

THE OVERSTORY

SE ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Volume 17 No. 1

Winter 2007

Message From the Editor – Welcome to the first *OVERSTORY* that I have the privilege of editing. This would not be possible without the assistance of all of the fine contributions I have received. This edition of *THE OVERSTORY*, contains: a Message from the Editor, Minutes from the Annual Meeting, a guest article from Richard Triumpho, and additional information useful to NYFOA members. Please feel free to make suggestions for improvement by letting me know what you like, and don't like. My e-mail: dwg@frontiernet.net, phone: 315.392.4641. I look forward to hearing from you, Dan Gilmore.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting NYFOA Southern Adirondack Chapter January 13, 2007 Crandall Library, Glens Falls

Barbara Hennig, Secretary

Members Present: Jim Allen, Wayne Arnold, Win and Flo Bigelow, Ron and Judy DeWitt, Jim Durrler, Dennis Flynn, Irwin and Polly Fullerton, Laurel Gailor, Tom Gervais, Dan Gilmore, John Hastings, Barbara Hennig, Harris and Charlotte Hewitt, David and Jane Jenks, Patty Kay, Bob and Tomoko Manning, Gretchen McHugh, Don Moeller, Rod Nielsen, Ken Reyna, John Sullivan, Steve Warne, Deb Wentorf, John and Chrissy Wiley.

Bob Manning, Chapter Chair, opened the meeting at 10:10. All attendees spoke a few words on their woods ownership or forestry interest, and many assessed the possibility of hosting a woodwalk at some time.

An award was presented to John Hastings for his many years of producing our newsletter, *THE OVERSTORY*. John has been doing this since December 1992. He was also credited with starting our chapter in 1990, and maintaining "a guiding hand" through the years.

John and Chrissy Wiley were then presented a Sustainable Forestry Award for their continuing good work with their woodlot. The Awards Committee consisted of Steve Warne and Rod Nielsen.

NYFOA is also working on a proposal for legislation for forest owners to get a NYS income tax credit, to help offset the school real property taxes paid. There is presently an agriculture land tax credit program for farmers.

NYFOA would also like to see a stronger Master Forest Owners (MFO) program (which comes under Cornell Cooperative Extension). One proposal is to have a "Master" MFO for each county or chapter who would supervise and encourage the MFOs in his region.

Following the discussion on these state matters, the Minutes of the September 17 Planning Meeting were read and accepted, and the Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted. Expenses totaled about \$600, and receipts \$1215. A significant proportion of this was a \$500 gift from the Robert Wentorf Foundation. Deb Wentorf was thanked for this gift. The current checkbook balance is about \$1550, with about \$3600 in a money market fund.

The nominating committee (Bob) presented a slate of officers for 2007: Chair - Dennis Flynn; Vice-Chair - John Sullivan; Secretary - Barbara Hennig; Treasurer - Gretchen McHugh. There were no additional nominees from the floor, and a voice vote accepted the slate. The secretary was directed to cast one vote. So done.

County Directors appointed are: Fulton and Hamilton - Rodney Nielsen; Saratoga - Bryon Clothier; Warren - Ed Welch; Washington - Ron DeWitt. John Sullivan was appointed the Chapter Designated Director to the NYFOA Board.

Bob then reviewed the SAC events for the year 2006. Following this, Dennis Flynn, the new Chair, took charge, with the first item being to thank Bob for his two years of service.

Next on the agenda was planning for the current year. It is hoped to have a spring social either April 14 or 15, at the 4H Center off Middle Line Road west of Ballston Spa. Laurel Gailor will check on its availability, and John Hastings offered to present a program on the history of Pack Forest.

The Woodworkers Show in Saratoga Springs will be March 24 and 25. Dennis passed a signup sheet for volunteers. Whether to continue having a booth at the Saratoga and Washington County Fairs brought a long discussion on the various problems and advantages. Perhaps simplifying the display and having a single theme, such as timber theft, is the practical way to go.

The Fall Picnic will again be held at Pack Forest. As to woodswalks, many members offered their property. Suggestions were made, or reported on, from Gretchen, John H., Peter Gregory (has an on-going harvest), Don M., and Rod N. Dan suggested that Barton Mines might be interested in a woodswalk which would include their proposed wind energy project as well as their forestry operations. As to distance, and even going back to the "abused" Warren County, John Hastings said, "If you have a good topic, people will come."

Dennis then covered several topics. Included were (1) the availability of very useful aerial photos from all county offices; (2) newspaper publicity -- which is hard to achieve, but try the

smaller ones such as The Chronicle, or different routes such as through the Empire State Forest Products Assn; (3) Forestry Awareness Day in Albany will be March 19, and Dennis plans to take some students from BOCES.

Under New Business we discussed an appropriate use of the \$500 from the Wentorf Foundation, with the thought being to pursue or purchase computer software to generate the newsletter in a format that can be downloaded by members. Would save much in mail postage.

Bob Manning offered to be the on-line channel for distributing all Chapter-relevant information sent to him. Many members do have e-mail addresses. There is no exclusion of those without internet access; mail or phone calls are always used. Bob then noted that we need \$150 for today's speaker -- so voted (and the topic brought a full house that afternoon).

Chrissy suggested we donate some money to the Crandall Library Building Fund. This was approved by vote but the amount was not set as there was a question about the type of giving program the library had. Laurel said the Maple School will be on February 10.

Our next planning meeting will be held before the social on April 15th.

The meeting was adjourned close to noon, with many members then having lunch at Davidson's restaurant nearby. The afternoon program featured an excellent presentation on *Coyote Behavioral Ecology and Research in NY*, presented by Paul Curtis from Cornell. Studies are ongoing on human-wildlife contacts. The speaker stressed that we should assume a predator attitude toward coyotes, that is, don't tame or feed them.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR *OVERSTORY*?

This edition of *THE OVERSTORY* is being sent to all NYFOA members in the Southern Adirondack Chapter via NetPost at a cost of less than a dollar per copy, including postage. We would like to reduce our costs even further. This and future editions of *THE OVERSTORY* will be posted on the SAC chapter website: <http://nyfoa.org/chapters/sac.php>. If you are willing to view *THE OVERSTORY* on-line (and forgo a snail mail copy) please email Bob Manning at bobmanning@frontiernet.net to let him know. He will send out an email notifying all who sign up when a new *OVERSTORY* has been posted on the website. Please let Bob know by April 1, 2007. *THE OVERSTORY* will be automatically mailed to all members that do not contact Bob Manning via e-mail.

PICTURES TAKEN BY GRETCHEN MCHUGH DURING THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING



Bob Manning thanking John Hastings for his years of service and dedication to SAC



Bob Manning presenting John and Chrissy Wiley with the Sustainable Forestry Award

Forestland Owner Profile -- An Organic Dairy Farmer Chooses Sustainable Forestry

by Richard Triumpho

Tim Matis is a second-generation dairyman. His farm in Fulton County, in the southern fringe of the Adirondacks, comprises several hundred acres of pasture and hay land, along with about fifty acres of woodland consisting mainly of mixed hardwoods. Tim took over the farm after his father passed away, and for many years he farmed the conventional way as his father had, and as many of his neighbors still do; conventional meant using chemical fertilizers and herbicides on crops. To begin with, Tim was never too crazy about using chemicals on the land. The more he read about sustainable agriculture, and its relationship to organic milk production, the more sense it made to him. About ten years ago Tim saw the writing on the wall; organic dairying was just then emerging as the wave of the future, in response to consumer concerns about residues of chemicals and artificial hormones in milk. Consumers were willing to pay a premium for organic milk, as much as twice the price of conventionally produced milk. Tim joined the fledgling Northeast Organic Dairy Farmers Association of New York (NOFA-NY) and went through a three-year probation period to have his farm certified as an organic dairy farm.

The mission statement of NOFA-NY reads: "NOFA-NY is an organization of consumers, gardeners, and farmers creating a sustainable regional food system which is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and education we promote land stewardship, organic food production, and local marketing. NOFA-NY brings consumer and farmer closer together to make high-quality food available to all people."

As required by the certification process, Tim had to create an Organic Farm and Livestock Plan. Next he had to implement the Plan, including a crop and pasture rotation plan to maintain and improve the soil; he had to quit using chemical fertilizers and herbicides on the land, and rely on manure and natural composting; he had to stop using antibiotics or hormones on the cows, and his cows had to be grazing on pasture during the summer months, as nature intended. After following those procedures for three years Tim's land was free of chemical residues; from then on the crops grown, including grass, hay and grain the cows ate, were natural, and the cows produced milk that was 'natural' or organic. The organic certification system developed the precise standards that Tim continues to follow; those standards are now codified in the USDA's National Organic Rule. To maintain his organic certification, Tim's farm is inspected annually by an accredited certifying agency. Organic certification requires Tim to keep records of all farm activities and transactions; this includes recording purchase of animals, feeds and feed supplements, plus veterinary and animal health care product use. Purchases of organic feeds must be tracked back to the fields of production; the "paper trail" ensures that all inputs to his dairy operation are from certified organic sources. Tim is well pleased with his switch to sustainable, organic dairy farming. He notices that his cows are healthier; being on green pasture, getting lots of fresh air and exercise has resulted in noticeably fewer foot problems and other health concerns with the cows. He has enhanced the health and sustainability of his agricultural ecosystem while producing pure and healthy organic milk.

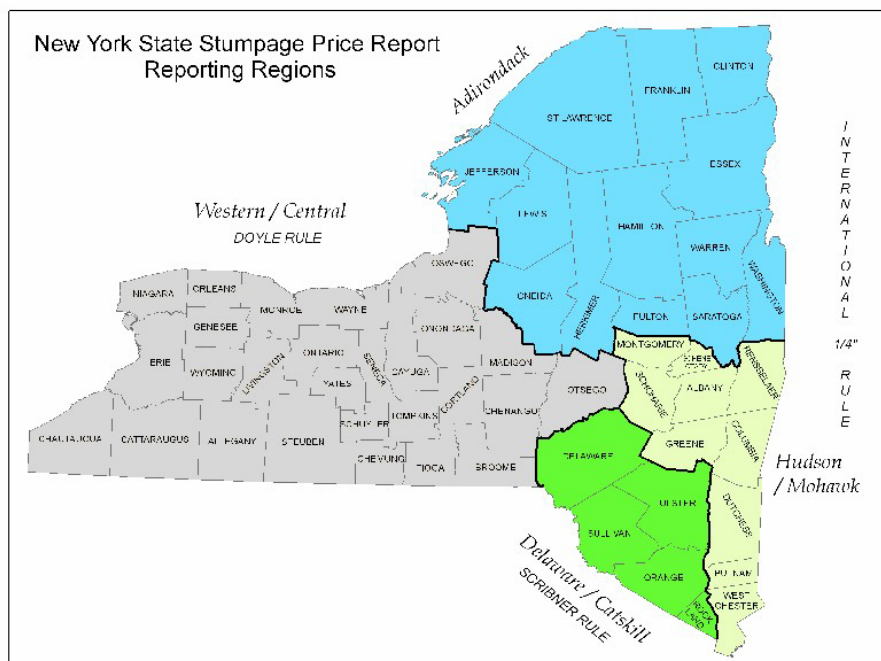
Thus it seemed a logical step for Tim to apply sustainable practices to his farm woodlot when he began thinking of harvesting some logs. He asked Dan Gilmore of the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (RCPA) to walk with him through his fifty-acre woodlot and illustrate

what a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified woodlot should look like. Dan Gilmore explained that an FSC-certified forest requires a management plan prepared by a professional forester, similar to Tim's existing organic dairy certification with its written management plan. Such a forest management plan ensures that logging operations are conducted in a manner protective of the environment, and that timber harvests are made in a selective manner that will continue to guarantee future harvests. Logs, lumber and pulpwood harvested from an FSC-certified forest may in the near future command premium prices as the consuming public begins demanding products from woodlands managed for sustainability and in an eco-friendly way. Tim Matis is convinced that "green certification" for his dairy farm woodlot is a perfect fit with his certified organic milk production.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO FORESTLAND OWNERS

The NYS DEC has a website where anyone can obtain information on the forest resources of New York: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/utilization/index.html>.

For years, average stumpage prices (the price landowners receive for forest products harvested from their land) have been reported by the DEC for each of 12 regions of the state. Recent analysis showed, with only a few distinct exceptions, that the twelve previously used reporting areas were not necessarily distinct "market areas". Instead of continuing to indicate the location of questionable market areas, areas based on large, physiographic timber growing regions will be used. Now, average stumpage prices will be reported for each of four regions as per the map below. See: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/utilization/stumpage.html>



Chapter Officers

Dennis Flynn, Chair dflynn@wswebores.org Phone: 518.581.1055

John Sullivan, Vice-Chair/Chapter Designated Director: sullivan1@frontiernet.net 518.494.3292

Barbara Hennig, Secretary bhennig@capital.net Phone: 518.882.9202

Gretchen McHugh, Treasurer gmchugh@capital.net Phone: 518.642,0636

Betty & Peter Gregory, Membership Phone: 518.399.1812

Dan Gilmore, Editor dwg@frontiernet.net Phone: 315.392.4641

Bob Manning, Online secretary bobmanning@frontiernet.net Phone: 518.251.4638

At-Large Board Members:

Ron DeWitt, Washington County newtwood@wildblue.net 518.854.3757

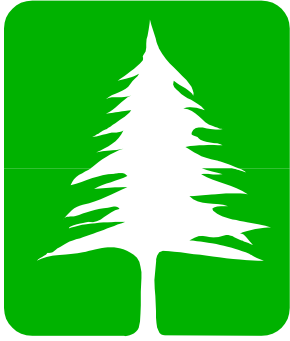
Ed Welch, Warren County trautwei@nycap.rr.com 518.861.6038

Rod Nielson, Fulton, Montgomery & Hamilton Counties 518.863.8794

Brian Clothier, Saratoga County 518.654.6620

Coming Events

- February 10: Maple School, Contact: Laurel Gailor, 518.668.4881 or 623.3291, warren@cornell.edu
- February 22-24: New York Farm Show, State Fair Grounds, Syracuse www.newyorkfarmshow.com
- February 24: 1 PM NYFOA Annual Meeting, Martha Eddy Room Arts and Home Building, State Fair Grounds, Syracuse
- March 19: Forestry Awareness Day, Albany. Contact: Dennis Flynn, 518.581.1055, dflynn@wswebores.org
- March 24-25: Woodworkers Show, Saratoga <http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org/>
- April 15: SAC Planning Meeting & Social



NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION
Southeast Adirondack Chapter Newsletter