



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

SPRING 2017

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

NFC Spring Event Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge



Over the years, two pairs of bald eagles have established nest sites on the refuge. Eagles start nesting behavior in January and continue until eaglets fledge in July. Eagles stay on or near the refuge for most of the year, leaving only to find open water in winter or in times of drought. When visiting Cayuga Overlook, the eagles are likely to be observed flying above.

The refuge headquarters and visitor center is located at 1101 Casey Road, one mile north and west of the Alabama traffic light, which is at the intersection of Highway 63 and Highway 77 in Alabama. The refuge has 4 nature trails - Kanyoo, Onondaga, Swallow Hollow and Feeder Road - open for walking. Kanyoo and Swallow Hollow Nature Trails also have interpretive panels. There are 4 vehicle overlooks - Cayuga, Ring Neck, School House Marsh and Mallard - where wildlife viewing can be conducted from your vehicle. Cayuga Overlook is a great place to see nesting bald eagles, as well as, tremendous numbers of waterfowl during the spring migration.

NYFOA members, family and friends: Join us Saturday, May 13th, 10:30am.

Join us for a presentation and guided tour by US Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Paul Hess. Paul will start at 10:30am with a presentation on the history, wildlife habitat areas and other features of the Refuge. Paul and his wife Sheila, will then lead us on a guided tour. Bring your binoculars and cameras!!

Also, pack a bag lunch, we can picnic after the tour. For those who would like to venture more trails, we have 2 guests that will guide us on a bird-watching tour. Rachel Wilson and Biologist Joel Strong, experienced birders, will show us some birdwatching tips and name a few birds that habitat the Refuge. Cameras and binoculars again will be very helpful!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Meet at Visitor Center—1101 Casey Rd. which is almost 2 miles west of Rt. 63 and Rt. 77 in Alabama, NY. The center is .8 mile down Casey Rd. off Rt. 77.

A new Look!! NYFOA has a new logo and here it is! They are also working on a Chapter logo so you will also see that soon! Had to come up with a fresh new front page too!

Chairman's Corner

Spring 2017 by Bob Glidden

We had a crazy winter this year as we had more nice days versus snowy ones. I was able to get out for more walks in the mud, rather than the snow. The fencing around our persimmon trees did the job of keeping the deer away, as their buds are beginning to swell.

On Saturday March 4th, I attended the 25th Rural Landowner Workshop along with NFC board members Mitch Banas, Don Kuhn, Jim DeLellis, Ken Gaines and Herb Linderman. The topics were well presented as usual. The ones I attended were **Update on Emerald Ash Borer & Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** but the most enjoyed was **Creating Early Succession Habitat for Wildlife**, as this pertains to our goals and plan here in Somerset. We were able to sell some Chain Saw raffle tickets as the attendees are supportive of NYFOA and NFC. If you haven't attended one of these workshops, you are missing out on a great source of information.

With the good weather, I was able to get my Purple Martin houses cleaned and put up in early March. I was also able to get all our bluebird and wood duck houses cleaned and added fresh wood chips. On March 27th, I was able to get the 6 duck decoys out on the marsh pond and by the 30th they had lured in about a dozen ducks with a pair of geese nesting on a small island in the marsh. As the weather got warmer, I was able to restack our campfire wood to resemble organization. As you can detect, cabin fever got the best of me this year.



Pat and I were able to get out to Randall's sugar house again this year and what great people the Randalls are! We ran in to Herb Linderman and his new little lady...Zuma!! A 6 month old Jack Russell! Hope you were able to get out to support our NFC members and their operation. **Sweet Experience!!**

If you have an interesting experience you would like to share, contact Pat to get it into our Newsletter, as she is always looking for articles, plus we would enjoy hearing from you!

Until next time,

Bob

Welcome New Members!

Eugene Anthony—Orchard Park, NY
Jude Bendt—Wilson, NY
Brett Davidson—Amherst, NY
Richard Forrestel—Clarence, NY
Chad Seelbinder—Williamsville, NY

Stumpage Report: Winter 2017—Latest Report <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>

Please follow this link to provide you with the current pricing information.

2017 Events

April 8, 2017 - NYFOA Annual Meeting Syracuse, NY. Wow! One of our NFC Member's is getting the Chapter Service Award!! Details in next newsletter!!

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tree Seedling Distribution: Friday, April 21, 2017 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport, NY 14094

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

Promoting NYFOA! Bob Glidden will have a table set up with membership information available.

Erie County Envirothon—Apr. 27, 2017

Promoting NYFOA! *Bob Glidden representing our NFC Chapter, will again "plant the seed" at the annual environmental education programs for high school students.*

Niagara County Envirothon—May 4, 2017

Promoting NYFOA!

Wayne and Brenda Forrest Woodswalk

Mark your calendar—July 29th, 2017! This summer's Niagara Frontier Chapter woodswalk, will be in the town of Hartland, NY (Niagara County), starting at 10am. The woodswalk will be hosted by Wayne and Brenda Forrest. Participants on this woodswalk will be provided with a view of how this 33 acre well stocked woodlot looked before commercial thinning and how it will look 5 months later. Pre-logging photos located along the walk route will help attendees visualize the impact that falling and removing 250 trees had on it. Charlie Kesterson from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Bruce Robinson Consulting Forester, will be our guest presenters. Wayne has written 2 previous articles for our newsletter discussing the history of his property and we now have the opportunity to see Wayne's progress on his management plan. More details in the summer newsletter!

2017 NFC Family Picnic

Last year's Family Picnic was a huge success at the Erie County Bureau of Forestry in Sardinia. The Steering Committee unanimously agreed to host it again with the focus being on a woodswalk and picnic. Save the date: August 26, 2017. Dan Cizak, retired Erie County Forester, will be our guest presenter. Dan will speak of his experience as a County Forester and also lead us on the walk. We will have a picnic lunch provided by the chapter, with members bringing a dish to pass or supplies. Details in upcoming summer newsletter.

Chainsaw Raffle Update



MS 250

A chainsaw designed for firewood cutting – with a great power-to-weight ratio

MS 250 Specifications - Occasional Use

DISPLACEMENT	45.4 cc (2.77 cu. in.)
ENGINE POWER	2.3 kW (3.1 bhp)
POWERHEAD WEIGHT	4.6 kg (10.1 lbs.)
FUEL CAPACITY	470 cc (15.9 oz.)
CHAIN OIL CAPACITY	200 cc (6.8 oz.)
OILOMATIC® CHAIN	.325" RM3
GUIDE BAR LENGTHS* (Recommended ranges)	40 to 45 cm (16" to 18") STIHL ROLLOMATIC®
POWER SOURCE	Gas

ONLY 25 TICKETS LEFT TO SELL OR PURCHASE!! If you would like a ticket, the following members may still have tickets left to sell: Bob Preston, Dave Preston, Deb and Vic Bandinelli, Mark Gallo, Ray Meinzer, Ken Gaines, Herb Linderman and Don Kuhn.

This year we printed 200 tickets (vs 120 last year). We will bring the remaining tickets to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge event on May 13th. That may be the last chance to purchase one for the Stihl MS 250 18" Chainsaw. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at our Family Picnic scheduled for August 26th, 2017.

Special thanks to Don Kuhn, NFC Member, for working with Pike Hardware in the purchase of the chainsaw.

Spring Walk

I took a walk on a beautiful spring day, late March and came across our pussy willows in perfect "bloom". I got to wondering,...what about pussy willows? Are they a generic name,



what is the plant called and why do they look different, some big and some varieties small? So I asked a fellow member!

Deb Bandinelli says: How the pussy willow got it's name...supposedly someone threw some kittens in a stream because they were unwanted. As the kittens were floating away a willow tree bent it's branches so the kittens could cling to them and they were rescued. Hence the name pussy willow!

Well, I needed a little more than that, so my friend Wikipedia filled me in! Pussy willow is a name given to many of the smaller species of the genus Salix (willows and sallows) when their furry catkins are young in early spring. These species include (among many others):

Goat willow or goat sallow (Salix caprea), a small tree native to northern

Europe and northwest Asia.

Grey willow or grey sallow (Salix cinerea), a small tree native to northern Europe

American pussy willow (Salix discolor), native to northern North America.

Before the male catkins of these species come into full flower they are covered in fine, greyish fur, leading to a fancied likeness to tiny cats, also known as "pussies". The catkins appear long before the leaves, and are one of the earliest signs of spring. At other times of the year, trees of most of these species are usually known by their ordinary names.

Pussy willow also plays a predominant role in Polish Dyngus Day (Easter Monday) observances, continued also among Polish-Americans, especially in the Buffalo, New York area. This I was aware of!! *Pat Glidden*

Loss of a Legend

I have been witness to much over the years. Countless animals have used me as their home. I have fed many others at times with my abundant fall crop. I provide comfort and shade under my spreading branches, as well as safety from the elements.

I saw the birth of a nation, I stood proudly for every U.S. President, and I have seen countless wars and times of peace. I have been a spectator to many changes, first as horses and wagons were parked under me, then as the trail gave rise to a road and a nearly uncountable number of autos have passed by me, their occupants, some marveling at my size, others oblivious to my ever-present stance. I have seen many seasons come and go, and with each passing year comes another reality that my time on this planet is finite. David Mitchell wrote that “Oaks live for six hundred years. Two hundred to grow, two hundred to live, two hundred to die.” I tried to live up to that standard, but my time on this planet was cut short. My broad branches have withstood many insults and yet I still stood tall and proud. But Mother Nature has had other ideas, I have been struck by lightning a couple of times, pests and disease have taken hold in me and yet I remained, steadfast and resolute. My size may have been the reason for my downfall, over 75 feet tall and much wider, my mass far exceeded that of a half dozen cars and it would take several mere humans to reach around me. And therein was my problem. The individuals who have gained so much because of my presence were not good stewards of my livelihood. My lifelines were compromised as roots were cut or damaged by digging and branches improperly ripped from me, barring parts of me that caused additional damage and yet I held on. I was considered a nuisance, a hazard, an inconvenience, a liability, all for merely being what I had been for the past several hundred years; funny how times and opinions had changed.

A warm, grey winter day came, much like many others that I have witnessed. But this one was different. Men arrived with an assortment of vehicles, intent on one outcome – my removal. There were boom trucks and telehandlers and ones with large robotic arms to gather my limbs, there was



a long line of dump trucks too, waiting to be filled with my parts. I was unceremoniously dropped and chopped, all the smaller branches were fed into chippers and the larger pieces were cut up and loaded onto trucks to be sold in the future to someone for firewood. Twelve men working eight hours eliminated me, all that remained was a stump, providing awe and wonder to passersby about my age.

White oaks are unusual in that their acorns are ready to begin to grow as soon as they hit the ground, no scarification is necessary as is noted in so many other seeds. They cannot compete with many other species and need a fair amount of sunshine to become robust seedlings. And as luck would have it, a few have begun to grow and someday they may fill the void that was created by the removal of me. I can only hope that individuals practice good stewardship and value life forms that can achieve incredible size and age and protect my children so that many generations of people will recognize their beauty and do what they can to preserve and protect them..

Mark A. Gallo, Ph.D.
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Our NFC will be represented by Bob and Pat Glidden at the upcoming Earth Day Celebration in the lower level Gallagher Center at Niagara University on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.



Niagara Frontier Chapter

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Signs of Spring!



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