

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 26TH.

This is usually our best-attended event of the year. Because the Cornell Cooperative Extension building is undergoing renovation, this year's dinner will be held at the Town of Chenango Community Hall, 1529 NY Route 12 (Upper Front Street), Binghamton. Bring a dish to pass and your own table settings. Beverages and a sheet pizza will be provided.

We always look for a different and interesting program for our Annual Dinner. Justin Gansowski, a biologist with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, will present a program about **FERAL SWINE IN NEW YORK**. USDA Wildlife Services has a feral swine management program in New York that conducts population/range surveys, border surveillance, disease detection, and population control activities. While the current population of feral swine in New York is low, they pose a significant risk to New York's natural resources, farms, and human health and safety. His talk will focus on the biology of feral swine, their current range and numbers, and the ecological and economic damage they cause. Come and learn how feral swine could impact your woodlot, tree farm, crops, and wildlife.

Doors will open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00, and the program begins at 7:00. If you are coming to the dinner, call Jerry Michael (607) 648-2941 by January 23rd so we will know how many to set up for. No need to call if you are just coming at 7:00 for the program. Friends and neighbors are welcome!

Directions to Town of Chenango Community Hall:

From I 81 Northbound, take Exit 6, turn right at end of ramp onto Route 12 and go 1.7 miles. Town of Chenango complex is on the left.

From I 81 Southbound, take Exit 6, turn left at end of ramp, turn left at first light (by Lowes), go 1 mile.

From I 88 Westbound, take exit #2 (Chenango Bridge), turn right at the end of the ramp, follow Rt. 12A about 1 mile (past Price Chopper). Turn right on Rt. 12 and go .5 mile.

SAWMILL TOUR PLANNED FOR APRIL

We are planning a tour of the Ames/True Temper sawmill and processing plant in Unadilla, with a tentative date of April 25th. The Ames mill processes two million board feet of kiln dried ash per year, for use as handles on True Temper hand tools. Thanks to chapter member Dave Sturges for setting up a tour that should be very interesting. Watch for details in our Spring 2012 Newsletter, which should come out in late March.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Opportunities for Rural Landowners Workshop, February 25th

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Broome County is holding a workshop for rural landowners on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Some of the presentation topics will include: Growing Berries in the Forest Edge, Managed Livestock Grazing for Northeastern Woodlots, Small-scale Tree Harvests, Growing Nut Trees, and Bringing the Mill to the Wood: Portable Sawmills. The workshop fee will be \$15 for the first family member and \$5 for each additional family member. Please call (607) 772-8953 for further information or to request a registration brochure.

CCE Chenango County Workshops for Spring 2012

Call 607-334-5841 for information, or to register for these programs.

Maple Syrup for Beginners - And, a pancake dinner!

January 24, 2012, 5:30 dinner, 6:00 – 8:30 presentation

Sherburne Fire Hall, 15 West State Street, Sherburne.

\$15 for the first person, \$7 for each additional family member.

Hosted by CCE of Chenango County. Please pre-register and pre-pay by January 20, 2012.

Thinking about making maple syrup? Want to make some extra income from your woodlots? Join us for a delicious evening starting with a pancake dinner. We'll cover: Why make maple syrup, tree identification, collecting sap with buckets or tubing, boiling the sap, energy considerations, when is it syrup, filtering and canning syrup, why does sap run and what can you do about it and vacuum and reverse osmosis for the back yarder. Presented by Steve Childs, NYS Maple Specialist

Growing Mushrooms: Farming Fungi in Forests and Logs

A light dinner will be served

March 29, 2012, 6:00-8:30 pm. CCE Norwich, 99 N Broad St., Norwich

Interested in learning how to grow exotic and wild mushrooms? Come learn about mushroom log production: how to grow, what you need, species, and tips on enjoying and marketing.

This is a hands-on workshop! Each participant will inoculate a shiitake log, and make an indoor, table top oyster mushroom kit, both to take home! Cost \$26, includes log and kit (and a pizza and salad dinner).

Class size limited to 20 people, please register by March 27, 2012.

Dave Williams to serve as Southern Tier Chapter-Designated Director on the NYFOA State Board of Directors.

Many thanks to Dave for accepting this assignment on behalf of all Southern Tier forest owners. Dave is a retired school teacher from Bainbridge, a Woodmizer owner and operator, and a skilled craftsman in wood. He has been active in Chapter programs for several years and serves as a Master Forest Owner volunteer in Chenango County.

Dave will now be representing our Chapter's interests to the State Board. If you have any opinions about NYFOA's priorities and programs, the NY Forest Owner Magazine, or what you think NYFOA should be advocating for in Albany, please share them with Dave.

His Email address is on the back cover.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM CHAPTER CHAIR STEVE KUTNEY

Winter is upon us. I would like to encourage members to walk in your woodlot during the winter months. The lack of leaves will allow you to see more of the hillsides and develop a different perspective of your property. As you walk around, look for trees that may need a little help.

Over the years my view of the woods has changed. I used to go through the woods looking for deer or small game. Today, I look at every tree and imagine how I can make it a better timber tree. This analysis is applied more intently when I see a valuable hardwood. When I see an ash, I get a feeling of sadness.

I have chain saws for thinning trees and cutting branches. In this age of high speed everything the hand operated bow saw and pole saw are often overlooked. I find that a hand saw is easy to carry and safer to use. Make no mistake, those hand saw blades are sharp; the safety is in the slowness of the cut. I've recently researched extended reach pole pruners, and here are my thoughts:

Hand pole saws can have a lopper head and/or a saw blade. They can be purchased at the major home improvement stores for about \$30 equipped with one blade attached to a short pole. At the \$80 level they come with a lopper head, a saw blade and two fiberglass poles. Replacement saw blades are in the \$20 range. If your usage is minimal they're not a bad deal. The method of switching from lopper head to the saw blade is not as convenient as I would like.

I recently purchased a Stihl PP 900 pruning set for about \$200. The set comes with both the saw blade and the lopper head, each having their own base that snaps on the head of a pole. It's easy to switch from saw blade to lopper head and back again. The set comes with two fiberglass poles. The saw blade can go on one pole and the lopper head can go on the other if you prefer that configuration. Additional fiberglass poles are available which will extend reach. Replacement saw blades are under \$55.

Silky is a manufacturer of pole saws with similar features. They are a little more expensive than the Stihl saw. You can find instructions for using an extended reach pole saw on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ-tvQP0tPc>

I've found that pole saws are a joy to use when I want to cut Multiflora Rose. The long pole gives me a chance to cut the stem from a safe distance. I use the lopper head to cut the plant near the base. I return during the growing season to make a fresh cut on the stump and apply a 10% concentration of Roundup or another glyphosate product. This is a more effective method of controlling Multiflora Rose than the several foliar spray applications otherwise required, and uses less herbicide.

Please join us at the Potluck Dinner. I'm looking forward to meeting you. We've always had great food and a friendly atmosphere at this annual event.

WHO ARE WE?

The Southern Tier Chapter includes about 190 members, most of whom are presumed to have an interest in forested property in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware or Otsego Counties. Interestingly, almost a quarter of our members live outside the Southern Tier counties. Thirty reside in the Greater NY City/NJ area, and thirteen live in other states, as far away as Massachusetts and Colorado. We regret that geography makes it impossible for our expatriate members to fully participate in Chapter events, but want you to know that your membership is valued; NYFOA's ability to advocate on behalf of forest owners is directly related to our strength in numbers. Our more remote members can still take advantage of one-on-one coaching from a Master Forest Owner Volunteer when they are present on their wooded property. The MFO Program is operated by Cornell Cooperative Extension, and NYFOA is a sponsor. To arrange a free visit at your convenience, call your nearest CCE Office, or Jerry Michael, who serves as a coordinator for the Southern Tier region. Jerry: (607)648-2941, GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com

The NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter (SOT) includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego Counties. SOT sponsors several workshops and woodswalks each year, usually in cooperation with county CCE associations. SOT publishes a Fall, Winter and Spring Newsletter to announce programs and other educational information for members.

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WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER
Annual Pot Luck Dinner January 26th
Program: "Feral Swine"