

Summer 2016

# Niagara Frontier Chapter Newsletter

[www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)



## Niagara Frontier Chapter Family Picnic August 27, 2016

Niagara Frontier Chapter will host its first Family Picnic on Saturday, August 27, 2016 starting at **10am** at the Erie County Bureau of Forestry in Sardinia, NY. Our picnic is open to members, families and friends. Our picnic will include a brief meeting and election of officers.

Shane Daley from the Bureau will demonstrate a sawmill operation, include a history of the park along with our woodswalk highlights. Dan Ciszak, retired Erie County Forester, will attend our picnic as a guest of Ken Gaines and I am sure we will be able to get Dan to share some of his past experiences working at the park!

Shamel Milling Co., Farm and Feed Supply in East Concord, just down the road from the picnic, is donating a door prize or two and discount coupons.

The Erie County Bureau of Forestry was established in 1927 in response to the acquisition of several thousand acres of forest and non-forest lands. Much of this area was abandoned farmland and is located in various areas of the County; mostly in Concord and Holland. The non-forested areas were planted with coniferous species of trees (Red, White and Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and Larch) by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's.

The purpose of the Bureau is to manage and protect these properties for multiple use activities including: forest management, recreation, water quality, wildlife habitat, wood products and maple syrup production.

Our Agenda for the picnic:

- 10am brief Chapter meeting and elections.
- 10:15 Shane will discuss history followed by sawmill tour
- 11:30 Shamel Milling
- 12:00 Lunch & Chainsaw drawing
- 1:00 Woodswalk and Scavenger hunt!

Bring the kids, grandkids or if you are a kid at heart, we will have a Nature Scavenger Hunt! Whoever finds the most items on our list will win a prize!

The Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgs, condiments, drinks and paper products. Please bring a dish or dessert to pass. **\$5 contribution per couple/family if you stay to eat.**

**Please RSVP to:**

**Pat Glidden:**

**pfglidden@verizon.net or  
716-930-5788 by  
Wednesday, Aug. 24th**

**MEET AT SAWMILL, SUGARHOUSE** ★

Main Park: North and South sides of Genesee Rd, 5 miles East of Rt. 219 and 4 miles West of Rt. 16~ East Concord, NY



# Tift Nature Preserve Tour May 14, 2016

A cold, rainy spring day started our tour of Tift Nature Preserve. We gathered at the welcome center, greeted by Dave Spiering from the Buffalo Museum of Science/Tift, plus a favorite guest at many of our events, Bruce Robinson, Consulting Forester. Of our 16 attendees (brave souls who challenged the weather) none of us had ever been to Tift, so we were really looking forward to this tour. And...we were not disappointed at all!! Dave is such a great tour guide that after his greeting in the welcome center, we opened the doors and to our surprise the rain

had stopped, the birds were chirping and 16 happy hikers were off to this wonderful nature preserve, almost right in downtown Buffalo. You could see the grain silos, hear a train go by and see Buffalo's skyline just a short distance away.

Tift Nature Preserve is a City of Buffalo property with a history dating back almost a century. For about 50 years Tift was used as a city dump until the 1970's. It became a Nature Preserve and with people like Dave and many volunteers Tift has evolved in to an urban nature preserve....with over 100 deer popu-

lating the area! Although this is a problem with the challenge of growing new trees and other plants, Tift survives. Tift is also an area that is a stopover for early bird migration. We got to see Yellow Warblers, Tufted Titmouse, American Redstart, Rufous-sided Towhee along with Geese! Both Dave and Bruce spoke on invasive species along with native specie enhancement. A great day had by all!



Dave Spiering giving an overview of the history of Tift Nature Preserve as our group looks out over Lake Kirsty. Under the surface lurks solid waste materials from the 1950's used as a landfill. It is not uncommon to encounter these solids pushing up through the surface.



This water level gauge indicates the amount of surge from Lake Erie.



The invasive Buckthorn has taken over most of the understory on the high ground out-competing native plants and tree seedlings for nutrients, light and moisture.



Dave Spiering talking about the effort to reestablish native trees to the preserve. Photo shows the level of protection required to prevent deer browse and rub from killing saplings.

**Photos and captions provided by Wayne Forrest, NFC member. Thank you, Wayne!**

# Tift Nature Preserve Tour cont'd

## Tift Tour by Lois Thurnherr

*Fred and I truly enjoyed our tour of the Tift Nature Preserve. Dave Spiering's passion and knowledge made quite an impact on us. Bruce Robinson always teaches you several thought provoking lessons applicable to many scenarios. They showed an impressive respect for one another, too.*

*I remember Dave teaching us the yellow warbler call: sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet, then 3 sweets quickly sung. I think that will help me remember the call. Bruce talked about the sumac plant and fruit to be so important for winter and early spring nourishment for birds.*

*The most endearing remembrance was to see two sets of parents bring their kids to fish in the pond on a cool but enjoyable day. I bet they're thrilled Tift Nature Preserve isn't far from home.*



Bruce Robinson educating the group!



View of the area that was once over taken by Phragmites. It took about 3 years to eradicate it from the area using combinations of cutting and herbicide treatments.



Once the Phragmites was removed, over 30,000 native wetland plants of nine species were planted. The stakes identify grid lines that help to identify what was planted and where. The string was added to break up waterfowl landing approach paths, preventing them from accessing the area and consuming new plants.



A small cluster of Phragmites or common reed towering above native cattails.

***Our Photo/Article Contest winners are [Wayne Forrest](#) and [Lois Thurnherr](#)! Thank you both for your great contributions. It was a great tour, thank you for sharing!! Wayne has won the Peterson Field Guide to Birds and Lois has won Eastern Backyard Birds. It is very much appreciated to have contributions from our members for our newsletter!***

## Member's Corner: Uncovering Property History by Wayne Forrest

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### *Uncovering Property History*

The Tiff Nature Preserve tour started with Dave Spiering giving an overview of the history of the property. The history of this tract of land provided insight into the manmade topography, archeology, as well as what lurks below and above ground. It got me thinking about our property and how I've learned why our property is the way it is.

After spending weeks in my woods during deer season and while developing access trails, I made many discoveries on the current state. Sitting in my deer stands for hours every day provided the best opportunity for the observations due to the large time element, elevated perch and the lack of foliage. Observations such as old fence lines, concrete monuments, sand pits, junk piles, patriarchal trees, tree hedge rows and old fruit-bearing trees, served as a catalyst for delving into how and when these features came into existence. Armed with the observations, I then began to review the deed, title search and the numerous surveys that were conducted over the years.

The deed and title search provided names of prior owners. What better way to get more history than connecting with prior owners. In our woods case, it was passed to my wife and her brother from their mother who received the land from her parents. So the land has been in the family since 1947. My history lesson from my mother-in-law came when I got her on my ATV and took her for a tour of her old stomping grounds as a kid. She had not been into the woods since the 50s. She was able to point out where old fence lines ran, where the cattle crossed the creek, the path they took from the barn to the pasture, where the pasture land was, where the orchards were and where the town of Hartland swimming hole was. All in all her and I both benefited from the history tour of her childhood stomping ground.

There were seven lots subdivided from the original property. The surveys from those subdivisions provided clues as to where iron pipe, concrete monuments and fence lines might be. The iron pipes and some concrete monuments that were located adjacent to the road were wiped out when the road was re-routed but most of the interior points still had iron pipes present. Ultimately a survey was required to reconnect the road points to the back lot line points. The main property corners and lot lines in some cases turned out to be fence lines and patriarchal trees. It stands to reason that a farmer was likely to run his fence along the property line and back. In those days they were likely to identify the corner of their property by telling someone it is marked by the large black walnut tree where the fence turns the corner. Trouble today is that the outer surface of the black walnut have moved out in 70 years so I imagine that the tree is shared with adjacent landowners.

My final history lesson (so far) came from an old aerial view of the property; my forest management plan came with one from 1955. Imagine the benefit of seeing your property from above as it was 60 years ago. From this view of our property we can see the pear and apple orchard boundaries, the sand pit, its access road, the honey locust hedge row, what was clear pasture land and the paths from the barn to the pasture. I can observe which areas began the process of reforestation since 1955 and which areas were pre-1955.

So for me, the process of understanding the history of our property consisted of observations and understanding of how the land is, research into the ownership of the land, interviewing the prior owners, review of all the surveys that exist and studying old aerial photos.

*By: Wayne Forrest  
NFC Member*

### **NYFOA Rewards— Organizations Offering Big Discounts to NYFOA Members!**

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Thanks to an idea advanced by NYFOA's Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse, NYFOA now has a special program called *NYFOA Rewards*. The benefit program is designed to offer substantial discounts to members when they make purchases at participating organizations. It was launched in March 2016, and while it's still in its infancy, it's growing nicely. It's easy for our members to participate in *NYFOA Rewards*. The details of the discounts are also located on the NYFOA webpage [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

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*Our Chainsaw Raffle Drawing will be held at the upcoming Family Picnic on Saturday, August 27th! Our raffle was a huge success! Tickets were sold at our late winter and spring events. Our total profit after the cost of the chainsaw was \$320.00, which will support our upcoming yearly events, newsletter and flyer costs.*

## Why I Burn Firewood

Why is burning firewood important to me? I am a forest owner like most of you readers and my trees provide an abundant and renewable natural resource. What I burn is cull wood which comes from a timber stand improvement (TSI). A NYSDEC forester drew up a plan for me and marked a TSI for my property free of charge – a consulting forester or DEC private lands forester can do the same for you. I carried out the plan myself. It's a lot of work, but a TSI brings many benefits including the cull wood that I use to heat my home.

The effort of processing cull wood into firewood keeps me actively involved in the woods and secures my connection to the land. It's a type of therapy for me, and a productive day working on my TSI eliminates the need to hit the gym. My wife would say that I burn wood because I'm cheap! I really don't like paying those high monthly natural gas bills, and the firewood is in a sense a free by-product of the TSI. However, looking at things realistically, I'd have to balance the cost of the land and the equipment and the value of my time and effort with lower gas bills and the value added to my forest. I haven't made these

calculations, but it may be that burning is not saving me money. However, there are other important considerations.

Those of you that have been on the woodwalks at my place, know that my woodlot is a source of great pride for me and my family. I may not be saving a whole lot of money, but I am accomplishing a whole lot and earning the satisfaction of doing a job right. Someday my sons will heat their homes with wood from my well-managed forest. You can't buy such benefits, such values, from National Fuel Gas.

I encourage all forest owners to spend some time in their woods learning about the value of their trees. Harvesting and utilizing firewood is one way to accomplish that goal. So I will continue to improve my forest and burn wood. My advice to forest owners is stoke up that campfire, fireplace or wood burning stove knowing you and your woodlot will benefit from your actions.

**Jim DeLellis**  
**Cornell Cooperative Extension MFO**  
**NFC Board Member**

### NY Master Forest Owner Program



The Master Forest Owner program provides private woodland owners of New York State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely.

***The term "Master" Forest Owner implies education as in "School-Master". The training volunteers receive, complements their experience as forest owners.***

Over 140 experienced and highly motivated volunteer MFOs are available statewide, ready to assist neighbor woodland owners with the information needed to start managing their woodlands, through free site visits to landowners properties. All MFOs are graduates of a 4-day training program, where they learn about saw timber and wildlife management, woodland economics, and ecology. The MFOs continue to receive information updates, attend refresher classes and maintain contact with natural resource managers from private, public, and academic organizations.

**The 2016 training** will be September 7 - 10 at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Van Etten, NY ([www.arnotforest.info](http://www.arnotforest.info)). The \$125 (\$200 per couples) fee helps defray the cost of publications, food, and equipment for the 4-day training. Volunteers may stay at the Arnot at no additional cost. The training combines classroom and outdoor field experiences on a variety of woodland management and educational topics. **Phone: 607-255-2115, or E-mail: [dlt5@cornell.edu](mailto:dlt5@cornell.edu) for the application materials**

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

## Chairman's Corner

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Summer 2016 by Bob Glidden

Summer has finally arrived and with it the heat, almost too hot for any outdoor activity during the day. I was able to get four food plots planted in June and the next day it rained, but not a drop since. One more plot to do in late July or early August, hopefully that will do better. Could be a marginal year for food plots, at least in northeast Niagara County!

The Hummingbirds and Orioles were back and really keeping us busy with the sugar water and grape jelly routine. We have 3 hummer feeders and 2 oriole feeders. We were filling 3 dishes of grape jelly 2-3 times a day for a couple of weeks. We also keep 2 sunflower seed feeders going all year long. It is really nice to sit on the back porch and bird watch while enjoying a cold ice tea...or beer!

We finally got a few days to fix our windmill, which pumps water to our half acre pond and greatly needed this year! I had to replace the leathers in the pump, then used 1.5 inch PVC pipe inside the well. It is now pumping as it should. The pond is down about 4 feet at this time and hoping it will level out with the wind mill back in service. We also added 3 more Koi to the pond. Our older ones are about 22 inches now so these 3 (which Pat has already named) have some catching up to do!

Not sure if you have made an observation this year but we had an "infiltration" of raccoons. They perch in our Mulberry tree having a feast but also knocking down our seed feeders, our Oriole feeders and even our bird bath! We have had as many as 5 young ones in the yard at one time. I am sure the dry spell has led them to our "backyard buffet"!



Hope to see many of you at our Family Picnic and Woodswalk on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and share your experiences with other members. Also we will draw the raffle winner for the chainsaw.

We also have a great Member's Woodswalk coming up on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at Herb and Jerri Linderman's property in the Town of Clarksville. Details in this newsletter.

Bob Glidden



## Linderman Woodswalk, Saturday, September 17, 2016

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**Come join the members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of New York Forest Owners Association for a woodswalk** at Herb and Jerri Linderman's 220-acre property in the Town of Clarksville, NY (Allegany County) on Saturday, September 17, 2016. We have all faced obstacles on working the land and Herb's biggest challenge was accessing the rear property line being 6850' from the road. Since the basal area of the woods was crowded at the rear of the property and had limited access, it made sense to log about 50 acres and establish a new roadway to the area for the sale of the logging and future use. This roadway establishment resulted in greater access to the rest of the property. Bruce Robinson, who wrote the plan for the Lindermans, will be the guest presenter and will lead us on the tour of Herb's accomplishments. Come and see their recent woodlot management activities and hear of their experiences!

"Coffee, water, light lunch will be provided. Bring a folding chair if possible, hiking shoes and raingear. We should be able to drive to the logged site with 4 wheel drive vehicles using the new access roadway. I also plan on using my four wheel drive tractor and 7 x 12 dump trailer if needed. Terrain is hills and steep in some sections. A porta potty will be available."

**To: 3051 Weatherby Rd Friendship, NY 14739 From Buffalo:**

**Follow 90 S to 400 S and NY 16 S to Yorkshire. Turn left (W) on Rt. 39 and follow to Arcade. Turn right on 98 S to 243 E in Freedom. Continue on NY-243 E. Take Mt Monroe Rd and NY-305 S to Cuba. Continue south on NY-305. Turn left onto County Road 40/County Hwy-40. Turn left onto Weatherby Rd. 3051 Weatherby Rd, Friendship, NY 14739-8783 is on the left.**

## Game of Logging by Mitch Banas

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Most of us have probably seen advertisements for the Game of Logging and may even have a general idea that it involves chainsaw training, but what is it really? The weekend of June 4 and 5, 2016, fellow NFC member Jim DeLellis, his sidekick Jeff Wantz and I were lucky enough to find out. One part instruction, one part learning by doing, one part teamwork, one part competition – and all fun – is what we found Game of Logging was all about.

Billed as "hands-on chainsaw safety training," Game of Logging is a trademarked "product" owned by a not-for-profit corporation which, according to its website [www.gameoflogging.com](http://www.gameoflogging.com), is headquartered right here in Clarence, New York, squarely within NFC's footprint. The training is offered several times each year at various locations throughout the state (as well as regionally and nationally). Our session took place at the Genesee County Forest in East Bethany, which could not have offered a more perfect setting for a solid two days of education and practice. Except for a few intermittent showers on Sunday which really didn't get in the way, the weather also was cooperative.

The course was subsidized by the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health with a grant from the New York State Department of Health, so the cost was only \$25.00 per day for each of Level 1 and Level 2. The level of experience in our group of eight ranged all the way from neophytes who couldn't tell a chainsaw from a chain-smoker to one "student" with his own firewood business – and everything in between. Regardless of experience level, however, everyone learned something (and in most cases, an awful lot).

The class was taught by Bill Lindloff, a grizzled veteran of the logging business (with the battle scars to prove it!). Bill's decades of "real world" experience, affable demeanor, endless patience and effortless ability to provide constructive – and at times brutally honest – criticism in an inoffensive way all lent themselves to not only a highly effective teaching style but also to two days of true learning.

Much of the course's emphasis was, as you might imagine, on safety – and for good reason. As Bill vividly explained, "it's not *if* you'll get hurt with a chainsaw, it's *when*." His many war stories lent full credence to his admonition. We covered not only the safety features of every chainsaw and how to use them, but also personal protective equipment like helmets and chaps (which were mandatory for the course); by the end of the training, my brand new helmet and chaps had lost much of their bright orange luster. The "classroom" portion of the instruction also included the basics of chainsaw maintenance, including chain sharpening and tune-ups. Bill was also full of practical advice, like pointing out that most chainsaw engine cases bear directional felling marks (which was news to me), and also

debunked some old wives' tales (we were all surprised to learn that you're actually doing more harm than good when you shake up a container of gas before using it). Each morning's three or so hours of instruction was followed by five hours of "field work"; even though each day was billed as starting at 8 a.m. and lasting only until 4 p.m., Bill put in at least an extra hour of overtime each day to make sure he got in what he needed to for us slow learners. After covering the fundamentals of directional felling (such as choosing a direction, assessing forward and sideward lean, and charting an escape route, as well as planning the cut itself), we then collectively selected and planned how to fell an 18" diameter white pine easily 100' tall, nestled in among some rather dense hardwoods. After watching Bill deftly execute our team's plan to within two feet of our "target," he bucked our arboreal victim into 4' logs on which each of us practiced our notching, plunge/bore cutting, and backcutting techniques. We were then declared "ready" to thread the needle with our own trees, with Bill's approval of each of our individual plans and supervision (and, in my case anyway, correction) of our technique.

Over the course of the two days, each of us would fell two trees of anywhere from 15" to 20" in diameter at breast height and 100' to 150' tall (fortunately, Genesee County has quite a few of those that it wants to get rid of!) into "openings" as little as 10' wide in some instances. In the process, we also learned how to identify and eliminate hazards like dead standing trees and deal with unintended results like hangers, widowmakers, and springpoles. All the while, safety was job number one; much to Bill's credit, we all completed the course with the same number of fingers, toes, and other appendages we started with.

One interesting component of the two days was that our individual efforts were graded using the scoring system utilized in professional logging competitions, with points added or taken off for metrics like accuracy, uniformity of hinge cuts, the geometry of notches, and the like – with penalties for various safety violations. I found this to be a highly effective and enjoyable way to illustrate, apply, practice, and improve upon the skills being taught, while at the same time impressing upon the participants the paramount importance of safety.

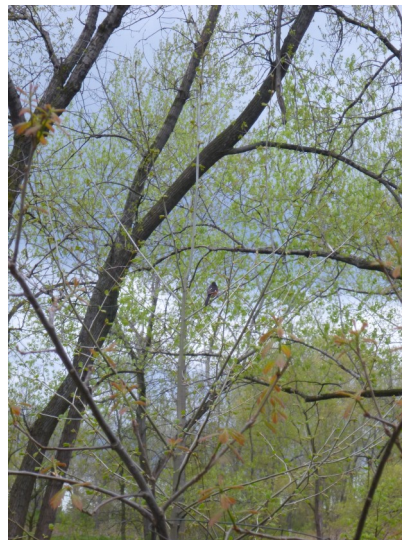
I highly recommend Game of Logging to anyone even thinking of heading into their woods with a chainsaw. For no more than the cost of the emergency room copay the class will help you avoid, no matter how experienced you are you'll learn something that will allow you to not only enjoy your forest more but also enjoy it more safely – and enjoy it longer as a result. I started the class as a true novice, but by the end of the course I was felling trees like a ... well, like the rank amateur that I am, but doing so with the know-how and confidence to do it better and, more importantly, safely.



## NYFOA Niagara Frontier Chapter

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Tift Nature Preserve is well known for its migratory birds. It is not unusual to see many bird watchers with their cameras touring the area for that "Lifer" bird!!



Japanese Knotweed is a fast growing invasive. Attempts were made to eradicate it with weed barrier and mulch. Unfortunately the plant has reached out beyond the barrier.



Beaver girdling of trees by the marshes edge.



A view of some of the 2000 native trees and shrubs that were planted between 2010-2013 to provide habitat for migratory songbirds and other wildlife. The buckthorn was brush hogged flush to the ground prior to the planting. Although brush hogging made the task of planting easier, perhaps planting inside the shelter of the buckthorn may have reduced the deer browse damage.

## NFC Steering Committee 2016

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### Calendar of Events

**August 27, 2016** Family Picnic, Elections, Woodswalk

**Sept. 17, 2016** Linderman Woodswalk