

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2024

Volume 38, Number 1

## WFL 2023 Dinner & Business Meeting

*By Colette Morabito*

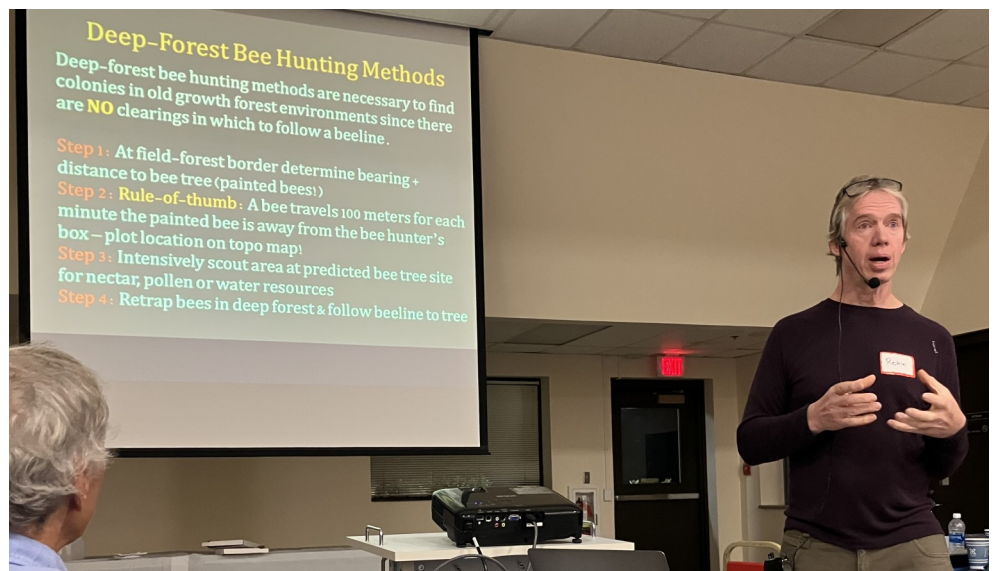
The WFL Board was very pleased at the wonderful turnout for the annual dinner meeting held on October 3, 2023, at the Mendon Fire Hall. The new location was superb, the food was delicious, and the raffles and door prizes were enjoyed by many. Dale Schaefer, our emcee, along with Mike Seager, were able to keep the meeting on point, fun, and memorable.

Kudos went out to Greg Lessard and Colette Morabito as Chapter Service Award winners. We had the pleasure of welcoming Claire Kenney as the new NYFOA Office Administrator; individual thanks went out to Mike Arman for securing the Mendon Fire Hall; and special gratitude to Nick Jensen for organizing the dinner meeting as a whole.

50/50 Raffle was secured by Cindy Barben. The Stihl Chainsaw donated by Runnings in Brockport was won by Mike Foley. The Dryshod boot certificate was taken home by Keith Frum. There were many quality door prizes that were chosen by many of the membership with a new and improved as well as fun process – Wheel of Names.

Our speaker-extraordinaire was Dr. Robin Radcliffe. Accompanied by his daughter, they drove in from their homestead in

Tompkins County to join us for the evening. He spoke about his varied expertise in all manner of animal veterinary science around the world. But he focused his presentation on deep-forest bee hunting methods.



Dr. Robin Radcliffe describes the process of deep-forest bee hunting.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Editor's note

By Mike Seager

As you have seen on page 1, and as many of you saw in person, we resumed our fall dinner meeting this year. After several years of restricted activities due to the pandemic, it has felt good to return to a more normal schedule this year and the dinner was a great culmination of our programs of meetings and woodswalks. In addition to the kudos offered in other articles, I want to express my personal thanks to everybody who made the dinner a success; and that includes all those who attended. We try hard to hold down the cost of the dinner, and we always wonder if people will be willing to pay what it costs; the high level of attendance – there were about 80 people this year – indicates that we are striking a good balance between having a high quality event and keeping the price under control. If you would like to offer comments about what you liked, what you didn't like, or why you didn't attend, we would be happy to hear them so we can improve our flagship event. Contact information for all the board members is below.

We on the board are looking forward to planning another year of interesting and educational programs. If anybody would like to suggest topics or speakers, or to volunteer to host a woodswalk, please reach out to

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## About Us

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The *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner* is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the youngsters of today. For information on becoming an NYFOA member visit nyfoa.org, or contact Claire Kinney, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 644, Naples, NY, 14512 or at 607-365-2214. Annual membership for an individual or family is \$55 and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and to statewide meetings. Two-year memberships are available for \$100, three-year memberships for \$150, and Lifetime memberships for \$750.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to Mike Seager at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

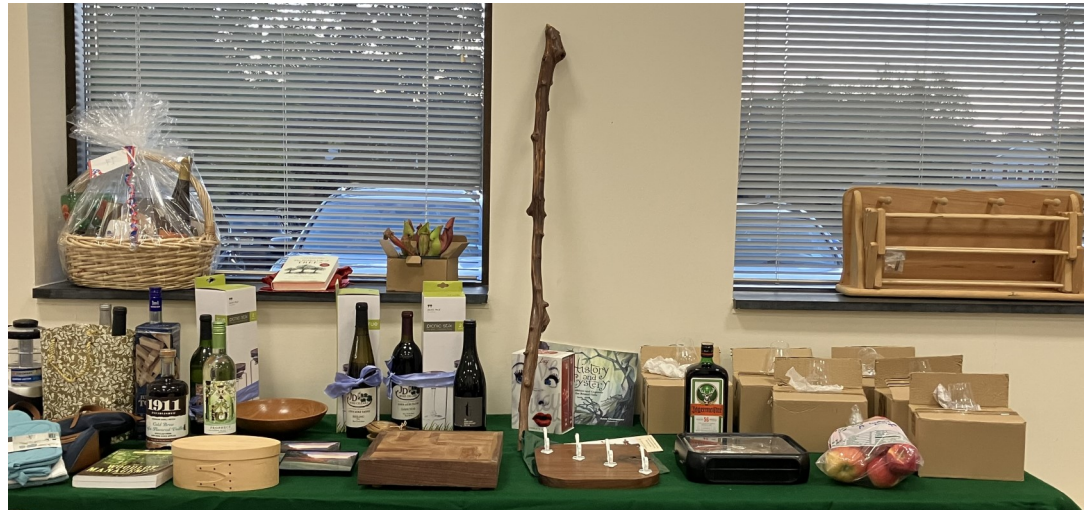
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**Note:** The deadline for the Summer 2024 issue is May 15

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Cornell University, where he is a professor of veterinary science, their studies have found that bees prefer home sites in flowering hardwoods such as oak dominated woodlands as well as old growth hemlock forests. Swarms of bees will choose any suitable cavity in which to establish a colony. A beeline is the path that the bee takes from the source of water or nectar directly back to the hive. As you may know, there is a technique to hunt for hives. This activity demands some specialized equipment and a lot of patience. Our gratitude to Dr. Radcliffe for sharing his personal story of bee hunting in his woodlot.

The WFL board wishes to thank all those that made the event a success including their behind-the-scenes efforts, generous investment of their personal time, and humble dedication to our chapter. It is never taken for granted. But the evening continues to be a big success simply because of all those who attend. The dinner meeting is always a delightful way to reconnect with other NYFOA members and go home with new forestry information and perhaps an arm full of unexpected surprises.



Thanks to all who donated quality door prizes.

## Thank You Sponsors!

*By Greg Lessord*

It was a great feeling to have our annual dinner meeting once again since the 2020 covid outbreak and what a great turn out we had. A big part of that success comes from having some great sponsors.

- Again this year Dryshod graciously donated gift certificates for each of our chapters and this years winner will have some toasty feet when winter sets in.
- Runnings of Brockport stepped up to the plate once again and donated the Stihl MS 170 saw for our raffle. Previously they helped us out with a Black Diamond log splitter for the Firewood For Charity fund raising benefitting Camp ONSEYAWA.
- New this year Tractor Supply Corp. of Brockport donated to our door prizes.

These are all fine companies with whom I do business with and their generosity is a big part of our success. If you haven't shopped with them, I urge you to give them a try. A heart felt thank you to all our sponsors!

# Forestry Terms I

*By Colette Morabito*

## Part One of Three

Like with any hobby or craft, the vocabulary, terms, and acronyms for the skills needed to achieve your best work can be varied and numerous. Terminology in the area of forestry is no different. How many times have I been to an educational event and the words or acronyms that everyone is using so freely go completely over my head. Certainly, I am not the only one confused and lost, but stopping the conversation to get caught up to speed is rather disconcerting in that moment. I came upon several resources while digging through my forestry files recently. The authors of this long list are unknown, but the many terms and their simple definitions seem important to review.

Rearranging the lists to provide the terminology in a three-part series will not overwhelm but rather inform and inspire. Regardless of your experience in the woods, abilities with a chainsaw, knowledge of the countless new invasive species that are changing our woodlots, or your educational background, it is always a great reminder of how much there is to learn. I hope that these terms and definitions will give you pause to either pat yourself on the back for all you know or give you some support in your wood lot endeavors, management, and general understanding. Please be sure to share your knowledge with the younger generation. Be confident in your knowledge and be sure to share everything you know with this new cohort of future forest preservationists.

**Northern Hardwoods** – Forests in which Sugar Maple, Beech, Yellow Birch, and Black Cherry, singly or in combination, comprise a plurality of the stocking. In New York State common associates might include Hemlock, Basswood, Aspens, and Red Oak.

**Allegany Hardwoods** – A subtype of the Northern Hardwoods which contains a high percentage of Black Cherry or White Ash or a combination of both. With the Emerald Ash Borer in the picture, time will tell how this will play out with other species ultimately replacing Ash.

**Conifer** – A tree belonging to the order Coniferales which is usually evergreen, cone bearing and with needles, awl or scalelike leaves such as Pine, Spruces, Firs, and Cedars. They are often referred to as “softwoods” which does not necessarily refer to the hardness of the wood.

**Softwood** – A term to describe trees with needles and cones such as Pines, Spruces, Firs, and Larches.

**Stand** – A grouping of trees occupying a given area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age, and condition so as to be distinguishable from the forest or adjoining areas. A forest stand is said to be pure if 80% or more of the trees present are of the same species. If less than 80% of all the trees present are of the same

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

species, the stand is said to be mixed.

**Hardwood** – A term used to describe broadleaf, usually deciduous, trees such as Oaks, Maples, and Elms. It does not necessarily refer to the hardness of the wood. (Normally, Ashes are in this group, but I hesitate to include them with the present infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer - EAB)

**D.B.H.** – An abbreviation for Diameter at Breast Height

**Diameter at Breast Height (D.B.H.)** – The diameter of a standing tree measured at 4 ½ feet above the ground or chest height.

**Seedling** – A tree, usually defined as less than 2 inches in Diameter at Breast Height (D.B.H.) which has grown from a seed (this is in contrast to a sprout)

**Sapling** – A small tree, usually defined as being between 2 and 4 inches in D.B.H.

**Sprout** – A tree that has grown from the base, stump, or root of another tree.

**Tree** – A woody plant having a well-defined stem, a more or less defined/formed crown, and usually attaining a height of at least 10 feet.

**Succession** – The replacement of one plant community by another until ecological stability is achieved. For example: Old Field Succession

**Even-Aged Forest** – A forest in which all the trees present are essentially the same age, within 10 to 20 years.

***To be continued in our next newsletter....***

*(Continued from page 2)*

the relevant board members: Colette Morabito for meetings, and Eileen Schaefer for woodswalks.

On a personal note, I have just taken a class at SUNY Geneseo in Geographic Information Systems. That is a fancy term but in my case what it means is that I have learned how to use some tools on my laptop computer to track and manage various aspects of my property. This is the first time I have taken a college class in many years (decades), and while I was a bit apprehensive I found that I learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing it. To anybody who is considering taking a class, in whatever area and for whatever reason, I recommend you jump right in, and don't be deterred by how long it has been since you were last in school. Watch for more details about what I learned, and how I am going to apply it in managing my property, in a future newsletter.

# Garlic Braiding Successes

*By Colette Morabito*

We were about 14 people strong for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garlic Braiding phenomenon. Michelle Scutt, also known tenderly as the Garlic Lady, Egg Lady, Garlic Whisperer, Mother/Wife/Friend Extraordinaire. Let's just say that the garlic braiding class gets bigger and bigger each year, and more and more fun.

Michelle is patient, kind, and proficient in all her garlic expertise, knowhow, and capabilities. As she tutors us through the braiding, she shares with us her garlic story, her farming techniques, all the while entertaining us with her candid style and fabulous sense of humor. She has her secrets too, of course, when it comes to several of her techniques in the kitchen for her delicious garlic products. Nothing goes to waste as the composting and tender care of her garlic fields are off limits to most. This is to keep pathogens and other issues from contaminating her farm.

Perhaps some of you are familiar with an Old Appalachian recipe called Pinecone Jelly. I searched the internet for this new idea from the old frontier folks and was happily surprised to see that it is a real thing with medicinal qualities. Michelle is full of ideas on healthy living.

Garlic Joke by Becca:

Why doesn't garlic like to shower? Because they don't like to take their "cloves" off!

August of 2024 is set for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Garlic Braiding extravaganza. Hope to see you there!



Garlic braiding champions!

# WFL General Meeting

## Wetland Ecology: Exploring Biodiversity, Significance, and Conservation

*Presented by*

**Alexandria "Alli" Esposito and Chelsea Gendreau**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

**United Church of Christ**

**8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471**

Welcome back to our spring season of forest educational presentations. We look forward to getting our chapter members back together again to learn from some local professionals. Please be sure to take some time to mingle and meet some of our newest WFL members while enjoying the refreshments that abound. Please drive safely as the weather is always a bit unpredictable in March.

Alli Esposito and Chelsea Gendreau, both from Finger Lakes Community College's Muller Field Station, will be speaking about Wetland Ecology. They will explore different wetland types and the diverse range of species that thrive within these ecosystems: wetland mammals, migratory birds, plant species, fish, and amphibians will be discussed, while also highlighting their contributions to the landscape. Discover the practical significance of these ecosystems and gain insights into effective conservation strategies for their long-term health and vitality. Please be sure to read their biographies below.

**Alexandria "Alli" Esposito** is the Assistant Director at the Muller Field Station. Alli has an Associate Degree in Natural Resources Conservation, a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology, and a Master's Degree in Parks and Resource Management. She deeply values time spent exploring, honoring, and connecting with the earth and is passionate about offering and sharing this opportunity with others. At the Field Station, Alli coordinates and leads events, field trips, and guides various projects. You can join Alli for a paddle through the swamp, a garden day, or for a guided meditative practice at Muller Field Station.

**Chelsea Gendreau** has a Master's Degree in Sustainable Natural Resource Management from Unity College (Maine), with an undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill. Currently, she is the Muller Field Station Manager for the Finger Lakes Community College, which is located at the south end of Honeoye Lake. Chelsea also teaches Wildlife Management as an adjunct instructor within the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture Department at FLCC. Her background has largely centered around field work aimed at data collection for various research projects including endangered cutthroat trout population restoration in New Mexico; nesting success of diving waterfowl in Manitoba, Canada; tracking stop-over duration and habitat use of migrating waterfowl in the Wabash River Valley of Illinois; and conducting deer browse surveys in the Susquehannock State Forest of Pennsylvania.

# WFL General Meeting

## Native Americans, fire, and oak forests: Past connections and present implications

*Presented by*  
**Dr. Stephen J. Tulowiecki, Ph.D.**

**Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471**

Scholars have long debated the extent of Native American land use upon forests of the eastern United States. Wildland burning was one land management tool that Native Americans wielded in order to clear landscapes to facilitate agriculture, hunting, travel, and resource procurement: some think its impacts were negligible, whereas others believe it drove the regional-extent abundance of fire-tolerant tree species such as oak and hickory. Dr. Tulowiecki's presentation explores how Native Americans used forests and shaped forest patterns of the eastern US, with a focus on Western New York. Drawing upon the speaker's own research, it also explores the data and methods scholars use for revealing relationships between Native Americans, fire, and forest composition. The talk also makes connections to modern management of oak forests and prescribed fire in the eastern US.

Dr. Tulowiecki is an Associate Professor of Geography & Sustainability Studies at SUNY Geneseo. He teaches courses in geographic information systems, statistics, and mountain geography. His research interests are in forest ecosystems of the eastern US, including varied topics such as the distribution of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), the past distribution of tree species, and Native American land-use impacts upon forests.

Please join us for this insightful presentation. There is always more to appreciate in the history of our properties, and this is the perfect opportunity to delve more deeply into why some forest stands persist without any obvious management. We look forward to seeing you and be assured of the delicious snacks and goodies that the ladies always share.

*Regional Conference (Continued from page 10)*

ing from Black Bears and Pollinators to Conservation Easements and Carbon Credits. A Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle were enjoyed by all, and we had a big lunch that allowed us extra time to refuel and speak with the other attendees. Please consider exploring the opportunities your chapter has to offer. Or perhaps invite folks to your property for woods walk or another genre of educational event. NYFOA is the best place to meet like minded people, who you can learn from, and an opportunity to challenge your ideas for greater success.



# WFL Woodswalk

## Piestrak Forestland Woodswalk

*Led by*

**Bruce Robinson**

**Saturday June 22, 2024, 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**

**9757 Watson Creek Rd  
Lindley, NY 14858**

**GPS Coordinates 42°00'50.7" N 77°08'06.2" W  
Latitude and Longitude 42.014084, -77.135060**

The Piestrak property encompasses approximately 1,100 acres and is guided by a 480A management plan. We will meet at 9:00 AM for coffee and pastries. At noon we break for a yummy lunch and then head back out for the remainder of the woodswalk. All food, water and snacks provided by our gracious hosts.

We will travel by wagon (pulled by a tractor, no horses!) to drive to different sections of the property to observe: A natural stand of walnut; an additional area that was cleared of invasives and planted 1,000 walnut trees; view an area that we will discuss the process of regeneration - natural recovery from a clearcut vs TSI management; and another area where TSI has been completed and will be followed up with a timber harvest in the near future.

Their forester, Mr. Bruce Robinson, will enlighten us and lead the discussions during each stop. He may even have a story or two! Questions are always welcome.

This woodswalk is an outreach program of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA. All are welcome and this would be a worth while experience for all Master Forester Owners (MFOs). No matter what your forest goals may be, we always take away valuable information from this Woodswalk. So please mark your calendars, you won't be disappointed!

Directions: Coming from the east or west take route 17 to Corning/ Painted Post where you will pick up route 15 south towards Williamsport, PA. Exit at the Presho exit. At the stop sign turn left and go a couple hundred yards to old route 15. Turn right on old 15 and head towards Lindley about 5 miles. Past the Green Shingles Restaurant on the left the next right is Watson Creek Road. We will have signs posted.

Would-be attendees are asked to please RSVP to Crystal Paluck. It helps with their planning for the lunch they kindly provide us with. Also call if you'd like further information. Phone: 607-205-0939 or Email: [crystal@paluck.org](mailto:crystal@paluck.org)

# 2023 NYFOA Western NY Regional Conference

*By Colette Morabito*

My husband and I had the pleasure of attending the NYFOA regional conference on Saturday, November 4. Kudos to all who planned this event; a gracious thank you to all those who spoke to an avid group of over 40 people; and it is certainly important to acknowledge those who attended. Participating in an all-day seminar on forestry topics is an ideal way to meet other forest owners from around the state as well as to continue to learn all manner of subjects pertaining to and affecting woodlands and woodlot owners. The state NYFOA team hit the mark on this wonderful event. Plus, the drive was especially scenic, with many of the leaves still showing off their beauty and eye appeal.

In the past, I have encouraged NYFOA members to challenge themselves and attend as many educational and tutorial events as possible. It is amazing just how much we don't know! Participating in these events allows us to meet many people who have woodlots adjacent to our own. In our personal circumstance, we live in Monroe County, but our woodlot is in Allegany County. We feel bound to two different chapters, Western Finger Lakes (WFL) and Allegany Foothills Chapter (AFC). Having this event centrally located between WFL, AFC and the Niagara Frontier Chapter (NFC) allowed many of us to meet for the first time and share experiences.

The topics were varied as well as thoughtful. How we manage our legacy to the land and the financial side of our forests are both equally as important as using a chainsaw in the woods. There were presentations rang-

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Questions from a Nervous Novice Nature Nut

*By Dennis Schaefer*

*[Editor's Note: The following tongue-in-cheek email came in response when one of our board members accidentally invited an in-law to attend a woodswalk. Our editorial board thought it would serve as a cautionary tale on the perils of mixing in-laws and NYFOA events. As if we don't have enough invasive species to deal with already.]*

Do you have a newsletter that will come out before the walk ? If so, maybe you could get answers to these vital questions -- Inquiring minds want to know !

- How early will you pick us up ? Can you give me a wake-up call ?
- Are quadrupeds and tripods allowed to go along, or only bipeds ?
- Do you give ticks free rides ?
- Will it be canceled if it's raining, too cold, or too windy ?
- Who gets to go first to clear the path of spider webs ?
- Will the path be smooth enough for my walker ?
- Can we pick any mushrooms we find for our supper ?

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Upcoming Events

- **March 13:** WFL general meeting on Wetland Ecology (see page 7).
- **April 22:** WFL general meeting on Native Americans, Fire, and Oak Forests (see page 8).
- **May 17-19:** NYOFA and Northern Woodlands are partnering to sponsor a weekend workshop on Enhancing the Values of Family Forests in the Northeast. Based at the Seneca Lodge in Watkins Glen, the weekend will feature tours of the Arnot Forest and Angus Glen Farms, as well as presentations on a variety of topics including Slash Walls, Cultivating Nut Trees, Silvopasturing and much more. For more details about the program, and to register, go to [https://events.cornell.edu/event/woodland\\_owner\\_conference](https://events.cornell.edu/event/woodland_owner_conference).
- **June 22:** Woodswalk at the Piestrak family woodlot. (see page 9).

## Classifieds

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member/(Non-Member) price: 4' w/o stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 4' w/ stake (\$7.00/\$7.50); 5' is special order... please call (585) 880-1799 for price quote. Proceeds benefit WFL chapter.

**For sale: 76 wooded acres** in Richford, NY, enrolled in 480A program, asking \$169,900. MLS # 11182118. Contact Walt at 585-465-1016 or wmatyjas@rochester.rr.com.

**Wanted - 3pt. Tractor Quick connect** rear hitch or parts for it. Call Dale Schaefer - 585-367-2849

**For Sale - Generator** - 5000KW portable, Coleman, Powermate with operator owners manual. Asking 275.00. Call Dale Schaefer - 585 367-2849.

**For Sale - Like New - Kelly M&S** - p205/ 70 R 15 . 15.00 each . Have 2 . Call Dale - 585-367-2849

**Free - Operators Manual - John Deere 30&40**, 12,14, 16 bar length - call Dale 595-367-2849

**PLEASE NOTE:** Space permitting, the WFL Board of Directors allows members to place free classified ads in this newsletter pertaining to good stewardship practices. However, ads presented here are not an endorsement by WFL.

- **September 9:** NYFOA Central New York regional conference. Details coming soon at nyfoa.org.
- **October 1:** WFL annual dinner (tentative). Watch for details in our summer newsletter.
- **October 19:** NYFOA Western New York regional conference. Details coming soon at nyfoa.org.

### *Invasive in-laws (Continued from page 10)*

- Will there be rest stops for snacks ?
- Do we have to carry our own backpack, or do you charge extra for porters ?
- Will I need my rain boots to ford any streams ?
- Can we build a campfire and make Smores ?
- If we only eat vegan, can we graze as we go ?
- Is it so dark in the woods that we should bring a flashlight ?
- Do we have to hold hands so no one gets lost ?
- Will I be able to get at least 3 Bars on my cell phone ?
- Should I wear a hat so birds don't poop on my head ?
- If I see a bear, which direction should I run in ?
- Is there any chance we'll see Bambi or her mother's grave ?
- If you get sprayed by a skunk, how do you take a bath in tomato juice in the woods ?
- How big are the mosquitoes and how many are there in these particular woods ? Is it true that a dab of vanilla extract behind each knee will keep them away ?
- Does one have to be able to read a compass ? (In order to know which way to go, I did learn the phrase, "Never Eat Soggy Waffles = N-E-S-W")
- Do you choose the leader by height, weight, age, or how fast they can climb a tree or outrun a bear ?
- Is it recommended to wear stripes or plaids rather than camouflage so as not to disappear in deep woods ?
- How do I tell which are the friendly snakes ?
- Will there be an MD or only an RN coming with us ?
- If I bring my own snacks, do I have to bring enough for everyone? How many is that ?
- If we meet Smoky Bear, should we offer to share our snacks ?
- Will there be Zero Sugar sodas, or only the ugly sugar-free kind ?
- Is it true that porcupines only eat pine cones so we're not allowed to collect them ?
- How far apart are the unisex restrooms, are they free, or how many quarters will I need ?
- What should I do if I can't make it that far ?
- Is this like a dog walk -- do we need to bring our own bags to clean up the leaves that the trees drop ?
- Do you need my shirt size for the free T Shirt?
- And finally -- How much do you charge for the group photos, and will the fireworks show up in the background ?



## New York Forest Owners Association

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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2024

Volume 38, Number 1



A Stihl chainsaw and a pair of Dryshod boots were the highlights of our raffle prizes at the annual dinner. See the full story on page 1.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **March 13, 7:00 pm:** WFL General Meeting. Alli Esposito and Chelsea Gendreau, both from Finger Lakes Community College's Muller Field Station, will speak about Wetland Ecology. See page 7.
- **April 22, 7:00 pm:** WFL General Meeting. Dr. Stephen Tulowiecki, from SUNY Geneseo, will speak about Native Americans, fire, and oak forests. See page 8.
- **June 22, 9:00 am—3:00 pm:** WFL Woodswalk at the Piestrak family forest in Lindley, NY, led by forester Bruce Robinson. See page 9.

**Note:** For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe to our email list by sending a blank email to-

[nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npgroups.org](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npgroups.org)