



CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2022

A Message from the Chairman Jason Post



Have timber to sell?? Now is a suitable time to contact your forester. Log and lumber markets are particularly good. Demand for kiln-dried lumber is strong, and log production is down. Weather is a key factor in log production, then throw in the loss of loggers who threw in the towel between the collapse in the markets during the trade war, and the double-whammy of the Covid shutdown in 2020. Surprisingly and welcomingly, the lumber markets rebounded extremely well. Log prices have not come up as well as lumber prices have percentage-wise, but they are not at or above pre-trade-war prices. I can only speculate that the sawmills have lost so much money the last 2 to 2-1/2 years, that they really, really, need to make profits back in order to survive.

In our area, White Oak and Hard Maple are on top of the heap right now as far as pricing goes. Red Maple is not far behind. Red Oak did extremely well last summer and fall, but lumber prices now seem to be stalling some. All species of hardwoods are strong. Softwoods (which I know little about) seem to be in demand, but log pricing has seriously lagged the softwood lumber markets. Your guess is as good as mine as to why.

Anyway, tax time is here, heating costs are up, money spent on the holidays can be replenished ... call your forester, and make plans.

On Firewood

Dick Gibbs



The field entrance to our farm is lined by rows of firewood; we identify this lane as the "Logwoods Driveway." Occasionally a passerby stops and asks if we sell firewood. "No, we don't sell firewood. It costs too much to bring the wood from our woods up to the point where it is cut, split, and stacked. We can't afford to sell it." If this seems illogical, it is not.

Forty years ago, we bought the woodlot, making monthly payments so we could have firewood when oil heat was becoming ever more expensive. With a single-cylinder garden tractor, we drew dead trees to heat the farmhouse. Later, we hired our consulting forester to guide cutting to improve the woodlot. We gave some firewood to folks in need, and this is still true today. We give firewood away but thus far don't sell it.

Our Econobum gasifier is linked to a 1,200-gallon thermal storage tank in the basement. It can burn larger pieces of firewood, so some stacks are for the main house. Our close friend, who does the bulk of harvesting, has a small stove. He stacks split rows neatly for his needs. Odd-shaped pieces, crotches, go into a protected bin for another neighbor's maple sap evaporator. We share our motorized log splitter with the farm neighbor across the road. The mountain bikers maintain the network of walking and skiing trails, and they use firewood for post-ride campfires. Another neighbor clears brush and helps with large efforts in the woods. His stack of firewood knits together a neighborliness that can't be bought or sold. In different ways it warmly links an array of folks of diverse and unspecified political and religious perspectives. Firewood builds community.

The Capital District Chapter of NYFOA strives to help woodlot owners and nature enthusiasts. Please share our newsletter with a friend or, better yet, invite them to a walk or other event.

Got ideas? Please share them with us at
info.nyfoa.cdc@gmail.com.

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Upcoming Events

All events are tentative due to the pandemic. Specific announcements will be sent once we are closer to the planned date.

- April 16 – Tick Talk – Landis Arboretum Tick ID and safety in the woods. Learn how to make a drag net and all about disease prevention.
- May 24 – Game of Logging 1 Chain Saw Safety Program – Rotterdam. Sign up for this program with NYCAMH directly by [email](#) or call (800) 343-7527.
- June 1 – Game of Logging 1 Chain Saw Safety – CCE Agroforest, Acra.
- June 4 – Drone Program – Lawson Lake County Park 10 AM-noon – Presented cooperatively with NYS DEC, NYFOA, Albany County Parks.
- June 11 – Audubon Woods Walks – Woodstock.
- July – NYFOA CDC Annual Picnic - Thatcher Park.
- July – Draiss Property Woods Walk – Hannacroix.
- August 20 – Audubon Woods Walk – Copake.
- September – Woods Walk Young Forest Initiative - Coeymans Hollow.
- October – Fire Tower Challenge – Climb a Catskill Fire Tower or cheer on those who dare. Location to be announced at a later date.


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