



Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Forest Owners Association Newsletter

April 2013

SPRING EVENTS

New York Forest Owners Association Southern Finger Lakes Chapter

Pond Management for Rural Landowners

May 6, 2013

May 6. 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Cornell University's Arnot Forest; 611 (Schuyler) County Route 13; Van Etten, NY. Current and future pond owners have an excellent opportunity to learn more about managing their ponds from expert instructors. This education program will provide clear advice and answers for pond owners regarding weeds, water quality, fishing, and wildlife management. The workshop is free and open to the public. For questions or additional information, please contact Schuyler CCE at 607-535-7161, or by email: bjc226@cornell.edu Please meet at the Arnot Forest Lodge by 6 p.m. For detailed driving instructions, please visit: www.arnotforest.info.

Mushroom Field Day at Cornell's Arnot Forest

May 11, 2013

May 11. Sponsored by the NY Forest Owners Association – Southern Finger Lakes Chapter. **Morning session:** Shiitake Mushroom Cultivation. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn how to successfully grow Shiitake mushrooms with Dr. Ken Mudge of Cornell University, and take home your own inoculated logs afterwards! *There is a \$30 fee for the course to cover materials, and space is limited to 30 people.* [Please pre-register on-line here](#) by Wednesday May 8. Meet at the Arnot Forest Lodge by 9 a.m. **Afternoon session:** Wild Mushroom and Forest Health Walk. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Dr. George Hudler of Cornell University will lead a walk through portions of the Arnot Forest to identify wild mushrooms and discuss how to interpret signs of forest health. *This walk is free* and open to the public. Please dress for the weather and expect to hike in moderately rough terrain. Tick and bug spray is recommended. *No pre-registration is required for the afternoon session.* Please meet at the Arnot Forest Sugarhouse by 1 pm. Please bring water, and lunch if staying for the day. The Arnot Forest is located at 611 Schuyler County Route 13; Van Etten, NY – please visit: www.arnotforest.info for detailed driving information. For additional information, please contact Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, at bjc226@cornell.edu (phone 607-535-7161).

More events on next page

Chairman's Message

We are excited to offer several woods walks in the very near future, in celebration of NYFOA's 50th anniversary. The SFL chapter is striving to offer topical sessions that should appeal to small woods lot owners and larger ones, including more than just "trees." One of our walks will feature mushrooms: growing your own, and identifying those in the forest. I've always wanted to be far more familiar with wild mushrooms, and especially those that might expand our culinary horizons. Ken Mudge will help you grow them, and George Hudler will help you identify them! You might even visit other chapter's woods walks, just to get out and about in NY; see for details: <http://www.nyfoa.org>.

Now that spring is close, I really encourage everyone who collects firewood to be safety trained and fully protected with safety gear (PPE, or personal protective equipment). Pete Smallidge at the Arnot Forest continues to offer Game of Logging safety courses at a very reasonable price. Having chain sawed my firewood for 30 years before retirement (without safety training), when I took the courses, I had to do a lot of mental retraining...I had really bad habits. It is no shame to learn the safe way of felling and handling wood.

Another disturbing piece I found: Pete Smallidge and other forest researchers indicated that 70% of NY forests were not regenerating, for various reasons.

<http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/pubs/HDRUReport10-2.pdf> Research continues, but such indicators are not hopeful for our forests. This is why we in SFL focus on forest regeneration and what you can do in your woods.

Let us know what we might offer to your friends and acquaintances with woods. EMAIL or call anytime (607 387 9224). It is a fun part of life.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the coming woods walks!

Robert Barton - Chair

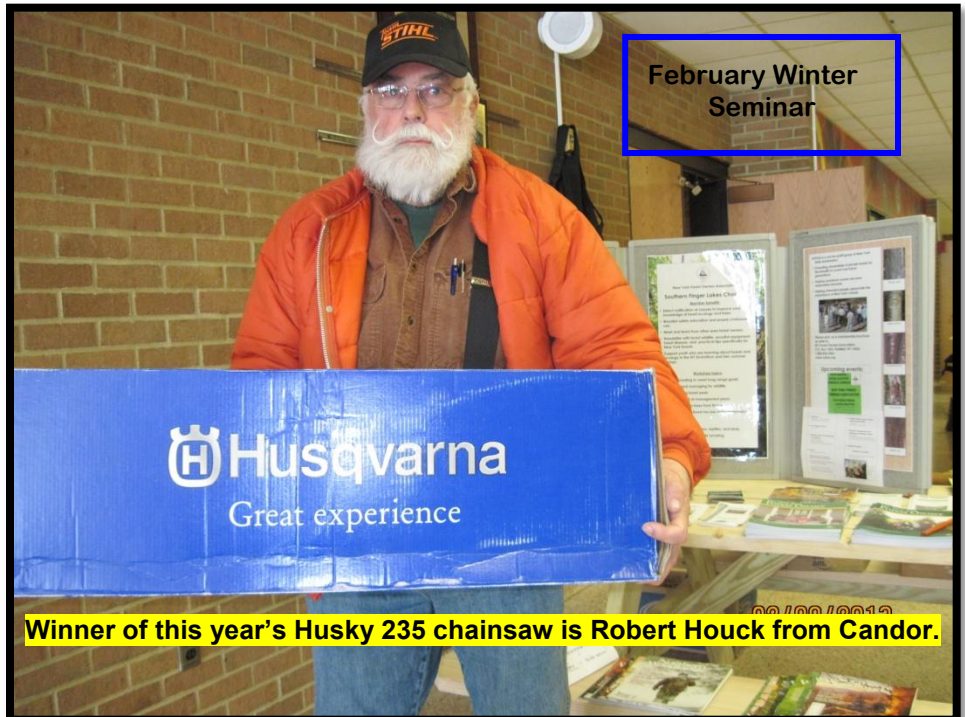
Carantouan Greenway Wildwood Reserve

May 16, 2013

May 16. 5-7 p.m. Barton, NY. Marty Borko will lead a woods walk that will demonstrate the invasion of our woods by exotic species that dominate the herbaceous and shrub layers in the understory, namely garlic mustard and Japanese honeysuckle. Advice will be sought as to how to best restore it to native species and where to best set up an enclosure (sic) to protect new growth from deer. Please visit: www.carantouangreenway.org for directions. Meet at property entrance at 5:00 p.m.

CHANGE IN DATE!!

Peter Levatich's Woodswalk through Hobnob Forest has been moved to October 2013. More details will be forthcoming...



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Producing Valuable Trees for the Future

Often the smaller trees that we have on our woodlots have very poor form and would never produce a usable log, no matter how long we let them grow. There is a method that can be used on some tree species that have the ability to sprout a new main trunk from a stump cut very close to the ground. This method works very well for black cherry because it is not a food of choice for deer, it contains cyanide. Please note that while this method works on many young hardwood species, it will not work on conifers. They do not have the ability to stump sprout.

Figure 1 shows a very poor quality black cherry tree which will never have a useful log. Taking advantage of the existing extensive root system and food reserves in the roots, this tree can be used to produce a straight trunk in a very few years. The tree needs to be cut as close as possible to the ground. This is best done in the winter when maximum food reserves are stored in the roots.

Figure 2 shows three stump sprouts two years old. This tree produced nine sprouts in the first year, and this was then thinned to three stump sprouts for the third growing season. The best sprout will be selected after the next growing season, resulting in a single straight trunk 10-12 feet tall.

If the tree is cut with a tall stump, the resulting sprouts will develop from the side of the stump, resulting in a typical 'J' –hook sprout. This joint is very weak and will eventually break off from the original stump.

Figure 3 shows a nine-year-old stump sprout, resulting in a straight tree over 30 feet tall. This tree originally looked like the tree shown in Figure 1, but now it will result in a very high quality log in the future.

So, if you want to create some valuable trees for your grandchildren, try this method of growing high quality trees. This method also works with young ash, maple, and oak trees, but you would need to protect these stump sprouts from grazing deer. - Ed Neuhauser, Groton, N.Y.



Figure 1. Poor quality cherry



Figure 2. 2-Year-Old Stump



Figure 3. 9-Year-Old Stump Sprouts

Picture highlights from the Winter Woodland Seminar at Spencer High School, Feb. 2013.



Tim Levatich talking about Hobnob Forest.



Dr. Peter Smallidge discussing safety and efficiency in your woodlot.



Dave Scott explaining how a portable mill lets you maximize your woodlot.



Prizes for raffle.



John Wertis talking up butternut trees.



Conversations during break time.



SFLC's display when you first walk in.

Come and join our group of New York Forest Owners, a not-for-profit organization which supports sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands. Regular annual dues are just \$30.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family.

Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 www.nyfoa.org

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