



NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

The Overstory

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NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE

Remember When
Internet Resources
Members Corner
Coming Events

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Justin Potter, Long Island City

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html



Our Children – Their Future

By Don Brown (in 1994 Don was a NYS DEC Senior Forester)

Photos by Kristie Edwards

A colleague recently informed me that one of the main responsibilities of NYFOA was education. I couldn't agree with him more. The idea of forest owners getting together in meetings or woodswalks to share information and ideas is what the organization is all about.

An area of special interest to me is the education of children. Although they are not forest owners themselves, they may be future forest owners and could be the decision makers of tomorrow.

For quite some time I've been involved with a program called Project Learning Tree. I've been instructing teachers and prospective teachers in this excellent program that utilizes "hands on activities" to teach environmental education. I've been very dismayed at the number of these participants who believe unequivocally that the cutting of trees is an ecological disaster. My own children come home with the same notions. It's all too easy to imagine a scenario in which a generation raised on such misconceptions blatantly imposes cutting ordinances and governmental controls on the management of private forest land.



Kolton searches the stream for woodland critters

Greenwood Stick Farm

By John R. Greenwood

I own and operate the Greenwood Stick Farm here in the foothills of the Adirondacks. It's a quarter acre farm speckled with a dozen or more maple trees. They vary in height, girth, and degree of decay. Decay is a friend of the Stick Farmer—it provides a never-ending crop.

I became involved in Stick Farming back in the early 60s on my friend's property high atop "The Hill" in my hometown of Greenfield Center. It was one of the largest Stick Farms in Upstate NY. It consisted of acre upon acre of mature old maples whose branches seemed to rain down in an endless downpour of cracks, snaps, and crashes. Stick Farming on the "The Hill" required the involvement of all family members. Outside stick-pickers were subcontracted at a fair wage. The older more tenured stick-pickers (big brothers) had the more cushy job. They got to drive the pickup around collecting the harvested stick piles. The fun started when the truck bed was full (this was a subjective call), and the pickers got to jump in the back and ride the side-rail down the hill to the "Pile." Unloading a freshly harvested crop of sticks is a lot more fun than loading, and the ride back to the stick-pasture was more exciting. It inevitably included a spinout followed by a gravel-spitting run up the back driveway. It was the most fun a boy could have growing up. Stick Farming and Leaf Harvesting provided me with more blisters and enjoyment than you could ever write a check for. I relive those wonderful memories every time I drive by "The Hill."

The Greenwood Stick Farm is much smaller and less exciting. I still enjoy the sight and smell of a post-storm maple-stick crop. The farm is in good hands. My grandson Caleb has inherited the stick-farmer gene. The first thing he does when he gets to the farm is open the barn (cluttered garage) and pull out his John Deere. Within minutes he's happily harvesting the current crop of sticks. Endless circles around the yard reveal sticks of every proportion. The lawn smiles greenly as the weight of the world is lifted from its shoulders.

When my son asked why Caleb was so eager to help his grandfather harvest sticks, but seemed disinterested in harvesting in his own backyard, I gladly explained. My sticks are organic and grow naturally. The sticks in his yard were the result of a chainsaw-wielding father who became addicted to the roar of his Husqvarna and didn't know when to say when. Those sticks are less brittle. The feel and texture are not the same as those grown and harvested naturally via Mother Nature. A true Stick Farmer knows and appreciates the difference.



Caleb and his John Deere Tractor hard at work

Continued from page 2

I want to share one last sentiment. Life is pretty special. The news that gurgles up these days would make you think otherwise. There comes a time in the day or week where we have to disengage our minds from the madness and chaos that seems as endless as a crop of sticks. If we don't we will have missed the point of this journey. Whether you derive joy from painting a landscape, riding a Harley, reeling in a brook trout, or walking your dog, it's important to savor it like a July Popsicle. Happiness doesn't need to include Disney or a Carnival Cruise. A pause on the way to the mailbox to linger on the sight and sound of a passing flock of geese can soften a bad day. Wisdom doesn't come from age, it comes from those little non-distinct pauses we take and how we absorb them.

An old stick farmer once told me that happiness can come before, during, or after a storm. It might even show up during all three. The anticipation of a crack of thunder can heighten the senses. Viewing a lightning strike across the field can make you appreciate the fact you're in the safety of your home. The rainbow that follows and the sight of a robin yanking up a juicy worm from the soggy side-yard should make you glad to be alive. The resulting blanket of fresh sticks strewn across your property should have you stomping in the puddles and smiling like a kid.

If not, you may have missed a turn.

Go back and start again.

Happy stick pickin'!



Coming Events...

Washington County Fair

August 19th - 25th

Jane Jenks will be or fair organizer. If you are interested in staffing our NYFOA booth please contact Jane Jenks @ (518) 535-7595

Annual Picnic

September 21st

Hosted by Ed and Donna Welch
105 Dankers Road, Johnsbury, NY 12843

Arrive: 9:30 —10: am (refreshments available)

Woodswalk— 10:00 am

Picnic following woodswalk

Hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages will be provided

- Dankers Rd is 2.3 miles down South Johnsbury Rd from its intersection with Rt. 8 in Johnsbury. We are 1/2 mile down Dankers Rd on the left. There are no other houses on the road.

Please bring:

A salad or food item to share

An item for the raffle if you would like to participate

Please RSVP to Kurt Edwards 518-661-5685 or at

edwardsk922@gmail.com by 9/18

Thank You.....

Fair season has begun, our member volunteers are a vital part of a successful fair season. Our NYFOA presence at the county fair is a great opportunity to provide much needed information and resources to other land owners. We thank all the chapter member that have donated their time and support to this effort. We appreciate your help in staffing our booth this season.



Erwin and Polly Fullerton stop by our booth at the Washington County Fair-photo by Bob Manning -August 2018

Did you know....



“Moon trees” were grown from seeds taken to the moon in early 1971....

After orbiting the earth with the Apollo 14 mission, these tree seeds returned to earth and were germinated by the [Forest Service](#). After being planted with their earth-bound counterparts, these seedlings showed no discernible difference after twenty years of growth.

Source:

https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/moon_tree.html

Online Resources ...

New York State Department of Health

Lyme Disease and other diseases carried by ticks.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>

A little-known tick-borne infection could have permanent fatal consequences

<https://www.businessinsider.com/deer-tick-powassan-virus-lyme-disease-risk-2017-6>

National Geographic – About the Deer Tick

The loathsome deer tick, now known as the black-legged tick, is defined more by the disease it spreads than by its own characteristics.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/d/deer-tick/>

Tickborne Diseases of the United States

In the United States, some ticks carry pathogens that can cause numerous human diseases.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/index.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>



Griffin Dill

Members Corner...

Camp Sites

By John Greenwood

Rocky-bumpy camp roads
 Rain washed and rutted
 Lead to pine-needle foyers
 Pitchy and smooth

Aluminum camp pots
 Clink and clatter
 Sizzling bacon crowds
 Old cast-iron skillet

Cold cement-floor bathhouse
 Amplifies early morning echoes of
 Child's playful excitement

Handed down fishing poles
 Lean slightly bent
 Crusted old nightcrawler
 Days long forgotten

Sunny days and boat rides
 Cranky babies in hats
 Inner tube piles and
 Sand scattered beach blankets

Night campfire crackles
 Melting into pools of
 Wavy hot embers
 Both yellow and orange
 Sweet smokey scent

Wispy white ashes
 Snowing in reverse
 Rise to star filled skies
 As if returning home

This member's corner is open to anyone willing to share something with the other members. Submissions can be mailed or emailed to Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.

Continued from page 1

On the other hand, if children were to receive an enlightened education, we could produce a generation capable of making sound decisions. The future will hold great accomplishments if we raise children who know and understand nature on a more intimate level; children who are acquainted with plant and animal species and the biology relating to their environment; children, who through this knowledge, develop love and respect for the wise use and management of resources and share these sentiments with their offspring.

Where better to start than with our own children and grandchildren, and with our own woods? We have our own laboratories out there to serve as the classroom. Take the kids for a walk and share experiences, help them start a rock or insect collection, plant trees, help do an improvement thinning, build trails or a blind to observe wildlife – the list is endless – one could write a book to finish this sentence. Oh yes! Bring them along on the next NYFOA woodswalk.

Over Christmas, my family spent a week in New Mexico. We spent Christmas day at the Zia pueblo viewing the Buffalo Dance and were invited to share Christmas dinner with an Indian family. Another day we ventured far into the desert with an archaeologist friend and explored Ansazi Indian ruins. For me, the highlight of the trip was a day spent at the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Reserve, where we saw numerous Bald and Golden Eagles, Sand Hill Cranes and two Whooping Cranes. I can't help but believe that these few days spent in nature would be the equivalent of weeks in the classroom for my two daughters.

One morning I picked up the Albuquerque Journal and read an article that fits right in here. Some scientists now believe that people who are exposed to nature on a regular basis are less prone to violent acts, disease, mental disorders, etc.

They're actually somehow trying to scientifically test this hypothesis – which makes me sort of chuckle. Heck, we forest land owners know this is true, and we could have saved them a lot of time if they had just asked!

If we can share our love and knowledge of nature with our children, we can ensure the wise management of resources for the future and give them something wonderful at the same time. We can make their lives richer for the future, a gift more valuable than gold, something they cannot take home in a plastic bag!

Originally printed in the NY Forest Owner, May/June 1994

Khloe also searches the stream – but is frightened by a jumping frog



Winter picnics are one of our favorite time in the woods

NYFOA Southeastern Adirondack Chapter Service Award 2018

By Lou Inzinna, Ed and Donna Welch

Over the years our organization has had many hard working members that have taken on the task of service to our chapter. However, few have taken on as many tasks as Kristie Edwards. Like most of us Kristie and her husband Kurt joined NYFOA because they wanted to learn more about the care and well-being of their woodlands.

Kristie and Kurt got actively involved in NYFOA and our chapter as soon as they became members, about nine years ago. Early on, they attended Master Forest Owner training, and have been able help many of their neighbors. Being very well organized, and with her wealth of computer skills, Kristie took over the task of producing our chapter newsletter, "The Overstory". It soon became the shining star across the whole organization. Kristie has been intrepid about gathering stories about our woods walks, recruited technical authors, gathered news about the chapter, and provided the membership with up to date chapter activities pertaining to our needs. Along with this substantial task, Kristie also took on the work of overseeing our Membership committee as well as coordinating our annual lunches at Davidson's. She has been the go-to person when someone needs information about the chapter activities or contacts across the organization.

When Kurt took over the role of Chapter Chairman, Kristie worked in partnership with him, including attending most NYFOA statewide and annual meetings, and addressing our chapter needs.

After Kurt's term as Chair ended, and he assumed the responsibilities of Woodswalk Coordinator, Kristie then assisted Kurt in his new role, while continuing to produce the newsletter, overseeing Membership, and advising and working closely with the Steering Committee. She has been our source of continuity and consistency over the years. Because of Kristie, our chapter is a much stronger organization, and we all benefit individually from her hard work and organizational skills. Please applaud Kristie for being the 2018 Southeastern Adirondack Chapter, Chapter Service Award recipient.



New SAC Chairman, Bruce Cushing
presents award to Kristie Edwards

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



New York Forest Owners Association

SOUTHEASTERN

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