

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2008/2009

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## Management Plans

Do you have a management plan for your woodlot? Everybody should have one. Any time you go to a seminar, talk to a forester, or read a book about woodlot management, the first recommendation is always to develop a management plan. There are lots of sources to help you develop that management plan: live and on-line speakers, books, state service foresters and private consulting foresters. There is also often government assistance with the cost of developing a management plan. A plan serves as a guide to all other activities.

Your plan should be reviewed periodically, and updated in light of changing circumstances. A stand inventory is usually part of a management plan, and over the years the age and composition of your woodlot will change; your plan should reflect those changes. Or perhaps your interests change, and you want to shift your emphasis from managing for timber production to managing for ruffed-grouse habitat.

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## Forester For a Day

Whether professionally trained or not, those who have and manage wood land are foresters to some extent. In an effort to improve management skills DEC forester Mark Gooding arranged a “Forester For a Day” workshop at the 3M Hunt Club in Cohocton on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



*Photo by Dick Starr*

*Forester For a Day at the 3M Hunt Club.*

Mark began by summarizing and explaining the techniques, terms and tools one needs to make informed and intelligent decisions in the woodlot. Is the objective a sugar bush, songbird habitat, attracting wild life, future log sale, firewood, rest and relaxation, hunting? Clearly the complexities and nuances of such questions cannot be answered in a one day workshop but participants learned much.

Then it was off to the woods where three teams were formed to inventory a section under the tutelage of a professional forester. Measurements were recorded on a tally sheet and some nifty calculations gave number of trees per acre, basal area per acre, mean stand diameter at breast height, etc. The calculations were then used with a stocking chart – a funky looking graph – to determine how our section compared with a predetermined “ideal” woods.

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## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Internet Seminars

Over a year ago the ForestConnect Forestry Internet Seminar Series was launched with a seminar on “Key Forestry Concepts and Principles”. Since that initial offering there have been monthly seminars on such topics as Harvesting Firewood, Promoting Old-Growth Characteristics, Enhancing Wildlife Diversity, Arranging Timber Sales and many others. All of these seminars are archived at ForestConnect.com and can be viewed at any time.

The series continues in 2009, with topics to be announced but the schedule remaining the same: on the third Wednesday of each month, the seminar is presented live at both noon and 7:00 pm. Participants can see a Powerpoint presentation and other graphics, hear live audio, and interact with the presenters by typing questions at their keyboard. The presentations are usually designed to last an hour, with questions at the end often running somewhat later.

Not only are these seminars topical and presented by experts in their fields, but they are free. All you need is a computer with a high speed internet connection. There are no checks to write, and no worry about

*Continued on next page.*

### Solar & Wind

**Saturday June 13, 2009**

Come join us for a visit to New York State’s only Off-grid Design and Training Center where you can see the latest Renewable Energy and Green Building technologies in use. Located atop the Bristol Hills on a 100 acre wooded expanse you will find the business of Solar and Wind FX Inc. and home of NYFOA member Chris Schaefer. No utility power lines here as Solar and Wind FX makes 100% of its electricity, courtesy of Mother Nature, through the use of solar panels and a windmill.

What you can expect to see are Green Building technologies like radiant floor heating, solar hot water, insulated concrete forms and spray foam insulation. Renewable Energy equipment to be seen include solar electric panels, wind mill, inverters, batteries, back-up generator and solar water pumping. Additional items of interest include a band sawmill being used to build a timber frame home, solar wood kiln and a strong presence of oak and rare American chestnut trees.

Chris’ home and Design Center clearly show that we are in a position to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and live cleaner and safer on Renewable Energy. Mark your calendar now with more information in the spring issue. For an advanced peek at what’s in store visit [www.solarandwindfx.com](http://www.solarandwindfx.com).

*Dick Starr*

### General Meeting

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Our general meeting will held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building at 249 Highland Avenue, in Rochester. Our featured speaker will be nature photographer Ray Minnick. Ray is a self-taught outdoor nature photographer who lives and photographs in the Genesee Valley. His photographs have appeared in and on the covers of magazines such as *Adirondack Life*, *Country Journal*, *American Forests*, *New York Conservationist*, *Genesee Country* and *American Agriculturist*. His work has also been published in travel and corporate brochures, catalogs and calendars.

Whether photographing wildflowers or whitetails, Ray’s favorite location is Letchworth State Park, and many of his best photographs have been made there. “One of the best things about nature photography is being able to share the outdoor experience with others through my slides. Hopefully, my appreciation and awareness of nature will come through in photographs”, says Ray.

Ray’s presentation, “Canyon Light” is a multimedia color slide presentation celebrating the natural wonders of the “Grand Canyon of the East,” the gorge of the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park.

*Keith Maynard*

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 10AM to 1PM

This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow in East Springwater N.Y.



Photo by Dick Starr

*Sugar Bush Hollow.*

Chuck Winship and some foresters will lead a visit to a sugar maple stand that was thinned and discuss the regeneration – both good and bad – that has taken over the understory. Chuck will also present the 2009 sugar results in stands with varying densities from a cooperative study with Cornell University. DEC Forester Mark Gooding will provide an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which is the new forestry cost-share program available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Other possible topics include mycorrhizal fungi tree interactions and fruit tree grafting and release. At the end of the tours we will serve pancakes for lunch with fresh syrup (donations are encouraged). We hope to see you again this year!

#### **Directions:**

- 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.

For more information contact Chuck Winship at (585)943 3475 or [cw9@cornell.edu](mailto:cw9@cornell.edu)

### Internet Seminars

*Continued from previous page.*

whether it will be too snowy to drive somewhere. Why would you not check these out? I have attended most of them, and watched the recordings of most of the others, and they have all been very good.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. In a testimony to the success of the ForestConnect internet seminars, Pennsylvania's Natural Resource Extension Service is launching a similar series. These seminars will be on the second Tuesday of each month, and will follow much the same format: live presentations at both noon and 7:00 pm, with archived versions available from the web site thereafter.

You have to register to participate in either series. Registration costs nothing, and generates only enough email to announce each upcoming seminar; you won't get any spam by signing up. For all the details, and to register, go to the following web sites:

ForestConnect Internet Seminar Series: [www.forestconnect.info](http://www.forestconnect.info).

Pennsylvania Forests Web Seminars: [rnnext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb](http://rnnext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb).

*Mike Seagar*

# ~ Upcoming Events ~

## New York Farm Show

**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 26, 27, and 28, 2009**

*Helping Farmers Produce More from Their Woodlots*

The New York Forest Owners Association, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will present a series of free forestry programs at the New York Farm Show annually held at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show has many exhibits displaying information, equipment, and items of interest to landowners as well as farmers. Landowners who own woodland as part of their property can get information on many subjects that will help them enhance the value of their woodlots for timber, wildlife, and recreation.

Seminars consisting of 10 different subjects during the three day farm show will be held in the Arts and Home Center Building. Subjects will include Forest Land Management and Thinning, Timber Sales and Value, Timber Taxes, Forest Health and Emerald Ash Borer, Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves, Wild Turkey and Deer, Forest Biomass Fuels and more. People are free to attend whichever seminar interests them and visit the Farm Show exhibits the rest of the time.

There will also be a joint New York Forest Owners Association, NYSDEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF Forestry Information Booth, I55, in the International Building each day of the Farm Show. Before or after the seminar presentations, people can go to the booth and talk

with knowledgeable Forest Owners Association volunteers, DEC Service Foresters, CCE Extension Foresters and with Master Forest Owner volunteers who have attended training on forest subjects from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Free information (brochures, publications, people, organizations, and sources) will be available at

the booth. People can sign up for more information or for a free visit to their woodlot. The International Building has many forestry related exhibits for landowners. For further information contact: James Christensen 315-472-5323 [kchriste@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:kchriste@twcnny.rr.com), or Charley Porter 315-298-7467 [ckporter@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ckporter@gw.dec.state.ny.us), or John Druke 315-656-2313 [jcdruke@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:jcdruke@twcnny.rr.com).

### **Thursday, February 26, 2009**

- 1:00 Wild Turkey Biology, History, Management, and the Role of NWTf Doug Little, National Wild Turkey Federation Regional Biologist (New York / New England)
- 2:00 Emerald Ash Borer and Insects in our Forests Kim Adams, Extension Entomologist, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- 3:00 Forest Management: Improving Your Woodlot Matt Swayze, Senior Forester, NYSDEC

### **Friday, February 27, 2009**

- 10:00 Your Woodlot Is An Asset, Make It Work For You Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
- 11:00 Selling Your Timber: Planning for the Future Dave Skeval, Consulting Forester, Acer Forestry
- 1:00 Silviculture: How do I make My Woodlot Work for Me, Manipulate Your Forest Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
- 2:00 Deer in Woodlots: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, Gary Goff, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University
- 3:00 Forest Biomass Fuel Brett Chedzoy, Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler Co, Cornell University

### **Saturday, February 28, 2009**

- 10:00 Timber Value: The Market, Present and Future Andy Metz, Consulting Forester, Cortland Forestry
- 11:00 Wild Canines of New York: Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves Nathan Roberts, Natural Resources Department, Cornell University

# Fruit Tree Grafting - Part II

While successful in 2006 it was my impression that amputating and then cleaving a limb was a rather brutal thing to do. Despite what my chain saw and I have done to trees, I really do like them. During April 2007 I decided to also use bark grafts. In a bark graft the limb is sawed off as in the cleft graft but a box cutter/sharp knife is used to make a 1 to 2 inch slit in the bark. The bark is peeled back from the stem and the prepared scion inserted into the space created. This must occur while buds are dormant but sap is flowing and the bark can be loosened and peeled from the wood. Tape it tightly closed and cover with grafting compound as in the cleft method.

Once again it's critical that there be contact between the host tree cambium and the scion cambium. Some literature recommends attaching the scion with a brad or small nail to hold it more firmly in place. Without question the cleft graft holds the scions more securely than the bark graft. A humming bird could dislodge a bark grafted scion. Preparing the scion for bark grafting involves 1 slice exposing cambium on one side only.

I did about 4 dozen grafts in April 2007 with at least 75 percent being of the bark variety. It just seems to be less invasive to the host tree than cleaving with a machete. But, my 2007 results were not as impressive as the luck of a beginner in 2006. Fewer than half of the bark grafts survived. So, for me, less invasive equals less successful. I've convinced myself the cleft proce-

sure while a tree is dormant is about the same as surgery while a person is under anesthesia. Thus I hack and saw and ask the tree to be tolerant.



*Cleaving with a machete.*



*Inserting scions in the cleft graft.*

In April 2008 I did 44 more grafts using the cleft method exclusively. Besides being more successful for me than the bark grafts, I didn't have to wait for the bark to slip from the limb so clefting gives a little more time to accomplish the work.

In 2006 and 2007 I used scions from the 2 apple trees in our yard at home. For 2008 I decided to expand my varieties. I visited a friend with a small orchard and took clippings from 4 of his trees. In addition, our neighbor has an apple tree that produces lots of fruit so one day while he was at work I sauntered over and took

some clippings from his tree as well. Note: I have confessed this sin to him as well as the times I've clipped lilacs from his large bush. He says I am forgiven, at least for these infractions.

Before learning how to graft I planted 4 apple trees on our property and have over \$100 invested. Planting them requires the effort of digging a hole. Watering is a must during dry spells and it might be 7 years before the wild life and I see any apples. With grafting, the only monetary cost is grafting compound and it's a fun activity on a sunny spring day. Since the host tree has a fully developed root system and is well adapted to the site, no watering is needed. Another plus is any apple tree is a candidate for providing scions and any apple tree is a potential host.

In May 2008 one of the grafts from the class of 2006, after 2 summers of growth, put out 3 blossoms. Not bad. Counting what I've scavenged from others, trees at home and various plantings, we now have 16 varieties growing. For future attempts at grafting I can get scions on site. My ultimate objective is to have apples maturing from mid summer through late fall. Does anyone have a June Eating variety I can clip?

If both scions take, trim one back the following spring. Otherwise a crotch will be generated and that can cause future problems. Leave the shorter side for a couple years to assist in healing over the wound then remove completely.

*Dick Starr*

*Photos by Dick Starr*

# Integrated Vegetation Management

Integrated vegetation management (IVM) is a set of techniques for controlling undesirable vegetation. IVM principles guide land owners and land managers in selecting the most appropriate and cost-effective methods to control unwanted plants.

forests in New York State; it contains some open fields, some naturally-regenerating hardwood stands, and some pine plantations planted 50-75 years ago. After a number of years without active management, the county has again developed a program to manage the forest for wood

Conducting commercial logging operations in areas that are in regular use by the public imposes additional requirements on the projects. In addition to safety concerns, the county tries to use these operations as mechanisms to educate the public about the value of forest management. In addition to the improvements in forest diversity and health, the revenue from the timber harvests is used to fund other programs in the park.

Dr. Smallidge then outlines the principles of IVM. The first is to identify the plants in question. Different species respond to treatments differently, and so ensuring that you know what you are trying to control is key to selecting an appropriate technique. Another key is to determine the desired level of control. Total eradication of a species from an area may be prohibitively expensive, and may not be necessary; removing a large percentage of it may be much more affordable and sufficient to allow more desired species to grow. Finally, one has to consider the cost of a control method. Costs include the obvious financial outlay of time and materials, but also the less-obvious costs of side-effects of treatment options, to desirable plants, soil and water organisms, and perhaps to the people applying the treatment. These costs have to be weighed against the cost of not controlling the undesirable plant at all.



Photo by Pail Osborn

*Field demonstration of flame weeding with the backpack-mounted propane torch.*

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, and Paul Osborn, Genesee County Park Supervisor, led a woodswalk at the Genesee County Park. The theme of the discussion was integrated vegetation management, and how it has been applied on some test plots at the park.

The day started with Paul presenting a history of the park and its forest. Genesee County Park is one of the oldest county

production, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

Under forester guidance, Paul and the county staff have inventoried the forest stands and conducted several commercial harvests. Over time, the goal is to rebuild natural hardwood forests to replace the pine plantations, whose species are often not well suited to their site, whose uniformity discourages wildlife diversity, and whose regular spacing lacks visual appeal for many people.

With all this in mind, one can select a method that is mechanical, chemical, or in some cases biological. Within each of these categories is the choice between selective or broadcast techniques. Selective treatments attack specific plants; broadcast techniques attack everything in a given area. For example, cutting or uprooting individual plants is a selective mechanical treatment, and misting an area with a defoliant is a broadcast chemical treatment. IVM principles do not say that some of these techniques are good and others are bad; all of them are appropriate in certain circumstances, and the land manager's goal is to understand which ones are best for the circumstances at hand.

We then moved into the field for a first-hand look at some of these techniques in action. The first was flame weeding – a selective mechanical treatment. Flame weeding involves using a backpack-mounted propane torch to girdle trees or shrubs. Flame weeding is an alternative to cutting shrubs and might be more effective at preventing resprouting. Autumn olive, for example, seems very susceptible to a flame treatment when it is less than 10 feet tall. Common buckthorn, by contrast, with its thick bark, seems almost immune to flame treatments.

Our last stop was a beech grove. Beech trees, although native, act like invasives in

some cases. Where there is a high concentration of deer, other species such as maple and cherry are continually browsed by the deer, but beech is not. The result is that beech can take over an area and develop dense thickets. Beech trees sprout from a root system, so that many of the trees in an area might actually be part of the same plant. This characteristic encourages their proliferation but also provides an opportunity for control.

When a beech tree is cut, the stump can be treated with an herbicide such as glyphosate (sold as Roundup and other brand names). The herbicide will migrate from the stump into the root system and then to other stems. Thus applying a small amount of the chemical to a single stump can kill a large number of beech in the area without affecting any other surrounding plants.

Both flame weeding and cut-stump treatments appear promising in certain circumstances. Both are experimental techniques, and the best ways to apply them and their efficacy are still being evaluated. For current information, see the Publications link at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info).

We would like to thank Pete Smallidge, Paul Osborn and the Genesee County Park for conducting these experiments and offering us the opportunity to see their results.

*Mike Seagar*

## Forester For a Day

*Continued from cover.*

Trees were then flagged that we felt should be removed for the overall health of the woods. While we ate lunch the foresters revved up their chain saws and dropped the flagged trees. It was a different looking woodlot, hopefully improved, that greeted us upon our return.

Thanks to Joe Kilbury for hosting the event, being chief chef, and being willing to sacrifice some trees for our learning pleasure. And kudos to the foresters who gave up a Saturday to help us learn the way of the woods. Mark Gooding, Brice June, Jim McDonald, Mark Keister, and Stan Steck.

*Dick Starr*

## Management Plans

*Continued from cover.*

An existing plan can help you decide if you have good potential grouse habitat, and then it can be changed to reflect your new interests. How exposed are you to the emerald ash borer or other pests that are threatening particular species? Your management plan should give you an idea how common those species are in your woodlot.

A management plan won't make the bestseller list, but you should have one and you should read through it on a regular basis.

*Mike Seagar*

## Heirlooms

I don't think there's much question that the fruits and veggies available in the grocery stores are there because they store good, ship good and look good not because they taste good. Recent years have brought an increased awareness that we probably ingest some of the pesticides and chemicals used in the food chain and this helps explain the increased interest in organically grown foods. For me it justifies a garden and fruit trees.

My recent grafting articles brought me to heirloom/ antique varieties. Basically these are fruits and veggies from earlier times that tasted good regardless of appearance. As William Weaver states in the August/ September 2008 issue of *Mother Earth News*, "Heirlooms have richer flavors, and often more nutrients, than modern hybrids." He was speaking of veggies but I think it applies to fruits as well.

Luckily there are people intent on preserving these food treasures from yesterday. Tom Brown of Clemmons, N.C. has personally "rescued" about 800 varieties of apples from extinction. Check his website at [www.applesearch.org](http://www.applesearch.org).

While the passion of Mr. Brown is to locate and

*Continued on next page.*

## Third Annual Dinner Meeting

Kevin Williams, chief meteorologist at WHEC Channel 10, was the featured speaker at our third annual dinner meeting held November 12<sup>th</sup>. Kevin challenged us to take a closer look at the issue of global warming. Without question, he stated, man's activities can have a localized affect on weather and climate but he questions if that is so on a global scale. In his view there are too many cycles and rhythms in nature to be certain of our effect on a global scale. He shared some interesting statistics:



*Kevin Williams.*

1. Carbon dioxide, often the culprit in global warming discussions, was more abundant when dinosaurs roamed the earth.
2. Trees need carbon dioxide.
3. Since 1998 the planet has been cooling.
4. 1000 years ago Greenland was green and warmer than it is now.
5. The winter of 2000/2001 set a new record for snowfall in the northern hemisphere.
6. Mt Killimanjaro had more snow cover in 1970 than in 2000. However, the area is cooler now than then. Could the extensive deforestation in the area have a negative impact on evapotranspiration and precipitation?
7. Interglacial periods, such as we're in now, have usually lasted 10,000 to 15,000 years. Is this interglacial warming period nearing its end?
8. Paleo records show an increase in carbon dioxide is preceded by an increase in temperature. If so, can we blame an increase of carbon dioxide on warming trends?
9. The sun is presently in a less active and "quiet" phase. Historically and currently this is associated with a dip in northern hemisphere temperatures.

We again had many excellent door prize donations thanks to the following: David Deuel, Pat Dieter, Henry Lewandowski, Tony Ross, Walt Schuchardt, Moe Seager, Ray Seppeler, Dave Swanson, Chuck Winship, WFL chapter. Plus thanks to those who gave the Brunton compass, bottle of Casa Larga table wine, and wreaths. Apologies for not getting your name(s).

*Dick Starr*



## What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot

I had my annual checkup last month. Not with my physician, but with my forester. Even though I have no timber sales or other major operations going on, I like to spend a day each year in the woods with my forester. We walk around the woodlot, he marks some trees that should be thinned, and it keeps us in touch with each other. I have a chance to ask questions about whatever comes to mind, and he stays up-to-date on the state of my woodlot so we can better plan for the big projects.

I have been cutting a lot of trees for stand improvement over the past few years. I enjoy the work, although it certainly is work since much of my woodlot is on fairly steep slopes. So it was a bit of a relief when we marked the last section on his latest visit. I can finally see that the end (of this phase) is in sight. I should be able to get that thinning done this winter, and then what?

That is one of the reasons I like the annual visit: it gives us a chance to discuss next steps. A number of people have suggested that I could do my own marking for TSI, and I could. I don't think I could do it as well as a professional forester, but I certainly could do it. But then I would not have the chance to discuss what to do over the next few years with somebody who knows a lot more about it than I do. When will we be ready to do a commercial harvest? How is the market shaping up? How does emerald ash borer affect that plan? Books and seminars are great, but there is no substitute for having a one-on-one session with a professional who is familiar with my woodlot, especially when we are standing in the middle of that same woodlot.

I have been following this routine for about five years. That was when I first got involved in managing my woodlot and developed a comprehensive management plan under the guidance of a consulting forester. It has been a very educational process. I used to think a timber sale was a mechanism to get some money out of the woodlot, a way to help justify the cost of ownership. Now I view a sale as one tool among many that helps me improve the quality of my woodlot. In the younger parts of the stand, I have been doing TSI for the past few years, at the cost of a lot of time and sweat. Now some of those areas have reached a point where I can do a commercial thinning – in effect, I can get somebody to pay me to do the work I want done.

I have also learned that I don't have to wait 25 or 30 years between timber harvests. I have three separate stands in my woodlot, and with proper management we can probably have a harvest in each stand every 10-15 years. That means, if we plan them properly, we can have a sale every 3-5 years. Having small but more frequent sales makes for a steadier income and makes it easier to keep the skid trails in good repair.

This all sounds pretty exciting, and I would not have arrived at this point without regular visits from my forester. Next year will be the first big test, when we have the first commercial thinning operation. In the meantime, there is still a lot of TSI left for me to do.

*Mike Seager*

## Heirlooms

*Continued from previous page.*

preserve old apple varieties, the folks at Big Horse Creek Farm would like to make you one. They have about 300 heirloom varieties to select from and will graft your choice to 1 of 4 rootstock options based on your soil type. Any order placed by March 1<sup>st</sup> will be ready for fall shipping at \$20 + S/H. That's \$4-\$5 cheaper than the nursery catalogs I look at and it's your own "designer" tree. Check them out at [www.BigHorseCreekFarm.com](http://www.BigHorseCreekFarm.com).

Many of our forefathers lived a subsistence lifestyle and they highly prized the first fresh foods of the new season. Over time apple varieties were found that ripened from early summer to early winter. One heirloom variety is named Starr and is described by the Big Horse folks as, "Tender, crisp, juicy and aromatic." It starts to ripen in late June and I have a strange urging to give it a try.

Besides my grafting experiments I've planted 8 new apple trees in the last 4 years. We once made over 100 quarts of applesauce from the produce of 1 tree and it has me wondering what we'll do when they all come on line. Sauce, pies and cobblers, of course, but what about cider? This has me contemplating a small cider press. Stay tuned.

*Dick Starr*

## Pruning

Lots of trees benefit from pruning, and late fall and early spring are good times to do it. Pruning is best done when the tree is not growing fast, but when it is not likely to get frozen too soon after being cut.

Pruning timber trees can improve the quality of sawlogs by eliminating knots. Branches should be pruned when they are fairly small, and to a height of 17-18 feet you will get a full log of clear wood. Pruning to improve lumber quality is labor intensive and does not pay off for many years, so many people feel it is not worth the effort.

A more rapid payback on the work of pruning comes with fruit trees. Apple trees that are pruned properly will produce a larger crop than those that are neglected. The resulting fruit will provide food for all sorts of wildlife, ranging from songbirds to deer. Few types of tree provide as much wild-life benefit to as many species as apples, and pruning them makes them all the more attractive.

There are lots of references in libraries and on the internet about how to prune trees. Many of the references for fruit trees are intended for orchard-ists who want a crop that will be marketable to humans, and so they contain some fairly detailed guidelines. Deer, turkeys and other animals are less discriminating, and so be sure you find a reference that fits your goals.

*Mike Seagar*

## Classified

### Volunteer Opportunity:

Secretary of the NYFOA WFL Chapter Board of Directors. Duties are to attend the 4 meetings per year, prepare and distribute a written copy of the business conducted. This is a golden chance to get involved. Please contact Chairman, Dick Starr.

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### Tree Tubes for Sale

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<b>5 foot tube</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>4.85</b>
<b>5 foot tube with stake</b>	<b>4.85</b>	<b>5.35</b>
<b>Contact:</b>		
Ron Reitz, <i>WFL Treasurer</i> 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater, NY 14560 (585)367-2847 • <a href="mailto:rrrlpr@aol.com">rrrlpr@aol.com</a>		

*Classified ads are free to our members and available to non-members for by donation. Commercial advertising is also available. Both classified and commercial ads should pertain to forestry-related topics that are likely to be of interest to our members. For details of format and pricing contact our editor Steve Engard.*

## Welcome New Members

Virginia Backus  
*Livonia, NY*

Suzette Morabito  
*East Rochester, NY*

Patrick J. Baxter  
*Canandaigua, NY*

Tony Rounding  
*Fairport, NY*

Richard & Susan Conolly  
*Rochester, NY*

David Surdi  
*Holley, NY*

Brad & Elizabeth Johnson  
*Naples, NY*

John Titus  
*Wyoming, NY*

David Kaufman  
*Bergen, NY*

Mike & Mary VanDurme  
*Dansville, NY*

## Harry & Jim

A big thank you to Harry Dieter for 12 years of faithful service as our At-Large State Board Member. While he's retiring after 4 terms as our state rep, Harry is continuing on the WFL BOD where his wise counsel keeps us on task and headed forward. Harry is also faithful at helping out when our display board and materials go on the road. Thanks Harry.

A welcome to Jim Minor for being willing to take Harry's seat as our At-Large rep and rejoin the WFL BOD. Jim is a familiar face having previously served as chair of the WFL BOD. Thanks for taking on this important role Jim.

*Dick Starr*

## About Us

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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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- Fruit Tree Grafting • Management Plans •
  - Upcoming Events • Pruning •
  - Forester For a Day • Heirlooms •
- Integrated Vegetation Management • Classifieds •
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*This panel is available for commercial advertising, for more info contact Steve Engard (contact info on page 11).*