

## Forestry Awareness Day

The Council of Forest Resource Organizations (CFRO) is a consortium of organizations interested in New York's forests: it includes NYFOA, the Empire State Forest Products Association, professional foresters, logging and lumber companies, and similar organizations. Each year the CFRO organizes Forestry Awareness Day, an event at the state capitol in Albany designed to bring forestry issues to the attention of state lawmakers. Members of any of the CFRO organizations are welcome to participate; I attended Forestry Awareness Day for the first time this year.

Forestry Awareness Day has several components. The various organizations set up displays in a section of the legislative office building. Much like a fair or other type of event with pedestrian traffic, these displays offer passers-by an overview of each organization and its activities. Then there are seminars for the CFRO

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## Sugar Bush Hollow

One of our more popular events is an April visit to Sugar Bush Hollow. When 10 of us showed up on April 12<sup>th</sup> Chuck and Pam were taken by surprise as they expected us April 19<sup>th</sup>. Imagine a gang of folks showing up for lunch a week before you expect them!



Photo by Richard Starr

*Sugar Bush Hollow.*

However, their recovery was seamless and smooth and a lively round table discussion followed on a variety of topics. Chuck feels weather and climate plus soils have a lot to do with maple syrup quality. He believes our deep glacial soils provide a better tasting syrup than the thinner soils found on hard rock where trees struggle more to survive and flourish. In fact, there's an effort to replace the light amber, medium amber and dark amber grading system and go to one based on taste and bouquet. Yes, just like the wine producers. Imagine swirling a tumbler of fresh syrup and sniffing the bouquet before sipping the golden nectar. Yum.

Like everything else, the cost of syrup is up. Fuel oil costs are higher, of course, but so is the value of the Canadian dollar. Quebec produces 80% of all syrup so the weaker U.S. dollar must kick in a little more to make up the difference. There are probably folks who understand world economics but this writer is not among them. For me, syrup is part of the food pyramid base and is worth whatever it takes to sniff the bouquet before sampling the nectar. Yum.

We then walked to a 3 year old sugar maple and cherry plantation.

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## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Woods Walk

**Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM**

Ed and Wanda Piestrack will be hosting a NYFOA Woods Walk and regional MFO refresher workshop at their NY residence in Lindley, NY (Steuben Co.) I hope to see many of you there!

**9:30** Welcome and updates. Ed and Wanda Piestrack and Gary Goff

**10:00** Federal Cost Share Assistance Available to Forest Owners. Jennifer Coleson, Dist. Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bath

**10:30** State Wildlife Grant Habitat Initiative and the roles of MFOs and NYFOA. Jenny Landry, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist, Avon

**11:15** Break

**11:30** Status of Forest Invasive Plants and Insects. Greg Muller, NYSDEC Forester, Bath

**12:00** Lunch provided by Ed and Wanda

**12:45** Wagon Tour of several management sites, including:

Bobcat feller-buncher, whole-tree de-limber, and grapple skidder operating in a hemlock stand

Northern hardwood re-establishment in a high-graded hemlock stand

*Continued on next page.*

### Game of Logging

**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Our chapter will sponsor a level 1 GOL session in Springwater. The cost to WFL members is \$55, other chapter members of NYFOA pay \$110 while non NYFOA members will be asked for \$135. Enrollment is limited to 10 and it's a first come first served system so send your check to Ron Reitz (address on back page) not later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. Specific info will be mailed to participants in mid to late August.

GOL was developed in the 1960s by Swedish logger Soren Eriksson. He was concerned about unsafe practices he saw in the woods and wanted to develop a better approach. GOL is recognized world wide as a premier training curriculum for safely dealing with chain saws and felling trees.

GOL is an all day session requiring participants to have a chainsaw and safety equipment including head, eye, ear and leg protection. It's a "game" because points are assigned to various phases in the process of felling a tree that allow one to focus on and measure progress. All participants will cut down a tree under the supervision of instructor Bill Lindloff.

Questions can be directed to the chair or vice chair listed on page 7.

### 'Forester For a Day' Thinning Workshop

**Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM**

Foresters will provide education for the group on stocking levels, basal area, inventory methods, use of a prism, thinning methods and decisions on what trees to leave or take. After a short instruction session given by DEC foresters and private forestry consultants, attendees will be divided into small groups to conduct an inventory, develop a thinning prescription and mark trees for removal. The marked trees will then be cut during lunch and the groups will return to the woodlot to see their handy work.

Registration for this workshop will be limited to 25 people. Arrive around 9AM as the program will start at 9:30 sharp and go until mid-afternoon. This event is rain or shine so dress for the weather. A simple lunch and morning refreshments will be provided. Register with Mark Gooding, DEC Forestry at 6274 East-Avon Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414. For more information call Mark at 585-226-5466.

**Where:** 3M Hunt Club (Joe Kilburys') in Cohocton, NY

**Directions:** from I-390 take exit 2 – Cohocton; go west on County Route 121; turn left on Lake Hollow Road; turn right onto Oil Well Hollow Road; down the road a ways the hunt club will be on your right. NYFOA signs will be placed along the way to guide you.

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Woodswalk at Genesee County Park

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM to noon**

Removing undesirable species from your woodlot is a tremendous challenge. Mechanical removal of invasive species such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose require a great deal of work with little prospect of success. Chemical treatments can be much more economical and effective but can also have detrimental effects on desirable vegetation and water quality.

Flame weeding is an experimental technique that might provide a compromise between the labor intensity of mechanical harvesting and the side effects of chemical control. Peter Smallidge, New York State Extension Forester, has been conducting several research projects at the Genesee County Park. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we will have a woodswalk there to learn about these projects and see some of the results. The projects involve testing flame-weeding and targeted herbicide techniques to reduce undesirable vegetation in a woodlot. Dr. Smallidge and Genesee County Park Supervisor/Forester Paul Osborn will describe the techniques they have been studying, the results they have seen so far, and how these techniques might be applied to other woodlots. Dr. Smallidge will have a flame torch (and a back pack water tank) available for people to try.

Genesee County Park is in Bethany, just south of Batavia. We will meet at the interpretive center for an initial discussion and demonstration of flame weeding, then move to the demonstration plots. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

**Address:** 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany, NY 14054

**From the Thruway:** Take exit 48 off Thruway. After exiting toll turn left onto Route 98 South and travel .9 miles. Turn left onto Routes 5&63 (West Main Street) and travel .2 miles. At monument turn right onto Route 63 East (Ellicott Street) and continue to follow Route 63 East for 3.7 miles. Turn Right onto Bethany Center Road and continue for 5.7 miles. Turn left into Park entrance onto Memory Lane and continue to the Interpretive Center.

**From the West:** Take Route 20 East. Turn left onto Old Telephone Road and then right onto Bethany Center Road. Turn left into the Park entrance onto Memory Lane and continue to the Interpretive Center.

**From the East:** Take Route 20 West. Turn right onto Old Telephone Road and then left onto Bethany Center Road. Turn left into the Park entrance onto Memory Lane and continue to the Interpretive Center.

For more information: contact Mike Seager at (585) 414 6511 or [seager\\_michael@yahoo.com](mailto:seager_michael@yahoo.com)

### Woods Walk

*Continued from previous page.*

2-acre deer enclosure  
wildlife ponds  
various newly established plantations

Bruce Robinson, Private Consultant Forester, will conduct tour through logging area.

#### **3:30 Adjourn**

Please register with Ed at 607-205-0350 (cell), Wanda at 607-205-0349 (cell) or 570-735-7647 by Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

ALSO, please bring chairs for the morning session!

#### **Directions:**

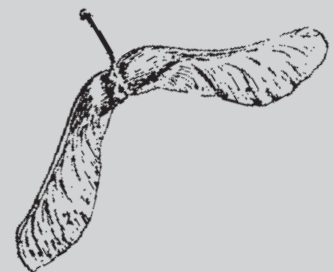
From Painted Post on Interstate 86/17 take Exit 44A onto NYS Route 15 South.

Go 11.6 miles through Lindley and turn right onto Watson Creek Road

Go about 1/4 mile

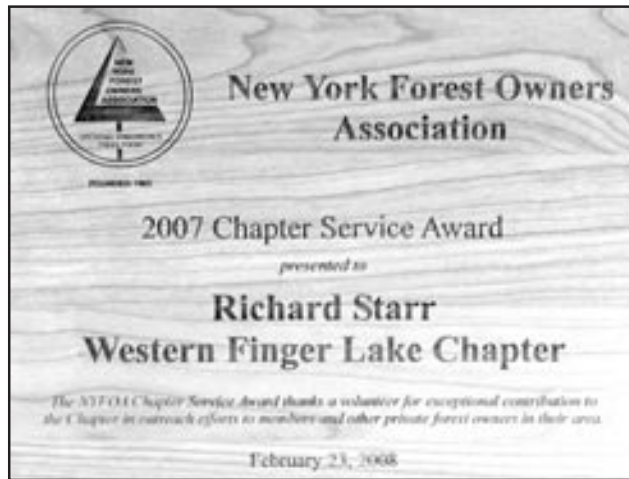
Look for 2-story house on right, with split-rail fence and MFO sign.

Call the cell number day of event if needed.



# Service Award

I was honored to receive the WFL Service Award this spring. The recipient gets a gorgeous red oak plaque. The back states it's a product of Maple Landmark Woodcraft but I'm holding out for red oak. The selection is made by the chapter Board of Directors.



Now that I've actually seen the Service Award plaque, I'd like to encourage others to try and get one. Apparently it's rather easy to do so. Attend some board meetings and help out at a few functions and the next thing you know, you get a "Wall Hanger." Thanks.

*Dick Starr  
Chairman*

## Welcome New Members

Gerald P. Ayers  
*Linwood, NY*

Lois & Clark Bono  
*Humphrey, NY*

Thomas Dunn  
*Springwater, NY*

Vince Falbo  
*Webster, NY*

Frank Gendreau  
*Dansville, NY*

Jon & Catherine Joseph  
*Bloomfield, NY*

Gary Kochersberger  
*Canandaigua, NY*

Steve & Judy Love  
*Webster, NY*

Peter Ross  
*Ontario, NY*

Antonio Spano  
*Fairport, NY*

Mr. and Mrs. Staub  
*Canadaigua, NY*

Betsy & Joe Urban  
*Naples, NY*

Dave Wiener  
*Fairport, NY*

## Ponds

On May 7<sup>th</sup> WFL heard Bob Fahy, owner of Upstate Applications, Inc. discuss pond maintenance strategies. Essentially this means, what to do with the pesky weeds? The bulk of our problems are from invasive weeds and our own activities that add nutrients to the water. NYS has a tough standard before chemical treatments can be added to a water body to control weeds.

If a pond is less than 1 acre, privately owned, and does not have an over flow, a permit from DEC is not needed. A permit is needed before applying chemical controls if any of the three conditions are not met.

Mr. Fahy stated that fewer freezing days in winter can allow some pond weeds to proliferate. Algae growth is a result of too many nutrients, probably phosphorus, in the water. During a dry summer like 2007 the lower water levels permit cattail roots to get established farther from shore. He predicts an increase of 30% in cattails this summer season.

If chemicals are not your thing, consider sterile grass carp as a biological control. They are voracious eaters of certain water vegetation and can consume up to 300% of their body weight per day. It's important not to overstock since the objective is a pond with 20%-40% plant cover, not a lake devoid of plants. If their preferred food is not available carp have the unique ability to eat terrestrial grasses, hence the name. Google Grass Carp for more info.

One interesting solution for algae is to add bales of barley straw to the water. The twine that binds the bales can cause problems and should be removed. The barley straw eventually decomposes into hydrogen peroxide which prevents algae from reproducing. It's a practical and inexpensive control good for one year.

*Dick Starr  
Chairman*

# Pacca Pockets

A day of Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) requires a lot of stuff. During the winter I've had success using a child's plastic toboggan to haul the stuff.



Photo by Richard Starr

Some Pacca Pockets.

It glides easily over the snow but one must keep an eye on the occasional escape attempt of the stuff. What a pain to go for a drink and discover the thermos is in a snow bank back at the truck. Without snow the friction factor rises rapidly and pulling a loaded sled over bare ground quickly loses its charm. What to do?

Dale Schaefer devised a carry all made of old blue jeans for his TSI stuff. It fits over his shoulders something like a poncho and carries everything but his saw. This inspired me to try something that would replace the trusty toboggan.

After studying some well worn blue jeans that had somehow shrunk too much to be comfort-

able, my daughter and I devised Pacca Pockets. It works as follows:

1) Cut off each leg about mid thigh and sew closed.

2) Remove the zipper.

3) Cut them in half from front through the crotch to rear center belt loop.

4) Sew each half closed at the #3 cut completing 2 individual pockets.

The pockets or pouches thus made still have their original belt loops as well as original front and rear pocket intact. Slip any old belt through some of the belt loops and the Pacca Pockets hang from the waist.

Each pocket is perfect for holding a 2 liter pop bottle. I use one bottle for bar oil and another for fuel. I'm not sure what effect gasoline might have on the plastic so I add fuel to the bottle

just before departure and drain it back into my larger storage container after returning home. I've never detected problems but a plastic pop bottle is not an approved container for gasoline so I like to minimize the gasoline to plastic contact time.

I wear 3 Pacca Pockets suspended from my waist and usually have room to spare after packing in my stuff. What I no longer remember is why those old shrunken blue jeans had 3 legs to begin with.

Why are they called Pacca Pockets? My grandchildren call me Pacca, also spelled Pockaa, and after the sewing was complete some eager little fingers wielding crayons gave the pockets a decorative touch.

*Dick Starr  
Chairman*

## Help Out at Empire Farm and Field Days

**August 5-7, Seneca Falls**

Dale Schaefer works at the NYFOA booth every year and could really use a little help. This is a great opportunity get involved with NYFOA, meet other forest owners, and enjoy Empire Farm and Field Days. If you'd like to help out, give Dale a call at (585) 367-2849. He'd be very happy to hear from you!

For more info visit:  
[www.empirefarmdays.com](http://www.empirefarmdays.com)

## Sugar Bush Hollow

*Continued from cover.*

Most of the cherries are already poking out of their 5 foot tree tubes. Chuck planted them on 30 foot centers in alternating rows to approximate the spacing of a mature forest. His hope is the faster growing cherries will stimulate the maples to compete – a friendly “tree race.” In 50 years the cherry can be logged leaving a sugar maple stand. Chuck admits he may not actually hold the chain saw come harvest time. It was too early in the season for the planned wild flower hunt. And then adjournment to the sugar house for pancakes and “you know what.”

Chuck had one of his largest crops ever this spring. He credits the weather and the commercial thinning he did shortly after purchasing the 220 acre farm. A released tree grows a larger crown = more leaves = more sap = more syrup. How can cutting down a tree give more syrup from the ones that remain than came from the originals? Cornell is conducting some experiments at S.B.H. to get hard data to support this position.

Upon arrival home some of us reread the spring newsletter. Guess what? The 6<sup>th</sup> annual visit to S.B.H. was scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, NOT April 12<sup>th</sup>. Oops.

*Dick Starr  
Chairman*

## Forestry Awareness Day

*Continued from cover.*

attendees; these are not related to forestry in general, but geared more toward how state government policies affect forestry.

The main activity, however, is meeting with legislators to discuss forestry issues. The organizing committee arranges for meetings with key legislators, and attendees can sign up to attend several of the meetings. Each meeting group has a designated leader, and the topics to discuss are agreed on as part of the CFRO agenda; you don't have to worry about being put on the spot or forgetting what to say, as there are others along to help carry the conversation.

The topics on the agenda this year, known as the Healthy Forests Agenda, were invasive species control; easing the burden of property taxes on rural land; rejuvenating the forest-products component of the economy; and combating global climate change. By visiting with legislators or their staffs, we tried to make them aware of the issues we face and the actions we hope they will take to support our interests. For example, we emphasized that the DEC has recently established a new office to track and combat invasive species and stated our position that this office should be funded in the next state budget. Some of the legislators were well aware of this new office; others seemed to be hearing about it for the first time.

Attending Forestry Awareness Day makes for a long day – you need to be in Albany for most of the business day, and if you make the drive from western New York just for the day it is quite tiring. But it does present a fascinating look into state government and how things get done in Albany. It also serves as a way to get acquainted with your representatives, and provides a basis for further discussion with them on these and other topics throughout the remainder of the year. There is no charge for NYFOA members to attend the event, and the more people who show up the more weight our message carries with lawmakers. Everyone should think about attending Forestry Awareness Day next spring; watch this newsletter or the NYFOA website for more information in January and February.

I can't close without mentioning that this year was an especially interesting one to have attended. Forestry Awareness Day was on March 10<sup>th</sup>, which you might remember as the day the scandal about then-governor Spitzer broke. For most of the day it was business as usual, with our members meeting with people and having good discussions and lots of other people in the building going about their business. Suddenly in the middle of the afternoon the rumors started sweeping through the building, nobody wanted to talk about anything but Spitzer, and everybody wanted to watch the news unfold on television. It certainly was difficult to interest people in forestry issues with that sort of scandal unfolding.

*Mike Seager  
Director*

# Your Ad Here?

Your WFL chapter newsletter is undergoing some renovations. In response to your suggestions in our recent member survey, and with the expertise of our new newsletter editor, you will see several changes in upcoming issues.

First and most obvious, we will begin to use some color rather than a simple black-and-white format. This will allow us to highlight certain items as well as offering a better representation of some items: think how much better the picture of an emerald ash borer in the previous issue would have looked in color. We are also using better paper, more

photography, and improving how we prepare the newsletters for mailing.

We have also decided to accept advertisements. The board of directors had a long discussion about the pros and cons of advertisements and decided to go ahead with them. We feel that advertisements will make our members aware of things of interest to them and defray some of the cost of producing the newsletter, without detracting from the content. We will allow both classified ads and commercial ads. Classifieds will be free to members; commercial ads will be paid.

Both classifieds and commercial ads should pertain to forestry-related topics that are likely to be of interest to our members. Rather than laying out rules to govern content, we are simply reserving the right of the board of directors to decide on the suitability of individual ads.

Details of format and pricing options have not been fixed yet, and will depend in part on the response we get. If you are interested in advertising your business, or if you want to buy or sell that chainsaw, contact our editor Steve Engard to work out the details of placing your ad.

*Mike Seager  
Director*

## About Us

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*Terms run January to December, except Activity Directors are September to August*

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*The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner* is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 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 an 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](http://www.nyfoa.org).

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.



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