

The Overstory

Volume 25
Issue 2
Summer
2014

New York Forest Owners Association Southeastern Adirondack Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John Greenwood
Gansevoort, NY

Nick Perrone
Lake George, NY

INSIDE

- Deer browse & forest plant growth
- Bigelow & Warren remembrances
- Winter woodwalk
- Forestry links
- Letter from the Chair

ADIRONDACK STUMPAGE PRICE REPORT

New York State Dept.
of Environmental
Conservation

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

Dave Felano, Bill Burke, Ed Welch, Donna Welch, John Pokrzywka, Lou Inzinna, Jean Inzinna, Tomoko Manning, Barbara Hennig, Jane Jenks, Steve Warne, Dave Jenks, Bob Manning, Kurt Edwards, Kristie Edwards. Missing from photo: Jennifer, Francis and Matt Lindop, Kaitlyn Anderson, Laurel Gailor and Tom Denney.

Nipped in the Bud

Kristie Edwards 🌿 Photo by Laurel Gailor

In continued support of NYFOA's Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) initiative, the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter (SAC) recently constructed a demonstration deer enclosure. The RNYW Steering Committee developed guidelines for the construction of a small, inexpensive deer enclosure and provided a grant to any chapter willing to install one. The object is to demonstrate how the impact of deer browsing on the regeneration of a deciduous forest can be dramatically reduced. Needing a forest plot that receives a significant number of public visitors, we approached the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County about the possibility of using a plot at the 4-H Training Center in Ballston Spa. It was then that this project turned into a joint venture bringing together the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, Capital/Mohawk PRISM, 4-H Inner Circle Shooting Sports Club volunteers, and SAC chapter members.

After the site was selected our chapter purchased the fence materials and supplies. Dimension Fabricators of Scotia donated rebar posts and a

SAC member donated wood posts for the enclosure. We also received a small grant from the American Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Inc. Capital/Mohawk PRISM sponsored an intern, John Pokrzywka, currently a student at Paul Smith's College to inventory, monitor and document the results of this project. Our usual spring woodwalk this year became a work event where 21 volunteers consisting of SAC members, 4-H members and forestry professionals worked side by side digging holes, installing posts, and raising a fence intended to keep the deer out and protect our approximately 1,000 square foot demonstration plot. The area within the fence and a control plot outside the enclosure will be monitored during the growing seasons to come.

It was a beautiful spring day, we met new people and made new friends, even the bugs decided not to pester us. We look forward to the visitors at the 4-H training center to be able to witness the impact deer browsing will have on forest regeneration. SAC members are invited to visit and participate in the monitoring and maintenance of this project.



Deer Browse and Forest Plant Growth

John Pokrzywka, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Saratoga County Intern 📷 Photos by Laurel Gailor, Bob Manning and Kristie Edwards

White-tailed deer love young, tender plants and can eat about eight pounds of food a day or about three percent of their body weight. That’s a lot of young plants! A plant slowly loses its ability to reproduce and sustain a healthy population with the loss of every leaf, flower, stem and fruit. Although deer are native to the area and have been eating plants in the woods for years, the development of their habitat has pushed herds into other areas and in turn has impacted both agriculture and forest resources.

These areas, such as the 4-H Training Center land on Middleline Road in Ballston Spa New York, become favorite areas for deer. The land is quiet, holds a diversity of plants and has valuable water sources. When deer favor one area over another, one may see that the vegetation looks lower, that’s because it has been browsed. Heavy browsing can even lead to invasive species taking hold and then outcompeting native vegetation. Remember, an Invasive Specie is anything that causes ecological, economical or human health harm.

The purpose of putting up a deer enclosure is to essentially seal off a section of the woods from the deer, allowing the plants and saplings to get a better start to their growing seasons. This project isn’t designed to drive deer out of an area, but rather to keep them from browsing on saplings and other woodland plants that you’ve decided to enclose.

Before the fence is put up, it’s a good idea to walk the plot and see what’s there. Take note of the saplings, what the ground cover is, even what ferns are growing. With this section fenced off you will be able to see a noticeable difference within a few months, even more if left up for a few years. The Northeast forest ecosystem generally relies on natural regeneration, but now with the competition of invasive species, the health’s of native



John using a grid system to inventory the plot.

habitats are compromised.

The deer enclosure fence that was put up at the 4-H training center was roughly 45 feet by 45 feet around the perimeter and the height was eight feet. There was a post pounded into the ground every ten feet, or as rocks would allow. These posts were ten feet long and were put two feet into the ground. For this project two types of materials were used for demonstration purposes; 2x4 rough cut posts and 5/8 steel rebar. The fencing then was put up to be eight feet tall with about a foot of overlap on the ground as not to leave any space between the bottom of the fence and the ground. The fencing was then either zip tied to the steel rebar that was used as posts or stapled to the wooden posts. On the

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Volunteers dug holes for the wooden posts used on half of the structure.



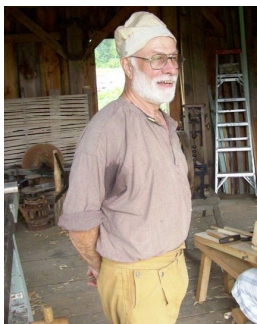
2"x 2" mesh fencing was installed 8' high to prevent the deer from entering the enclosed area.



Rebar was used as uprights for the structure.

Bigelow Rememberance

Lou Inzinna 🌿 Photos courtesy Schenectady County Historical Society



Elwin (Win) Bigelow, 77, unexpectedly passed away in Palatka, FL on January 19th, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Florance Devine Bigelow. His two children, Jeffrey and Joy Bigelow are deceased. After retiring from GE Research and Development, he remained active in conservation, historical, hiking and biking organizations. Memorials to ADK, ECOS or Mabee Farm Historical Site would be appreciated. (Published in The Daily Gazette Co. from Feb. 15 to Feb. 16, 2014)

Win was a long time member of SAC. He enjoyed spending time in the Adirondacks at his property as well as many other wild areas. He loved to talk about different hiking trips and the different plant and wild life he would come across.

I met Win some 40 years ago when I joined GE. He was one of the people you looked to for help with many challenging projects.

Win always had the right tool for the job and if not he could make it.

His specialty was practical fluid dynamics and was awarded patents in that field.

Outside of GE he had many hobbies. His love of the outdoors and Old Tools kept him quite busy. After retiring from GE more than 15 years ago he enjoyed going to many tool collector and woodworking shows. He became a volunteer at the Mabee Farm Historical Site around 2000, expertise in old woodworking techniques was a great source for many demonstration programs and special events. He set into motion the nature trail now in place on the edge of the Mabee property. He had many stories about the 3 year project to build the Onrust, a replica of New York's first Dutch style ship originally built in 1614. He enjoyed working with such a talented team on many such unique projects.

We will miss our friend, Win, his soft spoken style, his stories and his classic bearded smiling face.



In Memory of Warren Leigh



Warren Wonnick Leigh, 85 of Bloomingdale, died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, March 2, 2014. Born in Freeport on August 28, 1928, he was the son of Wonnick and Elise (Mader) Leigh. Warren married Kathryn D Ford on July 2, 1951 in Freeport. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, one son, two daughters and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Warren retired from the United States Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1979. He received various medals and commendations throughout his career, including the Bronze Star medal and the Presidential Unit Citation. Following his retirement he moved to Bloomingdale and had been employed by Paul Smith's college at the Hotel Saranac for several years. Warren served as a volunteer for the 1980 Winter Olympics. He enjoyed food, wine, gardening, making maple sugar, traveling, hunting and was a forestry co-op master. (Provided by the family.)

MEMBER'S CORNER

Nature's Playground

By Kristie Edwards

Our woodland property is the best playground one can find. This huge glacier rock has been a favorite destination for picnicking and fun for over five generations. The boulder is split down the middle forming a tunnel to walk through. In these photos our grandchildren are enjoying a fall afternoon playing in the woods with Papa and Gram.



Kurt Edwards, Khloe Edwards, Paige Jackson, and Kolton Edwards.

This member's corner is open to anyone willing to share something with the other members. Submissions can be mailed or emailed to Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com or 411 Beech Street, Mayfield, NY 12117.

Deer Browse, continued from page 2

larger trees that were used as the corner posts the group decided to place 1 inch by 4 inch pine planks between the fence and the tree with no more than two screws per board allowing space between the end of the screw and board for tree growth. This gave a place to staple the fence. As this plot may need to be revisited for inventory purposes, a door was made by ending the fence on the corner so that it could be opened easily with a screw gun.

This project enclosure is planned to stand for three years. Three years is a good time frame if actively counting what is growing and measuring sapling growth and regeneration. A three year time frame was chosen for this enclosure because three years of information will give decent results, as well as the growth of most of the saplings will be far enough ahead at that point.

If possible, an inventory should be conducted each year. If not, at least one following the three year time period. At this point the saplings are doing better, plants are larger, and the area is generally in better shape. Now the native plants have a better advantage, and will be able to add to their populations in positive ways.

To date, the following information has been collected on the training center enclosure 0.05 acre plot project. The data shows that for ground cover, the dominate plants were Virginia Creeper, sensitive fern and New York fern. The dominate tree types were Hickory, ash, sugar maple, white pine and red maple. There were also a large number of hickory saplings in both the control and study plots. At this time there is currently one type of invasive species; Bush honeysuckle. Bush honeysuckle is found in both the control and enclosure plots.

Currently the average diameter of the Hickory saplings is one quarter of an inch with an average height of twenty inches within the control plot. Within the enclosure plot the same species of saplings diameter's averaged one half an inch with an average height of twenty two inches.

The current population numbers for the test plot show the dominate groups. Sensitive fern- 3,023 plants; Virginia creeper- 882 plants; New York fern- 554 plants; and Christmas fern- 69 plants. There were also 135 young raspberry bushes and 27 young Hawthorne plants.

The current population numbers for the control plot show a much different population. Virginia creeper was the dominate foliage with 1,301 plants followed by New York ferns with 843 plants. Young raspberry plants were common with 315 plants; Sensitive ferns- 311 plants; and lastly Christmas ferns with 210 plants.

These numbers are affected not only by the soil condition and soil moisture but by the shade that the canopy gives to the two plots. The deer enclosure plot is in an area where there are a few breaks in the canopy, whereas the study plot doesn't have as many breaks in the canopy. However, if that area is a popular browsing area for deer then a decline in plant numbers should be seen in the control plot.

Overall, a deer browse enclosure is something that shouldn't be overlooked. A simple fence can make a lot of difference with the quality, and quantity of plants and saplings within the woods. A land owner would not need to fence in large portions of their woodlot; small plots work just as well to see the benefits of natural regeneration.

Coming Events...

July 22-27 SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR

Bill Burke is organizing the staffing of our booth. If you would like to volunteer to work at this event, please contact him at liemb46@gmail.com or (518) 793-1825

August 18-24 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

Jane Jenks is organizing the staffing of our booth. If you would like to volunteer to work at this event, please contact her at (518) 532-1825

September 27 SAC FALL WOODSWALK & ANNUAL PICNIC

**Crane Mountain Retreat and Seventies Museum
508 Goodman Road, Johnsburg, NY
beginning at 9:30am**

Tom and Diane Denney own approximately 70 acres divided by Kibby Creek with a view of Crane Mountain.

Please bring a dish to share, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Directions will be available upon request and on our NYFOA web page at <http://nyfoa.org/chapters/sac.php>

Questions, or to RSVP for this event, contact Donna Welch at trautwei@gmail.com or call (518) 225-0629



Anyone who would like to replace their black-and-white printed *Overstory* with a full color digital version received via email, can request the change by emailing Kristie Edwards at edwardsk922@gmail.com

Woodswalk and More...

John R. Greenwood 🌲 Photos by John Greenwood

Consider this an open thank you letter to all the members of NYFOA, but most especially the members of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter.

Enclosed you will find a check for one new membership.

To begin with I should explain that my wife and I own less than a half an acre of land. The lot includes a house, garage, and patchy lawn. A huge old maple shades much of it. Even though there is a supporting cast of six or seven less mature maples, we are far from forest owners. That did not deter me from wanting to learn more about NYFOA. On Saturday March 8th I attended the SAC's woodswalk hosted by Ed Welch and Donna Trautwein-Welch on their Johnsburg property. I had been invited by the SAC's past Chair Kurt Edwards and his wife Kristie. Kurt is a co-worker of mine and knows of my interest in the outdoors. He also knows that I like to hike (short walks in the woods), write, and take photographs. What better way to envelop all those interests than to spend an afternoon in the Adirondack's with nice people, snow filled woods, and lots of fresh air. What I wasn't expecting; was how much I was going to learn.

I grew up traveling the roads and woods of the Adirondack's with my father. In 1974 I was sixteen and shot my first buck just over the mountain in Stony Creek. The fondest trout fishing memories of my youth include a lake called Pharaoh just a few miles to the east. At the time I thought my father knew everything about the woods and that I would retain most of it. I was mistaken. I was about to learn just how much I didn't know. What I discovered that day had as much to do with cooperation and people as it did harvesting timber.

What was clear from the minute I walked up the Welch's driveway was how important it is to be willing to listen to what others have to offer. In this world of individualism I had struck a vein of support and cooperation unlike anything I'd run across in years. I believe it was rooted in the common love of nature's bounty and the joy that comes from sharing it with others. The Welch's opened their home, their property, and their hearts to

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The log well house is a good resting place for snowshoes.



Retired forester, Steve Warne discussing regrowth after logging.

Woodswalk, continued from page 5



Apple Lodge with Huckleberry Mountain in the distance.

this complete stranger; but why? Because they, like all the other members of this fine group, believe that by listening, educating, and sharing they can make a difference in the world around them. When you're dealing with a forest that takes decades to regenerate it's important that you do your homework. If you really care about the world you'll be leaving behind, and the people of NYFOA do, you want to do what's right, not what's easy. It is no time to be selfish. That is what I learned on that beautiful day. I learned that when a landowner, a forester, and groups like the Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA work together they can improve the land around us in a positive way. Thus the land will thrive and so will its inhabitants.

What an enjoyable day I had. We snowshoed our way from Ed and Donna's main timber frame home at the end of Danker Rd to their more remote Applebee Cabin nestled deep in the forest. Each turn handed out a new discovery. We stopped

several times where forester Steve Warne provided the group with more detail about what they were seeing. He answered questions with ease based on his years of expertise and experience. Not only was I impressed by the answers, but also by the questions. It was proof positive that people are genuinely interested in doing the right thing. The problem is they don't always know what that is, or who to ask. After today's woodswalk we all had a better idea of what that was, and where to begin.

The day came to a close when Kurt, Kristie, and I walked the main access trail from Ed and Donna's remote Applebee Log Cabin back to our vehicles. It was late afternoon and the quiet blanketed us with calm and a feeling of restoration. I could imagine the relief the forest that surrounded us felt knowing that their future was in good hands. I know that's the way I felt. Not only did I increase my knowledge of trees ten-fold that day, I also learned that it takes a village (NYFOA) to grow a forest.

With that thought I want to thank every member of NYFOA and the agencies and people who support their membership.

Online Forestry

Tick Awareness

With more ticks in more places than ever before, there's never been a more appropriate time to raise your tick literacy.

<http://www.tickencounter.org/>

<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>

<http://idl.entomology.cornell.edu/files/2013/11/Deer-Tick-1q9srf1.pdf>

The New York Invasive Species Website

New York is celebrating its first Invasive Species Awareness Week July 6-12.

<http://www.nyis.info/>

NYFOA-SAC Service Award for Barbara Hennig

Donna Welch

This is an award that is long overdue for one of the Chapter's most significant contributors. Barbara set a standard for the secretarial role that will be very difficult for others to emulate.

Barbara has been one of our "quiet contributors" who, as a chapter secretary, did more than report who said what at our many meetings. She had a knack of recording the important substance of a meeting and separating it from the minutia of the discussions. At times she would help focus a wandering

or contentious discussion with a simple statement like, "Don't you think that we ought to...". When Barbara intervened, the goal became clear and we returned to course.

Barbara served from 2006 to 2013 which included four different chair's terms, and made valuable contributions to the Executive Committee. We all learned to rely on her good sense, good ideas and participation in nearly every meeting or activity. She has been a source of continuity in SAC affairs as one of the "go



to" people for historical information and documentation about our chapter. She was not only a skilled secretary/reporter she was also an excellent writer who provided easy to read, thorough information.

Finally, we must also recognize Barbara's forestry stewardship. Beyond her love

of the woods, the woodwalks on the Hennig Preserve, and the Preserve itself, attest to her commitment to forestry and the principles that NYFOA/SAC stand for.

Thank you, Barbara for all the work you have done to better our chapter as well as the forests of New York.

Reflections from the Chair

I hope this note finds you all well. This is the time of year we are all out and about. Whether it's spending time in the woods, cutting firewood, clearing trails, fishing, watching wildlife, or just enjoying the warm weather we should be cautious about ticks. Ticks are in more and more places than ever before. Tick awareness for your family, yourself and your pets is extremely important. Learn what to look for, how to remove them safely and how to protect yourself.

Our chapter has become involved in a program encouraged by NYFOA's Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) campaign. This program, Demonstration Deer Exclusion Fence Project hopes to show how the impact of deer browsing on the regeneration of a deciduous forest can be dramatically reduced. Details of this project are described in this newsletter.

The SAC Survey committee has put together an online survey for members to participate. We encourage members to take a few minutes and answer these survey questions so that we can better provide activities for the needs and interest of chapter members.

County Fair season is upon us once again. We are looking for volunteers to cover our SAC-NYFOA booths at the Saratoga and Washington County Fairs. This is a good way to introduce our chapter to the public and attract new members. Once again our coordinators are Bill Burke for the Saratoga County Fair, July 21 thru 27 and Jane Jenks for the Washington County Fair August 18 thru 24. It is lots of fun and you get a free entry to the fair the day you volunteer. Please contact Bill and Jane for more information. (See coming events for info.)

As always if members have any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me. Our chapter is always looking to recruit new members. A good way to do this is to let your friends, neighbors and family members know the benefits of being a NYFOA member.

Thanks and enjoy the Summer!

Lou Inzinna



**New York Forest
Owners Association**



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Vice Chair: Vacant
Secretary: Bill Burke
Treasurer: Bob Manning

**NYFOA/Southeastern
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