

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2019

Volume 33, Number 3

NEW ENERGY WORKS PIONEER MILL WORKS

Plant Tour

July 11, 2019

by Peter Muench

New Energy provides architectural design, timber framing, enclosure systems, construction, fine woodworking, and recycled wood products. The New York Shop and its Sister Facility in Oregon provide services for clients all over North America. The Pioneer Mill works produces a variety of products including reclaimed barn wood, reclaimed and sustainable engineered wood and sustainably harvested fresh-sawn wood from forests managed to FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) standards.

Ten people turned out for a walk through the Farmington facilities on a hot, muggy July afternoon. This smaller number provided more opportunity for questions and made it easier to hear the information from the representative.

Perhaps the highlight of the tour was the first cross-laminated timber (CLT) building in New York, housing the fine woodworking shop. The shop was formerly located in Shortsville but was moved to this location in 2015. They do not manufacture CLT's, but the support structure and structural insulated panels that enclose it were examined and discussed.

The tree in the photo is supporting the CLT running the length of the building.

Both sides of the business do both residential and commercial work and should be considered when thinking of projects. They have an excellent website at newenergyworks.com, take a look, and enjoy.



photo by the author

Inside the Mill Works

Welcome New Members

David Baker	Honeoye
Cathy & Bill Garrett	Honeoye
Will Kim	Canandaigua
John Koster	Canandaigua
Eric Kurta & Cheryl Stinerock	Canadice
Bob Mosich	Penn Yan
Mark Obbie	Canandaigua
Rebecca & Peter Parshall	Naples
WJ Rodenhouse	Pittsford

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

Also note that other chapters' newsletters are also available for reading in their chapter's sections on the NYFOA web site.

About Us

NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2019 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

David Deuel, Director
3236 Telephone Rd.
Caledonia, NY 14423
(585) 226-2952
dsdeuel@gmail.com

Nick Jensen, Director and Annual Meeting Coordinator
51 E. Market Street
P.O. Box 1424
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 936-3785 Ext 156
jensenn@jgwa.com

Greg Lessord, Director and Chapter-Designated Representative to the State Board
449 Hubbell Rd.
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 703-8513
buckslyergs@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
colettemorabito57@gmail.com

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

Mike Seager, Director and Electronic Communications Coordinator
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.

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 Winter 2019 issue is November 15th

Real Property Tax Law Presentation

May 14, 2019

by Nick Jensen

On the evening of May 14th we were treated to a presentation at the United Church of Christ in Honeoye. Nick Jensen, a recent addition to our Board of Directors, presented on the topic of Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) in New York State. The presentation provided a general overview, including why we should focus on property tax, what it pays for, the organizational structure of RPTL governance, how tax rates and tax levies are calculated, and how the RPTL is structured.

The second half of the presentation delved into private property tax exemptions. Most NYFOA members are familiar with 480(a) "Forest Tax Law" because much attention has been paid to it and changes proposed to it. Nick's presentation focused on several other property tax exemptions that impact far more property owners than 480(a) ever will. These include; §425 School Tax Relief (STAR), §458 Veterans' Exemption, §459 Disability Exemption, §467 Senior Citizens Exemption, and §483 Agricultural Exemption. The materials provided included specific information and helpful hyperlinks on each of these exemptions. It also included a real example of a

property tax bill that benefitted from the Agricultural Tax Exemption. Finally Nick provided side-by-side summary participation data for these exemptions for each county in the WFL Chapter of NYFOA.

A copy of the PDF version of Nick's presentation complete with working Hyperlinks can be found at <http://jgua.com/RPTL-NickJensen>



photo credit: Colette Morabito

The author giving his presentation.

Northeast Timber Growing Contest Workshop

by Eileen Schaefer

Friday May 24, Dave & Colette Morabito, Chris Howard, Stephen Groet, and Jim Zavislan gathered at Dale & Eileen Schaefer's with Dean Faklis to discover what's required to join the Northeast Timber Growing Contest Dean and Peter Smallidge created.

The contest was designed to help woodland owners learn about and improve the productivity and health of their woodlands. Woodland owners learn how their trees grow, how to grow them faster and what makes trees healthy. The competition is friendly and creates an educational experience. Participants learn how to use measuring tools and technologies to improve the forest.

Dean instructed the group on how to select trees in their woods, tag those trees and track changes in growth from one year to the next with simple measurements. There is no minimum acreage; however measurement plots need to be set up. There are categories for hardwoods and conifers. We used a diameter tape to measure DBH (diameter at breast height) of all trees in each plot. The measurements are recorded on tally sheets that indicate if any growth has taken place over last year's measurements. Dale commented that he was more comfortable choosing which trees might need to be cut in a plot when he has proof that little or no growth has taken



photo credit: Colette Morabito

Dean Faklis, right of center, explains some of the principles of tree selection and measurement to participants.

place for a few years.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Northeast Timber Growing Contest, check out the website www.TimberContest.com for more information. As always, it was fun to spend time in the woods with everyone and that is one of the requirements of the contest. Have fun!

Greenwood Stick Farm

By John R. Greenwood

I own and operate the Greenwood Stick Farm here in the foothills of the Adirondacks. It's a quarter acre farm speckled with a dozen or more maple trees. They vary in height, girth, and degree of decay. Decay is a friend of the Stick Farmer—it provides a never-ending crop.

I became involved in Stick Farming back in the early 60s on my friend's property high atop "The Hill" in my hometown of Greenfield Center. It was one of the largest Stick Farms in Upstate NY. It consisted of acre upon acre of mature old maples whose branches seemed to rain down in an endless downpour of cracks, snaps, and crashes. Stick Farming on the "The Hill" required the involvement of all family members. Outside stick-pickers were subcontracted at a fair wage. The older more tenured stick-pickers (big brothers) had the more cushy job. They got to drive the pickup around collecting the harvested stick piles. The fun started when the truck bed was full (this was a subjective call), and the pickers got to jump in the back and ride the side-rail down the hill to the "Pile." Unloading a freshly harvested crop of sticks is a lot more fun than loading, and the ride back to the stick-pasture was more exciting. It in-

evitably included a spinout followed by a gravel-spitting run up the back driveway. It was the most fun a boy could have growing up. Stick Farming and Leaf Harvesting provided me with more blisters and enjoyment than you could ever write a check for. I relive those wonderful memories every time I drive by "The Hill."

The Greenwood Stick Farm is much smaller and less exciting. I still enjoy the sight and smell of a post-storm maple-stick crop. The farm is in good hands. My grandson Caleb has inherited the stick-farmer gene. The first thing he does when he gets to the farm is open the barn (cluttered garage) and pull out his John Deere. Within minutes he's happily harvesting the current crop of sticks. Endless circles around the yard reveal sticks of every proportion. The lawn smiles greenly as the weight of the world is lifted from its shoulders.

When my son asked why Caleb was so eager to help his grandfather harvest sticks, but seemed disinterested in harvesting in his own backyard, I gladly explained. My sticks are organic and grow naturally. The sticks in his yard were the result of a chainsaw-wielding father who became addicted to the roar of his Husqvarna and didn't know when to say when. Those sticks are less brittle. The feel and texture are not the same as those grown and harvested naturally via Mother Nature. A true Stick Farmer knows and appreciates the difference.

I want to share one last sentiment. Life is pretty special. The news that gurgles up these days would make you think otherwise. There comes a time in the day or week where we have to disengage our minds from the madness and chaos that seems as endless as a crop of sticks. If we don't we will have missed the point of this journey. Whether you derive joy from painting a landscape, riding a Harley, reeling in a brook trout, or walking your dog, it's important to savor it like a July Popsicle. Happiness doesn't need to include Disney or a Carnival Cruise. A pause on the way to the mailbox to linger on the sight and sound of a passing flock of geese can soften a bad day. Wisdom doesn't come from age, it comes from those little non-distinct pauses we take and how we absorb them.

An old stick farmer once told me that happiness can come before, during, or after a storm. It might even show up during all three. The anticipation of a crack of thunder can heighten the senses. Viewing a lightning strike across the field can make you appreciate the fact you're in the safety of your home. The rainbow that follows and the sight of a robin yanking up a juicy worm from the soggy side-yard should make you glad to be alive. The resulting blanket of fresh sticks strewn across your property should have you stomping in the puddles and smiling like a kid. If not, you may have missed a turn. Go back and start again. Happy stick pickin'!



Caleb and his John Deere Tractor hard at work

Upcoming DryShod Boot Raffle

by Greg Lessord

As you are no doubt aware from the previous 2 issues of this newsletter, the WFL board has elected to **hold a raffle** for a pair of DryShod boots. The winner will receive a voucher which will be good for ANY pair of his / her choice. And there are a LOT of choices.

Many of you have already purchased raffle tickets and we wish to thank you for your support.

Tickets are **one chance for \$5.00 or three chances for \$10.00**. The aforementioned issues have copies of the raffle tickets and more tickets will be available at our October 9th dinner prior to the drawing. Winning ticket will be drawn at the October 9th Annual Dinner meeting. Winner need not be present to win.

To enter, fill in your information (see previous 2 issues) and send your ticket(s) along with your check payable to NYFOA to:

**NYFOA Boot Raffle
Director Greg Lessord
449 Hubbell Rd.
Spencerport, NY 14459**

In the meantime we encourage you to visit the DryShod website and/or visit a dealer near you. Better yet, attend any chapter event (bring some friends) and check out the sample in person.

GOOD LUCK!

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

We thank our members for their support and ask them to consider one more area that would greatly help the efforts to improve our ability to enhance, and expand chapter programs. Some of you can do this just by your normal online purchases at Amazon.

You simply need to register your purchases through SMILE.AMAZON.COM and listing NYFOA as your choice to contribute through the Amazon Smile Foundation. It does not affect your purchase price, and 1/2 of 1% of your online purchase will benefit NYFOA in their efforts to provide more value for our members. Thank you for your consideration!

∞ Upcoming Events ∞

Note: For possible updates to these meetings and 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>

Joint Woodswalk (WFL and AFC)

Saturday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m.
6067 White Creek Road
Friendship, NY 14711

Bruce Robinson, Consulting Forester, will be leading the woods walk.

Light breakfast refreshments served before we venture into the woods. Some walking required—wear proper shoes or boots; dress for the weather. At the conclusion of the woods walk, please stay for lunch. Feel free to cook yourself a hot dog over an open fire with s'mores for dessert.

"High-grading is a *natural* phenomena in all woodlots. It has been so intentionally perfected beyond the natural in private forests, however, that we consider it to be

universally negative. In reality, high grading is well established in a developing forest long before the first commercial cutting. We will look at several stages of a forest, including seedlings, saplings, small poles, large poles, and several size classes of sawtimber. In addition to forest stages we will look at how different species cope: from the tenacious bully beech to the 'I'm out of here early succession losers'. Time elements must be considered, especially learning how this affects *all woodlots*. Putting all of this together enables efficient intervention in our woodlots. When is releasing effective? Are we considering the whole forest with every action, or are we satisfied to 'take care of that sucker that was thought to be so offensive'? Are there target species that should not appear in any woodlot, thus deserving to be universally attacked? What are acceptable growing stock trees and what universal stocking level(s) should apply?

Understanding high grading is just one more tool in managing a forest stand. The same low, natural fork that allowed a tree to out-compete its neighbors could have been identified and removed with a pruning shear, or

(Continued on page 6)

(Upcoming Events - Continued from page 5)

later a long-handled lopper, or later yet a chain saw. The untreated tree is skipped during harvest because its quality 'doesn't cut it'. It increases in size and dominance. When sufficient numbers exist, we might even blame high grading for degrading a stand.

Cutting is the most expedient method of reversing high grading. Learning how to cut poor trees which *directly* benefit the residual is key. If nothing else, we will learn to reward laziness and justify neglect!"

Any questions, please call David or Colette Morabito at 585/248-0654

WFL Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, is designated as our next board meeting. All NYFOA members are welcome! Meeting time is set for 7 p.m. with pre-meeting meal 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!

Annual WFL Chapter Dinner **October 9, 2019**

Please join us for a great evening of friends, sumptuous food, memories, door prizes, raffles and an interesting program. Wednesday October 9th at the Monsignor Schnacky Community Center of St. Catherine's of Sienna Church at 26 Mendon Ionia Road (Rt 64) in Mendon. Doors open at 4:30, appetizers start at 5:00 with dinner at 6:00. The large parking lot is well illuminated and the building handicap accessible. Door prize donations gladly accepted.

The evening's program is Dennis Money discussing the famous white deer herd at the former Seneca Army Depot. The title of his presentation is "What Lies Beyond the Fence? The Story of the Seneca Army Depot". Pete Muench, our Outdoor Activities Coordinator, has arranged a WFL tour of the facility. See Pete's article elsewhere in this issue.

Brad Stevenson of Laurier Catering will once again grace us with his superb cuisine offerings. **Advance registration is required. Please send a check for \$25/person made out to "Dick Starr/WFL" at 231 Farmview Drive, Macedon, NY 14502 by Wednesday October 2nd.**

At the registration table guests can purchase tickets for a 50/50 raffle, a new Stihl chain saw and a pair of new DryShod boots. We're also trying a new wrinkle for order of door prize selection. Guests wishing to be in the "door prize dance" will select a number at the registration table. This number, not your name, will determine the order of door prize selection.

WHITE DEER TOUR **Seneca Army Depot** **Romulus NY** **October 19, 2019**

The former Seneca Army Depot is home to the world's largest all white, white-tailed deer herd. Our Annual dinner on October 9th will have a presentation on that herd and the Depot overall. A tour of the facility, to see first-hand, the deer, management activities and what was discussed at the dinner, is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th at 10AM. They have a great website at www.senecawhitedeer.org.

The tour will be on two buses, each with a guide, and will take an hour and a half or maybe just a little more. There is a 20-dollar charge for each person, payable at the door, and space is limited to 39 people. This will be on a first come first serve basis, and we are asking people to sign up with our Activities Coordinator so we know how many will attend.

Please arrive at 9:30, I (Peter Muench) will be there to collect the 20-dollar fee, check you off on our list, and answer questions. That will allow the tour to start at 10AM.

The tour will begin at the John and Josephine Ingle Welcome Center, 5479 NY Route 96A, Romulus NY, which is the West side of the facility, and flags mark the building so it will be easy to find. **You can sign up with our Outdoor Activities Coordinator, Peter Muench at 585-737-7172, either text or phone, or by email at munchme.444@gmail.com.**

Game of Logging 2019

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association has co-sponsored the Game of Logging with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH). Subsidies provided by
(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

NYCAMH and sites WFL has cosponsored the Game of Logging over the past several years with NYCAMH, the New York Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health. NYCAMH is in the process of scheduling the various games around the State and should have a program by late August.

This year's Games will include Level 1 and maybe Level 2, in the Finger Lakes Region, and WFL will again be cosponsoring those activities. The schedule information will be available later than publication deadlines for this newsletter but as soon as the dates are established they will be posted on our website, www.nyfoa.org. The information will also be available from NYCAMH, 800-343-7527. Or you can contact me, Peter Muench, at 585-736-7172.

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 (\$6.50/\$7.00). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

PLEASE NOTE: Space permitting, the WFL Board of Directors 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

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) tax exempt 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



New York Forest Owners Association

Post Office Box 541, Lima, NY 14485

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, NY
PERMIT NO.32

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2019

Volume 33, Number 3



photo credit: Dick Starr

**Tony Ross, Dave Deuel & Laura Bailey representing
NYFOA at this summer's Empire Farm Days in
Seneca Falls**

Mark Your Calendar

- ♦ **Saturday, September 14** - Joint Woodswalk*
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 2** - WFL Board of Directors' Meeting*
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 9** - WFL Annual Chapter Dinner*
- ♦ **Saturday, October 19** - White Deer Tour at Seneca Army Depot*

* 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