

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2011

Volume 25, Number 1

## In the Woodlot

by Mike Seager

Whenever I visit a woodlot where there has been a recent timber harvest, the owner always remarks how much different the place looks since the trees were cut. I always ask if they have before-and-after pictures to show the comparison, and the answer is always the same: no, it never occurred to me to take pictures until after the work was under way.

If you have been reading this column, you know that I have been trying to sell timber for some time. I realized fairly recently that, while I always ask people if they have before-and-after pictures, I had never taken any myself. I finally decided to rectify that situation.

I spent a bunch of time trying to think of a few key points that would show a large part of the 35 acre stand, and that I could find again to take the after-harvest pictures. Eventually I realized that I would do better to take a lot of pictures rather than a few carefully-chosen ones, and that with modern digital cameras there is no real cost in taking lots of pictures. And rather than taking pictures at random points and hoping I would get a good representation of the stand, it

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## Paper Seed Pots

by Dick Starr

When I see the forest floor littered with acorns I have a strong urge to scoop up a pocket full and try nurturing them into seedlings. I used to imitate squirrels and plant them directly into Mother Earth but few became seedlings. I now prefer containers.

I've tried various containers for germinating seeds including styrofoam and plastic. While inexpensive, these are not biodegradable and any seedlings that result are subject to the stress and shock of transplanting when planting time arrives. Peat pots cost more but eliminate some transplant issues.

A check of seed catalogs showed 3" round peat pots average about 25 cents each in lots of 50. This includes shipping. One catalog wanted \$6.95 for 50 pots plus \$5.95 shipping and handling. When S/H doubles the cost I usually discover I can do without the item. Something in my personality/heritage prefers a self sufficient DIY approach if possible. Since newspapers are biodegradable, readily available and good for mulch I decided to "roll my own" seed pots from newsprint. What follows is my technique.

A full sheet of newsprint is 22" square. I start with three sheets, layered, and rip or cut them into eight strips about 2.5" wide. These strips get a couple staples to hold the three layers together. I prefer a smooth cylinder without taper for a mold since the finished pots stand up better and support each other when side by side. A diameter of 3" is good and an empty frosting container is perfect. Since a 22" strip is a tad long for a frosting container four strips are shortened to 17". The 5" removed strengthens the bottom.



**Ready for Construction**

*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

After a few seconds of soaking in water to make them more flexible, the four 17" strips are laid out in a star pattern. Add the 5" pieces to the center.

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## Paper Seed Pots (continued from page 1)

Place the mold at the center of the star with the open end up. Gently lift each arm up and over the mold tucking the excess into the open center.

Now wrap a soaked 22" strip around the top of the mold adding it as a collar. Pull each arm out of the mold and fold it down over the outside of the collar strip. Remove the mold and the pot is done except for adding a few staples to help hold it together. One can either set it aside to dry for later use or add potting soil and seed immediately.

The number of paper layers dictates the heft of the finished pot. I find two layers makes a flimsy pot while four layers seems bulky. Three is just right.



**Folding Excess Over Collar**

*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

*Dick Starr is President of the WFL chapter of NYFOA and a regular contributor to this newsletter. He is a retired Science teacher having spent 32 years in the Penfield School District.*

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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.

**Note:** The deadline for our next, summer, issue is June 1st.

# Emerald Ash Borer Education in Wayne County

by Laurie VanNostrand

The Emerald Ash borer (EAB) has potential to kill all ash trees in NY including green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*F. americana*) and black ash (*F. nigra*). It does not attack other tree species including mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.). Ash trees make up about 8% of NYS forests but in many areas of Wayne County the percentage is much greater. As our forests lose ash trees the “void” may be filled with less desirable plants changing the dynamics of our forests. The economic impact of treating or removing and replacing dead trees in yards and dealing with potential public safety issues of dead ash trees along roads and in parks may be substantial. Locally, many people who use wood as a source of home heat rely on ash as one of their main sources of firewood.<sup>1</sup>

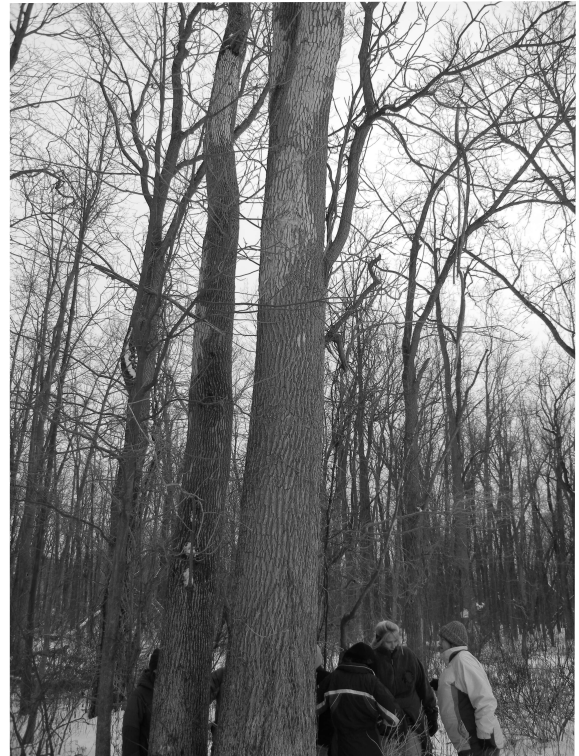
There are several treatment options available to help control this pest. Treatment costs and effectiveness vary depending on the type of treatment chosen and the size and health of the tree and will be too costly for control in woodlots. A concern of many homeowners is how to correctly identify ash trees. Applying pesticides to trees that are not ash not only wastes their money but also increases the amount of pesticides in our environment.

In an effort to address this and other issues, the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Wayne County Master Gardener program is working with Cornell University staff, Master Forest Owner volunteers, NYFOA members and DEC foresters to provide programming for Wayne County municipalities, homeowners and woodlot owners so they can better deal with the impact EAB.

On Wednesday, January 26th we held an EAB info session for government leaders and employees to address EAB preparedness planning issues prior to detection of the Emerald Ash Borer in Wayne County. Representatives from 17 Wayne County municipalities, including town supervisors, village mayors, highway superintendents, and town parks managers, were in attendance at the meeting.

We have also planned two upcoming programs for

woodlot owners, *Protecting and Enhancing Your Woodlot: Advice for Landowners* on Saturday, March 12 and *Controlling Invasive Species* on Saturday, May 21st. Together, these programs will cover several topics including EAB and identification and control of invasive species in



Looking at damage from woodpecker foraging on EAB infested Ash

Photo courtesy of Laurie VanNostrand

woodlots. For more details about either program call (315)-331-8415.

To address consumer EAB issues the CCE Wayne Co. Master Gardener/MFO program has several free Emerald Ash Borer information sessions scheduled. During these sessions we'll show folks how to id ash trees and discuss EAB infestation symptoms, treatment options and what replacement trees to plant should ash trees be removed or die.

The Emerald Ash Borer and Your Ash Trees community info sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Lyons Community Center: Tuesday, May 10th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- Wolcott Public Library: Wednesday, May 11th from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Walworth Town Hall: Thursday, May 12th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

<sup>1</sup> <http://nyis.info/insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx>

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## EAB Education in Wayne County (cont.)

- Sodus Public Library: Thursday, May 19th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- Casey Park Lodge, Ontario: Monday, May 23rd from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Williamson Public Library: Wednesday, June 29th from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

If Wayne County homeowners or woodlot owners suspect they have EAB they can contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County Master Gardeners at 315-331-8415 ext. 107 or [mgwayne@cornell.edu](mailto:mgwayne@cornell.edu).

For more information on EAB visit CCE Wayne County website at: <http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/wayne/>

*Laurie VanNostrand is the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for the Wayne County CCE*

## Classifieds

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member/Non-Member price: 4' (\$3.80/\$4.30); 4' w/ stake (\$4.25/\$4.75); 5' (\$4.35/\$4.85); 5' w/ stake (\$4.85/\$5.35). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847

**Tree removal, thinning, cutting - Canandaigua Area** Looking for Hardwood Trees to cut for firewood. Easy take-downs in the open or thinning in the woods. Weekend warrior looking for some outdoor exercise. We can cut on % shares, depending on access, etc. Please call 585-393-5651.

**Needed** - Someone experienced in steaming and bending of wood to assist in a NYFOA WFL chapter demonstration. Contact Mike Seager or Dick Starr (contact info in "About Us" Section).

**1947 Ford Tractor 2N (9N-8N)** - Two speed Sherman Transmission, 3 point hitch, belt driven buzz saw. \$2,300 or best offer. Dale Schaefer (585) 367-2849.

**A Gift** - Consider giving that special family member or friend a gift membership to NYFOA. Less than 1% of New York's forest owners are members and may not realize what they're missing. Send \$30/membership to NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485

**PLEASE NOTE:** SPACE PERMITTING, THE WFL STEERING COMMITTEE ALLOWS MEMBERS TO PLACE FREE CLASSIFIED ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER PERTAINING TO GOOD STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES. HOWEVER, ADS PRESENTED HERE ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY WFL.

## In the Woodlot (continued from page 1)

would make more sense to lay out a grid and take pictures systematically from each point.

I somewhat arbitrarily chose points that were about 200 feet apart on east-west and north-south lines. At each point I took four pictures, one facing each point of the compass. The spacing seemed close enough so that I would get most of the woods in at least one shot, and far enough that I could manage to cover all the points without making a career of it. The choice of east-west lines seemed reasonable, since that would make them parallel with the boundary lines.

From the living room, it seemed reasonable. The major problem is that the boundary lines have no relation to natural features. Each traverse took me on a slant up (or down) a 40% grade, with a couple of gullies and frequent downed trees to cross. Normally I walk around the trees and cross the gullies at shallow spots, but trying to follow a grid doesn't allow for such luxuries. Throw in the fact that it was 20 degrees and there were two feet of snow on the ground, and I would have thought this was a lot of work if it wasn't my hobby. Since I was gauging

distance only by pacing, I have to admit that the spacing of points is not perfectly uniform.

Nevertheless, I persevered for a few hours and got pictures from 40 points – 160 pictures in all. Now the challenge is to keep them in order and get them labeled properly, so I can match them up with the set I will take after the trees are harvested. I certainly don't expect to study 160 pairs of photos in great detail, but I hope that a few pairs will show interesting contrasts to document the changes brought about by the harvest.

I was also amazed, as I always am, by the things I find when I get off my usual paths. I walk through this stand a lot, and I try not to follow the same path all the time, but there were patches I found on this project that surprised me. There was a thicket of grapevine, for example, that I had never noticed – I have cut a lot of grapes in the area, but this one had eluded me. There was also a place where a gully had eroded more than I realized, so that is a project added to the list of things to deal with after the harvest.

*Mike Seager, a regular contributor to this newsletter, is a Director of the WFL Chapter and past President of NYFOA. In his "day job" Mike's a Senior Technical Consultant at Servigistics*

## WFL January General Meeting

# BEEKEEPING

by Mike Seager

January's talk by beekeeper Sam Hall to about 25 WFL members was one of the best-attended January meetings we have had in some time, and deservedly so. Sam projected both knowledge and enthusiasm to the audience for more than an hour, and I had the impression he could have kept us spellbound indefinitely. It is hard to summarize everything he talked about but I will offer a few of the highlights that most impressed me.

Honeybees and other pollinators have walked (or flown over) the earth for some 80-100 million years, and they co-evolved with flowering plants; the pollinators provided cross-fertilization of plants that allowed them to develop quickly into the huge variety that we have today. Honey is the only truly natural sweetener in the world (when Sam said this there were some frowns from maple producers in the audience, but nobody made an issue of it), and there are 6500-year-old cave paintings in Europe that show people harvesting honey.

Bees and other pollinators are essential for agriculture, especially in this area. Sam estimated that around 60% of our food supply depends on bees. Crops such as corn are wind-pollinated, but fruits such as apples and many other trees require insects for pollination. The recent rapid decline in bee populations could have a dramatic effect on the agriculture in our region and around the world.

In the middle of the 20th century, beekeeping was a cottage industry – many farms kept a few hives. As agriculture consolidated into large-scale monocultural farms, beekeeping also consolidated to fewer beekeepers with thousands of hives, which they truck around to farms for a few days or weeks when a crop needs to be pollinated. This trend

seems to be a contributing factor to colony collapse disorder, a condition that has killed more than half of the hives in some outbreaks. While an invasive mite seems to trigger colony collapse, it also seems that the stress of being moved around the countryside, combined with a monotonic diet that comes from pollinating one crop for weeks at a time rather than enjoying the variety of pollens they would collect in a more traditional setting, weakens the bees and makes them more vulnerable to the parasites. The pesticides that bees are exposed to on most farms probably increase their vulnerability to colony collapse as well.

Sam believes that one way to protect bee populations from colony collapse disorder is to return to a decentralized style of beekeeping. If we returned to the days where each farm kept a few hives, the bees would be healthier and less susceptible to colony collapse, and if it did strike the population would be somewhat isolated and not in close proximity to thousands of other hives to which the mites could migrate. To that end, he invites anybody who is interested in keeping bees, or in hosting hives on their property, to get in touch and get involved in protecting our bees and our agriculture. Maple, willow, catalpa, basswood and tulip poplar all produce high quality pollen, so many woodlots are excellent sites for hives.

Sam can be reached at [samhall@rochester.rr.com](mailto:samhall@rochester.rr.com), and the local beekeeping society of which he is a founding member is at <http://ontariocountybeekeepers.org>. If you would like to read about beekeeping, Sam recommended a handbook from Penn State that is online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/agrs93.pdf>, or William Scott's *Backyard Beekeeping*.

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## Welcome New Members

**Randy Eddinger** - Geneva

**Bill Erickson** - Penn Yan

**Sam Hall** - Canandaigua

**Daniel and Lodema Jones** - Holley

**Lee and Staffan Lundback** - Rochester

**Scott Phetteplace** - Livonia

**Jeffrey Smith** - Clyde

# Stumpage Price Report

Species	Western/Central Region Doyle Rule			<i>New York State Stumpage Price Report Winter 2010/#76</i>	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
<b>Most Common Species</b>					
Ash, White	40-310 (150)	100-350 (200)	150-600 (300)	<b>Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet</b>	
<b>Cherry, Black</b>	<b>205-1060 (475)</b>	<b>295-1600 (750)</b>	<b>390-1665 (1000)</b>		
Maple, Red (Soft)	40-350 (150)	75-400 (240)	200-600 (310)		
<b>Maple, Sugar (Hard)</b>	<b>150-800 (400)</b>	<b>250-900 (575)</b>	<b>395-1115 (750)</b>		
Oak, Red	100-435 (250)	195-745 (400)	260-1115 (510)		
<b>Pine, White</b>	<b>25-95* (40)</b>	<b>25-140* (75)</b>	<b>60-250* (100)</b>		
<b>Less Common Species</b>					
Aspen	5-80* (25)	10-120* (45)	25-150* (60)		
<b>Basswood</b>	<b>50-150* (80)</b>	<b>25-250 (110)</b>	<b>100-310* (190)</b>		
Beech	10-100* (40)	30-140* (50)	30-170* (75)		
<b>Birch, Yellow</b>	<b>40-115* (90)</b>	<b>50-250* (115)</b>	<b>80-370* (200)</b>		
Birch, White	40-115** (78)	60-175** (118)	80-240** (160)		
<b>Butternut</b>	<b>50-300* (155)</b>	<b>75-300* (190)</b>	<b>100-400* (200)</b>		
Elm, American	25-80** (55)	70-80** (75)	80-120** (100)		
<b>Hemlock</b>	<b>10-100* (40)</b>	<b>25-130* (50)</b>	<b>50-170* (95)</b>		
Hickory (spp.)	50-125* (80)	65-200* (100)	75-300* (190)		
<b>Oak, Chestnut</b>	<b>25-150* (100)</b>	<b>75-280* (150)</b>	<b>100-350* (225)</b>		
Oak, White	75-300* (135)	160-450* (250)	240-700* (350)		
<b>Pine, Red</b>	<b>35-105* (75)</b>	<b>25-125* (80)</b>	<b>90-150* (95)</b>		
Spruce (spp.)	55-95** (80)	25-110** (100)	125-145** (125)		
<b>Tulip Poplar</b>	<b>25-125* (80)</b>	<b>70-300* (145)</b>	<b>120-400* (200)</b>		
Walnut, Black	260-700* (425)	360-1000* (800)	465-1500* (1100)		
Aspen	NR	5-12** (9)	NR	<b>Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord</b>	
<b>Birch, White</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>		
Hemlock	NR	NR	NR		
<b>Mixed N. Hardwoods</b>	<b>1-10* (8)</b>	<b>2-20* (12)</b>	<b>2-21* (11)</b>		
Pine	NR	5-12* (8)	NR		
<b>Spruce/Fir</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NR</b>		
Firewood	5-10* (8)	8-15* (12)	14-30* (15)		

**Low Price Range** - reported range of the absolute lowest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

**Average Price Range** - reported range of the average price paid for "middle quality" timber by survey respondents over the last six months.

**High Price Range** - reported range of the absolute highest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

**Median** - One-half of reported prices are higher and one-half are lower than this price figure.

Doyle, International 1/4" and Scribner Rules - Provide an estimated volume in board feet of a given tree or stand of trees. In most cases, each rule will provide a different volume estimate when applied to identical trees. Each region of the state has a most commonly used rule, but the use of other rules in a region is possible.

**NR** - No Report.

\* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 20 survey responses.

\*\* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 5 survey responses.

## Selective Logging

Decades of high grading, “cut the best and leave the rest” practices in NY are showing. It is estimated that a high percentage of saw timber sized trees are cull, low value species or of poor quality. Large high value trees are scarce with only 1% of NY’s saw timber trees worth more than \$60. NYFOA member James Bulich says, “The trees that are left behind after a timber harvest are more important than the trees that were cut.”

Forests that have been high graded also suffer from reduced growth after a harvest since the remaining

trees are of inferior quality. Our loss is apparent when a comparison is made between NY forests and those in Germany where good management practices have been followed for generations. New York forests get 0.6 million tons/acre of new growth annually while Germany has 2.5 million tons/acre. We average 0.2 million tons of harvest per acre, Germany 1.3 million tons.

Source: *The Hidden Disaster of New York’s Forest Economy* published by the Capital District Chapter.

## Chapter Changes

Almost four years ago we had a need for someone to shepherd our newsletter. Steve Engard took on the role and elevated our humble quarterly from photocopied and stapled to offset printed and color. Steve has opted for his retirement and we thank him for his service to WFL. Enter Jim Minor, volunteer extraordinaire. Jim has served WFL as board member, chapter chair, publicity poobah and now newsletter guru for a second time. In addition he currently serves as At-Large State Board Member. Since these didn’t quell Jim’s urge to serve he’s recently taken on the role as NYFOA president. Whew!

And there’s Mike Seager, WFL board member for a

decade and recently retired after six years as our Chapter Designated Director to the state board and NYFOA president. Mike is a prime mover/presenter, along with Mark Gooding, in our Wayne County programs on woodlot management. These well attended and received programs have been cosponsored with Wayne County Cooperative. Thanks to Anne Ross for taking on Chapter Designated Director to the state board. Last but not least we welcome Cathy Gardner to the Board of Directors as secretary. How could we function without willing volunteers?

- Dick Starr

## Upcoming Events

**April 13th** Board of Directors meeting 7-9 PM at the Lima, NY campus of Genesee Community College. Located on Rt 15A about 1 mile north of Lima spotlight behind the car wash. NYFOA members welcome to attend.

**April 30th** Visit Chuck Winship’s Sugar Bush Hollow 9:30 – 2 PM. Not counting the pancakes & fresh maple syrup, wildlife is the focus this year. DEC biologist Scott Smith will present information on the eastern coyote and we’ll visit Phil Huber’s property to see his wildlife enhancement projects. For more info see the WFL winter 2010/2011 newsletter or Chuck at 585-943-3475 [cew9@cornell.edu](mailto:cew9@cornell.edu).

**May 10th** Spring general meeting at United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street in Honeoye at 7:30 PM. Dr. Tony Nekut is a forest owner, MFO volunteer and keenly interested in promoting increased use of energy

efficiency and renewable fuel sources. His presentation will suggest how forest owners can promote and profit from biomass energy policies and practices. More info in the winter newsletter.

**May 21st** Woodlot workshop near Sodus cosponsored by WFL and Wayne County Cooperative. This will be an outdoor hands-on session 9 AM – noon designed to help with invasive species and introduce crop tree management. Send \$10 registration per person to Laurie VanNostrand at Cooperative Extension, 1581 Route 88N, Newark, NY 14513 or 315-331-8415 ext 107 for more info.

**November 1st** Annual dinner. Our guest speaker will be John Van Niel of FLCC who will speak on "Mountain Lions in NY? A Survey of the Evidence". More details in upcoming newsletters.



**New York Forest Owners Association**

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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2011

Volume 25, Number 1

## Mark your Calendar!

- April 13, 2011 WFL Board of Directors Meeting\*
- April 30, 2011 Sugar Bush Hollow\*
- May 10, 2011 General Meeting\*
- May 21, 2011 Woodlot Workshop\*
- August 9–11, 2011 Empire Farm Days
- August 23-25, 2011 Boonville Woodsmen's Field Days
- September 17, 2011 Springwater Fiddlers' Fair
- September 23-25 NYFOA Statewide Meeting
- October 1-2 - Game of Logging training (more details in our next newsletter)
- November 1, 2011 Annual Dinner Meeting\*

\* See page 7 for details