



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

WINTER 2018

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Niagara Frontier Chapter 2018 Events

Your NFC Steering Committee has planned some great events for our chapter this year. Our first being our **Shamrock Winter Woodswalk at DeVeaux Woods** in Niagara Falls.!



Our guided tour will begin at **10am** on **Saturday, March 17th, 2018** with an inside presentation, followed by an outdoor guided walk. Bathrooms available but no indoor spot to eat a bag lunch. Weather permitting we can rough it outside!

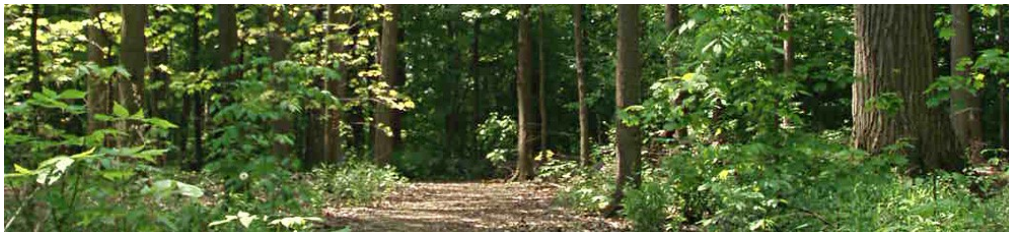
At DeVeaux Woods State Park, one can "step back in time" to see what much of Western New York was like prior to European settlement. The old-growth forest is dominated by white, red and black oak trees and supports a fair diversity of shrub, moss, lichen, and mushroom species. One of the only old growth forests in an urban setting in the United States, DeVeaux Woods State Park claims its oldest tree is around 315 years old.

The park's land was originally part of the DeVeaux College for Orphans and Destitute Children, for which construction began in 1855. DeVeaux College operated as a trade school for boys ages 8 to 12 and was referred to as a "military school" for much of its existence. The school closed in 1972, and the property was used as dormitories for Niagara University between 1978 and 1983. Many of the property's buildings were demolished in 1994, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation acquired the property in 2001.

**DeVeaux Woods is located at:
3180 De Veaux Woods Drive Off Rt. 104 (Lewiston Rd.)
Niagara Falls, NY 14305**

Presentation starts at 10am, please meet by 9:45am at the main park building (follow NYFOA signs).

This should be an interesting walk, learning the history and walking an old-growth forest, plus seeing parts of Niagara Falls in the winter!



In addition to DeVeaux Woods on Mar. 17th, the following events are planned!

- June 9th** Beaver Meadow:/Buffalo Audubon Society presentation and tour.
- July 14th** Shamel Milling—Introduction to Food Plots.
- Aug. 25th** NFC Family Picnic—Deb and Vic Bandinelli's property, Bliss, NY.
- Oct. 13th** MFO / NFC Woodswalk—Ken Gaines property, Concord, NY.

See details of these events on pages 2 and 3 along with a pull out calendar on page 6 with several other events for the year. *Hope to see some new faces!*

Maple Weekends—Randall’s Sugar Shack

Maple Weekends 2018 will be held **March 17-18 and March 24-25**. Visit NFC Members Eric and Eleanor Randall at: Randall’s Sugar Shack, 10307 Smithley Rd., Alexander, NY 14005

Eric puts on a great demonstration of Maple Sugaring, you will be thoroughly entertained! Plus, he has some of the very best maple products!

Beaver Meadow—June 9th, 2018

“The mission of the Buffalo Audubon Society is to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of nature through education and stewardship. Our primary stewardship charge is to protect the 1,000 acres of property, habitats and eco-systems of our centers and preserves. However, if we are to preserve these gems of Western New York, we must also protect the entire region, our state, our country, and the entire globe.” In 1951 on April 30, a letter was sent to all Society members asking for contributions toward the purchase of 48.5 acres of property in the town of Java. Drained by Beaver Meadow Creek on its westerly flow to the valley of Buffalo Creek, in a watershed marked by active as well as abandoned dams of our most irrepressible animal residents, it was appropriately christened **Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge**. Beaver Meadow is a 324-acre nature preserve in North Java, NY. The preserve features its namesake beaver meadow with its associated ponds, glacial kettle ponds, wetlands with a boardwalk trail, wooded uplands, meadows, a hawk watch, an arboretum, and eight miles of marked and groomed trails.

To all NFC members, families and friends, join us for a presentation followed by a guided tour of Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge in North Java on **Saturday, June 9th** starting promptly at **10am**. We will be able to use the multi-purpose room to meet and have our lunch after the tour, or we can use an outside picnic area. The Chapter will cover the cost of the \$5 per person charge for all members. ***Our NYFOA mission is to encourage well informed management of privately owned woodlands in New York State as well as to promote, protect, represent, and serve the interests of woodland owners. We find that woods walks are a great “classroom” for us to see and learn how others are managing their forests as well as learn more about flora and fauna that is native to WNY. NFC member Wayne Forrest, thank you for setting up this event! More details in the Next Newsletter!***

Shamel Milling—July 14th , 2018

Our good friends at Shamel Milling will be reprising their not-to-be-missed "Introduction to Food Plots" presentation for the NYFOA NFC at their facilities at 9384 Genesee Road, East Concord, New York 14055 starting at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 14, 2018** – just in time to get your food plots in for the 2018 deer season. A map and more information about the store can be found at <http://www.shamelmilling.com/contact-shamel-s/3909.htm> Those of you who have seen Jason Engel's presentation before, know just how informative it is and how useful it can be in helping you down the deer of your dreams—or simply improve the wildlife habitat in and around your forest. The cost of admission is free, and it's backed by a double-your-money-back guarantee if not fully satisfied! If you want to bring an aerial photo

of your property, Jason will be using examples to illustrate his program and offer property-specific suggestions. Anyone wanting to bring a soil sample can also have it tested for pH and liming recommendations. (A discussion of the importance of pH testing and accompanying soil sampling instructions can be found at <https://www.qdma.com/food-plot-soil-test/> Make sure that your sample is dry/dried out.) Plan on about 2 hours for the presentation, after which Shamel Milling has offered to feed us (Jason assures us that it will be human food and not some of the other products found on their website). Seating is limited and Jason needs a head count for lunch, so if you plan on attending you need to let Mitch Banas know at mbanas@bsk.com.

Reminder in next newsletter!

Family Picnic—August 25th, 2018

For many of our members we dream about having that piece of nature that we can visit, enjoy, hunt, preserve and for some even live on.

Vic and Deb Bandinelli hosted our woodswalk in 2015 on their 37 acre family forest in Bliss, NY. Deb's parents had originally bought the property in 1968 and Deb and Vic have been owners since 2001. Mostly pine woods reforested from farmland in the mid 40's, they are now working on turning the property into hardwoods. For them their dream came true. This past year they built their retirement home on their property and have now moved in.

This year Deb and Vic will host our 3rd Annual Family Picnic at their home/property on Saturday August 25, 2018.

Eric Stawitzky, their consulting forester, will bring us up-to-date on their progress and lead a woodswalk right after our picnic lunch. We may also have a presenter on small windmills/solar power and possibly a piece of equipment from Larry Romance and Son. We will also have a visit from the neighbors llamas, who will show off some of their finished pieces made from their "fibre"!



As always, the Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgs, beverages, paper products and condiments. A dish to pass would be appreciated! We will plan for 10 am for presentations and of course our door prize raffles.



August is a ways off so final details in the summer newsletter!

MFO—NFC Woodswalk—October 13th, 2018

NFC member, Ken Gaines, will be our host this year for our annual member woodswalk. However, this will be a special event as it will be co-sponsored by the Niagara Frontier Chapter *and* the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner program coordinated by Emily Stachock, Watershed/Environmental Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County. The walk will be open to the public and NFC members at no cost, and the goal is to help folks understand the benefits of forest management and give them some ideas of projects that they might like to implement on their own properties. Forester, Eric Stawitzky will attend as well, to provide info about forest management and DEC assistance for private forest owners. Ken has had three different logging projects, and

these will be good to highlight on the walk. Ken will also highlight any other work he's done or plans to do. This is a good opportunity to market the role of the private consulting forester. Eric, Ken and the DEC forester will do a presentation before the walk and include the features that will be highlighted.

Emily will be heavily marketing this event so there should be a great turn out, both NFC Members and others interested. Beverages and snacks will be provided, bring a bagged lunch. Ken's property is located in Concord, NY and our walk is planned for 10am-2pm.

More Details in the Summer Newsletter!

Stumpage Report: Summer 2017—Latest Report

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>

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

Weeding the Woodlot

by NFC Member Mark Gallo

Sure we would all like our land to be packed full of a variety of species of trees that are 22" or more in diameter and of course veneer-grade quality. Let's turn that fantasy around and ask how does land get to that if it is your goal. Time helps, it takes a while to grow a tree of those dimensions. Growth of the right type of tree for the land is also incredibly important. Is your land wet, is the soil acidic, do you have deep fertile soil, or sand, or clay? So smart management practices needed to be started a hundred-plus years ago for the dreamer results mentioned above. Unfortunately as we have all noticed in our own woodlots this has not been the general practice.

Taking out the best, most valuable trees, in a process known as high-grading, has been practiced for obvious reasons: one receives the highest initial payment. When one considers the age when we are able to afford to buy land there is a reasonable expectation that it may provide some means of recouping the associated costs of ownership. But many times we are penny-wise and pound-foolish by our "short-term" practices. That term is a funny one to use when we are dealing with organisms that can easily outlive many generations of humans. Taking big trees that have reached a certain size also seems to be a good thing to do, but turn that around and ask how did they get that large? Maybe they have superior genetics that allows them to grow faster than others around them. They do not stop that pattern of growth, so encourage them to continue growing and to be seed trees to provide for future generations. How best to accomplish that goal? Weed your forest.

Weeding, isn't that for your garden? Yes, but the same principles apply to your woods. Remove undesirable competition and give the desirable plants room to grow. One of my winter tasks is to remove vines from trees. There are a few that I run into in my woods. Poison ivy can become incredibly aggressive. See the photo of the size of the poison ivy that I cut off of a small white oak tree, their diameters were the same! Sadly it will kill trees if given the opportunity. The large woody ones can be tackled with clipper or a saw or axe, but be careful to not harm the tree below. Once you cut through these large ones, grabbing them and pulling back, it causes a satisfying snap at ground level where they break off. I would not recommend using them as walking sticks however, probably make for quite an itchy situation.

Grape vines can also be quite a problem. I cut them as well and try to take an axe to them at ground level. Unfortu-

nately they don't die so easily and they will grow back, but recognize that you are helping your trees immensely by removing them. Virginia creeper can also attach to trees, and a few other vines as well; removal follow the above procedure.

What next? I typically look for crowding of desirable trees. I am a fan of white oak and realize that it has a hard time regenerating in a forest (needs open land) so I do try to girdle any trees near them, to let them get some sunlight and space. I will drop an occasional one so that it falls the way I want it to, but normally just cutting an inch in the entire way around destroys the cambium layer and hence kills the tree above that point. Ash, red maple, elm and pin oak are my typical weed trees of substance. I use my top bar chain saw (arborist's saw) because it is light, has a 12" bar and is easy to handle, especially for a leftie. (Did I say that it is light? That makes a BIG difference when you are wandering around in your woods.)

I also have more than my fair share of hawthorn, buckthorn, sumac, and prickly ash to contend with. You may think that they are not a problem but they do outcompete re-growth of desirable tree species when young, and we do need to continue to start the next generation of trees. It is easy to mistake buckthorn for young cherry, but here's the tip – buckthorn has its buds symmetrically across from each other (opposite) whereas cherry buds are random (alternate) along the branch. So far I have used mechanical means on them but may resort to chemical and would like to hear comments from others regarding best strategy of timing and dose.

I find winter as the best time to do this, because the clothes provide protection against scratches from weeds and also there are no bugs to contend with. It is also easier to get a better view of your trees in the forest. Besides, we typically don't have a sports team to worry about in this area and this is a great way to go out there and live up to that New Year's resolution to exercise more!



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B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated
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Niagara University, NY 14109

NYFOA Meeting / Silent Auction

The NYFOA Board of Directors announces that the 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 21, 2018** at the ESF campus in Syracuse, NY.

From Gerry McDonald, statewide board member for the Capital District Chapter:

The silent auction started last year at the annual statewide meeting and was a huge success raising over \$5,000. The statewide meeting has been scheduled for **April 21, 2018** and we set a goal of raising \$2,000 to maintain an adequate amount of funding for the youth forestry programs. The silent auction

can be a fun way to share some of our talents and engage with others as we raise money for a good cause. Please consider donating some craft or forest related item for this year's auction.

Much of that money remains available. If you have time, check out the information on the NYFOA website - NYFOA Silent Auction 2017. If you know of any educators or others who might be interested, please encourage them to apply for one of the \$100 mini grants. Or, if you have an idea for some other program that might benefit, encourage them to apply.

Thanks, Gerry

NY Farm Show

The New York Farm Show will be held **February 22-23-24, 2018** at the State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY.

Free programs offered to help landowners get more benefits from their woodlots will be presented each day during the Farm Show by the New York Forest Owners Association.

Meet with a forester from the State Department of Environmental Conservation or speak with a Cornell trained volunteer. Visitors are encouraged to bring their questions and pause at the booth area before or after attending a seminar program. The DEC foresters and trained volunteers are there to help with resource materials, displays and expert advice.

Learn More, Earn More seminars are free and open to all. Topics include federal cost sharing for woodlot improvements, working with foresters, improving bird habitat, heating with wood, and forest farming. Programs start on the hour and allow time for questions and discussion. The booth is on the main corridor of the Arts and Home Center, and the seminars are held in the Somerset Room just steps away on the lower level of the Center.

These programs are presented by the New York Forest Owners Association in cooperation with the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and with special thanks to each of our expert speakers. For more information go to: <http://cceonondaga.org/events/2018/02/22/nyfoa-offers-learn-more-earn-more-seminars-for-private-landowners>

Rural Landowners Workshop

RURAL LANDOWNERS WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

On Saturday, March 4, 2017 Cornell Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring the 26th Annual Rural Landowner Workshop. Presenters are brought in from both private and public sectors to provide participants with up-to-date information.

The program will be held at Pioneer Central School located on County Line Road in Yorkshire, NY. The fee for this program is \$30 and pre-registration is required. For full agenda or to be added to mailing list contact:

Lynn Bliven, *Agricultural Economic Development*

lao3@cornell.edu
585-268-7644 ext 18

For program details and registration form:

<http://allegany.cce.cornell.edu/events/2018/03/03/26th-annual-rural-landowner-workshop>

You and Your Forest

You and Your Forest is a FREE informational letter series starting this February for woodland owners offered through Cooperative Extension. Your participation does not require any previous knowledge of forests or forestry. Topics include forest protection, wildlife, invasive species, and crop tree management. If you sign up, you will receive seven self-study installments beginning February 2018 and sent via email every two weeks. Call CCE's Agroforestry Resource Center 518-622-9820 x0 to enroll.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 22—24, 2018	NY Farm Show
March 3, 2018	Rural Landowners Conference
March 16 or 17, 2018	Game of Logging, Lockport, NY
March 17, 2018	Shamrock Winter Woodswalk at DeVeaux Woods, Niagara Falls, NY Chapter Event
March 17/18 & 24/25, 2018	Maple Weekends
April 20, 2018	Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Pick up
April 21, 2018	NYFOA Annual Meeting/Silent Auction—Syracuse NY
June 9, 2018	Beaver Meadow/Buffalo Audubon Tour Chapter Event
July 14, 2018	Shamel Milling—Introduction to Food Plots Chapter Event
August 25, 2018	NFC Family Picnic Chapter Event
October 13, 2018	NFC - MFO Woodswalk, Ken Gaines Property Chapter Event



Chairman's Corner

Winter 2018 by Bob Glidden

As I sit here contemplating this article it is 20 degrees and snowing very hard. I guess I have a little cabin fever setting in as usual this time of year. Deer season has ended and with the deep snow my attention moves to the food needed for the wildlife to survive winter.

The deer and rabbits are scrounging for buds and grasses. I am thinking about going out and hinge cutting some of the undesirable trees bringing the buds closer to the ground for browse, maybe this may help them a little.

I have started planning out food plots for 2018 and will be using our **NYFOA discount at Shamel Milling Co.** near Springville this year. I plan on trying a product with turnips, beets and greens, clover for my perennial plots and some chufa for the turkeys. I also plan on attending the introduction to food plots in July that Mitch Banas has set up for us at Shamel.

I asked the power company tree trimmers for surplus wood chips and they have started bringing them which I use for my trails and roadways. Six loads so far but more

to come! This should keep me busy this spring and summer, as if I can't find anything to do!

With the weather being so cold and the blowing snow, I guess I will devote some time to my other favorite hobby of model railroading. For the last 26 years I've had an HO gauge layout in my basement that will keep me occupied and should rejuvenate me for warmer weather. This has been my winter hobby for as long as I can remember. I even have my own sawmill on the layout!



On a closing note, don't forget the NY Farm show at the

state fairgrounds in Syracuse on Feb. 22-24, you can go to <http://cceanondaga.org/events/2018/02/22/nyfoa-offers-learn-more-earn-more-seminars-for-private-landowners> to view the seminar schedule.

Hope to see some new faces at our events this year!

Game of Logging

Game of Logging Level 1 classes being offered by New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health in March 2018:

- **Monday, March 5: DEC Taconic Herford Multiple Use Area, Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County**
- **Wednesday, March 7: SUNY ESF Heiberg Forest, Tully, Onondaga County**
- **Friday, March 16: McCollum Orchards, Lockport, Niagara County**
- **Saturday, March 17: McCollum Orchards, Lockport, Niagara County**

About the class: The Level 1 class focuses on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. **All classes are held from 8 am to 4 pm, and there is a participation fee of \$25.**

What to bring: Participants are expected to bring personal safety equipment, including a logging helmet, hearing protection, and logging chaps, along with a chain saw. If you do not own these items, some will be provided during the class; the one exception is the logging helmet, which you must supply yourself. Participants should also bring a packed lunch.

To register for one of the classes, please call NYCAMH at 800.343.7527/607.547.6023 or e-mail

chainsawsafety@bassett.org.

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District

For those of you interested, the Niagara County Soil & Water District is accepting tree orders. **Last day to order is Friday, March 9, 2018. For information call #434-4949 Ext. 4 www.niagaraswcd.com**

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport, NY 14094

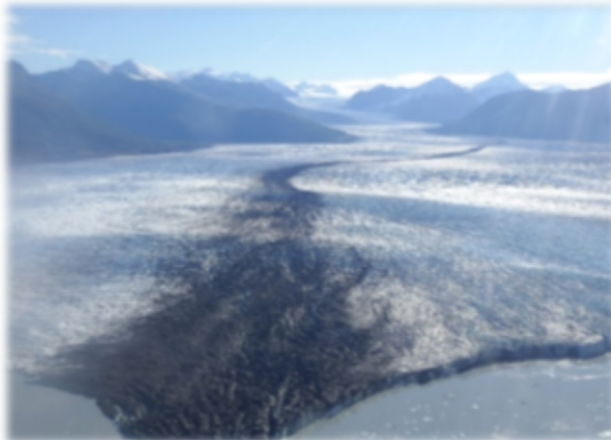
Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

If ordering after March 1, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

Member's Corner

Alaska Travelogue by Wayne Forrest

Brenda and I were fortunate to be able to spend three weeks touring Alaska this past August. The trip consisted of two weeks on the ground with stops in Anchorage, Palmer, Talkeetna, Denali, Fairbanks, Girdwood, Homer and Seward. From Seward we boarded the Radiance of the Seas with ports of call Juneau, Skagway, Icy Straights and Ketchikan. Three weeks may sound like a long time but when it comes to exploring Alaska we barely scratched the surface! Here are the highlights from a couple of the locations we visited, the Knik Glacier and Denali National Park.



Knik Glacier

Much of the Alaskan landscape has been shaped by glaciers, so no visit to Alaska would be complete without getting up close and personal with one. We saw numerous glaciers over the three weeks but the highlight was being able to take a helicopter ride to the 28 mile long, 5 mile wide Knik Glacier. Our pilot flew us around the edges of the glacier giving us a great view of the overall size and all the glacial features before landing upon it. He chose a spot that was not populated with crevasses. On the ground, we put on crampons and hiked over the rolling surface. We found a spot with running water and had a taste of glacier water, no telling how old that water was considering it started out as snow 28 miles up the glacier. We also were able to peer into a few moulins. These are vertical well-like shafts where surface water enters and goes beneath the surface of the glacier. This was probably the most dangerous part of the ride, if you fall into one of these no telling where or if you would come out.

Denali National Park

Our next highlights were in Denali. Denali is located in the northern boreal forest biome. We were able to experience the lowlands, subalpine and alpine zones. We hiked the Rock Creek Trail around the visitor center. It afforded us a walk through and a view over the lowlands. The lowlands were predominately forested with black spruce, white spruce, paper birch and green alder. Where ground covers were present it had a fair amount of ripe cloudberry (or bearberries) in it. A word of caution, it is best to walk in large groups and make human noises to insure bears in the vicinity know of your presence. We also took a float trip down the Nenana River. It was a great way to see another view of the lowlands without too much effort. The water level was low so the view was always up to rivers edge.



Next we boarded the National Park Shuttle which is the only way to travel the Park Road. Our first wildlife sighting was Dall Sheep. Interestingly it was not the mountain which led to the establishment of the National Park, it was the lobbying of Charles Sheldon in an effort to protect the Dall sheep. In the winter of 1907 Dall sheep were being slaughtered by commercial meat hunters who were trying to serve the needs of railroad workers and gold miners. Sheldon realized that the hunting of wildlife to this extent would jeopardize the fragile ecosystem. So he lobbied Congress to establish the Mount McKinley National Park, on February 26, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson made it so. Without snow cover Dall sheep are relatively easy to spot if you scan the higher, steeper, alpine zone where they live. Dall sheep can maneuver much faster than

most of their predators on this type of terrain and if they are unable to escape they have been known to butt a predator (coyote, wolf, black bear, and grizzly bear) over the edge.

Alaska Travelogue by Wayne Forrest cont'd

A visit to Denali would not be complete without seeing a grizzly bear. We were able to observe 16 grizzlies, mostly we saw sows with cubs down in the valleys that were carved out by small creeks. Generally they were anywhere from blond to cinnamon in color. Winter was coming and they were filling up on berries that grow in the scrub vegetation in the sub alpine zone. They put on a great show with the cubs standing on their hind legs to see where their brother or sister was and the sow standing and growling to let the cubs know they had strayed a little too far from her. Although their colorations blended in well with their background, their silhouettes and movement made them pretty easy to see from 300-400 yards.



Two thirds of the people who go to Denali National Park never see Denali (the mountain) at all. We were fortunate enough to be able to see 80% of the mountain when we got to the shuttle turnaround point at mile 62 (Stoney Hill Overlook). As we traveled from the visitor's center at 1700' towards Denali we gained about 2000' in elevation. From mile 62 to the end of the road at mile 89 (Kantishna) the alpine ground cover consisted of short grasses, flowers and forbs.



The way of life, the terrain and the vistas of Alaska are unlike most of the lower 48. Around every bend of our 1500 mile journey by car there was always some awe-inspiring view or unique cultural opportunity. The other 17 days of our journey can be summed up with glaciers calving, humpback whales breaching, dolphins wake surfing, seals sunning, sea otters eating oysters, puffins diving, salmon schooling, moose munching, oil flowing, eagles soaring, black bear fishing, bush and seaplane flying, dog sleds speeding, totem pole carving and of course over eating. If you've never been to Alaska, we highly recommend it.

"Odditree" Corner

Hey folks! Who has an odd looking tree? I'm sure there is at least one on your property! We have a new "Corner" for our Newsletter. We can feature your Odd looking trees or share your wood creativity. Here are a couple of contributions!



This tree can't make up its mind if it wants to be one or two trees!

Growing on Mark Gallo's property!

"Snowman" from cutoffs of a recent timber harvest!

Visiting Wayne and Brenda Forrest for the holidays!



Send your pictures to: pfglidden@verizon.net



Niagara Frontier Chapter

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This old poplar is now residence for a woodpecker!

Send your "Odditree" pictures to pfglidden@verizon.net for our next edition!



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