

# CNY Chapter NYFOA

August 2014

COVERING CAYUGA,  
HERKIMER, MADISON,  
ONEIDA, ONONDAGA,  
AND  
OSWEGO COUNTIES

## 2014 Program

*Come join us for all or some of these events*

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**AUGUST 24 10 AM - ? - NYFOA-CNY Annual Picnic** at Great Swamp Conservancy. *Bring a dish to pass & your place setting.* We provide drinks & a grilled item (hot dogs??). The Visitor Center has displays of local flora and fauna. Trails, lookouts and the variety of natural habitats that comprise the more than 115 acres of the GSC should make this a great venue for our picnic.

From I-90 take exit 34 in Canastota, NY. Go south on Route 13 for around ~100 yards, right on Maple St., then right on North Main St. (~ 3 miles). The Nature Center Complex is on the corner of N. Main St. and Pine Ridge Rd. Follow NYFOA signs.

More directions at <http://greatswampconservancy.org>

**OCTOBER 18 10 AM - Woods Walk in Oneida County woodlot**

Kathy McGrath and David Sonnenfeld purchased the 36-acre woodlot just outside McConnellsville two years ago, and are enjoying enhancing it for wildlife, recreation, and timber value. Diverse for its size, the woodlot includes white pine, hemlock, beech, oak, maple, and yellow poplar. One acre has been cleared, perhaps once meant for a house lot. The woodlot's hilly topography makes for beautiful walks, and a small tributary to Fish Creek and several wetland areas add to its diversity. The woodlot is contiguous with Oneida County reforestation land.

Kathy and David have enjoyed planting the clearing and other small open areas with shrubs, crabapples, and apples for wildlife (and people too), as well as planting cherry, oak, maple, dogwood, elderberry, and hazelnut for wildlife and to diversify the forest. New at forest management, they have a lot to learn and welcome input from NYFOA members.

They enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, hunting, and camping on the land. Last year David enhanced remnant logging roads for hiking and cross country skiing. By the end of the summer 2014 they hope to have constructed a screened porch building for NYFOA woodwalkers to enjoy

To get to the property, take Route 13 north from McConnellsville. After passing the elementary school and cemetery, turn left onto Elpis Road. After just less than ½ mile, when Elpis Road and Dixon Road split, turn left immediately before the Elpis/Dixon road sign (on the left), into a narrow lane. A Forest Stewardship sign is on the gate. The logging roads/ski trails and open understory make walking the property relatively easy. Although hilly, we can always take the uphill slowly! Please bring a chair and a lunch, and if we're lucky Maria will provide treats. Feel free to call David and Kathy at (315) 329-6160 if you have any questions.



## **Recent CNY-NYFOA Events**

### **Woods Walk at the Cann's on May 17**

Central New York's May Woods Walk was held at the Canns' 76 acre forest in Canastota. Twenty one adventurers enjoyed a special day. The Canns live on the North Slope of a hillside, so water runs north to Oneida Lake, then to the St. Lawrence River and on to the ocean. One drop of water travels about 2,000 miles to reach the ocean. If the Canns lived 1 mile south, that drop of water would flow to the Susquehanna River and into the ocean in less than 500 miles, over about a thousand miles south of where the other drop of fresh water from upstate New York enters the ocean. The water from the Cann's also goes through a generator producing power 24 /7, 365 days a year. The wind blows a windmill generating electricity to produce power; solar panels on the barn roof provide power also. The Cann's are off the grid so to speak. They sell more power to National Grid than they use. A special electric hot water heater, (sold at Lowes for about \$1000 ) generates most of its own power as well.

On a cool sunny day 21 of us enjoyed a unique woods walk, over a suspension bridge above a beautiful creek. We also passed along a hill that drops off almost vertically for 500 to 700 feet to the creek. Peter's paths and roadways are better than many country roads with culverts and drainage ditches.

How many species of trees grow naturally in your woods? This is what I recall seeing on our walk: sugar maple, red maple, white ash, green ash, tulip poplar, pignut hickory, hop hornbeam, ironwood, red oak, sycamore, hemlock, pin cherry, black cherry, sassafras, butternut, aspen, black willow, white willow, locust, beach, juneberry, wild apple, and bass wood. Plus, the Canns have planted eight thousand spruce, pine, and larch. Peter, what did I miss?

In the forest we stopped at an 18-inch diameter hickory. We discussed its value and how it would be scaled by Doyle, Scribner, and International Log Rule. We learned why the rules differ, and how they may benefit us.

We would like to thank the Canns for a wonderful day. The hosts of the walk, Peter and Nancy , outdid themselves with an all-you-can eat lunch and snacks.

At this time of year the day lilies are in bloom. I like the taste of the light yellow flowers best. We hope you remember to enjoy your woodlots and flowers at this time.

**Ralph Meyer, Chair  
CNY-NYFOA**

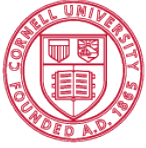
### **Saw mill and log/lumber grading at Morrisville College on June 14**

Jim Costello condensed his 5-week course on grading timber and lumber into an hour presentation of the basics !

For more detailed information, he referred us to the publications of the US Forest Products Laboratory of the USDA (<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us>) and of the Hardwood Lumber Association (<http://www.nhla.com>).

He also indicated that retirees can audit his course for free (+ materials) !

Bruce Revette helped with the sawmill operation to show the basics of Morrisville's hi-tech saw and the grading of a board produced. He also showed us the college's inside kiln as well as the outside solar kilns that were made based on plans from the website of Virginia Tech and which you can see at ([http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-030/420-030\\_pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-030/420-030_pdf))



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

**Memo To:** CCE Natural Resources Educators  
CCE Master Gardener Program Coordinators  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
DEC Forestry Personnel  
NYFOA Officers and Regional Chairpersons  
NYS Forest Practice Board  
NY Local Land Trusts  
NYS Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
NGO's associated with forest and wildlife management

**From:** Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, and Arnot Forest Director

**Date:** July 18, 2014

**Subject:** Solicitation of Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer Candidates

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Hello all!

Most of you know that Gary Goff retired in May after a celebrated career including being the founding director of the MFO Volunteer program. Gary will be missed, but the MFO Volunteer program will go on! Cornell University Cooperative Extension is committed to the Master Forest Owner volunteer program and its widely recognized impacts. You are an important part of this program through your ability and willingness to help identify landowners who will serve as volunteers.

The MFO program needs woodland owners with a volunteer spirit who are passionate about the sustainable management of their woodlands, and who believe in spreading the word of good forestry. Volunteers can be from any background, young or old, resident or absentee, large or small parcels, and varied woodland management experiences. The candidates receive a bit of forest management training, but the program is primarily designed to help them develop as volunteers for peer-to-peer counseling to encourage sustainable woodlot management.

The 2014 training of new volunteers will be on September 24 to 27 at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Van Etten, NY ([www.arnotforest.info](http://www.arnotforest.info)). Volunteers can commute daily, or accommodations are available free. There is a \$125 (\$200 per couples) fee for attendance to help defray lodging, publications, food, and equipment costs of the 4-day training. The training combines classroom and outdoor field experiences on a variety of subjects including: tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, sawtimber economics, wildlife and sawtimber management, communication techniques, and a visit to a nearby sawmill. Candidates are required to watch a few recordings of specific ForestConnect webinars before the training to provide a foundation of common knowledge.

If you have clients, or people from your association (including yourself) who would make good volunteers, please send me their names and addresses and we will send them an informational packet about the program and an application form. Prospective candidates can also obtain program information and application materials at the MFO website [www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info). Promotional information, a press release, and application forms regarding the training are also on that site. Please consider using the press release in your organization's e-mail releases and/or newsletters.

The goal of the MFO Volunteer Program is for trained forest owner volunteers to provide other forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to sustainably manage their forests. MFOs do not offer technical assistance, perform management activities, or give professional advice. Rather, they meet with other forest owners to listen to their concerns and questions, offer advice for sources of assistance, and connect them to people with technical expertise. The success of this volunteer program is grounded in the power of "peer" counseling. Knowledgeable and experienced forest owner neighbors can interact as unbiased peers with less-experienced forest owners. There are approximately 200 active volunteers who annually interact directly with hundreds of neighbors and indirectly with thousands through various outreach activities, such as town meetings, county fairs, newspaper articles, educational workshops and work with youth groups. These informed and dedicated volunteers are a great resource in their communities to assist other people, organizations and agencies in promoting the wise use of forest resources.

Please take a moment as soon as possible to email a forest owner who might be a good volunteer. Send them to [www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info) for the application materials. You can also contact us to have an application packet mailed. Your help is critical to the continued success of the MFO Program and contributes greatly to our collective mission of involving forest owners in wise stewardship.

Thank you very much!

### **Ways to Connect**

- [www.CornellMFO.info](http://www.CornellMFO.info)
- Mail: MFO Candidates, 214 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, or
- Phone: 607-255-2115, FAX: 607-255-0349, or
- E-mail: [dlt5@cornell.edu](mailto:dlt5@cornell.edu)



CNY-NYFOA  
c/o Randi Stamer  
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## CNY- NYFOA Annual Picnic - August 24

We hope you can join us for our future events.  
Please give us your feedback and input for presentations you would like to see, where/  
when our next annual dinner event will be held, etc.

### REMINDER

IF you do not have email or would prefer PRINT copies there will be a charge of  
\$5.00/year to cover the added expense

Due to the expense of printing and mailing, we will be  
EMAILING future newsletters to members with an  
email address.

Please send requests for print newsletters and your  
payment of \$5.00 to Sandy Babcock, Treasurer  
3174 Thompson Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035