

THE OVERSTORY

SE ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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Fall 2007

Message From the Editor – This edition of *THE OVERSTORY*, contains reports on the Fall woodswalk and the county fairs and dates of key 2008 events. This will be the last edition of *THE OVERSTORY* for which I will serve as Editor. It has been my pleasure to serve as Editor for the past year. The new *OVERSTORY* editors will be Bob Morrison (morrison15@verizon.net), and Ed and Donna Welch (trautwei@nycap.rr.com/ <trautwei@nycap.rr.com). I am sure that they will welcome contributions from the membership. Dan Gilmore

Sept. 23 Woodswalk

Woodswalk Demonstrates Small Lot Management

We all know – don't we? – that a woodlot management plan and a little outdoors work will yield great benefits, like periodic commercial harvests, more than enough firewood, plentiful wildlife and perhaps some cash crops, like ginseng and Christmas trees. But gee (some might say) I have only a few acres. You have to have a lot of land to get all that, don't you?

The answer, so far as Steve Warne is concerned, is a resounding "NO" and he proved it to 35 or so folks who showed for a SAC-sponsored woodswalk at his 12-acre woodlot in Warrensburg on a brilliant September Sunday (Sept. 23).

That's right, 12 acres, so it only took a couple of hours for Steve, a retired DEC forester, to show the group around his woods. He explained how, after he bought the lot in 1989, he cleared a couple of acres and planted Christmas trees (not the most successful venture he's ever had). He showed the large stumps left after two – that's right, two – commercial pine harvests conducted in the early 1990s. And he quickly pointed out the vigorous growth that has taken place since. He conducted a brief seminar on the ins and outs of growing ginseng: the need for neutral-pH soil; the species, like maidenhair fern, that indicate good soil conditions; the delicate balance required between sunlight and shade, and the 18-month germination period that the bright-red ginseng berries require. And throughout the walk he pointed out evidence of his ongoing firewood harvesting operations, which produce enough wood to heat two houses, year-in, year-out.

Steve also showed participants his management plan and noted that it is brief, simple and easy to understand and stick to.

At noon, most of the participants drove across the road to Pack Demonstration Forest, where they enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds of the Pack Forest Camp, courtesy of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Pictures of the Woodswalk and picnic appear below.





SAC A Winner at the Fair

SAC – thanks to Ron DeWitt and Dennis Flynn -- won a blue ribbon for this year's display at the Washington County Fair. Anyone visiting the fair could see why: positioned between two entrances to the County Bounty building, the display featured wood identification, a persuasive demonstration of the benefits of management, and lots of information about NYFOA, woods management and many other topics.

SAC members (and members of adjacent NYFOA chapters) did their usual enthusiastic volunteer work at the Saratoga and Washington County Fairs this summer. They handled a number of requests for MFO visits, handed out hundreds of pine seedlings at the Saratoga Fair (seedlings supplied by the State tree nursery) and generally presented an informed, friendly forest owner face to the public. Thanks to all who volunteered, to Bryan Clothier and Ron DeWitt, who organized the volunteer effort, and to Laurel Gailor of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warrensburg for providing reams of informational material.

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jan. 12, 2008 -- Crandall Library, Glens Falls -- SAC annual meeting (10 a.m.) followed by lunch at Davidson Brothers and a public program at 2 p.m. (speaker still TBA).

NYFOA Annual meeting – Feb. 23 at the NY Farm Show, State Fair Grounds, Syracuse.

Next SAC planning meeting – April 15, 2008, at 6 p.m. at the Warrensburg Cornell Cooperative Extension office. All members are urged to attend and help plan future events.

Spring Woodswalk – May 17, 2008 -- Burt Morehouse's woodlot in Diamond Point

Fall Woodswalk – Sept. 21 -- Betty and Peter Gregory's woodlot in Shushan, where a harvest is being completed, followed by a picnic.

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/df/privland/utilization/index.html>.

Average stumpage prices are reported for each of four regions as per the map below. See: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/utilization/stumpage.html>

Note that there are different log rules (International ¼, Doyle, and Scribner) used throughout the state. Landowners should be aware that all log rules are not equal. The same log will scale differently for each log rule and the price should be adjusted accordingly. Consulting forester Steve Bick (<http://www.northeastforests.com>) provides a spreadsheet tool that can be used for comparing log rules.
