



## Steering Committee Plans 2016 Events

### NFC Steering Committee Plans 2016 Events

Get a group of enthusiastic members together at 2 Steering Committee Meetings and you can expect nothing but a great selection of events for 2016! Along with some NYFOA and regional events, our Chapter has planned 3 woodswalks and a nature preserve tour. We have Bruce Robinson lined up for 2 of our events and a 3<sup>rd</sup> forester (to be named) planned for our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Family Picnic! Details are included in this newsletter (page 4) and will be included in future newsletters. We would love to see some new faces at our events, come and meet your fellow members!

### Upcoming Events

- Feb. 25-27** NY State Farm Show  
State Fairgrounds, Syracuse
- Mar. 5** Rural Landowners Conference  
Pioneer HS, Yorkshire
- Mar. 26** Spring Maple Sugar Tour  
Alexander
- Apr. 16** NYFOA Annual Meeting  
SUNY Syracuse
- May 14** Tiff Nature Preserve Tour  
Buffalo, NY
- Aug. 27** NFC Family Picnic  
Bureau of Forestry, Sardinia
- Sept. 17** Linderman Woodswalk  
Clarksville (Allegany Co.)

*See page 4 for details*

## Chainsaw Raffle

Our Steering Committee has approved a Fundraiser/Raffle of a Husqvarna Model 435, 16 inch chain saw! Jim DeLellis has purchased the chainsaw from Lowes at a discount via his friend/manager. We are printing 120 tickets @ \$5 ea, 5 for \$20 to include ticketholders e-mail address for contacting non chapter members for interest in joining. We will begin selling tickets at our NFC first event of 2016 which will be Randall's Maple Sugar Tour.

We will bring the chainsaw and tickets to each event until all tickets are sold. The raffle will be held at the September 17<sup>th</sup> woodswalk at Herb and Jeri Linderman's property. Winner need not be present to win.



## Member's Corner: Gasiewicz Woodlot- Steuben County/ Town of Woodhull

By Jeremy Gasiewicz, NFC Member

Jeremy Gasiewicz has always enjoyed the outdoors from the time he was young. From catching frogs, fishing and hunting he has been involved in the outdoors. His love for the outdoors led to him working on a farm and now managing his own property in Woodhull, NY. Jeremy's father purchased the 11.7-acre woodlot in the late 80's as an investment and did not use the property. In the summer of 2012, at the age of 23, Jeremy had assembled a cabin on the property with help from his father and friends. It was in December of 2012 he met his girlfriend, now fiancé and, soon to be wife, Nicole Clapsadle. She has also been involved in nature and the outdoors since a young child. The young couple love working on the cabin and improving the woodlot. Jeremy got involved with NYFOA at the age of 23 by fellow NFC NYFOA member Jim Delellis. Jeremy grew up with Jim's sons from a young age and always loved visiting the Delellis woodlot. Jim has been very helpful in informing Jeremy on woodlot health, management, tool selection, herbicides, his vast knowledge and most importantly being involved in the forestry community.



*Nicole pitching in!*

In 2013, Jeremy had a local NYS DEC Forester, Gregory Muller, come to the property to help create a forest stewardship TSI plan. Greg diagnosed the woodlot as abandoned pasture land and marked a series of trees for removal. Jeremy was impressed by the forester's willingness to help, ideas provided and woodlot diagnosis. The major concerns for the property were creating a trail system to navigate the woodlot and thinning the forest, starting with the abundance of hop hornbeam and ash. Second was the removal of invasive species such as multi-flora rose, barberry and honey suckle. The multi-flora rose has been a nightmare for Jeremy, between scratches, cuts and the overall property infestation. Last



*Invasive species before clearing*

was promoting the growth of the pre-existing orchard by trimming and planting more apple trees as well as other hardwood and conifer species to diversify the woodlot. The 11.7-acre parcel is 50% wooded and the remainder being field and orchard. The field at this point is a great bedding ground for the deer population.



*Invasive species cleared out*

Once they have a tractor they will till the field to loosen years of compaction, plant trees and a small food plot, and create a small pond.

Jeremy and Nicole began to work on the stewardship/TSI plan and have been seasonally removing marked timber and turning it into fire wood. They found that using an ATV was the most productive tool when pulling timber on hilly terrain. They have since planted various types of evergreen trees along with hardwood trees. They have begun to establish a 300-400 Christmas tree stand; species consist of white pine, blue/Norway spruce, Douglas fir and Frasier fir. They have purchased a majority of the trees from the Niagara County Soil and Water Program as well as Cold Stream Tree Farm (a great online source for bare root trees). The couple has also planted trees from seeds and have had much luck with this (purchasing from seed trees.com, another great site for tree and shrub seeds). Jeremy has successfully removed a majority of the invasive vegetation with a brush mower followed by chemical assistance (a yearly routine, although less each year). The apple orchard has been trimmed and new growth is astonishing over the past 3 seasons; apple production has increased. Jeremy would like start on a second TSI this winter.

*Continued on pg. 3*

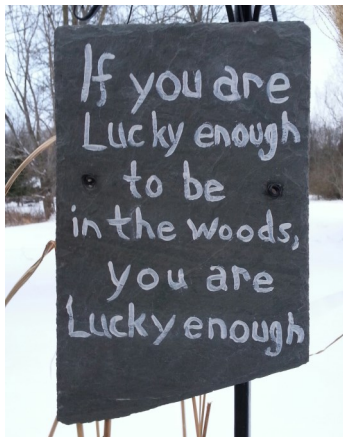
## Chairman's Corner

### Chairman's Corner Winter of 2016

We made it thru the fall without any snow in Niagara County but some of you in Erie and Wyoming Counties got a little help for deer hunting.

As I prepare my list of projects for next year, I will concentrate mostly on food plots and trail work. The power company was clearing trees and limbs along the right-of-ways in our area and I was able to get 15 loads of chips for trail improvement, so that should keep me occupied for a few days! As I was able to spend more time this fall walking my trails and noticing the changes, it brought to mind a plaque Pat made for a Christmas present for me "If you are lucky enough to be in the woods, you are lucky enough" and boy if that isn't true. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy a walk on your properties and observe the changes this year.

On a personal note, for the last few weeks on Wednesday nights from 8-11pm on the Pursuit Channel they have a great program called Gamekeepers of Mossy Oak, focusing on food plots, so I thought I would subscribe to their publication. Well... it arrived a few days ago and what a great publication focusing on wild game food



plots. It is entitled GAMEKEEPERS, FARMING FOR WILDLIFE. It is also available from Tractor Supply stores for \$7.99. Their web site is: [www.GamekeepersClub.com](http://www.GamekeepersClub.com). I think this will be another "tool" I will have in my tool box.

Your steering committee has been hard at work putting together another great program for 2016, with a Maple Sugaring tour, a couple of woodswalks as well as a guided tour of Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve. We will also have a raffle of a **16 inch Husqvarna model 435 Chain Saw** to help defray expenses such as guest presenters, event vendor fees and newsletter publication and mailing costs. Look for more detailed information and dates in this Newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing more of you at our functions - you don't know what you are missing!

Bob

## Member's Corner: Gasiewicz Woodlot

continued from pg. 2



The forest management plan has been a great project for the young couple and has allowed them to work as a team to complete it. The Gasiewicz woodlot is small but the amount of knowledge gained has been priceless. The effort the couple, family, and friends have put into it is beginning to show. The Gasiewiczzes have years of work to go and they are looking forward to every moment. They look at the property as a learning experience for their next land purchase in the future, as they always plan to have a working woodlot. They have harvested two deer off the property within the past of couple years. Photos of black bear, bobcat,

raccoons, fox, deer and squirrels have been captured with their trail camera. The Gasiewicz property is a thriving place and will continue to thrive as this couple grows and begins a family together.

Helpful resources/sites:

[www.niagaraswd.com](http://www.niagaraswd.com) - Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation (great seedling prices)

[www.Coldstreamfarm.net](http://www.Coldstreamfarm.net) - seedlings

[www.Treeseeds.com](http://www.Treeseeds.com) - tree/shrub seeds

[www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com) --woodlot/forestry products. Cheap tree tubes



Jeremy, Nicole and Ruger

NFC Members Eric and Eleanor Randall will host a field day/woodswalk at their sugarhouse facility on Easter **Saturday, March 26, 2016**. "We would love to host the group during this 'bye week' for the New York Maple Weekend. All of our displays will be set up and should make for a more meaningful tour for the Forest Owners. There is a better than average chance that we will be making syrup which also makes the trip a bit more meaningful."

The Randalls are fifth or sixth generation sugarmakers and have records that show that maple syrup has been produced in their family all but two years since 1848. Their maple operation is centered at this southeastern Genesee County location, just a few miles east of the Darien Lake Amusement complex and serves as the processing facility for their 3,200+ tap operation. Sap is produced both at the Smithley Rd location and also in a state-of-the art 49-acre mature mixed hardwood forest at the south end of Silver Lake in Castile, Wyoming County. There they have 20+ miles of food grade tubing, a wet/dry main line system and a 600gal/hr reverse osmosis concentrator. The Alexander location supports a "sweet tree" maple plantation, a heavily deer-damaged conifer plantation, a small fruit orchard and a small vineyard. Only sap, timber and firewood are produced in Castile while all aspects of the maple operation are conducted in Alexander.



**Directions to the sugarhouse:** 10307 Smithley Rd., Alexander, NY 14005. We are located 0.7 miles north of US Rte 20 between Darien and Alexander. From the north, I would suggest I 90 to Exit 48A (Pembroke) south on Rte 77 to Darien Center and left (east) on US Rte 20 through Darien and about 0.8 miles east of yellow light (238) turn left on Smithley Rd.. From the east, take US Rte 20 west through Alexander (Rte 98) about 3.5-4 miles and Smithley Rd. is second right turn west of village. We are the second drive on the right (east). Sugarhouse can be seen from the road. Dressing for late March weather would be appropriate. There is very limited (none, if we are boiling) parking down by the sugarhouse. It is appropriate to park on the roadside from the sugarhouse driveway to the north. If someone needs accommodation we will have a means for getting them to the sugarhouse.

*Eleanor and I look forward to hosting this tour, be sure to bring your sweet tooth.*

## Upcoming NFC Events

**Tiftt Nature Preserve Tour, May 14, 2016** at 10am guided by Dave Spiering, Ecologist and Bruce Robinson, Consulting Forester.

If you have never been to Tiftt Nature Preserve in Buffalo, we have a great event planned. On Saturday May 14, 2016 at 10am, we will have a guided tour of the preserve by Dave Spiering and one of our favorite foresters Bruce Robinson. Along with the trail walk and history of Tiftt by Dave, Bruce will share his great forestry and wildlife information focusing on birds. May is a great migratory time and we will be sure to see some less abundant species! Directions and more info in Spring Newsletter!

**Family Picnic/Elections/Woods Walk/ Saturday, August 27.** The NFC will host its first Family Picnic/ Elections/Woodswalk which will be an event this year in place of the Annual Pot Luck Lunch usually held in the late winter. The event will be at The Bureau of Forestry in Sardinia which provides a shelter and a grill. Forester Ed Kowalski, from the Bureau, will host our group and provide a saw mill demonstration, plus we can tour a network of several miles of marked and unmarked trails which traverse the property. The chapter will supply the hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages and will ask everyone to bring a dish to pass. A guest presenter will also be included. A small charge for meal expenses will be asked of attending members.

**Member Woodswalk** – Herb Linderman will host a woodswalk on his property in the Town of Clarksville (Allegany County) on **Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** with forester Bruce Robinson. Herb and his wife Jeri have been working very hard for several years and would love to show off their progress on their 220 acre property. Mark the date!! Details to follow in the spring and summer newsletters.

## CCE and NYFOA Events

**Rural Land Owners Conference/Cornell Cooperative Extension**

The conference will be Saturday, **March 5th** at Pioneer High School in Yorkshire. (When agenda is finalized an email notification will go out to NFC Members).

NY Farm Show Feb. 25-27 and NYFOA Annual Meeting, Saturday April 16

**Details in Jan/Feb New York Forest Owner Publication**

Yes, you read that right: YouTube. As in <https://www.youtube.com/> Contrary to popular belief, YouTube is not exclusively the domain of amateurish music videos, babies pulling dog tails, and baseballs to the groin. In fact, just a little bit of searching can get you to just about any kind of forest-related content you need, whether educational, instructional, or entertaining. (For those of you reading this electronically, you can just click on any of these links and be there.)

- Want to learn the basics of thinning hardwoods for health and productivity? Try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poibQNa5PP0>. (OK, I've dispensed with my obligatory Peter Smallidge plug early on.)
- Buying a chainsaw? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HPsPW5lBxM>.
- Want to learn how to fell a tree once you have that chainsaw? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Teb2bQsqx44>.
- Or how they used to do it? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qB\\_YNzn\\_kaQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qB_YNzn_kaQ).
- Or how NOT to? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvW0E3AsXzU>.
- Need to sharpen your sawchain when you're done? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PTXj1Vilbc>.
- Need to learn how to split your logs into firewood? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TA9qZTeaf3k>.
- Or how to stack it once you do? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOe4bVXgXzc>.
- Need to sharpen your ax when you're done? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIZBwT-VDBY>.
- Looking for a new toy? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuuP12hyt6M>.

You get the idea. These links are not necessarily the best ones out there on these topics or for your particular needs/interests, but they demonstrate the range of length (from a minute or so to over an hour) and sponsors (from individuals to educational institutions to manufacturers to retailers) and production quality (from homemade to professional). Often, the videos are part of a series that will take you from the beginning to the end of a subject or process. The beauty (or curse) is that you can find something on just about any topic that fits the time you have available, or your interest level, or experience level, or level of detail that you need, etc. Indeed, the tougher challenge is often in selecting from an overabundance of available content, rather than finding content on a topic in the first place.

The next time that you need to "learn" something forest-related, give YouTube a try – and watch out for those baseballs!

## I'm betting you don't know about bletting!

Bletting is the process where certain fruits are allowed to go beyond what one would consider ripe, in fact even starting to decay, before they become palatable. What is happening chemically is that the acids and tannins are broken down. In many cases the fruit may also be high in pectin, and this sugar polymer decomposes to monomers thus adding a sweetness to the fruit. The outward appearance may be wrinkly and the inside turns to a brown mush. The flesh does have the taste and consistency of applesauce, and tastes far better than it looks.

Fruits that are commonly bletted include medlars, persimmons, and quince. Certain pears also benefit from bletting. Medlars are reminiscent of a cross between a rose hip and an apple. Certain varieties of persimmons are native to the Eastern U.S., however the Asians have generated a number of refined varieties.

Bletting happens in the wild to fruits that are allowed to hang onto the tree after frosts. Some fruits will hang on the tree for a very long period, thus providing a winter food source for animals. You may see birds enjoying crabapples and Bradford pears and fruits from wild roses and certain other bushes now. So why not go out and try a few? You may be surprised just how tasty they can be.

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### *The Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2015 Tax Year*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxtips2015.pdf>



**NYFOA**

**Niagara Frontier Chapter**

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*Over 100 acres, plus this....*



*Rain or shine, doesn't keep us from a good woodswalk!!*



*Even the llamas enjoyed the woodswalk!*



*So silent in the winter....*

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*Fall food plot.*