

# Treelines

Spring 2020



## Upcoming Chapter Events

### The Story of the American Woodcock

Andy Weik, Biologist, The Ruffed Grouse Society | American Woodcock Society  
Thursday, March 26th, 2020  
Doors open at 6:15PM, The program starts at 6:45PM  
Waterman Conservation Education Center  
403 Hilton Rd, Apalachin, NY 13732

### Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases

Kenneth Smith, Executive Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County  
840 Upper Front Street  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020  
6:30 pm

### Michael Tree Farm Woods Walk

3192 State Route 206  
Whitney Point, NY  
Saturday, May 16, 2020  
9:30 am till 11:30 am

### Picnic in the Park

Chenango State Park  
Chenango State Park, NY  
Saturday, June 13, 2020  
10 am - 4 pm

All events, RSVP Steve Kutney at 607-862-9152

### The Story of the American Woodcock Andy Weik, Biologist, The Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society

Thursday, March 26th, 2020  
Doors open at 6:15PM  
The program starts at 6:45PM  
Waterman Conservation Education Center, 403 Hilton Rd, Apalachin, NY 13732  
<https://www.watermancenter.org/>



**REMEMBER!** *This program is at the Waterman Center in Apalachin, NY.* The American woodcock or commonly called “Timberdoodle” is an odd-looking, short-legged bird with a long straight bill which has a flexible upper mandible. Considered as a species in decline, it seems to be making a comeback as the amount of early-succession forest cover has increased. Woodcock migrate south during the winter and return in March to breed. The male makes a distinctive “peent” call to attract females. We hope to see, or at least hear some on the grounds of the Waterman Center after the 6:45 presentation in the auditorium. Please bring boots because the ground will likely be wet. Participants will have an opportunity to enjoy Waterman's natural history displays between 6:15 and 6:45.

Andy Weik is currently a regional wildlife biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society. He has been employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region at the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge – the only National Wildlife Refuge dedicated to woodcock management. He is an expert on early succession forest habitat management and its impact on American woodcock population dynamics. This program is open to the public. If you have questions call Steve at 607-862-9152.

### Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases

Kenneth Smith, Executive Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County  
840 Upper Front Street  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020  
6:30 pm

Ticks and tick-borne diseases are on the increase and active forest owners are particularly vulnerable. In addition to Lyme, other diseases, including anaplasmosis, powassan and babesiosis are showing up in New York state and can be debilitating or fatal. This program will be presented by Kenneth Smith, Executive Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County, in the auditorium at CCE Broome County, at 6:30 on April 15, 2020. RSVP Steve Kutney at 607-862-9152.

**Michael Tree Farm Woods Walk  
May 16<sup>th</sup> woods walk to feature  
Forest Regeneration**

3192 State Route 206, Whitney  
Point, NY

Saturday, May 16, 2020  
9:30 am till 11:30 am

For the past twenty years, the primary management objective for the Michael Tree Farm has been hardwood forest regeneration. Adequate sunlight was provided through shelterwood and seed tree harvesting practices, and by mother nature, who leveled a ten-acre pine plantation with an ice storm. On the former pine plantation, natural regeneration was supplemented with planted seedlings of desirable hardwood species, protected from deer by enclosure fencing or 800 five-foot plastic tree shelters. In the hardwood stand, natural regeneration has been protected by a series of smaller two-acre deer enclosures, the last one installed this past winter. Another recent practice is the coppicing of severely-browsed saplings and protection of their vigorous new sprouts with tree shelters. Much of this early-succession forest stand now features oak, sugar maple and black cherry saplings up to 20 feet in height.

Other features of interest include extra efforts to release and protect White oak for wildlife benefits, a small planting of disease-resistant American Chestnuts, and a small Christmas Tree operation.

Jerry Michael hosted a woods walk on this property in 2018 for the benefit of Master Forest Owners and NYFOA members. If you have missed previous opportunities to see this property, you are encouraged to come and view regeneration practices that you may be able to

implement in your own woodlot. Members of other environmental organizations with an interest in forest regeneration will also be participating. The woods walk will be held from 9:30 till 11:30 on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The address is 3192 State Route 206, Whitney Point, NY 13862. It is 1.3 miles east from Whitney Point, on the right side of Route 206 going east, at the top of the hill. There is a red cottage and garage on the property. Park along the shoulder of the road. The woods walk will be held rain or shine, so dress accordingly. Call (607) 648-2941 for further information.



**2003 ice storm**

**Picnic in the Park  
Chenango State Park  
Saturday, June 13, 2020  
10 AM until 4 PM**

Join the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) members on Saturday, June 13, 2020, for our first Picnic in the Park at Chenango Valley State Park. We'll be there from 10 AM until 4 PM for a family event. Bring your children (or grandchildren) for a fun, exciting, and educational day focused on trees, forests, and all the wonders we might find there. We're providing hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages, and encourage you to bring a side dish to share, plus your own table service.

We're planning to host a number of possible events including: Geo-caching demonstrations and exercises;

a nature walk led by former DEC Commissioner Mike Zagata, which will feature tree identification and wildlife and forest management; bird watching/identification, bluebird house construction, forest foods (nuts, berries, etc.), nature photography, park geology, deer tick information, petting zoo, and other activities geared toward all ages. We'll be repeating several of these so you can participate in more than one. More information will be forthcoming via e-mail as we firm up presenters and topics.

Plan on spending the day with us, swim in the lake, enjoy lunch, and learn more about trees, forests, and Chenango Valley State Park. We'll be in the Tween Lakes Pavilion (follow the NYFOA signs). There is a modest park entry fee for cars driven by persons under the age of 60, but all of our events are free. Please RSVP to (607-862-9152) by June 6<sup>th</sup> so we'll know how much food to bring.

**Potluck Dinner**

Christopher Audette, Executive Director of the Waterman Center, spoke to the group who attended our annual potluck dinner on January 28, 2020 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Upper Front Street. The Waterman Center, [watermancenter.org](http://watermancenter.org), is a non profit nature center with a mission to promote conservation education and environmental literacy. Started in 1976 as Tioga Conservation, it has grown in size due to economic growth. In addition to the main interpretive center, the site consists of the Apalachin Marsh (in the center of route 17, Brick Pond (outside of Owego), Hiawatha Island, Hilton Road Preserve, IBM Glen and Pettus Hill Preserve.



## Letter from the Chair

I've been heating my house with energy-dense solar (Commonly called wood) for the past 20 years. I suspect that many forest owners also heat with wood. I have found out that heating with wood is a learning process that never ends. I learned two things this past year. When my boiler was installed 20 years ago the pump that circulates the water was installed so that the water flows in a reverse direction compared to how the boiler was designed. That mistake will be fixed this summer. Secondly, a good woodshed is an excellent investment.

In the past, I would stack the wood on used pallets for air circulation and cover the wood with a tarp toward the end of September. Around the same time, I would move some wood indoors and stack it a bin so that it would really dry out. As my dry pile got used up I would bring in additional wood from outside to refresh my supply. I had to wait at least two weeks before using the wood because the moisture content would be too high. Even though I covered the stacked wood with a tarp it would tear and leak water on the wood and the pallets would break when I stepped on them. The situation was less than ideal.

I built a woodshed this past summer which provides air circulation in summer and keeps the wood dry in the winter. I found a design online that I modified to fit my needs and to incorporate some ideas that I found in other shed plans. My woodshed is 46 inches wide and twelve feet long. I have it elevated from the ground so the wood will not freeze to the floor. I'm able to

open it in the summer so that air can circulate and dry the wood. I used pressure treated lumber throughout its construction. I was able to procure used metal roofing from what was the low house skeet station at my local gun club. The metal roofing was resized by using a metal cutting blade on my circular saw.



One feature that I feel is useful is being able to load and unload the shed from both sides. That is why I never installed a back wall. A tarp that has been folded in half has been installed on each side. The purpose of the tarps is to protect the wood from winter weather. I attach the tarp eyelets onto hooks screwed into the side of the woodshed. I put a small log in the fold of the tarp to act as a weight which prevents the tarp from blowing around. The eyelets make it easy to remove and replace the tarp when getting wood. I've read online that wood should be below 20% moisture content. When I brought wood in the cellar for the first time it had 18% moisture and felt dry. I still waited a

week before using it. In my experience, the moisture content should be below 10% when measured by a Harbor Freight moisture meter.



I like to age my firewood for two years, so I still stack some on pallets.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Steve

### Welcome New Members

Scott B. Clarke  
Tricia & Steven Ranck  
Phillip Zorda

For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org), or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566.

Annual membership is \$45 and includes: subscriptions to Treelines: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

**Southern Tier Chapter Steering  
Committee**

**Chair**

Steve Kutney 607-862-9152  
stephen\_kutney@yahoo.com

**Co-Vice Chairs & Newsletter**

Ken & Sharon Semanovich  
607-204-0101 aait@stny.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Larry Lepak 607-786-5892  
ltlepak@stny.rr.com

**Program Chair**

Jerry Michael 607-648-2941  
GoTreeGo80@gmail.com

**Delegate to State Board**

Darryl Wood

**Member at Large**

Dave Williams

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Thank you for your thoughts going forward, and your considerations in our efforts to increase awareness in matters that concern NYS forest owners.

**The Steering Committee (SOT)**

NY Forest Owners Association  
Southern Tier Chapter  
Steve Kutney, Chair  
1031 King Hill Road  
Endicott, NY 13760-8014