

# NACNews

Northern Adirondak Chapter

April 2017

## NAC Events Calendar

### Graham Park Woods Walk September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

End of Kansas Rd, Pitcarin, NY 13648  
St. Lawrence County

Register with Stephen Graham  
(315) 778 - 7918 or email

[northoperations@gmail.com](mailto:northoperations@gmail.com)

*See directions on back of last page*



## NAC Board Members

### NAC Chair

Gary Goff  
518-837-5171  
4775 Cascade Rd.,  
Lake Placid, NY 12946  
[grg3@cornell.edu](mailto:grg3@cornell.edu)

### Woodswalk Chair

*Position is currently open  
Contact Gary to help out*

### Newsletter Chair

Bob Coupal  
4309 Hosey Rd,  
Shortsville, NY 14548  
[bob@gompc.net](mailto:bob@gompc.net)

## Hello from the Chair!

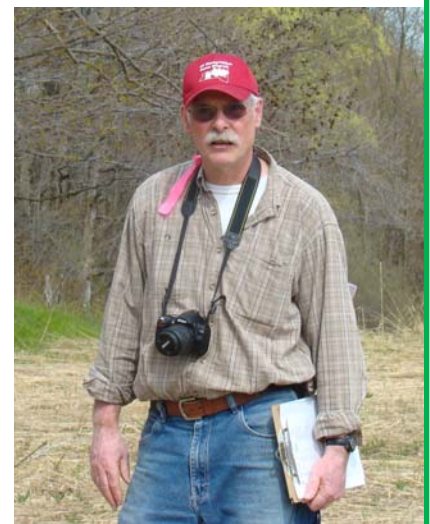
I wish to thank Bob Coupal for the painstaking work of assembling the newsletter! It is great to have the opportunity to get our plans consolidated and out to the membership. And of course now is the time for you to step up and plan on getting further involved in your chapter by attending events or volunteering to host one!

Last summer's two woodswalks came off without a hitch and were very well attended. I heard lots of favorable comments on the programs from attendees. We look forward to hosting two more this summer. The Graham woodswalk this September is highlighted in the newsletter. It would be great to schedule another about mid-summer on the eastern side of the NAC territory. Topics and venue can be largely whatever the host wishes. Sites can be either privately owned woodlots or those belonging to organizations or public agencies. I know Bob and I (and hopefully some other volunteers) will gladly help out with the planning and delivery of the event. So....please give me a call to discuss ideas and options as soon as possible! 518-837-5171.

Because the Northern Adirondack Chapter (NAC) is now reviving itself, we would like to get some input from members on a variety of topics and issues, and build a corps of volunteers to move ahead with solid programming. Sharing volunteer responsibilities will lead to better programs and more rewarding membership benefits. To this end, Bob Coupal will shortly be sending out a brief membership survey (in a postage paid envelope) designed to give us guidance. This is the perfect opportunity to get your ideas into action. We need your suggestions and help to meet membership expectations!

Thank you! I look forward to seeing you this summer and hearing back from you via the survey!

Gary.



## Hugging the Forests, Rather than the Trees

Presentation on UTUBE, Oct 4, 2016 (taped Aug. 2016), by Kathy Abusow, Pres. & CEO of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)  
*Summarized by G. Goff*

SFI is a non-profit that plays a central role in strengthening the vital links between sustainable forestry, responsible purchasing and thriving communities. Kathy is committed to raising awareness that well-managed forests provide products and benefits that help society at large. These forests store carbon, clean the air we breathe and the water we drink, provide wildlife habitat, and produce products and that improve our quality of life. Forests certified to SFI standards span a quarter billion acres from Canada's boreal to the US South, and millions of additional acres are positively influenced by SFI Standards and programs for the responsible procurement of forest products. Her talk emphasizes how we need not only to hug the trees, but the forests as well.

The premise of the talk is not a revelation to NYFOA members, but it does confirm our beliefs and provides a concise, well-articulated summary of the value of forest management. The UTUBE presentation is about 9 mins in length and consists of her delivering the talk on a stage, without benefit of additional graphics. But she's a good speaker so the presentation is suitable for use in classrooms, a kickoff to an event discussion or of course, a quick viewing via your smartphone or computer at work or home. The review comments listed on UTUBE were very supportive of the talk and message.

She makes several good points regarding the values of forests in their entirety as functioning ecosystems capable of being sustainable and providing renewable resources. She clearly defines the difference between permanent deforestation and responsible forest harvesting that promotes regeneration and a new forest. People protect or treasure that which has a value to them. Society at large of course recognizes the ecological values of forests and hence wishes to protect forests. Landowners also recognize the ecological values of forests, but have the added economic responsibility of ownership liabilities (purchase, taxes, management). If timber harvesting, for example, is severely limited by a local logging ordinance enacted to preserve forests, then private forest owners may have to sell or subdivide their holdings for a higher value use (e.g. development) to meet ownership expenses. The end result could be just the opposite of the intent of regulations designed to save local forests for ecological benefits.

Another point to make, going back to the title of the talk "hugging the forest, rather than the trees", is that if all trees are sacrosanct, then the multiple benefits of active, responsible forest management are impossible to achieve. Individual trees on a lawn or in a park may be worthy of a hug and exemplary protection due largely to their location and scarcity. Large-scale responsible forest management (including timber harvesting), allows us to have our cake and eat it too. Healthy managed forests can be both sustainable **and** provide many of the ecological and societal benefits of "forever wild" forests. In reality, both managed and forever wild forests provide a few unique benefits that the other does not, but we don't have room here for the scope of that discussion. Obviously individual trees must be harvested within a forest so that the owner can capitalize on the market value of sawtimber. Such a sustainably managed forest is far from "permanently deforested" as it would have been if subjected to say residential development. A parallel exists within wildlife management. Some animal rights advocates can't support modern scientific wildlife management that uses hunting to maintain populations of game animals at a level that is both beneficial to the overall population and the forest ecosystem it inhabits.





## A Perfect Day at Bullock Woodswalk

Our woodland tour hosted by Herb Bullock focused on efforts to plant, establish and grow trees...and many other related topics that affect all land owners. We all got to see first hand how Herb, his family and friends have worked for several years planting tree seedlings, including efforts to control interfering plants such as ferns and other shrubs. In addition a great barbecue was put together by our host! We toured the Cornell University Cooperative Extension test plots which are on Herb's land. They were created to investigate the effectiveness of low cost fencing to exclude deer. Here are some key points covered in day filled with helpful information.

**Deer consumption of understory vegetation:** Deer eat approximately 7 lbs of fresh forage per day. When deer eat tree seedlings, they only eat the tender tips. There are approximately 600 tree seedling tips per pound, so a deer might eat up to 4200 seedling per day. Assuming deer eat other woodland wildflowers and agricultural crops, the annual tree seedling consumption for a deer is in the 600,000 to 800,000 seedlings/deer/year. At this rate, deer can and do shift the mixture of the woodlands to promote species the deer won't eat. These species include beech, striped maple, ferns, hophornbeam, and most invasive shrubs and weeds.

**Upcoming Deer population study involving landowners:** Cornell and its partners are working to develop a "quick assessment" field method that woodland owners and foresters can use to estimate the impact of deer (not the number of deer). This protocol is called "Assessing Vegetative Impacts of Deer" or AVID. The field method that was tested and developed over two years, and approved by multiple woodland owner test groups, is designed to simply follow the height growth of 25 to 30 plants. Plants gain less or no height as deer impacts increase. More information about the protocol is available at the link below. A free smart phone app and a website will be available to allow owners and foresters the option to collect data and submit for local and regional summaries. The data collected will document how deer impacts on vegetation change through time.

<http://wp.wildlifecontrol.info/research/deer-forest-impacts-project/>

**The three Deer Ex-closures:** Two fence types are being tested, the plastic mesh versus high-tensile. Both have favorable and unfavorable attributes depending on the needs of the owner. The fences are intended to protect seedlings following small (0.25 – 0.5 acre) patch cuts that significantly increase sunlight through the canopy and control interfering vegetation. The basic design is to use low-value trees as "fence posts." A batten board is attached to the tree with a long rust proof nail through a fender washer. As the tree grows it pushes on the board, that pushes on the washer, that floats the nail. Total cost for materials and labor was \$0.52 to \$0.55 per foot (all costs included). One or more strands of 12 gauge wire are connected to the batten board with a plastic insulator clip. All materials are available from local farm stores, although plastic mesh fence can also be obtained online. The fence can meander through the woods. The owner can clear brush or not depending on the availability of other trees. The effectiveness of the fence can be enhanced by placing a ring of slash on the ground at the perimeter of the fence. The data of seedling growth during the first growing season showed growth was statistically greater inside the fences than in control plots. Height growth was not different in the two fenced exclosures. Owners could manipulate vegetation inside the enclosure as they wish; some might spray or grub out interfering plants, others might plant seedlings. - *P. Smallidge*



Thank You

Herb Bullock!

## Three Walks in the Woods

### Sustainable Management of Shirley Forest – Change and regrowth over a 20-year harvest

The Shirley Family Woods Walk took place on a beautiful summer's day, Sat. August. 20, 2016. 50 forest owners attended; it was interesting and came off without a hitch! We started at the Whallonsburg Grange Hall (Lake Champlain Valley) with introductions and presentations from the co-sponsors: Frank Shirley, President of Shirley Forests (SF); Tim Castner, VP of SF gave an informative historic review of SF; Chris Maron, Exec. Dir. of Champlain Area Trails (CATS) and Gary Goff, retired from Cornell Coop. Ext and chairman of No. ADK chapter (NAC) of NYFOA. The Shirley family provided a lunch for all at the grange. On a personal note, I was amazed and pleased to see the iconic grange hall of my youth totally renovated and available to the community for all sorts of education and entertainment events.

The Shirley Family Forests (~5,000 acres consisting of nearly 50 parcels in Essex Co.) has an amazing history and an on-going legacy. Nate Shirley (Frank's grandfather and first Pres. of SUNY College of Environmental Sci. & Forestry) acquired the parcels as mostly abandoned farmland through the 1950's. Through good forestry and stewardship these lands are now producing sawtimber, pulp, and firewood annually, providing jobs for local foresters, loggers, and mills. Plus, nearly all lands are either open to the public for recreational access (such as CAT trails) or are leased to deer hunters.

The afternoon consisted of a round-robin tour of 3 nearby forest stands:

Tour 1 - Deb Boyce, forest consultant and Jim Pulsifer, logger, led a tour of a mixed hardwood stand harvested last winter.

Tour 2 - Gary Goff led a discussion of wildlife habitat attributes in a mature white pine stand that was harvested 10 years ago.

Tour 3 - Frank Shirley explained growth and yield statistics in a stand to be harvested next year. Many stands have permanently established sample plots where species and growth data are routinely monitored.



I was pleased to see the mix of NYFOA, CAT members and general public at the walk. The program was a wonderful example of how various stakeholders can join together for an educational and enjoyable event. Sharing interests in this manner makes for a well-attended, joint effort where all learn a bit from each other via a social gathering. I know we all truly appreciated the generosity of the Shirley Family. I look forward to attending similar NAC woods walks in the future. Please consider how you might help the chapter by serving on the steering committee for a two year term. - G. Goff

## 2017 Woodwalk Member Profile

**The Graham family will be hosting a woodwalk in 2017. We thought our members might like to know a bit about the family and their forest land as we prepare for a great woodwalk. See the following article discussing their approach to Beech management**

**Brief Bio:** Stephen Graham - former NAC chairman

**Family:** Linda, wife; 2 sons and wives & 5 grandkids, Scott (graduate of Wanakena & ESF) & Ali, Ryan, Libby, Lauren (live in Liverpool) and Shawn (SU and UB Law) & Alexandra, Ben, Isabella (live in Manlius)

**Current Employment:** Owner, North Operations & Maintenance, Inc. a Government Service Contractor

**Recent activities non-forest related:** Ombudsman for ESGR (Employer Support for Guard and Reserve) for the past 15 years. Fishing with Grandkids and getting tree stands ready for hunting season.

**Recent Activities Forest Related:** Beech control, TSI, construction of major skid roads, erosion control measures, tree planting, trail maintenance, boundary maintenance and prep for future maple syrup production.

## Controlling Beech a land owner's perspective with former NAC Chairman Stephen Graham

**Can you outline your overall woodlot objectives?** The woodlot objectives of the Graham Family are to make the forest as healthy as possible to maximize future timber values; to make the property self-sustaining for future generations while at the same time enhancing wildlife habitat. Our forest management practices favor food source generators such as red oak, black cherry and non-competing shad berry. Our 2200 acres in the Adirondack foothills has a diverse selection of habitat with hardwoods, soft woods, streams, ponds, marshes, all augmented with two 35 acre wild life sanctuaries.

**When did you first determine that you had a beech problem and how bad is it?** When I revisited areas thinned for TSI 10 years ago, I observed that just one 10" felled Beech tree sprouted into scores of bush saplings. Recent commercial thinnings has compounded the problem. In a natural state, our woodlot would probably contain 10-15% beech stands. With TSI and timber harvesting, the beech has spread to 30% because the species sprouts on each cut stump and from surrounding roots.

**Are you planning to keep some beech, if so what is your criteria for determining which trees to keep and where?** At Graham Park, we have made the decision to eliminate as many beech as possible. There is plenty of beech on adjacent properties. It is a major undertaking, which will take generations to accomplish.

**What steps did you take to educate yourself (resources) on how to both evaluate and resolve the beech issue?** Articles over the years in magazines like NYFOA, in particular, articles written by Peter Smallidge were a great place to start (see NY Forest Owner back issues [www.NYFOA.org](http://www.NYFOA.org)) I talked with several consulting foresters, who work for the large forest supply companies. Their practical experience proved very helpful. I also know a power line tree clearing foreman who has had a lot of experience with applying herbicide in right of ways. (see also ForestConnect.info ForestConnect Factsheets, Woodland Guidelines....Beech)

**Did you consider or try both mechanical and chemical options and what was your thought process on both?** Many years ago, Don Brown, an NYS Forester, advised me that it's best not to cut beech tree. After years of experience, I have come to the conclusion that the chemical option is the only practical option to control or reduce beech population.

**Which method did you decide on and why?** I chose "hack & squirt" over injection system. "Hack & squirt" requires more effort, but is more effective on larger trees, saplings and ground plants.

**Can you describe the basic steps you use?** For large trees, I hack all the way around the tree and spray 3 squirts of herbicide in each cut. For small saplings, one inch diameter or less, I bend the sapling with my left hand, cut all the way or ¾ through, then spray the cut. For small ground plants, I spray the leaves (only effective from June 1 through September 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Please list the equipment/supplies you use?** I found ax size is critical. A hatchet is too small while not enough weight or leverage for use with two hands on large trees and is too hard on the wrist. A standard ax handle is too long to efficiently use with one hand while cutting saplings. I use a "Gerber" Ax with a 20 inch handle and a 3 3/8 blade. I sharpen the blade with a wet stone after every use (approx. 5 hours). The herbicide active ingredient is glyphosate. The one I use is 41% glyphosate. Herbicide can be purchased at any farm agricultural supply center. I purchase mine from Bill's Feeds in Great Bend, NY for approx. \$55/2 ½ gallon unit. For killing beech trees, I use the glyphosate full strength. For spraying cuts, I use Windex spray bottles; they are clear; put out a good spray pattern and hold up well. I carry one bottle in a "carpenter's" pouch on each hip and can use either left or right hand as you would a pistol. I go through 2 to 3 bottles per 4- 5 hour work period. Read and follow safety warnings and practices as when like with any chemical. I use leather gloves and wash my hands when done or prior to eating.

**How much time have you spent applying these methods in your woodlot?** This was my first summer herbiciding beech. I started June 1<sup>st</sup> and stopped September 30<sup>th</sup>. During this period, I have averaged 4 to 5 days per week. In 30 days after herbiciding, a 30" diameter tree's leaves will turn and in 60 days the leaves are all on the ground. I will now move on to TSI until next June 1<sup>st</sup> when I will return to herbiciding beech.

**How would you assess the progress made thus far?** I have gone from frustrated to confident that we can manage our beech at Graham Park. No longer when doing TSI, do I have to fight to prevent felled beech from hanging up with their out reaching wirey branches or cringe when prime saplings are crushed under the beech's weight. We simply let the beech die down over time, creating wildlife habitat and putting nutrients back into the soil. - *Bob Coupal interview with Stephen Graham*



## FREE Skidder Bridge Program for Adirondack Timber Operations

The Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (RC&D), with financial assistance from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lake Champlain Basin Program, is implementing a FREE Skidder Bridge Loaner Program for landowners and loggers. Per the plan administrator, John J. O'Donnell CF at Benchmark Forest & Land Management, LLC, they still have bridges to loan at Ward Lumber, I.P., Finch, and Cersosimo Lumber in Warrensburg and program is active for another year.

The FREE Skidder Bridge Loaner Program is provided to encourage the use of the skidder bridges and other Best Management Practices in forest management to protect water quality and assist landowners in increasing economic activity in their communities.

Skidder bridges are temporary structures installed on small streams (less than 16 feet wide) to avoid disturbances to the streambed, prevent erosion, and protect water resources.

RC&D retains the services of Certified Forester John O'Donnell to coordinate the FREE Skidder Bridge Loaner Program. If you are interested please [e-mail](mailto:jforest29@hotmail.com) John (jforest29@hotmail.com) or call him at 518-538-3373 to arrange for a loaner bridge.

In addition to a skidder bridge loaner program the RC&D, in conjunction with NY Logger Training and the Empire State Forest Products Association, can provide hands on training workshops for constructing skidder bridges. Workshops emphasize acceptable materials, construction technique, safety, permitting, invasive species spread prevention, and forestry best management practices.



(Reprinted from NYS DEC New Bulletin)

## Forestry Events in Our Region

Here is information about **two young forest habitat/Golden-winged Warbler workshops** Audubon New York is holding in northern NY this spring.

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2:30pm. Location: Canton, NY – at Cornell Cooperative Extension Learning Farm classroom (Address: 2043B State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617)

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2:30pm. Location: Redwood, NY – at Indian River Lakes Conservancy's Redwood Hill Preserve trailside classroom (Address: 44010 Stine Road, Redwood, NY 13679)

July 8 & 9 - Tupper Lake Woodsmen's Days <http://www.tupperlake.com/events/woodsmens-days-tupper>

August 18, 19 and 20th—NYS Woodsmen's Field Days—Boonville . <http://www.starwebhosting.net/woodsmen>

## Welcome New NAC Members

Scott Bonno      Canton, NY

William Lynch

Syracuse, NY

John Cheselka      Setauket, NY

Mike McCormick

Rodman, NY

## NYFOA Rewards its Member—With Cash!

Thanks to an idea advanced by NYFOA's Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse, NYFOA now has a special program called **NYFOA Rewards**. The benefit program is designed to offer substantial discounts to members when they make purchases at participating organizations. It was launched in March 2016, and while it's still in its infancy, it's growing nicely.

There are now eight firms partnering with us and in the first three months of operations, NYFOA members have saved somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Not bad for just getting started! One of our partners, David Williams, is also on the NYFOA Board of Directors and has already provided cumulative member discounts approaching \$500. The members that have done business with Dave are earning discounts well in excess of NYFOA's annual dues payment.

It's easy for members to participate in **NYFOA Rewards**. Complete details on discounts are located on the NYFOA Home Page. Please be sure to check the **NYFOA Rewards** webpage at least monthly for updates. [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

If you know of a business or organization that would be a good fit for our members, please send me **Dean Faklis** a detailed note ([dfaklis@frontiernet.net](mailto:dfaklis@frontiernet.net)) and I will reach out to them. - *Information provided by Dean Faklis*

The following organizations have agreed to provide NYFOA members with financial benefits through discounts on purchases.

### **Forestry Suppliers** (Jackson, MS; [www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com))

NYFOA members receive their best price. Online or phone ordering [1.800.752.8461, ATTN: Katie Patterson ([pattersonk@forestry-suppliers.com](mailto:pattersonk@forestry-suppliers.com)), Becky Dawson ([dawsonb@forestry-suppliers.com](mailto:dawsonb@forestry-suppliers.com)), or Beckie Tucker ([tuckerb@forestry-suppliers.com](mailto:tuckerb@forestry-suppliers.com))]. Quote will be provided with their best prices or use exclusive NYFOA code letters at checkout: **FNY** for an automatic 10% discount. The letters are for NYFOA members only & distribution is controlled.

### **Arborchem** (Mechanicsburg, PA; [www.arborchem.com](http://www.arborchem.com))

NYFOA members receive contractor pricing on select products (e.g. Accord XRT). Email: Todd Hagenbuch, [thagenbuch@arborchem.com](mailto:thagenbuch@arborchem.com) or call 570-401-7098.

### **FTD Florist** ([www.ftd.com/58251](http://www.ftd.com/58251))

Link is for NYFOA members only and its distribution is controlled. Enjoy 20% discount on all flowers, plants and gifts!

### **Voss Signs** ([www.vosssigns.com/products](http://www.vosssigns.com/products))

NYFOA posted signs (aluminum and polymer) are available at a big discount. See the latest issue of NYFOA's Forest Owner magazine for complete details, including option to purchase sawyer-friendly aluminum nails at the same time.

### **David Abeel** (Traverse City, MI, [abeeldavid@hotmail.com](mailto:abeeldavid@hotmail.com))

10% discount on Windsor chair workshops.

### **Finger Lakes Boating Museum** (607-569-2222, [www.flbm.org](http://www.flbm.org))

Save nearly 30% on admission to this great museum in Hammondsport, NY. Bring your current copy of NYFOA's Forest Owner magazine to be eligible for \$5 admission, limit 2. Youth admission is free.

### **Dave Williams, Sawyer** (Bainbridge, Chenango County, NY; [kdwillmill@gmail.com](mailto:kdwillmill@gmail.com))

10% discount on portable bandsaw milling. Discount does not apply to damaged blade fee or mileage charge for travel beyond 15 miles, one way.

### **Springwater Forest Products** (Springwater, Livingston County, NY; [dci@perluma.com](mailto:dci@perluma.com)) [www.perluma.com/services/crates](http://www.perluma.com/services/crates)

\$500 discount on timber frame kits (cabins, sheds, studios, sugarhouses, tiny houses)

10% discount on green firewood, custom lengths available, pick up only.

20% discount wood shipping/storage crates (fine art, furniture, valuables, heavy items)

### Graham Park Woods Walk

**Date:** Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>

**Sign in Time:** 8:30 a.m. Coffee & Tea

**Program Start:** 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** End of Kansas Road, For GPS or Mapping purpose use  
**177 Kansas Rd Pitcairn, NY 13648** Address (1/4 mile past is meeting place)  
At Town of Pitcairn on Rt. 3 (2 miles east of Harrisville),  
Go North on to Edwards Road at the Pitcairn Town Barn  
Go .6 mile, make a left onto Fullerville Road  
Go 1.4 miles, make a right on to Kansas Road  
**Go straight 1.5 miles to the End of Kansas Road and into Camp yard**

**Walk:** UTV and vehicle Transportation available for those who require it

**Free Lunch:** 12:00 Noon

**Registration:** Please Register with Stephen Graham See *NAC Events Calendar* for details



**NYFOA**

New York Forest Owners Association

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK