

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2022

Volume 36, Number 1

WFL Leadership Transition

By Mike Seager

The WFL chapter board of directors has been remarkably stable for many years. While some members have left the board and been replaced by new faces, our chairman, Dick Starr, has been in that role for 16 years. After that long tenure, Dick has finally decided to step aside. We will miss him greatly.

Under Dick's steady leadership, the Western Finger Lakes chapter has consistently been one of the premier NYFOA chapters. We have more members than any other chapter, as well as more events and more attendance at our events. We also have an excellent newsletter, due in large part to the many articles Dick has written on a wide range of topics. Our annual dinner began under Dick's tenure and, before being derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, grew to be our chapter's flagship event and one of the most popular events in all of NYFOA. We hope to resume the dinner tradition next year, and we will miss Dick's guidance in organizing it. We will even miss (sort of) the jokes he tells in his role as emcee.

Like most volunteer organizations, NYFOA as a whole and the WFL chapter are always searching for volunteers to help keep things running. Some chapters have suffered significant setbacks in their activity when key volunteers step down. We - the rest of the WFL board - are committed to making sure that doesn't happen in our case. We have reassigned Dick's responsibilities among several people - yes, it takes several people to fill Dick's big shoes - and we are confident that our meetings, woodswalks and other activities will continue as usual. With that said, we are always looking for help, so if you would like to explore the possibility of getting more involved, feel free to get in touch with any board member. Our contact information is listed on the second page of this newsletter.

While Dick will no longer be on the WFL board of directors, he will still be an active member of the chapter. When you see him at events in the future, take a moment to thank him for all he has done for the chapter. After so many years at the helm he has surely earned all of our gratitude.



Wanted: Your input on 480a revisions

By Mike Seager

"480a" refers to a section of New York State property tax law that offers owners of forest land significant property tax reductions in exchange for abiding by some restrictions on how they manage their woodlots. A process to update these regulations has been under way for more than three years.

NYFOA is encouraging members to offer their input to the Proposed 480a Regulations. The web site with the relevant information is at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/125735.html>

The website contains a link to the "Rulemaking document", which contains the details of the proposed changes. The Rulemaking document is titled "proposed199.pdf". When you read the document it is helpful to know that bracketed [] words or sentences represent deletions, while underlined parts are additions.

The public comment period ends on September 19, 2022. Two online/phone hearings will take place on September 13, 2022. The website contains instructions on how you can participate in either/both of the 1 PM or 6 PM meetings.

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The *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner* is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the youngsters of today. For information on becoming an NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$45 and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, The New York Forest Owner; attendance at chapter meetings; and to statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level \$50-\$99; Sponsor level \$100-\$249; Benefactor \$250-\$499; and Steward \$500 or more are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe **to our email list** by sending a blank email to nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org

Note: The deadline for the Winter 2022 issue is November 15

MFO News You Can Use

By Greg Lessord

The Master Forest Owners volunteer program is seeing a major uptick in woodland visit requests. It is spurred mainly by the direct marketing of Peter Smallidge and company of sending postcards directly to a multitude of woodland owners alerting them of this great no cost opportunity.

An MFO volunteer will walk your property with you, gleaning much information from you and your land. What do you currently have, what would you like to have in the future, is it recreational property, would you like to harvest timber, make some maple syrup, provide song bird habitat, establish hiking/ ATV / snow skiing trails, learn how to choose firewood trees. Do you want to protect it from development, hand it down through family generations. Maybe learn tree, invasive species and wildflower identification. How important is knowing and maintaining your boundaries. What is the current make up of the woodland, how diverse are the species, what is the lands history. That is a small sampling.

By the end of the visit the MFO volunteer will have garnered enough information from you to help steer you toward your next step(s). Often some of the resources you may need are available free of charge be it printed, electronic or a visit from a DEC service forester. Others may come with a small fee or significant cost such as a consulting forester or estate planning.

Probably the most significant aspect of the program is that the volunteers are your peers. Most likely they started out in your shoes and struggled with finding the right people, the right resources, the right equipment just as I once did.

Kathy and I worked often on our land after we purchased it. We did what we thought made sense but were never sure. Were we doing more harm than good?

During one trip to a farm show I happened upon this NYFOA booth. After some engaging conversation and an invite to a woodswalk and then another and then an "Are you familiar with the MFO program?", "Why no, what's that all about?". Two MFO volunteers came to walk our land.

Fast forward a dozen years. Initial stewardship plan provided by a DEC service forester, successful timber harvest utilizing a consulting forester who subsequently updated stewardship plan and we enrolled in the 480a tax program, certified as a NY tree farm, EQIP funding to improve four of our forest stands, invasive species management, wildlife habitat improvements, long time members of NYFOA, a board member and a new appreciation of the land.

I have been an MFO volunteer several years now. Each visit I go on is always a look back to where we were and thankful to the NYFOA folk who asked "Are you familiar with the MFO program?".

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Every woodland owner's circumstances are unique. The MFO program's goal is to get you started down the path that will help you achieve your goals. MFO volunteers are initially trained by Cornell including course materials and field training. There are refresher courses to keep volunteers up to date.

On June 16th I attended a refresher course held in Silver Springs on the property of Eric Randolph and his sister. There they operate a sugarbush with in excess of 20 miles of tubing. Yikes! Peter Smallidge was our lead instructor.

I was pleased to see Dan Tresholavy who has land in Monroe county. I went on an MFO visit to Dan and his family's property a couple years ago. Dan is now a new volunteer for Monroe county and already signed up for multiple landowner visits. Hats off to you, Dan.

This is where I got to meet Lexie Davis in person for the first time. Lexie is the Natural Resources and Watershed Educator at CCE Yates county and the new NW Regional Director of Master Forest Owner Volunteers. You can contact Lexie at abd97@cornell.edu and in the office at 315-536-5100 x 4127.

Lexie's background includes a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental science and ecology in which her thesis investigated multiple management tactics for several invasive species in the Finger Lakes Region. She has worked for Letchworth State Park, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Allegheny National Forest.

Welcome aboard Lexie! And if you hadn't already surmised, on this day she taught us everthing about invasive species. Did you know garlic mustard take two years to develop and year one leaves look nothing like the mature plant? But there they both were skulking along the forest edge.



Garlic mustard year one, biding it's time until next spring.

And on this day we did hear the trees fall. Saw them too! With so many dead ash everywhere we must all learn to be cognizant of what's around us in the woods, ash or otherwise.

On this day we were going through the steps of tree identification when approximately 200 feet away over topples a dead tree of about 6" dbh. Trust me, that would have left a mark, or a splat. A short time later we were near where the tree fell practicing with our Biltmore sticks when back where we had just been down comes a large canopy limb. Trust me, that would've left a mark, or a splat. When the tree fell there was no panic but a near instant and in unison chorus of "If a tree falls in the forest and". Gosh, tree people are an odd bunch.

Woods Walk Presentation by Drone of Arc

By Colette and David Morabito

On Saturday, July 30, we had perfect weather for a non-walking woods walk at our camp in Allegany County. Retired military veteran, Michael "Tuck" Tucker presented a point of view for forest management that did not include boots on the ground. The birds eye view of a property was the focal point of the discussion. It was a fascinating way to consider and see how we "look" at our woodlots with all the many different tree stands, points of interest, boundary lines, trails, insect invasions, and the list goes on as each of our properties are so unique. We cannot underestimate the assistance that drone technology can provide to forest owners. We were a solid two dozen people who enjoyed a picnic lunch over a campfire, plenty of sunshine, and a lot of camaraderie.

Drone owners and users must comply with a host of rules and regulations based on the size of the drone, location of their use, weather conditions, and wildlife precautions. There is a wide range of costs associated in purchasing a drone. They come in a host of different sizes: from a small hobbyist size to camera mounted, commercially licensed drones. Battery power was limited to around 30 minutes on Tuck's

drone. The FAA has many restrictions which require licenses for those folks who use drones as a form of income. Tuck has had over 210 flights/missions with his drones with no accidents to date. Although we had a breezy day, the filming images provided by the drone were clear and without any bumpy recordings-this thanks to a gyro installed in the drone. Tuck provided us with a large television screen to experience first-hand what the drone was filming from overhead. You must always have a visual of your drone while it is flying. This could get complicated with leafed out forest trees in some instances. Winter filming might be the best time to actually see through the forest canopy.



Michael "Tuck" Tucker of Drone of Arc explains the particulars of his drone and the controller for forest applications.

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We could all benefit from drone technology. As simply as acquiring an aerial view of your property for esthetics purposes, such as a photograph to hang in your house. Other benefits that drones can offer can be profound. If you want to acquire insurance on your wooded property for any potential casualty loss, before and after photos of disturbances can be used to your advantage. Without getting into too much political debate, carbon credits are on the horizon. Therefore, having tangible photos of your property can be advantageous for forest owners. Problems with trespassers, this technology could be a real asset in seeing where the problem occurs as well as improving your land survey/boundary lines. Tuck is presently involved with an archaeological dig, the NYS Canal Authority for visual documentation of work on the canal, and the filming/photos of an erosion/flood issue, to name a few.

The actual demonstration of the drone was both amazing and mind-boggling. Looking and sounding like a large futuristic bug, the drone worked like magic. It allowed us to visualize in fantastic, clear detailed views, our property from high overhead. The controller looks very similar to what kids (and many adults) use with their video gaming systems at home.



Tuck's drone taking off. We marveled at its size, sound, and the clear images it relayed to the TV screen.



Here is a photo of the TV screen displaying the image as seen through the camera of the drone.

Several guests took turns trying out controlling the drone. Drone technology just might be one of the most important investments to your woodlot management. People like Tuck who specialize in drones are responsible, knowledgeable, and professional. Using a licensed drone operator rather than purchasing a drone of your own, might just be the best solution of both your time and wallet. As stated earlier, perhaps using a drone to photograph your property, precisely where and when you desire, will give you great satisfaction. A tangible image of your beloved land placed over your fireplace mantle for all to enjoy.

A Little of This, A Little of That

By Greg Lessord

As I write this in July it has been 19 years since Kathy and I moved onto our 81 acre property in Ogden, Monroe county. For the preceding 12 years I had taken care of the land for the elderly couple who lived there keeping the tractor lanes and fallow fields mowed. We hunted there. I had been around the land since I was a kid and witnessed it's progression which unfortunately included the advance of numerous invasive plants and more unfortunate was the fact that until we owned it, we couldn't begin a heartfelt war on those dastardly things.

As a Cornell trained Master Forest Owner volunteer I have the privilege to walk many properties with the landowner(s). I am always excited at what new things I discover. Some places have been fortunate enough to be at the beginning stage of invasive species encroachment. A couple small multi-flora rose here, a privet there, bush honeysuckles not yet big enough to bear their endless quantities of berries.

While I urge the landowner(s) to make invasive work a priority in those cases I can only hope they take my suggestion to heart. If treated immediately and diligently looking for any new sprouts I am sure they won't be where Kathy and I are at now any time soon.

So up on my soapbox for 30 seconds. You lucky people, DO NOT DELAY! If you have children, teach them how to identify common invasives, make it a game to see who can find, cut, pull, dig up the most and award prizes. You'll thank me later. Ok, I'll get down now.

At this point Kathy and I choose an area and attempt (very important choice of word) to eliminate every invasive we can find. Perspective changes dramatically. Walk an area E to W, W to E, N to S, S to N. I'll bet you will see, like we do, how many things you miss if you walk the same direction time after time. Not only do we find more invasives (BOO) but we are often rewarded with an oak seedling, Jack in the Pulpit, trillium, maybe a salamander, etc. (yea!).

Each spring we return and look for all those seed bank sprouts and quite often larger plants we somehow missed in the previous year's ATTEMPT.

We are always amazed after just a couple years how well the natives respond to the extra sunlight and lack of competition. The annual maintenance becomes much easier and we pick a new area to attack.

So pick your battles, don't try to do too much at once, make your goals attainable and with each small success you will feel that much more rewarded and eager for the next challenge.

I had heard years back that if a fenced in area was small enough the fence need not be too high to make deer feel uncomfortable to enter. Four feet would be sufficient. Soooo..... four enclosures later, three with

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4' plastic or welded wire and one 5' with 4 strands of repurposed barbed wire spaced 1' apart, we deem this rumor true.

The smaller ones are approximately 15 x 15, 10 x 20 and 15 x 25 feet. The larger 5' tall is around 20 x 75 feet. These are protecting choke cherry, hazelnut, witchhazel, dogwoods, elderberry, young plum trees and more.

One huge surprise came this summer in the 5' corral. Butternut trees are some distance in either direction from the enclosure. The nuts I'm sure were not wind blown and yet there they are 25-30 butternut seedlings. Good job squirrels! Now a future dilemma, dig up and transplant elsewhere? I fear that allowing too many to attain any appreciable size in that small of an area will soon begin shading out our shrub layer. And where to transplant them?



Oak seedling box made from basswood lumber off our property

I will already need to find homes for 130 white oak seedlings. Two falls ago I collected a half of a 5 gallon pail worth of white oak acorns from a couple different trees. I set the pail in the garage and forgot about them. One day I noticed in the black pail in the dark garage sprouts were everywhere. I set to making two wooden raised beds and spaced out the

nuts to fit the space. Nearly two years and 130 seedlings later.....

Riddle me this #1: We have or had green and white ash. One day last year I saw a seedling in one of Kathy's flower beds behind the house. This year at over 6 feet tall it screamed "ash" but then again not. I contacted DEC forester Gary Koplun who looked at it, took photos and went off to research it. I did my research and when we compared findings it is believed to be a European ash species we concurred upon. So how did the seed get to the house foundation to germinate and where did it originate from?

Riddle me this #2: At our property in the North Country I triple girdled multiple beech trees. By girdle I mean 12" dbh trees cut 2" deep with chainsaw 3 times. I had beech survive girdle attempts before so these then also had those girdles cut into 360° "felling notches". Two years later I felled them. Why? you ask. Because they all had complete lush full crowns. Do these things have an automated check valve that switched capillary action to the heartwood?

When EAB was on our doorstep and canopy die back was becoming evident and the ash were being cut for firewood and saw timber the stumps were sprouting profusely and we had many young saplings. Now for

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the last couple years any trees we've cut have had little to no foliage and stump sprouting is a thing of the past.

Fortunately a robust seed bank has been germinating and while we have thousands of great looking seedlings and saplings will any survive the long haul? Let's hope a solution is found.

Lastly, an observation I shared earlier this year with Gary Koplun. As the invasives are quick to green up and easy to target in the spring but later on as natives were greening up also I could still pick out from a distance and start aiming the pruners at the bad guys quite easily. I became aware of the subtle differences in the shades of green between the different species and how the light plays off of them. Makes for more efficient "hunting in the late season".



Even this was not enough to kill 12"dbh beech after 2 years

480a (Continued from page 2)

The proposed date the regulations are to go into effect is March 1, 2023.

You can comment by sending an email to bslmregs@dec.ny.gov. Include "Comments on Proposed Part 199" in the subject line of the email. You can also comment by using traditional USPS mail by sending your letter to Jason Drobnack, NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7254

Michelle Scutt's Recipe for Health

- One Clean Quart Mason Jar
- 10 **Bulbs** of Garlic finely chopped/minced
- Local Honey

Fill a clean jar with the minced garlic. Finish by filling the jar with local honey. Mix it well. Let it rest in your refrigerator for 24 hours.

Take a tablespoon of the mixture daily, for a 10-day cycle. Repeat every three months. Always be sure to store the jar in your refrigerator. Chewing this concoction is not recommended. Best to swallow it down whole with your morning coffee chaser. Cheers to good health and an improved immune system.

Second Annual Garlic Braiding Tutorial

By Colette Morabito

Well, you can imagine that the Second Annual Garlic Braiding tutorial at Harmony Acres Garlic Farm in Mount Morris was an aromatic and wholesome event. All seven of us garlic lovers were braiding garlic in no time. With Michelle Scutt's expert and good-natured instruction, we were all able to complete our 12 bulb braids with delicious results. This year the weather was glorious. We were set up under a tent on their well-managed and meticulous property. A family farm that three generations, along with a pack of their dogs, manage together.

Garlic is in their blood!! Growing garlic for the last 20 years, the Scutt's have customers from all over the world to whom they ship their garlic products and seed. Most of the garlic we as consumers buy at the supermarket is produced in China and/or Asia. Finding mechanized machinery in the USA to assist with Harmony Acres Garlic Farm's harvesting, has become a challenge. This year they had to harvest by hand as their harvester-binder was not working properly. 65,000 total heads of

garlic were harvested, with only six people working, in one day's time! Once the field has been harvested for three consecutive years, this specific schedule prevents root worm, the fields are seeded with a cover



Garlic braiding instruction time at Harmony Acres Garlic Farm



Tim and Michell Scutt explain the sizing board for sorting the garlic bulbs.

crop and put to rest to rejuvenate the soil. The newly anticipated garlic field will be fertilized with leaf mulch donated by the Town of Mount Morris. Michelle anticipates to plant 90,000 seeds this fall.

But I digress, Michelle typically braids about 250 braids per year. This work builds muscles in your hands, arms, neck, and jaw. The stems are soaked overnight to ease the manipulation of the hard neck garlic stalks. Participating in a garlic braiding class gives you a

greater appreciation for the labor involved in its creation. We sampled Michelle's pickled garlic scapes, which we all found delicious. She had many garlic products that we could choose from for purchase at the end of the class. A big thank you to Michelle for her humor and inspiration and to all the ladies who made it out to indulge in some wholesome and pungent fun.

∞ 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>

WFL October 2022 General Meeting

Growing Nut Trees In New York

Presented by: Carl Albers, Forest Landowner/
Amateur Nut Grower

Please join the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA for a General Meeting on **Tuesday, October 11 at 7 p.m.** The location is at the **Honeoye United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471.**

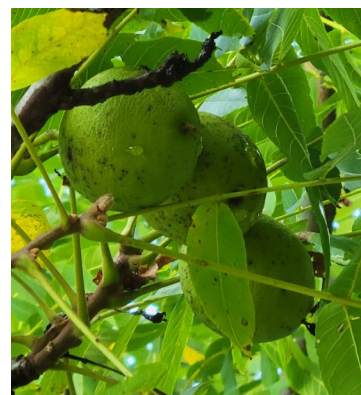
Humans have been growing and selecting nut trees in NYS for thousands of years and some of those stands, which were cultivated primarily for sustenance, are still producing. Of course, oaks, hickories, black walnut, and butternut were also grown for the excellent lumber they produce, while oaks and hickories are known for the outstanding firewood they generate. In this presentation, Mr. Albers will focus primarily on growing nuts for home use in NYS and

Welcome New Members

Christofer Andrus	Arkport
Robert Barber	Hammondsport
Tom Curtin	Geneseo
Glen Spinelli	Rochester
David Younis	Farmington

delve into numerous species such as shagbark and shellbark hickory, hazelnuts, chestnuts, butternuts, black and English walnuts.

A discussion about the difference between grafted/clonal nut trees and seedlings will be provided. When is a species best suited for cultivation given landowner goals, soils, and microclimate of the growing site? We can expect a



Black walnuts.

discussion on modification and site selection with an emphasis on tree and soil health. Tree protection from deer and rodents using tree tubes will be covered as well. Carl will share his experience with crop tree management of black walnut on a somewhat poorly drained, shallow soil. The presentation will also include one landowner's experiences with small-scale, low impact logging techniques.

We will be taking this opportunity to have our yearly election for the WFL Board of Directors.

We look forward to seeing you. Please feel free to bring a friend or two. Refreshments will be served.

Classifieds

F4C liquidation sale - Black Diamond 25 Ton Log Splitter with 6.5hp LCT engine, 5 gallon plastic gas can, 6 wood pallets, 19 - 5ft. long steel posts. Make offers by Oct. 15. All proceeds to Rotary Camp Onseyawa. dsdeuel@gmail.com

Tree Tubes for Sale - Member/(Non-Member) price: 4' w/o stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 4' w/ stake (\$7.00/\$7.50); 5' is special order... please call (585) 880-1799 or (585) 367-2847 for price quote. Proceeds benefit WFL chapter.

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.



New York Forest Owners Association

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Trying to watch a flying drone in bright sunshine is not a simple task! See article on page 5.

Mark Your Calendar

- **WFL General Meeting: Tuesday, October 11 , 7 p.m.** at the **Honeoye United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471..** Carl Albers will share a presentation about nut trees. See page 10 for details.

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nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org