

Spring 2016

Niagara Frontier Chapter Newsletter

www.nyfoa.org



Tift Nature Preserve Tour, May 14, 2016

Tift Nature Preserve is a **264-acre nature refuge** dedicated to conservation and environmental education. The Preserve was created in 1972 from land purchased by the City of Buffalo for a landfill site. Concerned citizens recognized the ecological importance of the site and convinced the city legislators to plan for the area's preservation. The completed landfill incorporated many safety measures, allowing the land to have a new purpose, a nature preserve which opened in 1976.



The land that comprises Tift Nature Preserve has a fascinating history. It was once part of a huge dairy farm owned by George Washington Tift and later became a **transshipment center**, primarily for coal and iron ore. During the 1950s and 1960s, Tift's land was a dumpsite for city refuse.

Tift began its transformation to a nature preserve in the 1970s. Nearly **two million cubic feet of solid municipal waste** was enclosed in clay and covered with soil excavated from another section of the Preserve. Ponds were enlarged, and trees and wildflowers were planted. Conservation of Tift's large cattail marsh helped attract a variety of animals.

In 1982, Tift Farm Nature Preserve became a department of the **Buffalo Museum of Science**. Its name was later changed to Tift Nature Preserve, to better reflect its purpose as a preserve rather than a farm.

Today, Tift Nature Preserve maintains a natural setting. Animals from the entire region take advantage of its ponds, marshes and woodlands. It has become the urban sanctuary many people envisioned over twenty years ago.



Please join us for this spectacular event, hosted by the NFC Chapter, open to members, families and guests! We will be guided by Dave Spiering of the Buffalo Museum of Science and special presenter Bruce Robinson, Forestry Consultant. On May 14, 2016, the tour starts promptly at 10 am. Meet at main parking lot. Bring a bag lunch, you may want to continue on your own for the rest of the afternoon!

Directions to Tift Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY:

From the south: follow Rt. 5 East. Take Tift St. exit toward Fuhrmann Blvd. Enter next roundabout and take 3rd exit onto Tift St. Turn right on Fuhrmann, 1/2 mile to Tift Nature Preserve.

From the north/east: (North) Follow 190 South along the River or (East) follow 190 North, merge on to Church St., 2nd right on to Skyway. Continue over Skyway to Tift St. exit toward Fuhrmann, turn right on Tift, turn right on Fuhrmann Blvd. 1/2 mile to Tift Nature Preserve.

Member's Corner: Struggles as a First Time Woodlot Steward

Gasiewicz Woodlot- Steuben County/ Town of Woodhull

Jeremy's biggest struggle as a young man owning his first woodlot, was the desire to do as much as possible. Everywhere he looked Jeremy saw work to be done. His wheels were turning and a to-do list was growing with all those DIY ideas and on-line ideas he read about. All became his top priority. Only when he looked at finances and available time, did reality set in and put those dreams on the back burner.

Jeremy and fiancé Nicole decided to devise a list of tasks to be accomplished every time they came to camp and more importantly when they left, to not forget things for the next trip. This task list started with items that *had* to be done rather than *what they wanted to do*. Some of those were finishing the interior of the cabin, making it appealing and habitable, then the out-house and a generator hut. Planting trees, food plots and other forms of recreation can be a work in progress. This is something that can be done at your pace (you have years, no need to rush!).

Depending on a woodlot's needs, they may be low priority. For Jeremy clearing trails, controlling infestations and timber stand improvement was a daunting task but a must. Jeremy started on a half stand improvement to insure he was not overwhelmed. This was the great advice of the NYS forester. Only take on as much as you can handle, overextending yourself will only turn a fun project into a headache. He will soon be planning on a second TSI.

Jeremy admits that your first woodlot is a major challenge but the reward is priceless. A piece of advice from Jeremy is "stay focused on what *needs* to be done first, rather than what you *want* done first". Putting things off that need to be done on a woodlot/cabin will only make things more difficult. *Stay focused on a goal and make it happen*. Make good with fellow woodlot neighbors and locals. Offer advice, tips and help. They will appreciate the help and it's always nice to have a watchful eye when you are not around!

By Jeremy Gasiewicz, NFC Member

Randall Maple Tour



If you attended the Randall Maple Tour on Saturday March 26th then you know what a huge success this event was!! We had a record number of members attend on this beautiful early spring day. Eric and Eleanor Randall were the most gracious hosts of their sugar bush operation in Alexander, NY. We thank you for an outstanding tour!

Eric, President of the North American Maple Syrup Council, is also the Western NY Delegate of the New York State Maple Producers Association. A retired Buffalo State College Professor, Eric is a 5th generation sugarmaker but his love of botany was also evident in the tour of his experimental high

sugar sap content maple trees. Eric had also planted a high end variety Christmas tree which came to optimum cutting height in the past year. However...Alexander, NY was in the 7 foot snow belt last year which increased the deer browse line 2/3 of the way up the tree!! Needless to say, Eric's plan to sell high end Christmas trees fell apart!

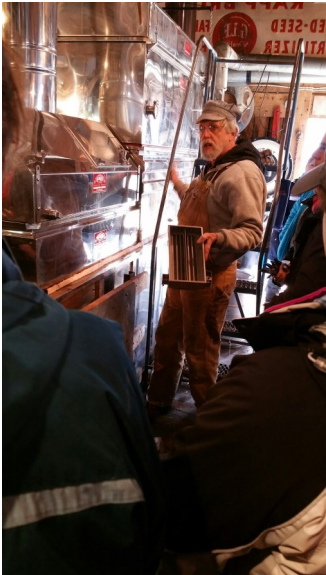
The Alexander location primarily supports a "sweet tree" operation along with a small fruit orchard and a small vineyard. Eric's maple sap is run through a reverse osmosis system and then to the evaporator where it is boiled down to syrup. It is then barreled before bottling. Once bottled, Eleanor sets up her "store" and sells syrup during Maple Weekends each year. Eric is also supplying a brewery with a limited amount of dark amber syrup for a specialty beer. Eric also invited Emily Staychock from Cornell University offering a presentation on invasive species along with spreading the mission of the Master Forest Owner program.



Randall Maple Tour cont'd.



Eric explaining the osmosis and evaporator process and best of all samples of the best maple syrup!



Eleanor offering the many maple products they make.



Emily Staychock, Cornell University, getting the word out on invasives and helping to spread the word on the Master Forest Owner program.

NFC Members enjoying Eric's most informative tour!



Doesn't everyone have a caboose in their forest?



3 tap maple.

Chairman's Corner

Spring of 2016

By Bob Glidden

Hope you all survived this winter for as much as it was. I did have one setback that I think you all will get a laugh at. Last year I cleaned out my trail ditches to keep the runoff in control. One place where I mow by the house, I buried a 4" plastic pipe for about 80 feet to the main ditch. Now the spring rains and thaw arrived and the water came flowing and backing up over the lawn. Upon investigation, I discovered that the squirrels had stored black walnuts in the last 10 feet of the pipe. I had to dig it up to get to the clogged spot, ram a rod in and out, which then loosened the walnuts to finally come rolling out with the water. Never a dull moment when dealing with Mother Nature and her critters as you all may attest to at times. Now I will make sure my grates are secured on the end of all the drain pipes.

On a lighter note, while cleaning out my Wood Duck boxes in March, which I was a little late on, I found in one, 7 eggs in the old nest and nearby on the pond were the male and female Wood Ducks. We also see the other duck species visiting our ponds along with the geese...of course!

This year was my 5th and final year of releasing and pruning our wild apple, pear and cherry trees. This included pruning all remaining dead branches and applying fertilizer. Just to give you an idea of my schedule, the first 2 years I monitored the trees that the fruit had stayed on the longest. In years 3 and 4 we cut out the inferior trees

opening up spacing and fertilized the remaining trees. It was a long process but the outcome of more fruit was worth it.

Now we are getting our feeders ready for the return of the orioles and hummingbirds which generally return first week of May, always a great sight and a sure sign that summer is around the corner.

We have an old clover food plot that is about 5 years old that we are converting to a perennial pollinator plot to focus on Humming Birds, bees and butterflies. We are planting perennial sunflowers of varying heights (3-9') and Milkweed. We got all our seed from the Ernst Seed Company (www.ernstseed.com) which has great prices. We also are planting 3 Persimmon trees which retain their fruit into the late fall and early win-



ter. Will keep you posted on our progress with this venture!

As you can tell by my experiences on our property, my main focus is on wildlife enhancement, plus the fact that we also live on our property makes it year round enjoyment for us.

On April 16, I attended the NYFOA spring meeting with delegates Vic and Deb Bandinelli; what a great program they had. One of the presenters expanded on the web site www.MyWoodlot.com, another great resource. This will be one of my favorites. See featured website article in this newsletter.

We had a great private tour of the Randall's Sugar bush and lots of sweet samples on March 26. A good time had by all and a big Thank You to the Randell's for their hospitality. We have a great schedule of events for 2016, so come on out and show your support for the hard work your directors have done, meet fellow members and enjoy the outdoors. If you have an idea for an event please let me know. Also, please let us know of your experiences, progress or an interesting story...we would love to share in a future newsletter with our members!

Welcome New Members...

Dan Spengler
Sharon & Ronald Hillman
Greg & Suzanne Scholand
Dick Holmes
Byron Mesch

Events



Our Fundraiser Raffle of a Husqvarna Model 435, 16 inch chain saw is proving to be a huge success! Deb Bandinelli is shown at the Randall Maple Tour purchasing a ticket for our raffle to be held at the Linderman Woodswalk on September 17, 2016. Tickets can be purchased at our next event, the Tift Nature Preserve Tour, or by contacting a steering committee member.

Earth Day, April 22, 2016 at Niagara University

Bob and Pat Glidden represented the NFC at the Earth Day Celebration held at Niagara University on April 22, 2016. The event was coordinated by Dr. Mark Gallo Ph.D., Professor of Biology, NU and fellow NFC Member. The students visited several displays supporting Earth Day. Thank you, Mark, for letting us participate!



Erie and Niagara County Envirothons

The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. It was held the first time in 1992. It is sponsored by the NCF-Envirothon, a not for profit organization established to promote environmental education programs for high school students throughout North America. Bob Glidden will represent our NFC Chapter at the Erie County and Niagara County Envirothons to be held April 28th and May 5th. Bob's goal at these student events is to "plant the seed" for future new members!!

Upcoming NFC Events

Family Picnic/Elections/Woodswalk/ 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 Erie County 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 sawmill 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 17th** 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 summer newsletter.

Obituary

Robert R. White, one of NFC's founding members, passed away February 24, 2016. To quote Fred Thurnherr "We lost one of the founding members of our chapter this week: Bob White passed away at the age of 93. He was a tireless promoter of NYFOA and a great forest owner." A card was sent to the family on behalf of the chapter and a donation was made to one of Bob's interests, The Holland Historical Society.

New Ways To Care For & Enjoy Your Woods

By Joshua VanBrakle

Every family woodlot, and every woodlot family, is unique. A new website by the Watershed Agricultural Council, a Walton, New York-based non-profit, helps landowners discover land-based activities that fit them, their woods, and their lifestyle. It's called MyWoodlot. "Think of MyWoodlot as a 24/7 library of on-the-ground projects landowners can do either by themselves or with professional help," says Tom Pavlesich, the Council's Forestry Program Manager and a NYFOA member. MyWoodlot starts with 10 broad interests like Nature, Recreation, and Timber Production. Each interest is then divided into goals landowners can work toward, with each goal made up of several specific activities.



"We didn't want to be just another information source," Tom explains. "We wanted everything to be actionable."

Every activity includes links to how-to information to help landowners complete it. That information takes a variety of forms including factsheets, photo slideshows, videos, professional contact lists, and even a few smartphone apps. Once landowners find activities they want to do, they can save them to a profile for easy future access and to track their progress. They can also ask questions and learn from each other through the site's forum.

MyWoodlot is available free for anyone to use thanks to funding from the US Forest Service and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. To get started visit www.mywoodlot.com.

Stumpage Report: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html> Please follow this link to provide you with the current pricing information.

Game of Logging

NYCAMH has partnered with Bill Lindloff's ProCuts to offer Game of Logging trainings across New York. They subsidized the cost of the class through a generous grant from the New York State Department of Health. Game of Logging is widely recognized as a leader in logging safety. The program combines traditional 'classroom' lecture with a hands-on component, so attendees can put their newly learned skills to the test.

Included is a listing of upcoming classes. Cost is \$25 per participant. For more information or to register call NYCAMH at 800-343-7527 ext 6. Mention Game of Logging as the reason for your call.

Class Date	Day of the week	County/Region	GOL Level
04/16/2016	Saturday	Livingston	1
04/22/2016	Friday	Hudson Valley	1
04/23/2016	Saturday	Hudson Valley	2
06/04/2016	Saturday	Genesee	1
06/05/2016	Sunday	Genesee	2
06/11/2016	Saturday	Chenango	1
06/25/2016	Saturday	Schoharie	1
09/10/2016	Saturday	Livingston	2
09/12/2016	Monday	Chemung	1
09/13/2016	Tuesday	Chemung	2
09/14/2016	Wednesday	Wyoming	1
09/15/2016	Thursday	Wyoming	2
10/01/2016	Saturday	Otsego	2
10/13/2016	Thursday	Essex	1
10/14/2016	Friday	Essex	2



NYFOA
Niagara Frontier Chapter

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Spring walk.....



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Calendar of Events

May 14, 2016 Tift Nature Preserve Tour

August 27, 2016 Family Picnic, Elections,
Woodswalk

Sept. 17, 2016 Linderman Woodswalk