



# Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Forest Owners Association



August-September 2015

## **FALL SOCIAL AT ANGUS GLEN FARMS** *and* **WOODLOT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 to noon**

**3050 Station Rd., Watkins Glen, NY.**

Please join us for this free event to learn about making a family forest better for the next generation! The walk will highlight: recent logging to promote tree health and regeneration; invasive plant control; integrated timber and livestock production (silvopasturing); wildlife habitat enhancements; and strategies for dealing with forest pests. Foresters and loggers will be present to share their insights, as well as Cornell Master Forest Owner Volunteers who can be consulted individually for advice. The woods walk will take place rain or shine, and require about one mile of hiking. This event is sponsored by Cornell University's Master Forest Owner Program ([www.cornellmfo.info](http://www.cornellmfo.info)); Cornell Cooperative Extension (<http://cceschuyler.org>); and the NY Forest Owner's Association ([www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)). *Light lunch to follow.* No RSVP is necessary. For additional information please contact Brett Chedzoy by phone (607-742-3657) or email: [bjc226@cornell.edu](mailto:bjc226@cornell.edu)



## Chairman's Message

We are in the heart of summer, and when you need to take care of some downed trees for firewood, even when it is clear and crisp, you still sweat a lot. It's good that you do, and working your body is good for you. As I age, this opportunity will hopefully counter the aging effects on physical capabilities. I recall the effects of being a weekend warrior when I was a good bit younger. Overuse the muscles on the weekend and by Tuesday they were letting you know the pain. Today, the day of the overuse is heralded by what I now call "misuse pain" on the same evening as the overuse. Sunday is really stiff. The lesson here is simple: exercise regularly. But many of you already know this!

A woods can give us many things, if we have eyes to see. About a month ago, we took a walk along a well-traveled path in our 40+ A of woods. A decade ago we hauled out hickory and hornbeam from one section that kept us warm using an old "choker" stove that was our sole source of heat as a boiler. The area was still full of hornbeam, red maples, some red oak, and of course the ubiquitous shagbark hickories. Grasses kept the regeneration from happening, and the increasing squirrel population was digging up any black walnut seedlings and attached nuts, so there was nothing from those efforts. But something strange was in the duff of the forest floor. Chanterelles covered at least an acre. The same thing happened last year. My wife, who grew up on this property and is now in her sixties, has never seen them before. We harvested 18 pounds and sold them over the week that they were plentiful. As we look back into why this happened, we note the heavy rains in the summer months. Our forest was leaking water over the fields until about a month prior to the mushroom "bloom." There was no real problem identifying the chanterelles. There are few lookalikes, and there were plentiful internet aids for identification. Besides, our local mushroom experts helped corroborate our identification.

But I wanted to understand what was going on. One expert said that the mycelia have been in the forest for quite some time, given the large area the mushrooms covered. He also corroborated that the excess rain probably was sufficient to now force a "flush" this summer. Notably, last summer had similar heavy rains at about the same time in the late spring/early summer. And the chanterelles jumped up then, in the same ground. I guess one opportunity is: can this flush be forced when wet conditions are not at hand at the right time? We surmise this could be done by "fire-hosing" the ground and waiting a week. This is fundamentally the same process used by the mushroom log growers. They inoculate the logs until the mycelia have filled the under bark area, then the logs are soaked in water, and then the mushrooms pop out after about a week. The tough part is getting enough water hauled up into that woods!

This whole event for me reinforces the complexity of the relationships and connectivity within our forests: fungus in the forest floor (many types), weather impacts, soils and drainage, intensity of sunlight, area tree species, human effects on forests, temperature effects. As an engineer, I cannot imagine a controlled experiment that could predict having chanterelles flush in our woods. Way too complex, even uncontrolled. I can only imagine the research challenges that are out there.

For woods owners, my lesson learned is to keep your eyes open and keep walking in your woods. It's amazing.

-Bob Barton

## Welcome to Our New Member

**Bridget MacRae**  
from  
**Brooktondale, NY**

### GOT AN IDEA FOR A FUTURE EVENT/WORKSHOP?

The SFC chapter Planning Committee is looking for ideas for future events. What topics would you like us to have a workshop on that would benefit you as a woodlot owner? Please e-mail any suggestions to one of the members below.

Bob Barton  
Chapter Chair  
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Clar & Carol Holden  
Newsletter Editors  
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## New York State 4-H Forestry 2015 –

By: Ingrid Hill -Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator, Orange County

The spring tree budding may have been slow in parts of NY this year, but the New York State 4-H Forestry program through Cornell Cooperative Extension celebrates budding new enthusiasts across the state. Amid a contingent of over 70 participants for the state 4-H Forestry weekend, Orange County swept all 4 Senior

team spots once again in 2015.

Competing in Tree Identification, Tree Measurement, Topographic Map Reading, and Compass and Pacing contests NY youth excelled with several perfect scores to round out the competition! The senior team comprised of Rosanna Mow, Christina Durgin, Meghan Rhoads, Thomas Daley and Stephen Decker advanced to a national level competition held in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia late last month. New York state 4-H is very proud to announce that they finished as the second place team, competing against teams that have been working together for several years. The hard work and dedication of the youth certainly came shining through.



Due to time constraints and many other factors there is an increasing divide between the young and the natural world. Youth are simply not able to make the same strong, effective connections with their outdoor environments of days past creating significant implications toward environmental, social, psychological and spiritual well-being. The 4-H Forestry curriculum provides an easily managed, low cost response to these challenges. Additionally, the curriculum provides opportunity for volunteer involvement and addresses multi-faceted learning strategies that occur “in” nature. As a result of their participation in 4-H Forestry and the Invitational youth gain knowledge and demonstrate forest resource management skills. This increased

knowledge and skills will make these youth better informed citizens and potential future policy makers. Participation in the Invitational has also had an influence on future career choices of the participants with many of them going on to pursue natural resource management careers.

Rebecca Hargrave (SUNY Morrisville, Environmental Sciences), Gary Goff (Retired Sr. Extension Associate, CU Dept. of Natural Resources) and Ingrid Hill, (CCE Educator, Orange County) coordinate the event. Youth and adults are charged a small fee to attend. The program could not have taken place without the assistance of the MANY wonderful CCE County Educators, 4-H volunteers, and parents who promoted the program in their counties, brought the youth and helped out as chaperones, cooks, and score keepers, and assisted with a myriad of other program activities. The program is partially funded by a grant from the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners' Association, keeping the program affordable and accessible to a diverse audience from across the state. For more information on a great event visit:



<http://cceorangecounty.org/4-h-youth/4-h-forestry-weekend>

Contact Ingrid Hill [imh23@cornell.edu](mailto:imh23@cornell.edu) if you are interested in participating next year or would like to volunteer your time!

Pictures from “The Wood in Your Woods” event on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Willseyville.



Jeff Joseph explaining basic wood identification, properties and uses.



Jeff explaining the drying process for the wood he milled.



Lewis Ward demonstrating wood carving.

Come and join our group of New York Forest Owners, a not-for-profit organization which supports sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands. Regular annual dues are just \$45.00 for individual/family.

**Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)**

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