



DeLellis Woods Walk

Sept. 12, 2015

A rainy day did not stop a nice group of people from enjoying a great woodswalk on the property of Jim and Maryanne DeLellis in Freedom, NY!



Jim has owned his 70 acre property for 30 years and it is very evident that Jim has actively managed it.

One of Jim's first projects was setting up a road system to access hunting and recreational trails. Several land management practices

have been implemented to improve wildlife on the property. Also, Beech trees and other less desirable trees have been kept down with herbicide treatments. Our walk included nicely groomed trails, tree identification, food plots, fruit trees and obvious results of a recent sawlog harvest. Jim's ambition is shared by his sons John and Nicholas who work along with Jim on the various projects. Along with a new pole building he has also built a small cabin.

Door prizes were donated by Jim's friend Ryan Reed from



Lowe's and included a set of pruning clippers, a pair of Cobalt Work Gloves and a pre-mixed chain saw fuel additive. Thank you Jim for a great walk!



MFO Class 2015

By Don Kuhn

A lot of things happen by chance. Some of these lead to others and on and on. That is how, by chance, I ended up at the Master Forest Owners training September 23rd to September 26th at the Arnot Forest Training Center.

Let me explain. I have owned 160 acres of mixed forest in Pike, Wyoming County, New York since 1987. Some trees were harvested in 1996 under the direction of a forester. Nothing has been done since then except tapping 20 or so Maple trees, planting a small food plot and cutting firewood from trees felled by beavers. No forest plans, no goals, no objectives. Just enjoy the forest. "Ignorance is bliss" said the philosopher.

The "happen by chance" events previously mentioned changed all that. I subscribe to the New York State Conservationist magazine (a great publication) and I read by chance an article about the Master Forest Owners program. I followed up to see what it was all about and was referred to Mr. Larry Becker MFO who just happens to live a mile or so north of my property. I contacted Larry and he was very gracious with his time and knowledge.

Member's Corner: A Lifetime Change

by Bob Preston

It seems every time I walk around my property in Holland, NY, I remember what the area looked like 50-60 years ago when my dad bought the land.

Some of the old photos in the 50's and 60's show the property with hardly any large trees and lots of wide open spaces. It was mostly pastures and open fields. My dad and I then acquired seedlings from the State and planted primarily Scotch Pine with some White Pine, Larch and Norway Spruce. It seemed like it was thousands of trees and it was a spring commitment every year for some time. The Boy Scouts helped us a couple of years too. We had a sort of a small Christmas tree farm for a number of years until the pine trees became too large.

Today most of the Scotch Pine have disappeared and in their place are groves of sugar Maple interspersed with Black Cherry, Ash, Black Walnut, Cottonwood. etc. We now have a forest!!

MFO Class 2015 by Don Kuhn

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We toured the property and Larry shared many ideas and asked lots of questions that had never occurred to me. What an epiphany! It was scary realizing what I did not know. Based on Larry's suggestion I contacted the NYSDEC region 9 forester, Patrick Marren. We spent almost a full day in the woods and talked about what I wanted to do with the forest. Following Patrick's visit I realized even more of what I did not know about forest stewardship. Patrick wrote a Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

Through the visits I realized I must learn a lot. So, on-line learning was really convenient, Penn State and ForestConnect are great sources of info as well as the webinars. The NYS Forest Owners Association, also a great resource with woodswalks and seminars. Cornell Cooperative Extension rural landowners workshops were very helpful. At the workshops I attended several talks presented by Peter Smallidge, very helpful. The more I learned the more I realized what I did not know and probably never would. So, when I received an email about the MFO class at the Arnot Forest I knew I should apply.

I was accepted and along with twelve other forest owners, arrived on Wednesday afternoon and left Saturday afternoon.

I have attended countless seminars, webinars, symposiums, classes etc., etc. and this course was by far the best. The caliber of the teachers assembled by Peter Smallidge, who ran the course, was outstanding. All experts. Being an expert is one thing, but being an expert and connecting and communicating is another. These folks were the best. Also, the course content was right on. Perfect.

The weather for the four day period was also perfect. The wood walks, field lectures, and tours were most interesting.

I am very happy that all the events that occurred "by chance" led me to the MFO class. I would encourage any forest owner who is interested in helping other forest owners and learning about forests and meeting great people, to apply for the MFO class. It was the best.

Oct. 3rd Steering Committee Meeting Highlights

Discussion opened whether to have a summer family picnic/woodswalk/guest presenter at either a member's property or a special location. Several areas will be researched to see what type of accommodations they may have (covered picnic area or indoor area in case of rain). Locations suggested to further report on: Beaver Meadow, Akron Falls, Chestnut Ridge, Tiff Farms, Goose Neck Hill. Further discussion as more information will be compiled.

Also discussed: A give away raffle at membership events (ie chainsaw...sell tickets at prior events and have drawing at last fall event.) Further discussion will be forwarded via email.

Woodswalks – will be confirmed, possibly Herb Linderman.

If you are interested in any of these suggestions, we would love your feedback. Also if you would like to host a woodswalk on your property please let us know!

Chairman's Corner

By Bob Glidden

Hello All:

2015 was a busy year with the 2 member meetings with guest presenters, 2 woodswalks and the Gutches Sawmill plant tour which showcased a state of the art operation witnessed by those attending. We made some new friends and got a lot of helpful ideas to use on our lands while attending these events.

Your steering committee is working on the 2016 program schedule, which hopefully should be as great as this past year. We would like to see a better attendance at these events. Your participation is vital in keeping the chapter going. There is so much shared information that you can pick up that may be helpful to you in your land plan.



Gutches Sawmill Tour, Photo courtesy Blaire Boone

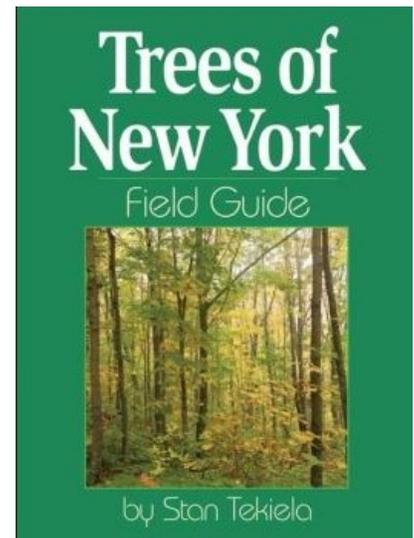
Please mark your calendars as you see the dates posted. Myself and the Steering Committee would love to meet more members! As always if there is a particular program or topic you would like scheduled let me know and we will address this request.

I know as I am writing this article, some of you are sitting in a tree stand waiting for that big buck. As for me, I just finished mowing two fields on my management plan schedule. I now will be looking at what apple trees are retaining their crop into the late fall so as to release them a little more next year.

Three of my four food plots did well this year and the Lathco Flat Pea plots are getting larger each year. Our perennial sunflower plot did well too. I did fertilize all plots 3 times during the growing season, guess this helped? Soon the snow will fly and hopefully the animals will find something to sustain them during the cold winter season!

Book Review: Trees of New York – Field Guide by Stan Tekiela

For those of you looking for a lightweight, accessible field guide for tree identification, you could do much worse than Stan Tekiela's Trees of New York – Field Guide (© 2006, Adventure Publications, Inc., \$13.95). This pocket-sized book (4 1/2" x 6" and only about 1/2" thick) confines itself to, as the title promises, trees found in New York State; no carrying around extra weight or flipping through superfluous pages which a New York forest owner doesn't really need. Each of the 118 species included has its own 2 pages (left and right-facing). On the left side is a full-page color photograph of the species' leaves/needles along with smaller inset photos showing its bark, flowers and fruit. The tree's common and Latin names are found at the top of the right page and are followed, in plain English even a forest owner can understand, by written descriptions of the species' height, trunk, crown, leaf, bark, flower, fruit, fall color, origin (native/non-native), lifespan, habitat, and even range within the state. The right page also has icons in the right upper and lower corners (for thumbing through) which show needle/leaf arrangement and shape, along with an icon showing the height of the tree in comparison to a two-story house (somewhat redundant of the written description, but helpful nonetheless). Finally, the right-hand page contains what are called "Stan's Notes," which provide helpful and interesting tidbits about the tree (historical, botanical, ecological, practical, etc.), as well as completely useless – but nonetheless interesting – "factoids" about the particular species.



The book, readily available on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble, and elsewhere, is broken down into sections according to needle/leaf characteristics (e.g., single vs. clustered needles, simple vs. compound leaves, opposite vs. alternate arrangements, etc.), making the previously-mentioned thumb tabs particularly useful. The introductory pages teach you in a clear, concise, user-friendly manner how to use the book to identify trees. The book concludes with a helpful Glossary and Checklist/Index.

The photographs are all of high quality and fairly representative of the species (a sometimes difficult task); what the photos lack, the written descriptions make up for without being overly technical (for example, Black Cherry bark is described as bearing "large, conspicuous curving scales" which look "like potato chips"). Whether the book's binding holds up to repeated use (it seems that spiral binding would have been a nice, albeit more expensive, touch) remains to be seen. Trees of New York manages to pack a lot of information into a small space without being overwhelming; other field guides could learn more than a thing or two from the way this highly portable reference is organized and presented.

Review by Mitch Banas

Eric and Eleanor Randall are pleased to invite members and their guests to attend a late Spring 2016 field day/woodswalk at their sugarhouse facility located at 10307 Smithley Rd., Alexander, NY 14005. The Randalls are fifth or sixth generation sugarmakers and have records that show that maple syrup has been produced in their family all but two years since 1848. Their maple operation is centered at this southeastern Genesee County location, just a few miles east of the Darien Lake Amusement complex and serves as the processing facility for their 3,200+ tap operation. Sap is produced both at the Smithley Rd location and also in a state-of-the art 49-acre mature mixed hardwood forest at the south end of Silver Lake in Castile, Wyoming County. There they have 20+ miles of food grade tubing, a wet/dry main line system and a 600 gal/hr reverse osmosis concentrator.

The Randalls were among the original 10 sugarhouses to start the New York State Maple Weekend held each year shortly after St. Patrick's day and now in its 21st year. Their facility is host to hundreds of visitors each year who come to learn the processes involved in one of North America's oldest agricultural enterprises. They will have a full array of historical sugaring artifacts as well as some of the most modern and technologically advanced machinery in the business. The Alexander location supports a "sweet tree" maple plantation, a heavily deer-damaged conifer plantation, a small fruit orchard and a small vineyard. Only sap, timber and firewood are produced in Castile while all aspects of the maple operation are conducted in Alexander. All value-added maple products are produced and sold through the farmgate on Smithley Rd. As with all sugarhouse visits at this time of year, one should arrive with adequate footwear and warm clothing. Parking along Smithley Rd. is acceptable and leaves only a short walk to the sugarhouse. NYS DOT signs indicate direction to our sugarhouse from both east and west along US Route 20. Smithley Rd. is north of Rte 20 between Darien and Alexander.

Oct. 3, 2015 Members Meeting Guest Presenter Jason Engel—Shamel Milling

A planned special presentation lead off the October 3, 2015 Chapter meeting held at Reinstein Woods, Honorine Dr. Depew, NY. Mitch Banas introduced Jason Engel from Shamel Milling Co. in East Concord, NY who did a very informative and enlightening presentation on Whitetail Food Plots. Jason shared through his experience and resources the following 6 steps to a successful food plot attraction on your land!

1. Set up food plot system – what to consider: what areas are best for food plots, how much to put in, bedding areas are more important than food plots, deer density, adjacent properties to draw from, tillable land-how much, plot sizes, plot types hunting-funnels, draws pinch points /vs. destination plots-holds deer on property. Recommends: plant 1+ acre of 1-2 large plots vs several small plots that get grazed quickly. Plot design rules – long and skinny is better than wide and fat (feeling of security), place plots near cover, linear edge – create it and use it. Stagger annuals and perennials to increase variety, attraction, seasonal performance and longevity. When evaluating your land area and suitable food plot locations, Jason suggested using www.mytopo.com where you can purchase Custom Printed Maps, Digital and Instant Access Maps and Land Ownership Maps on Mobile. It's a great website to check out!
2. Set up the right forage: Availability - Rapid Stand establishment, rapid growth, seeding survivability, tolerance of heat, drought and disease. **Palatability** - extended. **Nutritional Content** – high, sustained levels, spring and summer: proteins levels, fall and winter: protein and carbohydrates
3. Prepare the seedbed for planting (forage type). Selection factors: **soil ph**, **perennial** (clovers, chicory, alfalfa, sainfoin) **or annual** (corn, soybean, cowpea, sunflower, kale, turnips, forage oats etc.), **cost per**



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pound of protein, rainfall, equipment access, soil type and slope. Consider these factors for each site. ie: "Imperial Whitetail Power Plant" or design a mix!

Break ground/remove grass and weeds – determine best time to spray (can be fall after dormant plants have grown vs spring spraying) or can be several times throughout the season – managing the weed cycle. Can use Super Concentrate Round-Up. Also plowing, disking. Smooth and firm the seed bed before planting. Small seeds pressed in (roller) to soil, large seeds covered with loose soil (Harrow-teeth down) or cultipacker

4. Plant: ideal – bag seeder, use 12 ft. radius, first pass parallel, second pass perpendicular
5. Finish the seedbed. Never cover the small seeds (use roller). Large seeds - Drag a loose drag/harrow.
6. Maintain Perennial Forage: fertilize and lime, mowing (keeps perennials more lush and nutritious, do not mow below 6-8") and spraying (Arrest Herbicide and Slay to control weeds and grass).

You can visit Jason at:

Shamel Milling Co. Inc.
9384 Genesee Rd. East Concord, NY 14055 (716-592-7700)
www.shamelmilling.com

Reading Material and Other Resources

- My Land Plan: Don't know where to start managing your woodlands? Try <http://www.mylandplan.org/>. You're just one click away from mapping, planning, recording, and other tools to help you both enjoy and profit from your forest.
- DEC: The DEC's website has a wealth of information helpful to forest owners, including how to find a forester (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5230.html>), timber harvesting (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5242.html>), and additional topics and resources (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/93912.html>). Master Forest Owner
- Program: Need to know more about New York's highly successful Master Forest Owner's Program, sponsored by the USDA Renewable Resources Extension Program, NYSDEC, Cornell Co-operative Extension, and our own NYFOA? Go to <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/>.
- Cornell ForestConnect: Many of you know of the excellent resources available at Peter Smallidge's Cornell ForestConnect website <http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/>, but do you know about his monthly one-hour webinars which each month highlight some important aspect of forest ownership? You can register for the webinar e-mailings at <http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/web.htm>.
- Penn State Extension: Just like Cornell, Penn State has a wealth of resources available to forest owners on its website at <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/forests>.
- Stumpage Report <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>



NYFOA

Niagara Frontier Chapter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2016 Spring – Randall’s Maple Sugar
- 2016 Summer—Family Picnic/Woodswalk
- 2016 Fall Event—Woodswalk

Dates and locations will be confirmed in the January 2016 Newsletter

A few highlights from 2015!



**Rita Hammond Award
Presentation**



Bandinelli Woodswalk

Gutchess Sawmill Tour

Photo courtesy Blair Boone



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Faces in the woods!

Mail vs. E-Mail

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