

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

WESTERN FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

January 2007

Happy New Year!

Volume 21, Number 1

First Annual Dinner and Chapter Meeting A Great Success

We want to **Thank** those who were able to attend our **First Annual Dinner and Chapter Meeting** on November 15, 2006, at the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Building auditorium, in Rochester. It was a great success, 71 members, family, and friends attended. The meeting began with a social hour and catered dinner/buffet. Dinner was



interrupted often to announce door prize winners. We want to thank those who donated the many door prizes which were handed out. After dinner a short Chapter Business meeting was conducted by Chair, Tony Ross. Tony read the Treasurer's Report, thanked members for their contributions, listed our accomplishments this past year and



reported that our Chapter membership is one of the largest and most active in the state. Following the dinner and chapter meeting Keith Maynard, Program Director, introduced our speaker, Dr. Paul D. Curtis, Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist with the



Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University.



The topic was Coyotes in the Suburbs: Debunking the Coydog Myth. Dr. Curtis, a nationally recognized expert on coyotes, made an excellent, enthusiastic, presentation. The combination of a top quality dinner, a large selection of door prizes and an excellent speaker made our First Annual Dinner Meeting very successful.



Below is a listing of donated door prizes, who donated the prize and who the lucky recipients were. Again we want to thank those who donated the door prizes; it was a fun activity and appreciated by all.

Door Prize	Donated By	Received By
Two Pillow Set	Pat Dieter	Ray Seppeler
Bottle of Wine	Dan Dennison	Dick Fitts
Bottle of Wine	Dan Dennison	Bill Bernatovich
Screen House Canopy	Dan Dennison	Richard Starr
\$25 "Just Me Art, Inc. Gift Certificate	Carol Culhane	Melody Remillard
Husqavarna Hard Hat	Bill Lindloff's Pro Cuts	Eloise Wendt
Hard Hat	Tree Farm	Pam Masterson
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Trish Lambiase
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Steval Parkinson
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Tamara Casey
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Dale Schaefer
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Jeff Swanson
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Jim Casey
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Erna Seppeler
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Tom Witt
10 Posted Signs	Voss Signs	Sue Keister
Handmade Wooden Stool	Walt Schuardt	Dr. Curtis
Golf Balls	Walt Schuardt	Dave Swanson
NYFOA Gift Bag (Hat, can holder, sign)	Bill Barton	M. Seager
NYFOA Gift Bag (Hat, can holder, sign)	Bill Barton	Keith Maynard
NYFOA Sweatshirt	Bill Barton	Craig Dennison
Sugar Bush Hollow 1 Qt Maple Syrup	Chuck Winship	Dick Dennison
Tree Farm Cook Book	Jack Hamilton	Carol Krebs
Tree Farm Note Book	Tree Farm	Don Wendt
Tree Farm Small Note Book	Tree Farm	Ginny Damann
Gift Certificate	Leif's Sales & Service	Goldee Heayt-Meyer
4 Tree Tubes	WFL Chapter	William M. Barton
4 Tree Tubes	WFL Chapter	John Quick
4 Tree Tubes	WFL Chapter	Vance O'Donnell
4 Tree Tubes	WFL Chapter	Rick Damann
4 Tree Tubes	WFL Chapter	Jerry Culhane
Cider	Geff Yancey	Not recorder
Chain File Gauge	Bill Lindloff's Pro Cuts	Marleen Starr
Chain File	Bill Lindloff's Pro Cuts	Ron Mathes

*Please excuse any misspellings I did my best from notes provided.

WFL Chapter Meetings and Coming Events

- WFL Chapter Board of Directors Meeting - The next WFL Chapter Board of Directors meeting will be held March 7th and will start at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the DEC A-frame in Avon at 6274 East Avon-Lima Road (Routes 5 & 20 - a few miles east of I-390). General meeting March 14, 2007, Monroe County Cooperative Extension Building at 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester NY.

- ❖ **Winter Program Schedule** - The Monroe County Cooperative Extension Building at 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester NY has already been reserved for the Winter programs, so mark your calendars as follows: March 14, 2007 and November 14, 2007. The programs usually begin at 7:30 and end around 9:00. Look for program descriptions in upcoming newsletters.

March 14, 2007 – "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLIE CHESTNUT" - THE PRESENTATION AT OUR MARCH 14, 2007 GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ABOUT AMERICAN CHESTNUTS. OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE HERB DARLING, WHO IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION. HIS PRESENTATION IS TITLED "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLIE CHESTNUT". HE WILL INCLUDE A SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION AND DISCUSS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT VARIOUS TOPICS CONCERNING CHESTNUTS. INCLUDED WILL BE EXPLANATIONS OF THE GENE TRANSFER PROGRAM AT THE SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY AND THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION BACK CROSS PROGRAM, WHICH INVOLVES CROSSING AMERICAN AND CHINESE CHESTNUTS. JOIN US AT THE MONROE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUILDING, THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM.

Spring Woods Walk - April 14, 2007

Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk, April 14, 2007, 11 am to 2 pm - This will be the 5th Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow in East Springwater N.Y. We have made changes in our operation since last year. Cornell has set up an experiment in a new woods of ours comparing a control plot with a plot that was thinned 20% and another plot that was thinned 40%. We are measuring sap quantity and sugar content as a result of the two treatments. You can also see the results 5 years after a commercial harvest and a post harvest TSI activities on a sugar maple, black cherry and oak forest. Various forest speakers will be on hand to discuss their areas of expertise. If time permits we will visit our 6 acre planting of sugar maples and black cherry. We will serve pancakes for lunch with fresh syrup. We hope to see you again this year. For more information contact Chuck Winship at (585) 943-3475 or cew9@cornell.edu.


Directions to Sugarbush Hollow Sugar House:


- * From the north or east take New York State Route #21 south through Naples, New York. Go one mile past North Cohocton, New York staying on Route 21. Turn Right on to County Route 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn Left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.
 - * From the west, south or south east take New York State Route 21 north from Interstate 86 (Route 17) through Wayland, New York. About 6 miles past Wayland turn left onto County Road 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn Left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.
- ❖ **May 9, 2007** - Mark your calendars for the Spring Program to be held at the United Church of Christ, on Route 20 A, 17 East Main Street in Honeoye, New York. Program to be announced in the April newsletter.

Calendar of Other Events

- ❖ **January 20: Western New York Maple School and Trade Show**, Letchworth Central School in Gainesville, NY, If you have questions please call Lutie Batt at (585) 786-2251 or e-mail her at lcb37@cornell.edu
- ❖ **January 26 – 27: 2007 Winter Convention Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York**, Turning Stone Convention Center Verona, NY, For information visit <http://www.christmastreesny.org>
- ❖ **March 3, 2007 - Rural Landowner Workshop**: Planning has begun for the next Rural Landowners Workshop. Set aside the date of March 3, 2007 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and plan for a great learning experience. Tentative topics on the agenda include: Beginner's Guide to Managing Woodlots for Firewood, Forest Management Planning is as simple as a vacation, Grassland Management for Song Birds, Managing for Biodiversity in Western New York, Quality Deer Management, Managing Woodlots for Multiple Use, Chainsaw Safety, Storm Damage, Establishing


Trails/Roadways, Financial Strategies, NY Comprehensive Wildlife Strategies, Woody Biomass, Invasive Pest/Diseases, Safety for Woodlands, Coyotes, Pruning Apple Trees for Wildlife, Wood Stoves, Ginseng/Mushrooms, and Understory ID/edible plants. To get a copy of the agenda and registration form, visit the extension website at http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/allegany_cattaraugus/ where the agenda will be added soon, contact 1-800-897-9189 after January 19, 2007 or visit the NYFOA website at www.nyfoa.org. Registrations are due by February 16, 2007.


 **March 17-18 & 24-25: Maple Weekend 2007** - Many producers and community organizations are offering pancake breakfasts during Maple Weekend and at other times during the month of March. The New York State Maple Producers Association is comprised of almost 500 of the finest syrup makers in North America. The purpose of the Association is to increase the production of New York State maple syrup and enhance its sale throughout the world. The New York Maple Producers Association serves maple producers through educational programs and by providing a unified voice for the industry. For more information, schedule and location of events visit their website at <http://www.nysmaple.com>.

 **March 27, 2007 - Central & Western New York Stormwater Conference & Trade Show, WNY Stormwater Coalition:** Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, 153 Franklin Street, Buffalo New York. Essential information on New York's Phase II Stormwater Program, Special session –Stormwater 101 – for Municipal Officials, Innovative compliance and funding strategies for municipalities, Construction activities track, including the Phase II construction permit, The latest in Stormwater technology, design & equipment. **Who should attend? municipal officials, municipal staff, agencies, engineers, contractors, consultants and the public.** For information, contact Mary Rossi or Bonnie Lawrence at 716-858-6370, or e-mail to: rossim@erie.gov or lawrencb@erie.gov.





Announcements

 **Soil Surveys Available on the Web:** Have you ever wondered what type of soil is found under your farm, forest, or feet? The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has made soil survey information available to the general public through their Web Soil Survey (WSS) website. Access to the soil survey information is provided through maps. All of the text and tables relate directly to the map symbols and the areas delineated on the maps. You can view your area of interest, generate a custom report of the acres of each soil type in the area, and explore all of the associated descriptions of each soil type such as prime farmland, engineering properties, and many more reports. You can also download data for use in GIS and other appropriate software. To use the site there are three basic steps that make WSS a simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data. First, you use the Area of Interest tab to define the area you are interested in. You can define an area by zooming in on a map and drawing a box around your area or by selecting from a choice list. You must complete this step before you can go on to the next two steps. Next, click on the Soil Map tab to view and print a map of the soils in your area. Third, click on the Soil Data Explorer tab to access soil data for your area. You can determine the suitability of the soils in your area for a particular use. The URL of the Web Soil Survey is <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. People that don't have internet access or persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of soil survey information should contact NRCS at the USDA Service Center that services the county of interest.

 **Reauthorization of the 2007 Federal Farm Bill:** In 2007 Congress must reauthorize the federal Farm Bill. In advance of that effort, The New York (NY) State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, hosted a Farm Bill Forestry Forum. The group developed consensus on the critical importance of re-authorizing the federal Farm Bill to include a strong Forestry Section, administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with the states. A set of principles, reached by consensus by participants and invitees to the Farm Bill Forum hosted by the Division of Lands and Forests can be found at Division of Lands and Forests 2007 Federal Farm Bill Home Page <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/farmbill/index.html>

Web-Based Farm Bill Feedback Form - Launch of a web-based farm bill feedback form on the House Committee on Agriculture website. The web-based form allows producers throughout the nation to provide the Committee with feedback about current farm policy as well as input about the future of farm policy. The form can be accessed at <http://www.agriculture.house.gov> and clicking on the Farm Bill Feedback icon.

 **Timber Theft Survey – Participation Sought** - Despite new legislation in 2003, timber theft remains a problem in New York State. Several organizations are partnering to better understand the specifics of timber theft cases. Findings will be useful to the partners and their members as well as other groups supporting sustainable forest management. **If you know of illegal timber harvesting incidents in New York State would you please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey. A copy of the survey can be found at www.esfpa.org.** Organizations partnering on this survey include New York Society of American Foresters, Audubon New York, New York Forest Owners Association, Catskill Forest Association, Watershed Agricultural Council, Catskill Landowners Association, T.H.R.I.F.T., Adirondack Landowners Association, New York State Institute of Consulting Foresters, New York State Timber Producers, Empire State Forest Products Association, Northeastern Loggers Association, New York Tree Farm System, Farm Bureau, Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Cooperating organizations will receive a copy of the report. Survey results will begin to be compiled at the end of January 2007. Thus, they will greatly appreciate your prompt response. **Further information can be obtained from Dr. Hugh Canham (SUNY ESF, Professor Emeritus) at: hocanham@esf.edu or (315) 457-4972 or Ron Pedersen at (518) 785-6061 who are serving as contacts for the partnering groups and who will be responsible for compiling results.**

 **WILD TURKEY STUDIES, DEC BEGINS SECOND SEASON OF WILD TURKEY STUDIES** - Banding and Winter Flock Surveys to Begin in January Landowners Invited to Participate: ALBANY, NY -- (12/19/2006; 1110)(EIS) - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan today announced that DEC is preparing for the second field season of two large-scale wild turkey research projects. The first project is a turkey banding program, being done in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, researchers from Pennsylvania State University, and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). The second project is a statewide winter flock survey. These studies will provide information that DEC biologists need to help guide future management efforts for this popular game bird. The banding program will begin in January, when DEC staff and cooperators from NWTf will launch a statewide effort to capture wild turkeys and fit them with metal leg bands bearing a toll-free phone number for reporting. The objective of the banding study is to examine hunter harvest rates, turkey survival rates, and harvest reporting rates across the State. Banding will be done on public and private lands in DEC Regions 3 through 9, from January through March. Last year's banding effort was highly successful, as staff banded a total of 296 gobblers (males) and 350 hens (females). Seventy-nine (27%) of the banded gobblers were reported shot by hunters during the spring 2006 hunting season, and another 6 (2%) were reported shot during the fall 2006 season. Most birds were harvested within five miles of where they were banded, but 3 birds had moved at least 20 miles from where they were banded. DEC will also continue collecting data on winter turkey flocks across the state to assess feasibility of a long-term population monitoring program. DEC hopes to identify several locations in every county of New York where turkeys can be counted each winter to monitor population changes. Last winter, observers documented a total of 570 flocks throughout New York State, including several recently established flocks on Long Island. In preparation for both studies, DEC is asking landowners, hunters, bird watchers or others to report winter turkey flock locations anywhere in New York State. Observations of turkey flocks (even a few birds) during mid-December through March can be reported to the project coordinator for a particular DEC region (see attached list for regional contacts). In addition, DEC is looking for landowners who will allow birds to be trapped, banded, and released on their land. Turkeys will be trapped and banded and will immediately be released at the same location. No relocation of the birds will occur. The Department sincerely thanks all of the cooperating landowners who actively participated in the turkey banding project or provided reports of wild turkey flocks last winter. For more information on either project, please feel free to contact the project coordinator for your region or contact DEC by e-mail at fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Please write "Turkey Study" in the subject line. Interested landowners should contact the project coordinator for their region listed below:

DEC Region- Project Coordinator- Counties:

7- Lance Clark, (607) 753-3095, 1285 Fisher Ave., Cortland, NY 13045- Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins

8- Scott Smith, (607) 776-2165x16, 7291 Coon Rd., Bath, NY 14810- Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates

9- Connie Adams, (716) 851-7010, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203- Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming



COOPERATIVE FORESTRY TECHNOLOGY UPDATE
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region
Management Bulletin R8-MB 128 December 2006

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2006 Tax Year

by Linda Wang, Forest Taxation Specialist and John L. Greene, Research Forester, Southern Research Station

This bulletin summarizes key federal income tax provisions related to owning and managing forest land. It is current as of December 1, 2006, and supercedes Management Bulletin R8- MB 126. But it is only an introduction. Consult the references for more complete information on the topics, and consult your tax and legal advisers for advice on your particular tax situation.

Basis and Record-keeping: Basis is a measure of your investment in timber and forest land. The total cost of acquiring purchased forest land should be allocated proportionately among capital accounts for the land itself, the timber and other capital assets associated with them. The fair market value of inherited forest land should be allocated similarly (the fair market value of inherited property is usually higher than the decedent's basis in it, resulting in a **step-up** in basis). The best time to determine and allocate basis is immediately after you acquire forest land, although a forester can help you determine the basis of timber and forest land that you have held for several years. Adjust your basis up for new purchases or investments, and down for sales or other disposals. (See Timber Sales and Timber Losses.) Good records include a written management plan, which should include a statement that you are growing timber for profit and a map of your forest land. Keep a copy of every tax return that you file. Keep records that support current deductions for six years beyond the date the return was due. Keep records that support capital accounts for six years beyond the period of ownership.

Reforestation Tax Incentives: For 2006, you can deduct outright the first \$10,000 of qualifying reforestation expenses that you incur and amortize all additional amounts over 84 months. (Due to an accounting convention, it takes 8 tax years to recover the amortizable amount.) For example, say you spent \$14,000 to reforest a tract in 2006. You can claim a \$10,000 reforestation deduction on your 2006 tax return. In addition, you can amortize the remaining \$4,000 over eight tax years: deduct $\$4,000 \div 14 = \287 on your 2006 return, $\$4,000 \div 7 = \571 on your returns for 2007 through 2012 and the final $\$4,000 \div 14 = \287 on your return for 2013. The reforestation provisions apply to both the cost of establishing a plantation and practices to encourage natural regeneration. They also apply to reforestation expenses reimbursed under an approved cost-share program (see Cost-share Payments below) *if* you include the payment in your gross income. To qualify, the reforested tract must be at least one acre in size, located in the U.S. and held to produce commercial timber products. Individual taxpayers, estates, partnerships and corporations are eligible for both the deduction and amortization provisions. Trusts are not eligible for the deduction, but they can amortize.

Cost-share Payments: If you receive a cost-share payment from a federal or state conservation program, you *must* report it. But if the program qualifies for exclusion, you can choose either to include the payment in your gross income and make full use of beneficial tax provisions or to calculate and exclude the excludable amount. Federal cost-share programs that qualify for exclusion include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cost-share payments only, *not* annual rent or incentive payments, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Several states also have costshare programs that qualify for exclusion. The excludable amount of a qualifying cost-share payment is the present value of the greater of \$2.50 times the number of affected acres or 10 percent of the average annual income from the affected acres over the last three years. Calculating the excludable amount is a four-step process: (1) Multiply \$2.50 times the number of acres treated. (2) Calculate 10 percent of the average annual income from the treated acres over the last three years. (3) Calculate the present value of the right to receive annual payments equal to the larger number from steps 1 and 2 (that is, divide it by a rate of interest such as the average annual rate charged by the Farm Credit Bank in your region). (4) Compare the number from step 3 with the cost-share payment – the smaller of the two is the excludable amount. If you have harvested the treated area within the last three years, it is likely the entire amount of a qualifying cost-share payment will be excludable; if not, it is likely only part of the payment will be excludable. The only way to determine whether it benefits you more to include a qualifying cost-share payment in your gross income or to exclude the excludable amount is to figure your tax both ways.

Timber Management Expenses: Generally, you can choose either to deduct the annual expenses for maintaining and managing your timber or capitalize them. In most cases you are better off to deduct management expenses on your return for the tax year they are incurred. The passive loss rules determine what expenses you can deduct and where you take the deduction. If you hold your forest as part of a trade or business and qualify as a material participant in its management, deduct management expenses – including property taxes and interest on indebtedness – on Form 1040 Schedule C against income from any source. If you hold your forest as part of a trade or business but don't meet any of the tests for material participation; deduct management expenses, property tax and interest expenses on Form 8582. They are deductible only to the extent that their combined total does not exceed your income from passive activities for the year, although any unused amount can be carried forward to future years. If you are an investor, deduct management expenses on Form 1040 Schedule A as "miscellaneous itemized deductions." They are combined with other such deductions and only the amount that exceeds 2 percent of your adjusted gross income is actually deducted. An investor can, however, deduct property taxes against income from any source, and interest on indebtedness to the extent of net investment income. If it is not to your advantage to itemize deductions, you can capitalize them. You cannot, however, capitalize expenses in any year your property is productive. Forest land is productive in any year that it produces income, including income from a hunting lease or other non-timber source.

Timber Sales: Under current law, when you sell standing timber either lump-sum or on a pay-as-cut basis the net proceeds generally qualify as a long-term capital gain, provided you have met the 12-month holding requirement. Another way to dispose of timber is to sell cut products directly to a mill (section 631(a) transaction). This transaction yields both a capital gain and ordinary income. Income that results from holding the standing timber is a capital gain – just as if you had sold it to yourself – and income that results from converting the timber and transporting it to the mill is ordinary income. By law, the fair market value of the standing timber is its value on the first day of your tax year, and you must specifically elect to have the income resulting from holding the standing timber treated as a capital gain on an original, timely-filed return. When you sell or dispose of timber you can take a *depletion deduction* against the gross sale proceeds. To compute this deduction: (total basis in your timber account ÷ total volume just before the sale) x number of units sold. Generally, you are required to file a Form T in years that you claim a timber depletion deduction, make a Section 631(a) election or sell timber outright under section 631(b). You can also use Form T in years that you have acquisitions, profits or losses from timber sales, reforestation and silvicultural activities or changes in land ownership.

Timber Losses: You can only take a deduction for losses that are physical in nature and caused by an event or combination of events that has run its course. A *casualty loss* is caused by natural or outside forces and must be sudden, unexpected and unusual. This includes fires, floods, ice storms and tornadoes. It generally does not include maladies like disease, drought or insect infestation; although these may qualify as a *non-casualty loss*. It is important to note that your deduction for a casualty or non-casualty loss is limited to your timber basis, minus any insurance or other compensation. To calculate a casualty loss deduction, first determine your basis in the “block” on which the loss occurred. If you keep track of the basis of all your timber in one account, use the total amount in the account. Next, determine the difference in the fair market value of the block immediately before and immediately after the loss. (The after figure should include the value of any salvageable timber in the block.) Your deduction is the lesser of your basis in the block or the decrease in fair market value.

Hurricane Relief Provisions: In response to the devastation from the hurricanes of 2005, Congress extended three agricultural disaster recovery programs to forest land in certain counties/parishes in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Texas and North Carolina. The programs are the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP). EWP primarily supports removal of downed timber and construction of firebreaks; contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office to learn about program requirements and availability of funds. ECP and EFCRP primarily support removal of timber debris, restoration and replanting. Contact your local Farm Services Agency office to learn about program requirements and availability of funds. Cost-share payments from all three programs are approved for exclusion from gross income. Congress also passed separate laws establishing Gulf Opportunity (GO) Zones for counties/parishes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Katrina and for counties/parishes in Louisiana, Texas and Florida affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma. Included in the provisions for all three GO Zones are an increase in the reforestation deduction and enhanced provisions for deducting net operating losses. Included in the provisions for the Katrina GO Zone are four items for material participants in a trade or business that can benefit qualifying forest owners: an increase in the replacement period for property lost in an involuntary conversion, a depreciation bonus for qualifying property, an increased section 179 deduction and enhanced carry back provisions for net operating losses. See the Go Zone Guide website, www.gozoneguide.com for details.

Reference: Haney, H. L., Jr.; Hoover, W. L.; Siegel, W. C.; and Greene, J. L. 2001. Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax. Agric. Handb. 718. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The above handbook is available for sale from the U.S. Government Bookstore at 404-347-1900. The price is \$20.00 per copy. Major credit cards are accepted.)

USDA Forest Service Websites: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop and www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/taxation,

National Timber Tax Website: www.timbertax.org,

IRS Website: www.irs.gov






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The material above is provided as a link to information sources only. As always, consult with a tax professional when preparing to file your tax returns.





Some Interesting and Maybe Helpful Websites

-  **BufferNotes, Forestry Notes Available Online**, Have you seen this month's issues of BufferNotes and Forestry Notes? Forestry Notes provides updates on appropriations, discusses the pressures of Wall Street on our nation's forests and describes the history and changes in urban and community forestry. It is available online at <http://forestry.nacdnet.org/forestrynotes/>.
-  **The New York Institute of Consulting Foresters** is an organization of professional consulting foresters who practice in New York State. The Institute was founded in 1978 to provide continuing education to its members, interface with the Department of Environmental Conservation on behalf of all consulting foresters in New York, and to offer an outreach program to the forest land owners in the state. Please take the time to browse through our web site and associated links. If you are looking for a professional forester, go to our members' page. No matter where your property is located in the state you will find a qualified member nearby. www.yourforester.org
-  **Empire States Forest Products Association**, Members include forest landowners, timber harvesters, furniture companies, lumber manufacturers, pulp and paper companies, and other wood product manufacturers from across New York State. Members own and manage 1.2 million acres of New York forests and employ over one-third of the 65,000 individuals employed in the forest products industry in New York State. www.esfpa.org
-  **USDA National Agroforestry Center**, The USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) had its origins in the 1990 Farm Bill. It began as a Forest Service Research and State & Private Forestry effort in 1992 and expanded into a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1995. NAC accelerates the application of agroforestry through a national network of partners. Together, we conduct research, develop technologies and tools, coordinate demonstrations and training, and provide useful information to natural resource professionals. <http://www.unl.edu/nac>
-  **Tax Information**, The NYS Office of Real Property Services web site contains a wealth of Information regarding agricultural related property tax issues and the farmer's school tax credit, including "frequently asked questions" sections: www.orps.state.ny.us. **Information regarding income or sales taxes contact:** NYS Department of Taxation and Finance www.tax.state.ny.us.

Welcome New Members

Allan & Pauline Anderson	Rochester		Ed Jackson	Honeoye
Douglas Bernhard	Springwater		James Kinsman	Farmington
Dolores & Harry Bostley	Hilton		Trish & Paul Lambiase	Naples
Tony Christopher	Holley		Steve Lippold	Bergen
Rick & Ginny Damann	Canandaigua		Glenn Mattison	Hilton
Craig Dennison	Pittsford		Don Miller	Rushville
Tom & Lorraine Power	Rushville		David Shafer	Corning
Donald & Eloise Wendt	Macedon			



Tree Tubes available from WFL
Contact Ron Reitz at 585-367-2847

Tree Tube Description	Member Price	Non-member Price
4' without stakes	\$3.00	\$3.50
5' without stakes	\$3.50	\$4.00
4' with stakes	\$3.50	\$4.00
5' with stakes	\$4.00	\$4.50

Also available – slightly used 4' without stakes @ \$1.75 apiece.

Closing Comments

Please consider donating your time and talents in assisting the WFL Chapter with its many activities. Any assistance you could give to the Chapter would be greatly appreciated.



Some current vacant positions and/or openings include:

- *Outdoor Activities Coordinator
- *Publicity Director
- *Membership Director
- *We still need a Chair – Tony Ross is currently acting Chair.

Final Note: If you have a news item, announcements, stories, or any other information you would like to add to the Chapter Newsletter please send them to me. The next Newsletter will be out mid-April, so I would need the information by or before April 1st.

If you wish to submit a letter for entry into the newsletter, please send it to the Chairperson for consideration by the Board of Directors.

There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest
clothed to its very hollows in snow.

It is the still ecstasy of nature, wherein every spray, every blade of grass,
every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance.

William Sharp



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The NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION *NEWSLETTER* is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4-5 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the boys and girls of today. For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York FOREST OWNER*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the *NEWSLETTER*. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Robert Remillard at the address below. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

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