



# NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK**

## The Overstory

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Fall 2021

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Vice-Chair: Vacant  
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Alec Bien, Riparius, NY

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New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
[www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html)

## SAC Annual Picnic and Woodswalk

By Lou Inzinna 🌿 Photos by Bob Manning

The 2021 SAC Annual Picnic and Woodswalk was held on September 25, 2021 in Thurman, NY at the Inzinna's property. The day started out a little bit nippy in the 50's as people gathered in the Pole Barn. The team of presenters were Jim Lieberum, CPESC, District Manager and Robert Bombard, Water Resource Specialist, both from the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District. Jim set up a table with publications that had a wealth of information for members to take regarding woodland, wildlife, permitting and soil resources. Bob went right to the approximately 12 acre pond adjoining the Inzinna property and scouted for native plant species for his part of the presentation.

The activities started a little after 10AM with a welcome from Lou Inzinna. He described the history of their woodland property from how they purchased it in 1997 as a place to get away from their home in Scotia, NY. Once they got over the shock of the heavy diameter limit cutting as part of the purchase agreement, they began exploring the possibilities. They then with the suggestion of NYS ENCON Forester Steve Warne got involved with NYFOA. The knowledge and friends they have gained over the years has been priceless.

Prior to the main presentation, Craig Vollmer, NYFOA Executive Director, introduced himself to the group. He discussed the interaction with the state organization, the chapters and how he can help. We also had an introduction from Walt Friebe from the New York State Tree Farm organization representing Tree Farmers across the state.

The main presentation titled "Water Quality Protection for Long-term Benefits" was led by Jim Lieberum. Jim discussed his background and how it led him to WCSWCD. He talked about the services WCSWCD provide to residents and gave examples of soil and water maps including the Inzinna's Property, the existing and surrounding water bodies.



Jim discussed how residents can use many available online resources to better understand their property. He also discussed preparations for permitting and which local, state and or federal agency to contact. Jim talked about the details in the information packet he prepared for each attendee. He discussed how land stewardship is important to the health of the woodlands, wetlands and wildlife.

Lou Inzinna (left) and Craig Vollmer address the group

# Adventure Washington County Fair 2021

By Mary Marchewka

On Sunday, August 22, NYFOA members David DeLaMater & I, (Mary Marchewka) met up with SAC Chairman Bruce Cushing & his wife Gail at the Washington County fairgrounds to set up the NYFOA booth.

There was much discussion of the new digs in the County Bounty Building. A Creamery needed the abundant outlets that were on the wall behind the previous spot NYFOA inhabited for more than 20+ years. Not to be discouraged the crew got to work unloading the trailer into David's car then driving to the other end of the building to unload. We had the impression the new location was at the opposite end of the entrance at the very back of the building so Bruce parked the trailer at that end. We were pleasantly surprised when Bruce & Gail found NYFOA labels for us to set up in the first front spot along the side of the building coming in the door. Bruce was very optimistic saying maybe this will be a better location.

Next challenge we faced was that there were no tables for the displays so we borrowed a ladder from the nice creamery people and got to work hanging posters & the beautiful green & white NYFOA banner. When the fair crew came to address why we didn't get tables they discovered our tables were at the other end of the building and another group had "borrowed" one. So the four of us rolled with it and used a table from the trailer along with the two provided by the fair. We were a cheerful lot and as the booth came together we went into creative, woodsy, decorating mode! One of the MFO posters got wet in the trailer and was torn when trying to open it. David skillfully covered the ruined area of the poster with a montage of previous woods walk pictures.

Gail & Bruce came back on Monday and decorated with hemlock boughs and an open terrarium with moss and an adorable baby hemlock, okay seedling. Next to the display they placed a magnifying glass so people of all ages could delve in and see the beauty and wonder up close. They brought live potted seedlings and added a name tag and a print out of details from Arbor Day Foundation for each tree. The seedlings included American Hazelnut, Balsam Fir, Black Chokeberry, Butternut, Hemlock, Eastern White Pine and Norway Spruce.

On Sunday evening after setting up I managed to slip off the top of the back steps at home and land in the ER with fractured wrist, scapula, bruised ribs and elbow. I wasn't able to do any shifts in the booth until Friday but that worked out fine and I was well enough to cover the whole weekend schedule.

Bruce covered the opening evening and had driven to Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ballston Spa to get current Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program information from Kristopher Williams, the MFO regional coordinator.



The new booth "set up" for 2021



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After the introductions and initial presentations we left the pole barn and started on the woodswalk. The first stop was at the dock at the water's edge where Bob Bombard had prepared some fresh aquatic plant samples that he had gathered earlier. He mentioned that because of the early Fall some of the plants had started dying back but were still available for identification. He described the plants in great detail and how they grow in this environment. The plants grow in some cases side by side in the



Bob Bombard demonstrates a device that measures different characteristics in the water

There are some factors that cause plants to grow in excess thus shading out the water body preventing the sun from reaching the bottom. This causes the oxygen content of the water body to drop due to lack of the wind disturbing the water surface. This affects the fish and other living things in the water. Bob and Jim both discussed how they work with landowners, municipal governments and others to help provide solutions for natural resource issues and long-term protection of valuable natural resources. Bob is the caretaker of a device purchased by one of the local communities that measures many different characteristics of the water quality. This can be deployed to help understand problems within the county.

The woodswalk then continued along a trail that paralleled the edge of the pond. Lou pointed out recent beaver activity in the woods along the shore line. Many small saplings were taken by the beavers to reinforce the dam and or their lodge. He also talked about bog movement during a recent high water event. The next stop was the beaver dam at the outlet of the pond. Beavers in some areas can cause many problems, however, the Inzinna's welcome them here and look forward, on rare occasions, to seeing them on the shore line and swimming in the pond. Jim pointed out how some communities have to remove dams or clogged culverts to lower water levels. In some cases these will be rebuilt by the beavers the next day.

The next stop was along the stream flowing from the pond. Here the stream took a slight bend and Jim discussed the median stream width and high water marks as can be seen by rock edges and scrubbed shore line where plant life was minimal. Debris lines can also be seen. A discussion was also had about crossing streams with equipment. There are permits required from different agencies depending on the stream classification and location. Agencies such as NYS Encon, APA, US Army Corps of Engineers, etc. Logging operations need to obtain these permits. The specifications and costs for temporary bridge construction need to be considered. Landowners should consult with their bordering neighbors to see if agreements can be made to avoid water crossing.



The beaver dam

The tour of the stream turned back toward the Inzinna's cabin along an old rock wall that was a field border at one time. Many years ago this area had been mostly sheep pasture. There were very few trees through here at one time. The soils here rarely grew any crops as there are mostly rocks and sand. If only the residents back then had the services from WCSWCD available to them... Many thanks to Jim Lieberum and Bob Bombard for their interesting, informative and entertaining discussions.





Bruce and Dave as they set up the booth

David worked the booth the second day of the fair and along with Bruce came up with the idea to bring in a log that was fruiting specialty mushrooms called Shiitake. Which added another hands on example to display of the benefits of TSI work. I quite enjoyed the reactions of people when showing the differences between managed and unmanaged tree slices. The managed tree is half the age of the unmanaged tree but is the same diameter showing how TSI can help the crop trees grow faster. There's a sample of wood slices showing how pruning can improve the wood quality.

The trees harvested to farm mushrooms were taken from sections of woods marked for thinning by Steve Warren, retired NYS forester. Certain species of trees like oak, beech, red maple and aspen are ideal for farming specialty mushrooms. David and I have taken many classes learning how to cultivate and sell specialty mushrooms. Most of the classes through Cornell Small Farms Program. David brought bags of dehydrated shiitake and oyster mushrooms and often sold out. There were questions about invasive species of which we had ample literature to hand out. Questions about forest regeneration or what are their trees dying from all sparking educational conversations and getting people interested in joining NYFOA.

Interest in the NYFOA booth's educational information & resources was outstanding this year. By mid-week there was a full page of private forest owners wanting MFO visits. The MFO volunteer program is offered virtual one evening a week over a 7 week period with a one day field session at the end. For more information email: [cce-nat-res@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-nat-res@cornell.edu) or go to the web page <https://blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo/>

The New York State Tree Nursery provided 75 spruce seedlings to hand out and they were gone in two days! We all really liked the new spot and were very busy giving out NYFOA brochures, spruce seedlings and signing up

MFO visits for land owners during our shifts.

Our SAC member volunteer's consensus was that it seemed like there were more landowners than usual looking for information about what to do with their wood lots.

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## Coming Events....

### NYFOA/SAC Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 12th, 2022

Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa

9:30 am — 10 am Arrival

10:00 Business Meeting (including election of officers)

11:30 - 1pm Pot luck lunch - Please bring a dish to share

(if COVID persists we may need to change lunch to a "bring your own" please check the NYFOA website for any updates prior to meeting

1pm—presentation begins

" Vision 2050 Fulfilling the Promise of the Adirondack Park"

Presented by:

Megan Phillips, Vice President for Conservation,

Adirondack Council



# The Tenacity of Trees....



## A tree grows on a tree!

Source: Source: <https://www.positivenewsus.org/the-tenacity-of-trees.html>

The group then convened back at the Inzinna's cabin for lunch. COVID once again made this a Bring-Your-Own lunch outing. We hope that next year will bring better things!

A bit of History for the Inzinna's Property: Much of the surrounding property was part of a Dude Ranch which was founded in 1937 as "Boulder Greens Dude Ranch". The name was changed to "Sun Canyon Dude Ranch" after the property changed hands. Massive log structures, a swimming pool, large stone stable full of horses, real wranglers from out west, and the dudes and dudettes freshly arrived off the train or in shiny automobiles all completed the picture. Sun Canyon closed in the 1960's after a "questionable" fire destroyed the main dance hall.

The Inzinna's purchased the 50 or so acre property across the pond from the main ranch in early 1997 from a land and timber broker. The contract allowed the logger to cut timber for one year. The logger was done after 5 months. The family's first structure was a hand dug outhouse. The next was an Adirondack Lean-to that took 2 summers to construct. They harvested logs from the property and learned how to fit them together. Ultimately in 1999 they decided to build a log cabin and chose to buy it as a kit. The logs were delivered in the beginning of July. Lou, Jean and their three children with help of family members and friends raised the log cabin exterior walls in 3 weeks. The roof, windows and doors were contracted out. It took 3 years to get a Certificate of Occupancy. Over the years with the continued help of family and friends it has come together as a cherished place to be. Once Jean and Lou retired they decided to sell their house in Scotia and move to The Cabin. The family gathering place has hosted many family vacations, extended family reunions and two family weddings.



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has partnered with the West Field Production Co. to create a documentary that tells the story of the spread of invasive species in New York State. The movie premieres on YouTube on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and there are regional and virtual watch parties happening the week of the premier.

Link to the youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKh8Lc31rm8&t=216s>



# Fall Transplanting

Paul Hetzler

Each November, star-gazers like to watch the Leonid meteor shower, which seems rather voyeuristic to me, but whatever. November is popular with hunters as well, and Americans observe Thanksgiving in that month. It also happens to be a great time to transplant deciduous trees.

Trees from the nursery which have their own own root systems (either ball-and-burlap or container-grown) may be planted just about any time the soil is not frozen. But digging up and moving a tree in the growing season is kind of like having surgery without anesthesia. It can be done, but the outcome isn't always so good.

Once the leaves are off, though, trees can be more successfully moved because they're dormant, a term which we anglophones all know is French for "sleeping so deeply that you don't awaken even if someone digs you up by the roots." But maybe I should check on that. Anyway, studies show that small trees recover from transplanting better than large trees, and will very often end up out-performing them. Plus, moving a small tree is easier on your back.

When you go to dig a tree from the woods or the edge of a field, remember that you should have permission from the owner. Also that it's more important to dig wide than deep. Even with oaks and walnuts that have big taproots, getting good lateral roots is more important than getting the whole taproot. To reflect this fact, the ideal planting hole should be saucer-shaped and at least twice as wide as the root ball, but no deeper.

Adding gobs of organic matter to the backfill likely dates back to ancient times, when people would sometimes grab an arborist, if one was handy, and throw them in the planting hole. Possibly in response to this, most arborists today recommend little or no additional organic matter in native soils with reasonably good fertility. The vegetation growing at the planting site will give some indication of how good the soil is.

However, in cases where soils are exceptionally poor – compacted clay, pure sand, or in urban sites, rubble – more organic matter is indicated. In such cases, dig a planting hole twice as wide as usual. You can replace up to one-third by volume (of the excavated soil) with organic matter, thoroughly mixing your amendments with the soil from the pit beside the hole before backfilling. No matter how good or poor the soil is, no commercial fertilizer should be used at planting time.

Roots will continue to grow as long as the soil remains unfrozen, so it's important to keep tabs on soil moisture. In general, staking should be reserved for vampires. And for transplanted trees whose root systems are small compared to their tops, as well as at windy sites. Trunk movement is critical for the development of strong trunks with good taper, so if staking is needed, use strips of cloth or bicycle inner tube around the trunk. Remove stakes within one year, though. A 5-8 cm mulch layer over the planting hole completes the job. Be sure to pull mulch away from the trunk. When mulch is banked against the tree, this invites insect pests, pathogens, and rodents.

Happy Autumn, and please—no arborists in the backfill.



Oak seedling ready for planting

Paul Hetzler has been an ISA-Certified Arborist since 1996. And is a member of ISA-Ontario, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Society of American Foresters. His book "Shady Characters; Plant Vampires, Caterpillar Soup, Leprechaun Trees and other Hilarities of the Natural Word" is available on amazon.ca.

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Most of the people I talked with stated they bought property last year. Many people showed interest in the NYFOA booth, it was a very busy fair week.

On Saturday, A fair representative, Mr. Booth, came to Award SAC's NYFOA booth with Outstanding Exhibit 2021. I was thrilled to pose for the picture when suddenly I realized it was my bandaged, bruised side facing the camera and asked them to please take another photo with my "good side" haha.

With all the adversity we faced while getting this year's booth set up as SAC members we shrugged it off with a happy determined attitude. We came together in whatever capacity each could muster and brought our important message to many people.

Thank you Bruce for all you did at the fair!! Thank you Jane & David Jenks for making phone calls and recruiting members for the schedule. Thank you Gail Cushing for getting the schedule out and all your efforts setting up. Thank you to all the SAC members that helped make 2021 fair week a wonderful *come back* year. Now let's get to work on those woods walks, guiding and welcoming new members!!



Plaque awarded for the "Outstanding Exhibit 2021"

Are you interested in hosting a woodswalk?

Do you have a suggestion for a chapter event?

If so please contact Kurt Edwards, event coordinator,

at 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117, or at [edwardsk922@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsk922@gmail.com)



New York Forest Owners Association

**SOUTHEASTERN**

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