



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

SUMMER 2017

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

NFC Summer Event: Wayne and Brenda Forrest Woodswalk

This summer's Niagara Frontier Chapter woodswalk, will be in the town of Hartland, (Gasport), NY (Niagara County), on July 29th starting at 10 am. Meet at the field edge south of 3596 Quaker Road (south of Route 104) by **9:45 am**. Look for the pop up awning and NYFOA signs.

The woodswalk will be hosted by Wayne and Brenda Forrest. We will be able to compare pre-logging photos to the post-logging condition of this 33 acre woodlot. Due to the wet spring and heavy rains, the logging operation has just begun this week, June 27th, with a skidder on site. Guests

will be Consulting Forester Bruce Robinson, who is managing the timber sale on this property and Charlie Kesterson, USDA, NRCS Resource Conservationist who is working with the Forrest's to get approval for Conservation Stewardship Program participation.

The property consists of 84 acres in total with about 51 acres tilled and rented to local farmer. A forest stewardship management plan was developed in August of 2015 for the 33 wooded acres.



Participants will get a chance to walk the trail system that provides access to some of the property's most notable features. The walk path will take us to the high bank area which overlooks the East Branch of Eighteen Mile Creek and is dominated by northern red oak in the +30" DBH range. The walk path will then descend slightly down to the creek flat where it will follow the south bank of Eighteen Mile Creek through the riparian buffer consisting of areas dominated by native plants/trees as well as others dominated by invasive plant species. Finally we will ascend out of the creek flat and make our way through the remnants

of an apple orchard and past the remnants of a sand/gravel pit/vernal pool that is regenerating. The trails are 60" wide and vegetation will be brush hogged down to stubble. The trails are rutty, uneven and can be wet in spots depending upon recent weather conditions so boots with ankle support are recommended.

Following the walk we will venture down the road to Becker Farms—Becker Brewing Gastro Pub for lunch (on your own) and a presentation by Charlie Kesterson.

Directions: GPS or Google Becker Farms: www.beckerfarms.com and follow north on Quaker, look for NYFOA signs on west side of the road or:

From the south: Take Rt. 78 north towards Lockport (Transit Rd.), turn right on Rt. 93 (east). Continue on 93 about 7 miles. 93 will bear right to Akron—DO NOT BEAR RIGHT, CONTINUE STRAIGHT—FOLLOW SIGN TO WOLCOTTSVILLE then 1/10th mile turn LEFT on Gasport Rd. Continue Gasport Rd, through village of Gasport, cross over the Erie Canal. Take next right on Slayton Settlement Rd. Continue to 2nd left which is Quaker Rd. Turn left. Continue North on Quaker, pass Becker Farms, then look for NYFOA sign about 1 mile down on west side, just before 3596 Quaker Rd. .

From the east/west: Take Rt. 104 to Hartland, turn south on Quaker Rd. You will see NYFOA signs on west side just after 3596 Quaker. *Walk starts promptly at 10am, please arrive early!*

Chairman's Corner

Summer 2017 by Bob Glidden



At this writing, the rains have finally stopped and I can think about getting into the woods to survey the winter's aftermath and possibly brush hog the trails. Our area of Niagara County had record rainfall this past spring and a few times we experienced some heavy flooding. One good thing, our pond maxed out and is staying nice and full!

Just a small personal note. I want to thank the Chapter for nominating me for the 2017 NYFOA Chapter Service Award. I am very honored to receive this recognition, but I could not have done the Chairman's job without the help of your dedicated board members and of course the newsletter publisher and secretary, my wife Pat. Thank you all for your support!



Hope to see more of you at our upcoming events and remember that we are always looking for articles of interest for our newsletter. If it is interesting to you, it could be interesting to other members also!

NFC State Delegate, Deb Bandilelli, presents Bob Glidden with the Chapter Service Award at the Annual NYFOA Meeting in Syracuse, April 8, 2017

“We have nominated Bob Glidden for his tireless efforts, enthusiasm and organization in running the NFC Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association. He has worked to establish an inclusive, well functioning steering committee that has served well to plan and organize Chapter events such as woodswalks, educational outings and family activities. He, along with his wife Pat, have encouraged the entire Chapter membership to contribute to the Chapter newsletter which they produce quarterly. His knowledge and love of the outdoors sets a good example for our membership and all forest owners.” Submitted on behalf of the Steering Committee, by Jim DeLellis

Welcome New Members!

Barbara Dumbleton, Ransomville, NY

Priscilla and James Elliot, No. Tonawanda, NY



While waiting for dry weather we were kept busy filling the 4 humming bird feeders, 3 oriole feeders, (1 with sugar water, as well as 2 grape jelly feeders). We also have 3 sunflower seed feeders for the cardinals, finches, blue jays and rose-breasted grosbeaks, to name a few, along with a Pileated Woodpecker coming to our suet feeder daily. This is just a few rewards nature gives us for being good stewards of our land.

You're in your backyard and suddenly the sky darkens due to a cloud of bees. A giant clump of bees lands on your bush, your car, or whatever object that they choose. Is it the beginning of the apocalypse?



No, it is a honeybee swarm looking for a new home. Honeybees are affectionately known as a "superorganism" as the smallest unit is a colony. It cannot survive as an individual bee, but rather all are necessary for their survival. Why do they swarm? After a long winter eating honey to stay warm in the hive, where they keep it at 95 degrees, the queen begins to lay a large number of eggs. These eggs hatch and undergo their metamorphosis into full-fledged bees. The colony gets crowded and the workers decide it is time to make a new home. In preparation for swarming, the workers turn several of the eggs into future queens, princesses so to speak, by feeding them "Royal Jelly". They also restrict food to the queen, who

now becomes thin enough to fly.

When the time is right, usually a warm, sunny day, the queen takes flight with about half of the colony. This swarm will try to re-establish itself in a hollow of a tree. If they cannot find an appropriate tree they choose other locations, such as your garage, your house, or any other space that looks good to them. In the former hive the princesses emerge, go on a mating flight and then come back to take over the hive. However princesses are jealous of each other and only one can become queen so there are fights to the death, with only one victor to reign over the colony.

What should you do about a honeybee swarm? Contact a beekeeper, like Dr. Mark Gallo, Professor of Biology, who can safely capture them. Are swarms dangerous? Left alone, typically no. Recognize that they are looking for a home, and it is typically a good idea to not make it your home. The tiniest crack or crevice is all that is needed for them to move in. Once they are in a house it is challenging to extract them. You have to open up walls or other spaces to cut out the comb and remove the bees. **DO NOT** try to kill them, because you will most likely not kill them all and if you somehow are successful you will

have a large amount of wet, dripping honey which will attract new bees, or lead to mold growth that can ruin your wall.

Why should you care about bees? Nearly all food is insect-pollinated, with rice, wheat and corn being about the only things that are not. Are bees endangered? There have been great die-offs in the past few years due to pests, parasites, and pesticides. So please be kind to your bees, we all count on their survival for a sustainable future.

Mark can be contacted by phone at (716) 525-5973 or

mgallo@niagara.edu for any honeybee issues.



Mark A. Gallo, Ph.D.
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Chainsaw Raffle Update

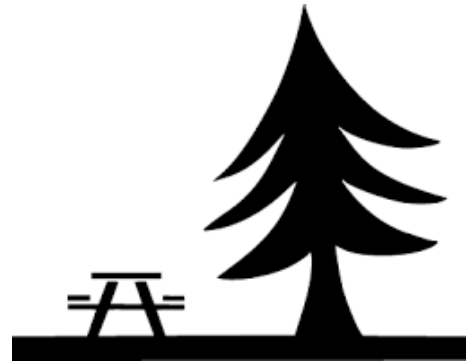


All tickets sold! Drawing will be held at Family Picnic, Aug. 26th!

2017 NFC Family Picnic

Last year's Family Picnic was a huge success at the Erie County Bureau of Forestry in Sardinia. The Steering Committee unanimously agreed to host it again with the focus being on a WOODSWALK and picnic. Members and families encouraged to come!

Save the date: **August 26, 2017**. Dan Ciszak, retired Erie County Forester, will be our guest presenter. Dan will speak of his experience and lead us on the Woodswalk. We will have a picnic lunch provided by the chapter along with raffles!, *Please bring a dish to pass!*



Our Agenda for the picnic:

- 10:30 Arrive, meet and greet!
- 11:00 brief Chapter meeting
- 11:15 Dan Ciszak will discuss his experience as County Forester
- 11:45 Raffles, giveaways
- 12:00 Lunch & Chainsaw drawing
- 1:00 Woodswalk

The Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgs, condiments, drinks and paper products. Please bring a dish to pass.

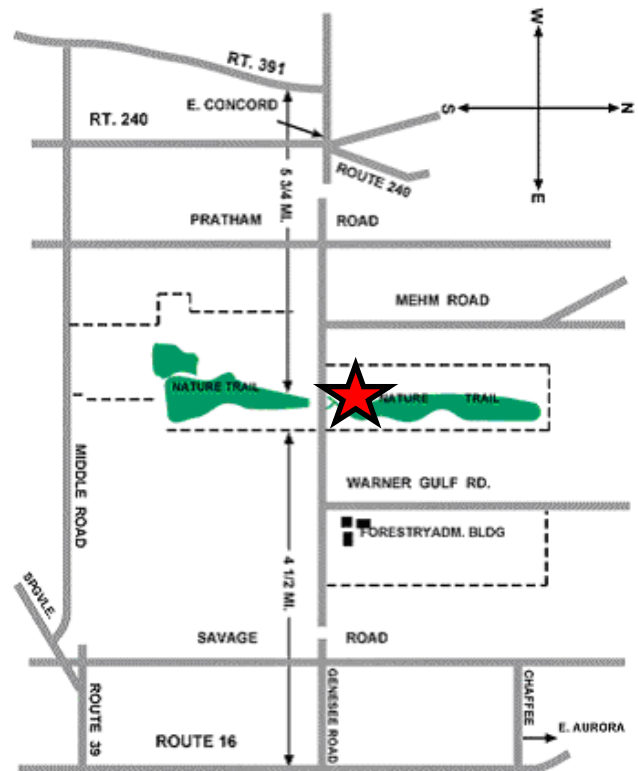
Please RSVP to: Pat Glidden pfglidden@verizon.net or 716-930-5788

Meet at sawmill/sugarhouse picnic area.

Main Park: North and South sides of Genesee Rd, 5 miles East of Rt. 219 and 4 miles West of Rt. 16~ East Concord, NY

The Erie County Bureau of Forestry was established in 1927 in response to the acquisition of several thousand acres of forest and non-forest lands. Much of this area was abandoned farmland and is located in various areas of the County; mostly in Concord and Holland. The non-forested areas were planted with coniferous species of trees (Red, White and Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and Larch) by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's.

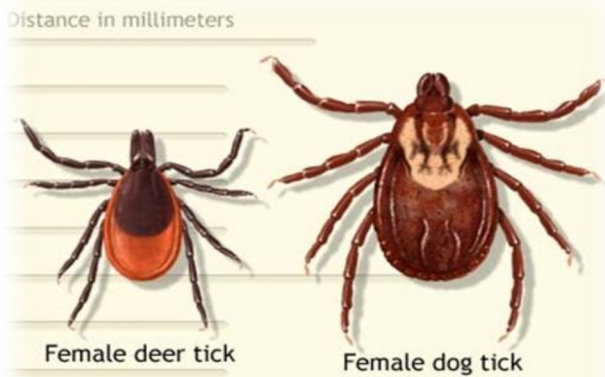
The purpose of the Bureau is to manage and protect these properties for multiple use activities including: forest management, recreation, water quality, wildlife habitat, wood products and maple syrup production.



Tick tock, it's time to protect yourself for walks in the woods.

Mild winters have led to a number of problems (not being able to drag logs out of the woodlot because of the lack of hard frozen ground was only one of them). Many pests overwintered with minimal losses and they are enjoying a longer than usual time to interact with us.

One such pest that we have all heard about in the past is the deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*. It is known to harbor *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the spirochete that causes Lyme disease. Deer ticks can be found associated with deer as well as certain types of mice. Yes, it can be found in New York. The long-term effects of this pest are many as the bacterium can spread throughout the body and affect organs, bones, and the nervous system. Some people are lucky and only get a rash and flu-like symptoms; others may suffer from chronic arthritis and neurological issues.



Dog ticks, *Dermacentor variabilis*, have become newsworthy recently because of a disease associated with them. It was not enough that they could transmit *Rickettsia rickettsia*, the causative agent of Rocky Mountain Spotted fever and its associated fever, nausea and vomiting. Now there is Powassan virus. Symptoms may span the spectrum from asymptomatic to deadly. Those that show symptoms typically begin with fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, dizziness, and seizures. For some individuals the disease leads to permanent neurological issues, and a select few die from the disease due to encephalitis. Approximately 10% of those who show symptoms end up with permanent neurological issues. Sadly there is no currently available vaccine for the virus and no real good treatment once symptoms become obvious. The virus is still pretty rare – with only 75 cases in the past 10 years in the U.S. but it is hard to predict the future.

Dog ticks are typically encountered in high grass (plenty of that this year since no one can get their tractors and bush hogs out onto waterlogged fields). These little eight-legged creatures grip onto your clothes and may take hours to get to their preferred spot on your body to latch on and begin to feed. Surely we will not suggest staying inside! You can protect yourself (somewhat) with insect repellent, especially those with DEET when out in the field. So enjoy the outdoors but be mindful of dog ticks and this new virus.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge May 13, 2017 Event

Our spring event tour of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge by Paul Hess, US Fish & Wildlife Biologist, covered the history, geographic area descriptions and features of this 25,000 acre refuge. We got to meet some new faces along with an additional bird watching tour by Rachel Wilson and biologist Joel Strong.



Joe Tetlow checking out the displays at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.



Bob Glidden and Mark Gallo observing Earth Day at Niagara University with our NYFOA display.



Niagara Frontier Chapter

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Stumpage Report: *Winter 2017*—Latest Report <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>

Please follow this link to provide you with the current pricing information.

2017 NFC Steering Committee

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