

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2022

Volume 36, Number 2

NYFOA Spring Meeting

The Western Finger Lakes chapter hosted the NYFOA spring meeting in Canandaigua on April 23-24. It was a great chance to reconnect with our old friends, meet members from other chapters, and learn about a wide variety of topics. Included here and on page 3 are some scenes from the meeting; a more complete story will be included in the next issue of the *New York Forest Owner*.



Keynote speaker Conrad Baker makes a point about beaver habitat.



Emily Bonk explains how logging is used to enhance wildlife habitat at Hi Tor.



Jim Engel describes how to collect and plant seeds from native plants.



Conrad Baker displays a beaver skin and skull. Note the orange teeth; a very high iron content makes them very effective chisels.

Editor's note

By Mike Seager

A lot of things seem to be coming together in this issue, at least for me personally. I have been reading Douglas Tallamy's book *Nature's Best Hope*, in which he describes the need and the way to restore our landscapes with native plants. At our recent spring meeting, Jim Engel described how to collect, store and plant seeds from native plants; as I write this, I can see some flowering trees and shrubs across the field that I will mark as places to collect seeds this fall for spring planting. And Gil Holtz answered my request for articles with one about his battle with the invasive Phragmites. According to Tallamy, most native plants support our ecosystem by providing food and other resources for hundreds of species of insects, which in turn form the base of the food chain that supports all other wildlife and, ultimately, us. Phragmites supports only five species, making a wetland dominated by Phragmites a food desert rather than an oasis for insects, birds and other wildlife. Also at the spring meeting, Kristina Ferrare showed us a way to evaluate a woodlot for resilience to various types of stresses: climate changes, invasive species, or others. And Gary Koplun gave us some warnings about the consequences of one particular invasive, emerald ash borer. I thank all of them, and all our other speakers, for a great meeting. I thank Mr. Holtz for his article, and I encourage anybody else with an interesting project to consider sharing it with our members.

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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, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$45 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. Membership at the Contributing level \$50-\$99; Sponsor level \$100-\$249; Benefactor \$250-\$499; and Steward \$500 or more are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

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

For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe **to our email list** by sending a blank email to nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org

Note: The deadline for the Fall 2022 issue is August 15

More scenes from the Spring Meeting



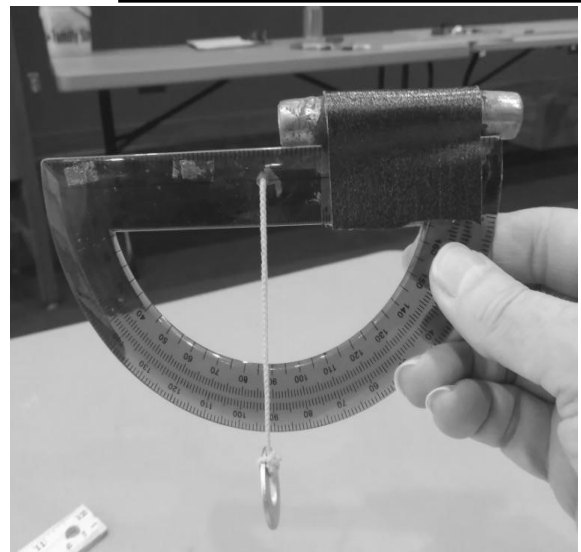
Kristina Ferrare discusses the Forest Resilience Scorecard.



Art Wagner (left) receives \$160 from Greg Lessord as the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Art promptly donated half of his winnings to WFL, and the other half to NYFOA.



Steve Kinne describes how to identify birds by their songs, with many audio examples.



Dick Starr's workshop explained how to use household items to make a device for measuring angles in the field.



Bruce Cushing (left) won the raffle for a pair of Dryshod boots, displayed by Greg Lessord.



Given the choice of walking or driving the mile+ to the Hi Tor woodswalk site, EVERYBODY chose to walk.

Women for the Land-American Farmland Trust

A Learning Circle for Women Farmers and Women Landowners

By Colette Morabito

In mid-October, I offered to host a woods walk at our forested property in Belfast, NY. Bruce Robinson was also in attendance, in his professional capacity as a Forestry Consultant. The topics were sustainable forestry, learning how to identify management practices to make your forest land healthy and productive. The organizers were Stephanie Castle, Women for the Land, American Farmland Trust scastle@farmland.org (518.703.7203) and Joan Petzen, CCE NWNYS, Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team jsp10@cornell.edu (585.786.2251, Ext. 122). The gathering was organized with the assistance of Lynn Bliven, Agriculture & Natural Resources Issue Leader, CCE Allegany County lao3@cornell.edu (585.268.7644).

Although the woods walk was just one portion of the day's activities, a full program was set up for the attendees to learn, discuss, and ask questions on many topics regarding forestry. Woodlot goals, sustainable forest management, and where to

find resources/organizations available to assist forest owners. The conversation took many twists and turns as each attendee had a unique property. The attendees all owned wooded lands but there were many questions as to why it was important to focus on their trees. I certainly could relate to each of them. My husband and I have learned so much from sessions such as this. Talking with other forest and woodland owners is very enriching. A simple conversation with others about how to begin to see your trees as valuable, both to the natural world and financially, is probably how many of us got our start. Planting the seed of interest leads to knowledge and positive change.



Learning Circle organizer Stephanie Castle considers an oak sapling that Bruce Robinson identifies during a discussion on forest density.

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Bruce took the time to explain why it makes the most sense to work with nature. See what is there. Timber management takes a lot of time and hard work. Therefore, it is better to do a little, often, than trying to accomplish everything at once. He explained his mantra of releasing your best trees-do not stress on the species but rather on the density. Different trees need different management. Trees take years to grow, so every tree you cut will have a great significance over time. Every tree grew where it is for a whole host of reasons-sun, soil, and it was not browsed by deer. There is a considerable amount of biology to learn in regard to forestry. We discussed timber theft and the many reasons why clear boundary lines are essential. A yearly review of your property lines is recommended. Access into your property is a big benefit if your management goals include a timber sale. What are your goals for your forest? (See the WFL winter 2021 newsletter, page 10 for a list of feasible Forest Management Goals)

There are many different organizations where you can find like-minded people who desire to improve their land, get educated on best practices, and make new contacts. Both government and private organizations are available. I encourage you to reach out to your WFL chapter members as well as NYFOA if you are new to forest ownership. To get the greatest benefit from your membership, take advantage of what is offered as often as you can. Perhaps a Game of Logging class is for you. Be sure to take a chainsaw class as they become available. A necessary skill that demands considerable safety measures and knowledge about felling trees. This is a hands-on event with professionals to give you the proper instructions on chainsaw best practices.

When one of us succeeds in our forest management and timber sustainability practices, we all win. The ecological landscape has no physical boundaries. Each of our properties is like a puzzle piece in the larger ecosystem. We need to understand the unique role our property plays in the network of the other adjoining properties. Knowledge is power and sharing our experiences and hard work can only improve the land that we cherish and nurture. Do you need help to better understand how your unique property fits into the larger landscape? Here is a small list of resources that might be of interest to you and can be accessed on the internet:

- [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Private Forest Management](#)
- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(EQUIP\)](#)
- [USDA Conservation Stewardship Program for Wildlife](#)
- [Cornell Cooperative Extension Forest Connect Program](#)
- [NY Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program](#)
- [National Timber Tax Website](#)
- [Penn State's Forest Finance 3: Keeping Record of Forest Management Activities](#)
- [Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of Your Land?](#)

The Last Frontier, or A Fool's Errand

By Gil Holtz

Phragmites are coming! Phragmites are coming! If you have a wetland on your property, beware! It is a tall, thick, impenetrable, ugly growth that, like an invading army, will choke out any smaller plants in its path. If you have a cattail swamp on your land, as I do, it is at risk. Once Phragmites gets its foot in the door it will continually advance until your wetland is completely overwhelmed. Does it have any redeeming value, such as the beauty of Purple Loosestrife? I am not aware of any. So what can be done if you want to protect your wetland?

I have successfully used Roundup on small patches making an initial incursion. I do not, however, consider that an acceptable long term solution. A few years ago I began, experimentally, planting a few fruit trees in our swamp, in areas with only light cattail growth. Decades earlier, fruit trees that I planted on fields adjacent to the swamp did not do well. It took me too long to realize that scattered Black Walnut, planted by squirrels, might be the cause, their noxious root systems spreading far. I gave up on fruit trees and covered any open space with conifers. But each Spring I still had a compelling



Gil Holtz stands in front of an advancing phalanx of invasive Phragmites.

desire to plant trees. Only our swamp remained open to sunshine and, hopefully, no walnut root intrusion. I began with several Crabapple and over a 4 year period added standard apple and pear trees, as well as a plum and even a peach. All the trees were about 5 feet tall in plastic pots. To my pleasant surprise, all but the peach tree are doing well. No longer was my purpose to harvest fruit but to benefit wildlife. But now,

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with Phragmites on the march, it may produce an added benefit. The shade and roots of the trees might suppress the spread of the Phragmites. But for that objective, a more aggressive action would probably be required. My main effort then became the planting of wetland tolerant species as quickly as my time and ability permitted. These included Cedar, Cypress, Dawn Redwood, River Birch, Tamarack and Swamp White Oak. Where Cattails are too thick, I plant willows.

Of course all the plantings need to be protected from deer. I use four foot high coils of welded wire fencing. Arborvitae are a beautiful swamp planting but as parts of our swamp became wetter, they died. Unfortunately, where they do well, I find it too difficult to protect them from the deer. Seldom is the usual fencing adequate.

The big question remains, as the solid wall of Phragmites in the swamp across the road advances closer each year to my swamp, are my efforts already too late?

I recognize that mine is an amateur effort. Any suggestions are welcome. Hopefully, time will tell how this war is best to be won.



Author Gilbert Holtz with one of his fruit trees planted in a wetland to try to keep Phragmites at bay.

Climate Act update

By David Deuel

In July of 2019, the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) was signed into law. This Act is among the most ambitious climate laws in the world. The law created a Climate Action Council charged with developing a scoping plan of recommendations to place New York on a path to carbon neutrality. On December 20, 2021 the Council released the draft scoping plan for public comment. The 120 day public comment period ends June 10, 2022.

By the time you read this, the public comment period will probably be over. However, one can always contact our state legislators and governor with our views and opinions. A google of "NYS Climate Action Plan" will bring up several sites that contain the scoping plan overview, complete draft of the plan, and various analysis and opinions of the plan. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the plan and send your views and thoughts to our legislators in Albany. Simply discussing the plan with family and friends will have little effect on Albany's actions.

Stay safe and enjoy your woodlot.

Old Growth

By Dick Starr

Is it possible that old growth forests and ancient trees are more common than generally assumed? Places like the Zoar valley southwest of Buffalo and some of the steep glaciated valleys of the finger lakes escaped the ax and saw of pioneers because the terrain was too rugged for ease of access. Zoar has canyon depths approaching 500 feet. The term old growth became popular in the 1970s to describe forests essentially untouched by human hands for at least 150 years. While it seems to fly in the face of conventional wisdom, there are pockets of such forests still to be found along the Appalachian chain. Remnants of the seemingly endless forests that greeted European settlers.

What clues might we look for if trying to locate old trees? First would be the assumption that larger is probably older. One might find a row of evenly spaced large trees and conclude they are marking a boundary. They escaped the logger because they were doing boundary duty. Perhaps a row of large trees lining an unused driveway. Maybe a yard tree left for its ability to add some summer shade to a pioneer farmhouse. In September 2021 a 250 year old black walnut with diameter 5.5 feet was cut down near Cleveland, Ohio. It started to grow around 1770 when much of NYS was a "wilderness" peopled by indigenous Indians. Certainly a tree such as the nearly 400 year old Endicott pear tree in Danvers, Massachusetts would be saved. It is believed to be the oldest living cultivated fruit tree in North America and still producing fruit. There are hemlocks in New England that have been aged by increment corer as 330 years old. Such trees were 30 years old when the pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock in 1620. To touch such a tree is to touch history. There is an olive tree on the Island of Crete that is supposedly 2000 years old. A tree producing something edible is no doubt given reprieve from the chain saw.

It seems we get an almost daily dose of climate change information. Forests get involved in these discussions since they remove carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. It seems intuitive that a larger tree will sequester more carbon than a smaller tree. A 2017 study found that if we just leave the world's existing forests alone by 2100 they'd have captured enough carbon to offset years' worth of fossil fuel emissions, up to 120 billion metric tons.

If the goal is to minimize global warming then it's important that we plant new trees (afforestation) and regrow forests (reforestation). We should also consider proforestation, the preservation of existing old forests and trees. The data is clear that older trees accumulate more carbon later in their life. Studies of Eastern white pines older than 150 years show that they accumulate 75% of their total carbon after 50 years of age. Simply planting new trees isn't enough. We must strive to save the big ones and work to let more trees become big ones.

The inspiration for this article, and some of the information in it, came from an article by Jonny Diamond in the January/February 2022 issue of Smithsonian magazine.

Wanted: NYFOA State Board Members

Editor's note: the NYFOA state board of directors has several vacant positions and would welcome volunteers or nominations for people to fill these positions. I can say from personal experience that serving on the board provides a unique opportunity to meet like-minded people, learn about NYFOA from a new perspective, and help advance NYFOA's mission of enhancing New York's forests. If you would like to volunteer, nominate another, or just request more information, contact NYFOA's president Stacey Kazacos ((610) 755-8616 or skazacos@nyfoa.org) or executive director Craig Vollmer ((716) 237-0880 or cvollmer@nyfoa.org). Below is a brief description of the responsibilities of a state director.

Basic Information about NYFOA Board of Director Member at Large Positions:

Term – 3 years

Term Limits – 2 consecutive terms, except where the board member is completing an unexpired term of a vacant/vacated position, for which they would be able to serve two full terms after the unexpired term is completed. A member can be nominated to serve again on the Board again beyond the term limit followed by at least one year off the board. A Board member can volunteer to serve an extended term beyond the term limit by Board vote where there are no candidates to fill the vacant position; in this case the position would be held temporarily until a replacement can be found.

Board Meetings – meetings will be held quarterly (4 per year); two longer in person meetings (spring/fall) and two shorter meetings by zoom and/or conference call (winter/summer). Other brief meetings by zoom or conference call may be necessary when an important issue comes up requiring board attention. The spring in person meeting is usually held in conjunction with the annual statewide meeting/conference. The fall in person meeting is held central to the state in the Syracuse area.

Committee Duties – members at large are required to serve on at least one of the standing committees as chair/co-chair or as a committee member. Standing committees are:

- Executive Committee (Officers) – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, Immediate Past President (ex officio).
- Finance/Budget Committee
- Membership Committee
- External Affairs (legislation & Policy, collaboration with kindred organizations)
- Program Committee
- Communications & Marketing

More details about board governance can be found in the NYFOA By Laws on the NYFOA website here:

https://www.nyfoa.org/application/files/5814/8813/6511/NYFOA_By-Laws2016.pdf

Woodlot Edibles- Berries

By David Deuel

I assume that if you own any type of rural property, somewhere on that parcel grows wild berries, probably multiple varieties of berries. Each of us has a favorite; mine happens to be whichever is in season. A quote from my grandfather, "Even a bad berry tastes better than the best turnip." I wholeheartedly agree. Wild berries most likely were the first "woodlot edibles" we enjoyed on our own as children.

There are as many ways to enjoy berries as there are types of berries. In my opinion, the best way is fresh picked as I am walking through the woods. My second favorite way is a berry pie. A word of caution, if you have ever participated in a baking contest, or are a pie aficionado, you should stop reading now. In our family, pies were something the family matriarch made for holidays and other family gatherings. Try as I may, my crust (my mom's recipe, yes, with lard) never was worth the time and effort it took to make. We had become pie-free household! Then, about 25 years ago, a friend encouraged me to try store bought refrigerated pie crusts. I will never compare purchased crust to homemade, but for me, it serves a purpose. As the box says, "unroll, fill, and bake".

We now have pie a couple times a month with whatever fruit is in season. A basic, easy to remember recipe for berry pie filling: 1-1 ½ cups sugar, ½ cup flour, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, 1 qt. berries. Mix sugar, flour, & cinnamon. Turn in washed berries. Then, as the pie crust box says, unroll, fill, and bake. I follow the baking instructions on the crust box. My mom would be appalled, but our stomachs are happy! Enjoy, it really can be "as easy as pie".

Felling Marks

By Eileen Schaefer

In our last issue, we asked why you would draw black lines all over a brand new chainsaw. The answer is felling marks! Many chainsaws come with felling marks. Similar to the sight on a gun, these lines help you align the cut you are making with the direction you want the tree to fall. The permanent black marker makes those felling marks more pronounced.



∞ Upcoming Events ∞

Note: For possible updates to these meetings and to learn about events in neighboring chapters and across the state go to our NYFOA website's EVENTS section at

<https://www.nyfoa.org/events>

July 30: Aerial View of a Woods Walk

Michael Tucker, of Drone of Arc, will be speaking on the subject of Drones and their applications for forest and landowners. Drone services provide a "bird's eye view" of your property which can capture complex data in remote and inaccessible locations.

Aerial surveillance by drones offer different angles and perspectives as well as views of our properties in different seasons. Drones reduce the impact on the environment, they are easier to deploy when access is needed, and are widely used by forest officials for both wildlife monitoring and tree disease detection. **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** and **LiDAR** sensors in drones help accumulate and process data for the well-being of forest land and vegetation. These applications and others, such as **Photogrammetry**, is a process that Mr. Tucker will explain, in plain language, to help us understand how drones can help us in our overall forest management goals.

Michael Tucker is a photographer, combat veteran, husband, and father. He is a certified FAA Part 107 sUAS Commercial Drone Pilot. He is delighted to join us, Dave and Colette Morabito, on Saturday, July 30 (Rain Date July 31) at the Morabito's property in Allegany County, 6067 White Creek Road/Route 17, Friendship/Belfast, NY 14739. Please come for lunch at 11 a.m. Hot dogs over an open fire and S'mores for dessert. The drone

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 or (585) 367-2847 for price quote. Proceeds benefit WFL chapter.

For Sale: Maple Equipment Retirement Sale Everything needed for a 220 bucket system from taps to filter press-you provide the trees. Info and details, Cecilia and David Deuel, 585-226-2952 or dsdeuel@gmail.com

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.

Welcome New Members

Gina Maiolo and	Naples, NY
Michael Charleton	
Christian DiPaola	Penfield, NY
Mary Gleason	Rochester, NY
Jake McClelland	Palmyra, NY
Erika and David Younis	Farmington, NY

session will begin at noon. Mr. Tucker will come with all the necessary technology to show us what he has surveyed by the drone, immediately, right on site. Be sure to dress for the weather conditions: bug spray, sunscreen, solid shoes, and a hat. This event will have limited walking, but you will need to park and walk to our pavilion.

Please RSVP that are joining us at: 585/248-0654 or email at colettemorabito57@gmail.com. Let us know how many are in your group so that we can have enough goodies to share.

Drone of Arc website: <https://www.droneofarc.us/>

August: Garlic Braiding

The Second Annual Garlic Braiding Class is going to happen again in August of 2022! The official day and time is yet to be determined by both Michelle Scutt and Mother Nature.

Harmony Acres Garlic Farm, 6785 Mount Morris Nunda Road, Mount Morris, NY 14510

The cost is \$25.00 per person, per braid. Trust me when I say that bringing home your own hand-braided, locally grown, garlic braid is both beautiful and delicious. No previous braiding experience necessary! Consider making one for yourself and one for a friend. Or better yet, bring your friend! These make great gifts! All are welcome.

Registration is required! Please RSVP to my information indicated below. When it gets closer to the date, I will touch base with everyone personally for the date as well as the exact number in your party who will be attending.

Contact: colettemorabito57@gmail.com or (585) 248-0654



New York Forest Owners Association

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Mike Seager in front of his favorite apple tree in spectacular bloom, a sure sign spring finally got here.

Mark Your Calendar

- July 30, 2022, 11:00 am: Woodswalk at Morabito's featuring Michael Tucker of Drone of Arc. Details inside.
- August 16, 2022: The quarterly WFL board meeting will be held at the American Hotel in Lima. Dinner at 6 p.m. and business meeting begins at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.
- August 2022: The Second Annual Garlic Braiding Class is going to happen again in August of 2022! The official day and time is yet to be determined. More details inside.
- October 11, 2022, 7:00 pm: General chapter meeting at the United Church of Christ in Honeoye.

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