

CNY Chapter NYFOA

November 2014

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

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- Randi Starmer,
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2014 Program of CNY-NYFOA Events

December 5 from 6:30 p.m. at 3174 Thompson Road in Cazenovia

Christmas Party at Maria and Sandy Babcock's

Always a festive and delicious event - Cost of \$5/per person
Please RSVP at 315-662-7707 or email aplstone@dreamscape.com

2015 Tentative Program of CNY-NYFOA Events

January - Please submit articles/suggestions for February newsletter to
randi.starmer@gmail.com or 7022 Bush Rd., Jamesville, NY 13078

February - Board of Directors Annual Meeting for setting 2015 program

March - Pass the Dish Supper with Speaker - TBD

May - First Woods Walk of the Season - date/place TBD

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

November 14, 2014 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 97 East Genesee St, Skaneateles. - *Love Your Land? Make a Plan!* This workshop will be presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension in collaboration with Cornell University Dept of Natural Resources and the Finger Lakes Trust.

Details at <http://www.extendonondaga.org/love-your-land-make-a-plan>

If anyone in Syracuse or eastern suburbs is planning to go to above event, Randi Starmer would greatly appreciate hitching a ride & can meet somewhere convenient in those areas. Please call 315-637-5213 or email randi.starmer@gmail.com.

November 21 - Deadline for filing for 2015 NRCS Programs - See p. 2

November 30, 2 pm at Liverpool Public Library - A VIDEO presentation by Doug Tallamy: *The Value of Having Native Plants in our Yards*.

Tallamy is the author of the award-winning book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Garden* and of a new book *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, co-authored with Rick Darke, a horticulturist. This video presentation is the keynote address given at the 2014 Wild Ones conference and is beautifully illustrated throughout the videotaped presentation.

NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for NRCS Programs

The New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced **November 21, 2014** as the application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to eligible private forestland owners who are willing to address priority environmental issues by implementing conservation practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance funds for forestry related practices which help address resource concerns such as soil erosion, water quality, and degraded plant (forest) conditions. Owners of non-industrial private forestland may apply for the program. For forest management practices, the landowner must have a forest stewardship plan developed that meets or exceeds the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) criteria. If an interested forest landowner does not have a forest stewardship plan they may apply through NRCS to have one developed by a qualified individual from the private sector.

The program also offers competitive funds for the implementation of conservation practices that are identified in the forest stewardship plan as needing to be implemented to treat a specific resource concern. In the past conservation practices have included forest health thinning (Timber Stand Improvement), Forest Trails & Landings (forest trail/cleared path, concentrated flow measures, etc.), and invasive species control to name a few. Payment levels are determined by a Practice Payment Rate (PPR) which is a fixed amount based on a percentage of the state average cost of a typical installation of that practice.

If you're a forest landowner interested in EQIP, contact your local USDA-NRCS office to find out more information on how to apply and learn more about specific program rules and requirements.

You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office, which can be located using the web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=NY>.

Or please visit our web site at:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058.

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NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Heaven and Sanity

Ralph A Meyer, Chair, CNY

Those of us in Central N.Y.F.O.A. each have a piece of Heaven and a place of Sanity, known as our wood lots.

October 18th, with rain and 50-degree temperatures, that cleared-up, 13 hardy adventurers headed north to Mc Connellsville for Central N.Y.'s Woods Walk.

One day three years ago, Sandy Babcock received a phone call from Kathy McGrath and David Sonnenfeld . Kathy said, "I'm looking for my piece of Heaven and Sanity, but I mainly want to hunt deer." Sandy, a real estate agent, searched and found the perfect wood lot for them: 36 acres in the lower Adirondacks, a 45-minute drive into a whole different world from Syracuse.

As we gathered, Maria Babcock brought out coffee, breakfast sliders still warm, and goodies like pumpkin cupcakes. What a way to start a walk! The property has county woods, Harden Furniture woods and one private owner surrounding it. One acre is open and brush, the remainder is woods, perfect location for a lean-too or cabin.

We started our walk by a large stately old white pine, 4 foot + D.B.H. and tall. Then, we continued into a white pine woods, very dense with a combination of old limby white pine and younger straight white pine. This area is in need of thinning, pines- 50 ft tall and crowns approximately 5-6 ft across. Natural selection is occurring. Many of these trees with a 12-14 inch D.B.H. will die. If thinned, they would be perfect for a building, thereby releasing others for an increased growth rate and better lumber one day.

The soil is Adirondack sand with ridges, valleys, small swampy areas and a trout stream. We hiked on a good roadway and trails. The woods then changed to red oak, red maple, beech, hemlock, yellow birch and tulip poplar, in an uneven age stand, with from 6-30 inch D.B.H. trees. These woods have a tight canopy with no vegetation on the ground; a desert.

Kathy girdled about half an acre of trees and planted wildlife trees and bushes. Hay-scented fern took over and covered this area in one year. Kathy's trees will grow with very little natural regeneration starting in this area. Thousands of red oak acorns covered the ground throughout the forest.

From 36 acres to 3,000 acres, some things to ponder:

1. Stewardship management plan.
2. What are my goals for the woods, wildlife, aesthetics, housings, wildflowers, edible plants, mushrooms, etc.
3. One acre of open land exists. Do I leave it for natural regeneration? The soil is sandy and acidic; do I plant high bush blueberries for wildlife and myself? Maybe a food plant for wildlife? Plant a garden and wildflowers?
4. The woods, do I leave them and enjoy the majestic view of them, letting nature take its course, or hire a forester for a timber sale?
5. Consider if there is 5,000 board foot of mature trees on each of 30 acres, that's 150,000 board foot. Do I have Amish log with horses, offering lower impact on soil and forest? Should I harvest 6-8 thousand board foot per year (a truckload) and sell the firewood from the tops, creating a sustainable yearly harvest? Or hire a forester, mark, bid, and harvest with big equipment? This opens the woods, creates new roads, and returns the most money now.
6. However you harvest, it should be considered a timber stand improvement. Harvest the lower grade trees so that straight, tall, higher-grade trees can increase in growth rate and quality until harvest. A pallet wood tree returns low dollars, a veneer tree returns the highest value in dollars!
7. Consider that slow growth on overstocked stands can leave trees more subject to insect and borer damage.
8. Peter Cann can give you information on using your stream for generating electricity for your own use or to sell to National Grid. Peter has a generator on his stream.
9. Wildlife should also be considered for harvest to maintain a balanced forest: deer, bear, gray squirrel, raccoon, and porcupine. Keep the tree damage to a minimum.

**A managed forest, whether small or large in acreage, is a healthy forest,
a little bit of Heaven, and a place of Sanity.**

New York Forest Owners' Association, Central New York Chapter
**2014 – Great events happened this year. As a member, did you take
advantage of them? Why not?**

- 1. Pass the Dish Dinner meeting in Morrisville with presentations by Emily Armstrong, agent for Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Paul Romanko, State Forester.**
- 2. Another Pass the Dish Dinner meeting in Morrisville with an outstanding presentation on Deer, Hops, and Forest Growth in Central NY for the past 100 years.**
- 3. Woods Walk at Peter Cann's - a great hike on management, tree planting, wildflowers, forest road design, measuring a standing tree for volume and grade. He is producing energy by windmill, solar panels and stream generation.**
- 4. Presentation at Morrisville College on sawing logs, grading boards, and dry kilns.**
- 5. Summer Picnic at the Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc. with a woods/swamp walk.**
- 6. Fall woods walk at Kathy McGrath and David Sonnenfeld's woods in McConnellsville with outstanding food by Maria Babcock.**
- 7. Bruce and Charlene Revette received the Outstanding Member award and plaque at the state annual meeting.**
- 8. Newsletter written, edited, and published by our own Randi Starmer. (Thanks)**
- 9. Yet to happen: our Christmas Party at the Babcocks. Don't miss it.**

What would you like for events in 2015? When? Where?

Email or write me (meyerralf@yahoo.com) 578 Sugar Lane, Oneida, NY 13421

**Ralph Meyer, Chair
CNY-NYFOA**

For those receiving print copies because you do not have email or would prefer PRINT copies, there is a charge of \$5.00/year to cover the added expense - see INSERT (print only) for payment coupon



CNY-NYFOA
c/o Randi Starnes
7022 Bush Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

Look what I tripped over in my woods!

What could it be???????



Space alien ?
Dinosaur fossil?
Dehydrated Thanksgiving turkey?

Or, if you say that its just an old farm implement
-- then what exactly?

Will it make me fabulously rich? Didn't think so.



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.

***** CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 5 *****