteered to help as the first branch Bruce grabbed had the cotton balls on it's underside. Go figure.

Someone pointed to the lack of black cherry on the landscape and Bruce said the shale ground was unfavorable to cherry. Ed remarked that they planted cherry at one point and those all died. Which brings up the point, when deciding on trees and shrubs for plantings, consult your soil maps for suitability or you might be throwing your money away.

After a fabulous lunch and much socializing back at the garage we loaded up the wagon and headed to a woodlot severely highgraded before the Piestraks purchased it.



**Discussing one of the marked trees.**

This stand was loaded with marginal saw log size oaks that would have been pole timber left at harvest time. The regeneration of oak in the understory was what got everyone's attention. Thousands of saplings. Bruce is in the midst of a conundrum. After a lengthy brainstorm, he will have to ponder the possibilities again another day. Even after 48 years in the business, the forest can still provide Bruce with new challenges.

What prescription will Bruce ultimately write for TSI work in that stand?

Everywhere we traveled there were tall enclosed hunting huts in the woods and fields. As we worked our way back we viewed numerous food plots of corn and beans, some with treated ribbons around them to keep the deer out. Ed explained that the deer would otherwise keep the plants nibbled right down to nothing. Once the plants get established to near mature the ribbons will come down and the buffet will commence.

Also noteworthy are the sheer volume of bird nesting boxes everywhere we traveled. All in addition to the tens of acres of grassland.

The Piestraks have enormous respect for the forest and it's inhabitants and walk the talk everyday. In turn it is evident how well they are respected by their peers. The attendees travelled from all across NY Western Finger Lakes, Adirondacks, etc. and up from PA. driving for hours and hundreds of miles.

To paraphrase Arnold, " We'll be baaack".

Oh, did we mention the view? And no, we didn't find an antler shed. I can't wait to try out my new squirrel decoy

## Fire 3

by Dick Starr

Do any of the lessons learned in this series apply to our small woodlots in the northeast? After all our hardwoods aren't like the western pine forests many of which are dead because of insects. I suspect it would be an error to presume our hardwood forests are immune to fire. We do experience hot and dry conditions during some summer seasons and these are conditions ripe for fires. Do you remember the summer of 2016 when it seemed we couldn't beg, borrow or buy rain? The summer of 2017 was the opposite with rain coming every 3-4 days. Sparse rainfall coupled with lots of tinder dry biomass on the ground can make our hardwood forests prone to wildfire. We can take steps to reduce the severity if a wild fire occurs and this would be especially valuable near buildings. It must be a devastating event to have a home reduced to ashes by a fire, regardless of the cause.



A fire needs oxygen and fuel. We have a measure of control over a wildfire's fuel. The objective in reducing wildfire threat is to change the characteristics of flammable vegetation. Piles of dry firewood should be at least 20 feet from structures, probably farther. Ground fuels such as dry leaves and pine needles need to be removed. If you've ever tossed a pine limb on a bon fire you're aware how quickly and hotly the pine resins can ignite. If leaves and pine needles can't be burned they can be composted or at least gathered in one place. The crowns of trees should not touch and plants should be low growing out to 100 feet from structures. If possible, low growing plants should be irrigated to prevent drying out. A lush green lawn provides little in the way of burnable fuel.

Vegetation along access roads should be pruned and reduced to enable emergency vehicles clear and easy access if they're needed. Look around and ask what can

be done to make your property and woodlands more fire resistant. While prescribed burns are often used to reduce fuel availability employing such a measure is probably best left to professionals. A home-owner can gather and pile twigs, limbs, leaves, pine needles etc and burn them. Bear in mind that such burning is forbidden from March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> by DEC regulations. However, the gathering and piling process can occur during this interval and then, come May 15<sup>th</sup>, the piles can be ignited. I like to have my burn piles in a green grassy area that's not prone to ignite plus some jugs of water handy to douse hot spots if needed.

## Readings

by Dick Starr

The following is adapted from a piece written by Gene Wengert in the July 2018 issue of *Sawmill and Woodlot* magazine. The U.S. Forest Service has released its report on the condition of our national forests. The Forest Service estimates there were 6.3 billion standing dead trees in the 11 western states in 2015, up from 5.8 billion in 2010. That's an increase of 1 million dead trees per year. Roughly 20% were killed by bark beetles while drought and disease account for many more. The report shows for the first time in over 100 years the annual forest mortality exceeds the annual growth of the forests. This mortality rate is over five times the volume of timber harvested.

The real problem is that our national forests have not been and are still not well managed regarding logging, thinning, prescribed burns, etc. A lack of funding doesn't allow the needed timber stand improvement to accomplish the goals. With tight control of forest fires coupled with decreased harvesting, trees have grown closer together in the last 40 years which permit insects, disease and fire to spread more easily.

Wildfires now burn faster and hotter with the massive fuel supplies available, both on the ground and in standing dead stems. This results in huge ecological damage to birds, animals, soils, watersheds and natural tree reproduction to mention a few. Yet according to the spring 2018 issue of *National Woodlands* magazine lumber prices are up over 30% this year to the highest level on record. New U.S. duties on Canadian whitewood imports have brought tighter supplies and soaring home construction costs.

## Welcome New Members

Ron Rosati

Curtis, NE

**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](http://www.nyfoa.org).**

**Also note that other chapters' newsletters are available for reading in their chapter's sections.**





**Landowner Dale Schaefer points out an area of concern.**

be the information/statistics you record and track for your apple trees to accurately assess your apple tree health. It may be a surprise, but fertilization is the last step in revitalizing a tree. We learned how to take trees that may be struggling in one way or another and evaluate what is happening to that tree to make it a young tree again. Being aware of the difference in how a tree can trap energy and how it can store energy so there is a good balance is key; understanding energy to the point that we will make the tree young again. Bruce has experimented over the past ten years with some apple trees in very poor condition and rehabilitated them into "young" good producing apple trees.

The three stages to evaluate or recognize initially:

\*Is the tree a young tree?

\*Is the tree a maintenance tree? Not a lot needs to be done with the tree. Most of its energy is used for maintaining itself.

\*Is the tree over mature? The tree is in decline. It doesn't matter if you fertilize it or release it.

After our initial instruction on the deck, we proceeded to visit upwards of 34 apple trees (the majority are wild apple trees) to consider their current condition and what can or should be done if anything. You need to evaluate if the tree is in decline and gone too far to revitalize or if you can make the tree young again. Dale has found and released many wild apple trees over the years - his choice in most cases when deciding which tree to release, an apple tree or the competing tree, is to keep the wild apple tree unless the competing tree is a crop tree! His favorite pastime is to find another wild apple tree to release in the woodlot. Another favorite pastime is to prop up a branch of the apple tree with a forked stick. This practice, as inventive as it is, was not recommended by Bruce.

The remaining portion of this article consists of notes written by Ted Retzlaff combined with correspondence from Mike Seager.

**\*Apple tree improvement process:** Manage apples to keep late fruiters (to provide late Winter wildlife food)

1. Cut dead wood
2. Thin out branches that grow back toward the trunk
3. Mark leaders with numbered tags
4. Record apple production
5. Cut out stems, keeping late- and heavy-yielding trees
6. Fertilize (see notes below)
7. After pruning and thinning, go back and evaluate results. Pictures and records will help. Ask why did each tree respond as it

did? What should I do differently next time? Expect 2-5 years for a tree to respond.

8. If a tree is less than 15 feet tall, you can still shape its crown. Best shape for an apple tree is a central stem with scaffolds, i.e. branches perpendicular to the trunk.

9. When there are dead branches in the canopy, the tree has a problem. You need to spend the time to figure out why. Possible causes are lack of sunlight on top, dead vertical branch, disease, or wind damage.

**How to record apple production:**

- o Mark leaders with numbered tags. Best to put all tags on same side, e.g. North and at same height. Use aluminum or plastic nails.
- o Where is fruit (crown, lower branches, only one side, ...)
- o Is fruit early or late in season.? Check early September and late November
- o Is crop heavy or light (many trees will have a heavy crop every 2 -5 years)
- o 5 years of records is most important before cutting stems
- o Note features: for example, a tree with lots of apples in the crown is "young" at the top. Ask yourself why. Are other trees competing for sunlight and blocking lower branches? Is the



**Mr. Robinson demonstrating some specific techniques.**

crown so dense that lower branches receive little sun? If energy in enough, it might be genetics: some trees don't grow fruit on lower branches.

**Pruning branches:** It is helpful to imagine trees as a bundle of straws reaching from root tips, passing up the trunk into the branches and running to the branch tips. At the junction where a branch leaves the trunk, there are trunk straws passing on both sides of the branch and trunk straws which travel out the branch. Thus, there will be more straws below the branch than above. When pruning a branch at the trunk, it is important to cut at an angle that will not damage the straws below the branch, so an outward cut (moving away from the trunk as you cut from top to bottom) is important. When a branch is correctly pruned, a donut-shaped ring will grow around the branch stub to seal the wound. If you leave a stub, suckers will grow, the wound will not heal well, and the tree will allocate energy to fighting infection. (See pictures by Mike Seager in the Apple Pruning Inserts of NYFOA/Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner). When pruning, avoid times of the year at which the tree has either the lowest and highest points of stored energy. Late Fall is the highest point of stored energy and Spring is the lowest. Best time is in the dormant season or when in full -leaf.

(Pruning -continued from page 9)

### Notes on tree energy:

Trees spend a lot of energy fighting disease around a dead branch, so it is important to cut off branches correctly; again, see NYFOA WFL Forest Owner pictures by Garrett Koplun.

Each acre has a fixed budget of energy. Our challenge is to direct it to produce fruit, not to fight disease. There is a "magic" relationship between each tree's ability to trap energy and to store energy. Trees store energy as starch because fungi don't eat it: Energy->Sugars->Starch stored in roots->Sugar->Buds & Fruit. The goal is to make old apple trees "young" again. As a tree matures, more energy is spent maintaining the tree, e.g. by fighting disease. When a tree is over-mature, or in decline, it is too late to reverse the process. A young tree has a good relationship between trapping and storing energy. If a tree has more ability to store than to trap energy, it will grow extra branches to trap more energy.

Fertilizing a tree can be risky. For example, adding nitrogen will produce more buds, but when they break, the tree will devote more energy to the buds and take it from fighting fungal infections. As a result, the fungi can get the upper hand. Thus, fertilization is the last step in apple tree maintenance. Apply lime before fertilizing. Lime makes soil minerals available to trees. Do soil tests first: apple trees like 5.5-6.5 ph. Avoid N (nitrogen) only, rather prefer P (phosphorus) and K (Potash). Organic fertilizers such as wood ash or manure are safer because they are low in the percentage of NPK. Wood ash primarily provides Potash (K).

### Apple diseases:

Nectria fungus and secondary Shoestring Fungus (long black strings under bark).

Apple Scab is a fungus that manifests as dull black or grey-brown lesions on the surface of tree leaves, buds or fruits. Let it go but record it in your log book. Prefer scab resistant trees when thinning.

Spindle Gall Mite is a tiny creature that lays eggs in leaves and produces spikes on the leaves. All plants in the Rose Family, of which Apples are a member, are susceptible.

### Miscellaneous Notes:

- A tree's cells are composed of lignin and cellulose. At the tips of buds and roots, there is no cellulose, only lignin. In early Spring, as a root grows, the tip encounters soil fungi and a microrhizome is formed.
- Meristematic points are specialized structures on a tree in the cambial zone that remain dormant when the tree is healthy, and which are responsible for growth. In the cambial zone, meristematic points sprout with the purpose of generating enough energy to replace a stub, to restore the trap/store energy balance.
- Invasive species are not an issue for mature apple trees, but if they are too dense, apple seedlings can't grow.
- Grafting may work if scions and underwood are genetically and physically similar.
- Insects are attracted to budding trees and birds can feed on the insects. Orioles feed on the nectar of budding trees.
- Wild pears: Don't prune and don't attempt to develop a scaffold. Pears are susceptible to Cedar Apple Rust.
- Look for next year's apple tree pruning workshop in the spring issue of the NYFOA Western Finger Lakes newsletter and don't forget to label your wild apple trees before you begin to record your data. A special thanks to Bruce Robinson for spending the day with us and sharing his knowledge of apple tree pruning!

### References:

- Pruning Wild Apple Trees with Bruce Robinson, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Fall 2015.
- Apple Pruning Insert #1, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Fall 2015.
- Apple Pruning Insert #2, by Garrett Koplun NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Winter 2015.

- Apple Pruning Insert #3, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Spring 2016.
- Apple Pruning Insert #4, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Winter 2016.
- Apple Workshop, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Winter 2016.
- Apple Pruning Workshop, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Winter 2017
- Apple Pruning Insert #5, by Garrett Koplun, NYFOA Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, Spring 2018.



<https://entomology.cals.cornell.edu/news-events/insectapalooza>

### More Treemendous Puns

Apparently the folks at Davey Tree Service couldn't leave bad enough alone and have added these to their list of infamies...

**A cat would never bark at a squirrel in a tree, but a dog-wood.**

**Q. How can you tell that it's a dogwood tree?**

**A. From its bark.**

**When love is evergreen, I pine for you... Don't be a sap.**

**I'd tell you about our talking tree but you wouldn't beleaf me.**

(Burley - continued from page 1)

stands multiple times, we were able to see firsthand how the forest responded, how it endured these harsh actions, and to learn the Burley's plan for future regeneration of their forested lands.

The conditions that resulted were a tremendous reality as to how the forest will react to our management decisions based on where the forest is in its succession, sunlight, soil conditions, and basal area. Mr. Robinson pointed out many examples of species that thrived resulting from unscrupulous logging operations. One stand had previously consisted of predominantly Red Maples. However, they were cut hard and many times over. All the best trees were continually removed. This resulted in little evidence of any Red Maple today. The stand was predominantly replaced by Hickory and Basswood. The forest naturally responded to the conditions that were created. Thus, being aware of where your forest is in its succession, can provide you with positive future outcomes for regeneration with proper management. One example was a Hemlock stand. Situated on a steep slope with poor soil composition, these trees would remain untouched, as this stand is in its final stage of succession. Being mindful of what is cut and what remains, should assist you in more closely meeting your goals. If you ignore where your forest is in relation to its succession, you can set your woods back significantly.



**Forester Bruce Robinson describes the forest management plan the Burley's are actively pursuing before we head into the woods.**

commercial logging operation specifically for birds to come and feast on the multitude of bugs living there. The wood lot was lush and alive with late spring life. We saw many examples of how plants and animals respond to sunlight hitting the forest floor after a commercial cutting.

"Bruce-isms" were a joy to hear throughout the day and remain forever etched into our hearts. For example, "You don't manage a tree but a forest". Forests are not monoculture but an assortment of many different species co-existing. As you know, Beech is most successful at surviving in poorly managed wood lots. We spent a lot of time discussing the different options of releasing your finest Beech in a stand. "Grow the best you can grow, regardless of the species," Bruce reflected. At a particular pocket of Red Oak, Bruce was overwhelmed to his core by their beauty. Hard to grow, he stated, "Oak affects your heart. God created hope when he created trees. All you need is one acorn". Special thanks to the Burley's for the inspirational walk through their forest, fields, and along their well-maintained logging roadways and animal by-ways.

FYI: The East Hill Creamery is up and running with the cheese racks cut from their very own Basswood. Many of the beams used for the interior post and beam construction were also harvested from their woodlots and milled by the Amish. The artisanal cheeses are made from their own grass-fed, pasture raised cows.



**Bruce Robinson discussing the benefits of understanding where your forest is in its succession when initiating Timber Management Improvements**

Bruce reiterates continually, in his characteristically positive and gentle way, that the ultimate goal for any forest owner is to know everything there is to know about the forest. Surely that is no small endeavor! He described how density is essential in forest management, which is also referred to as the Basal Area. He challenged us to consider just how much of an acre is covered in wood and which species is most concentrated there. Density is targeted with every timber management practice and/or improvement. The forest will always respond to the conditions we make.

Always considering the animals and birds that reside in any given forest, Bruce was careful to point out a particular Basswood. This skeletal tree was hollowed out, yet purposefully left unmarked for removal as it was a perfect habitat for a plethora of wildlife. Also, he pointed out a Yellow Birch with its curling bark, it also remained untouched from the Burley's



**Chris Howard experimenting with Forester Bruce Robinson's Wedge Prism to determine basal area at the Burley woods walk.**

tunity to reforest the stands with desirable hardwoods. The pragmatic use of herbicides establishes the desirable species sought as part of the overall management program. A Fecon Mulcher is used by Corey's firm to mow the invasive species and disturb the soil to reduce re-sprouts. The cover photo shows the business end of the machine and in the foreground is the residual surface. The mower deck can be raised to cut an undesirable tree about ten feet up and the remaining stump penciled down to the soil.



**Cutting the stump down to size.**

Follow up spraying with a nonselective herbicide such as Roundup or a Roundup mix, will eliminate any sprouts and will breakdown quickly allowing for hardwood regeneration. The spray rig, a Polaris, has a 65 gallon tank capable of both boom and gun application. Backpack spraying can also be used.



**The Polaris with its 65 Gallon Tank.**

Eighteen people joined the workshop to learn methods of controlling invasive plants and gather ideas for dealing with their own invasive issues. We walked the plantations looking at the required work and watched the Mulcher mow around the scotch pine, drop an unwanted pine and chew the stump down to soil. Then the mower walks over what's left and grinds that down as well.

We walked back to the house and enjoyed a pizza lunch provided by Future Forest Consulting. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association thanks Dana and Linda for their hospitality and for a beautiful day in their woods, and Corey and his guys for holding a very educational workshop.

For further information on invasive species management, contact Corey at Future Forest Consulting, or at the website: [www.futureforestinc.com](http://www.futureforestinc.com) or Corey at 585-374-2799.

## Increasing the Value of Your Timber -

### Get Active!

by Dean Faklis

Some of us are lucky, but a large share of us own woodlots where the biggest and best trees have already been harvested. The owner that authorized that harvest is likely not a bad person and likely did not use faulty logic. They made an economic decision that they felt was correct for their family.

After all, the owner(s) had to carry the costs associated with growing those trees for a hundred years! For example, our hardwood trees have an annual growth rate of between 1-4% and maybe a third of those trees are marketable, giving an effective annual growth rate of around 1%. NY property tax, which is based on fair market value of the forested land, is now found between 3-5%. Even with proper forest management, section 480-A, and rosy assumptions, the economics of growing timber on private parcels is generally not favorable in NY today. Sometimes it's necessary to realize a gain to help pay the bills and the best trees become targets, mature or not. It's unfortunate for the health of our forests and wildlife that our property tax structure is hostile to growing timber.

But there is hope in getting active! If you're lucky and own forestland that has not been high graded and where someone else paid the carrying costs for a century, here's a high five! If you own high-graded woodlands, here's a high five to you too! For both classes of landowner, it's good to get active by putting the available annual timber growth on the best trees.

The Northeast Timber Growing Contest is designed to help improve the long-term productivity and health of small private woodlands in the northeastern forest through the engagement of landowners and forestry professionals in a process that includes education, research, technology transfer, and friendly competition. The timber contest was founded in 2013 and it grew from a recognition that many forest owners take pride and see value in growing the best quality trees possible on their property. Growing quality timber is one component of restoring the northeastern forest because it reflects success in controlling deer impacts, reducing interfering vegetation, and practicing good silviculture. The contest's website is full of great information and resources ([www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com)). **It's free and takes only four hours per year to begin to grow high quality timber!**

We'd love to help you and your family get started. For example, in the most popular contest category, sample areas are identified in the woodlot and measurements are taken of tree diameter for all trees in that sample plot. Those trees are numbered and measured annually so that annual growth can be ascertained for each tree. Based on the data, thinning decisions can be made and growth can then be focused on your best trees. It's fun (and profitable!) to grow great trees. The rules that govern the measuring, scoring and judging processes can be found at [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com).

Please note that growth of just one square foot of basal area is like adding a fresh new 14" diameter tree to your woodlot. Each of these "new trees" can have an effective value of \$100-\$200 each! Some contestants have shown that it's possible to grow five such trees in one year on one acre. With proper silviculture, you can choose what this "new tree" is...wood on high quality sugar maple sawlogs or low-value beech firewood. The contest framework helps you put the growth on your best trees and use your lower quality material for projects or heat. Let the winning trees get all the light, water and nutrients.

The timber contest is loads of fun and brings the family together in the woodlot. There are several contestants that span three generations and seeing Grandma, Grandpa and the little ones hard at work measuring trees is a delightful sight! There is still time to enter your team and your woodlands for 2018 and it only takes about four hours or less.

If there are any questions or if anyone needs help measuring trees, send me an email: [dfaklis@frontiernet.net](mailto:dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Check out the timber contest website at: [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com).

# Upcoming Events

**Note: To learn about events in neighboring chapters and across the state go to our NYFOA website's EVENTS section at**

**<https://www.nyfoa.org/events>**

## **WFL Board of Directors' Meeting**

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, is designated as our next WFL board meeting. All NYFOA members are welcome! Meeting time is set for 7 p.m. with a pre-meeting dinner at 6:15 p.m. Please join us at the American Hotel located at the stop light in Lima, NY. No RSVP needed, just come!

## **ATTENTION: WFL Annual Meeting HAS A NEW DATE**

Please update your calendar to save **Wednesday, October 10, 2018**, for our Annual Dinner Meeting for the Western Finger Lakes Chapter. (The previous date was 10/17/18; however, scheduling problems caused us to have to change the date.) We are fortunate to have Ed Harding as our speaker for this year. While digging a post hole in his backyard in May of 2012, he uncovered a projectile point dating some 3,500 years old. Thus began his archaeological dig that continues to this day.

Tickets are \$24.00 per person. Although the actual total dinner price is \$28.00, for each dinner ticket you buy, WFL Chapter will kick in the extra \$4.00. We value each and every attendee and hope to be able to continue with this tradition of supplementing the dinner cost for as long as possible.

We encourage all WFL members to attend and we graciously welcome all members' friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy an evening of delicious food, opportunities to make new contacts, and to take home some great door prizes and raffle items. A great time is always had by all.



**Some of our 2017 Door Prizes on display.**

Please send checks for \$24.00 per attendee to Dick Starr, 231 Farmview Drive, Macedon, NY 14502 by Wednesday October 3, 2018.

## **A note about finances -**

The main responsibility of the board of directors is to arrange programs that advance our organization's goals while being responsible with our finances. The amount we charge members for the annual dinner each year is a topic of much debate for our board and so we thought we should share some information about our financial situation and how we arrived at the amount we are charging this year.

Many organizations use an annual dinner as a fundraising event. We have always viewed our annual dinner as an opportunity for the organization to give something back to our membership, and as such we have always subsidized attendance. Back in 2006, the first year we had a dinner meeting, the chapter paid \$25/plate to the caterer, and charged members only \$15 to attend. At that time we had no idea how popular the event would be, and so took our best guess at what to charge.

*(Continued on page 14)*



**Our 2017 Annual Meeting, In Progress**

The location will be at the Monseigneur Schnacky Community Center at the Saint Catherine of Siena Church, 26 Mendon Ionia Road, Mendon, NY 14506. Meet and greet begins at 5 p.m. with dinner beginning promptly at 6 p.m. Brad Stevenson of Laurier Catering will once again grace us with his superb cuisine as in years past.

(Continued from page 13)

The event has proven more popular than we had dared to hope, which is good news. But it soon became obvious that we could not afford to pay \$10 per person from the chapter treasury every year – with 80 attendees, that amounts to \$800 just for the meals. We also have other expenses to cover, such as the rental of the dining hall and speakers' dinners and travel expenses.

Unfortunately, our two main sources of income have not kept pace with our expenses. A portion of your \$45 annual membership fee paid to the statewide NYFOA organization is returned to the chapter, but it is significant that the return to the chapter has remained flat even as your annual dues have increased. Our other main revenue source in years past was the sale of tree tubes, but these sales have fallen off recently and we have not found another steady source of income to replace them.

The \$5 rebate the state sends us for each member roughly covers our costs to print and mail our newsletter. We have to find other revenue to cover the costs of our meetings and woodswalks.

And so over the years we have reduced the subsidy for our members' dinners, and we have also introduced other ways to make the dinner financially viable. We now raffle a Stihl chainsaw each year (generously donated by our regional Stihl representative Dan Ras) and also have a 50/50 raffle. With these changes, the annual dinner usually comes close to breaking even, and sometimes generates a small profit, and we are able to continue to offer the high level of quality that we have heard members want. We re-evaluate these decisions each year in light of our current financial condition and the costs of the event: Should we continue to subsidize the dinner for members? Should we do more to raise money during the event? Should we switch to a lower-priced meal? We appreciate getting feedback from members about what they want from the organization.

The WFL board continues to do its best to balance interesting programs with fiscal responsibility. If you have any questions or comments about how the chapter is run, you can ask any board member (contact information is in each newsletter and at <https://www.nyfoa.org/chapters/western-finger-lakes>), you can ask questions at the dinner (which also serves as our annual business meeting) or you can attend any board meeting (dates and locations are announced in the newsletter).

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## GAME OF LOGGING

**Level 1 December 4**

**Level 2 December 5**

**Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse Woodlot  
3010 Esperanza Rd  
Bluff Point, NY 14478**

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and the WFL Chapter of NYFOA are cosponsoring the Game of Logging, Levels 1 and 2. Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse's have graciously offered their woodlot in Yates County for both days of the event.

Contact Pauline Boyer at NYCAMH by calling 1-800-343-7527, for course details and to sign up for the program, or email her at [chainsawsafety@bassett.org](mailto:chainsawsafety@bassett.org). NYCAMH manages the registration for the events and will provide all the necessary information to register and attend.

Cost for each day of the program is \$25. Other programs are scheduled around the state and Pauline will be able to provide information on those.

The Game of Logging provides hands-on chainsaw safety training. Bill Lindloff, the GOL trainer, will teach both days of the course. The Level 1 course focuses on open face felling, personal protective safety equipment, saw safety and features bore cutting, pre-planning and hinge wood strength, and involves each participant felling a tree under the trainer's guidance.

Level 2 focuses on saw performance; saw adjustments, and the introduction of limbing and bucking, along with the hands on experience. For details on the various Levels of chainsaw training and other training programs offered by the GOL, visit their site at [www.gameoflogging.com](http://www.gameoflogging.com) or call at 1-800-252-2502.

Please note: This event as well as other GOL offerings are listed at <https://www.nyfoa.org/events>.

## March General Meeting Trail Cameras

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

We are excited to invite John Hammer to be our speaker at our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, **2019**, at 7 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471. John, a Yates County Master Forest Owner Volunteer (MFO) since 2009, he lives in Middlesex with his wife Linda. They own a hundred acre, mostly forested farm on a hilltop southeast of Naples. His goal for his woods was deer hunting and recreation with his children and grandchildren who all live nearby. He is active in Quality Deer Management (QDM) initiatives. As he pursued his interests in his woodlots and volunteering as an MFO, he developed a keen curiosity in trail cameras. Now a hobby-passion, John has 30 cameras, as of this writing, between his Naples farm and 16-acre home woodlot. With a camera for every 4 acres, it's difficult for a critter (or a human) to walk through his woods without getting their picture taken!

Please come and join us for this delightful and comprehensive presentation. He is truly knowledgeable in all things trail cameras! Plenty of time for questions and please stay for our delicious refreshments.

# 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, jcmi-nor@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 Nestboxes, \$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.

**For Sale:** Steel Tree/Pole Climbers, contoured and offset with snap-on Gaff Guards. Lightweight Nylon Body Belt with D-Rings and Pole Strap,

OSHA Standards. See photo below. \$200 for both. Contact Dale at 585-367-2849 .



**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.



**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  
 Gifto'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. \_\_\_\_\_  
 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)



**New York Forest Owners Association**

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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2018

Volume 32, Number 3



## Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ **Wednesday, October 3rd** - WFL Board Meeting\*
- ◆ **Wednesday, October 10th** - WFL Annual Members' Meeting\*
- ◆ **Tuesday, December 4th** - Game of Logging, Level 1\*
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 5th** - Game of Logging, Level 2\*
- ◆ **Tuesday, March 12th, 2019** - General Meeting: Trail Cameras\*

\* See inside for details

WFL Steering Committee Director Greg Lessord and his wife, Kathy, have been busy this Spring building a lean-to. Here's the end results after 9 days of effort. Read about the project from start to finish on Page 3.

**Note:** For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe to our email list by sending a blank email to-

[nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npgroups.org](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npgroups.org)