

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2011

Volume 25, Number 2

## In the Woodlot by Mike Seager

The other shoe has finally dropped, and our timber harvest is (almost) complete. After signing the contract at the end of January, they started cutting in February and apparently finished in March. I say 'apparently' because there are still (in late May) a lot of logs on the landing and the skidder is still there as well, but I think they have cut everything and we are just waiting for it to get hauled away.

The work has not been helped by the weather. There were several thaws while they were cutting that held them up for a few days at a time. I am not sure why they have taken so long to get the logs trucked out, but that could be to avoid damage to the dirt road that leads to the landing.

And this is not the end of the whole job. After the logs get hauled out, the logger has to come back with a bulldozer and clean up the landing and the skid trails. That was originally projected to happen in June, after the ground had dried up, but given the rain we have had in May it is hard to say when the ground will be dry enough for final grading.

*Continued on page 4*

## Yates County Woods Walk

by Sarah Stackhouse

On June 4th, Charles and Sarah Stackhouse hosted a woods walk at their Bluff Point farm, with support from Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Master Forest Owner Volunteers, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Future Forest Consulting, Inc.



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Stackhouse*

### Gathering under the 300 - 500 year-old white oak.

The Stackhouse's 300+ acre farm provided a perfect venue for the walk, and not just because of its beautiful vistas of Keuka Lake and surrounding hills. Typical of many Finger Lakes area forests, the farm was a victim of decades of high grading and livestock grazing prior to Stackhouse ownership, and it certainly contains its fair share of invasives. The property's forest management plan currently includes 10 separate and diverse timber stands, each rich with talking points and learning opportunities.

The group of 25 attendees were led on a 1.8 mile route by NYS DEC Senior Forester Jim Bagley. Eleven teaching stations were set up along the route

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# Nature Conservancy

by Dick Starr

Jim Howe, Executive Director of the Central and Western Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, was the speaker at our March 22nd general meeting. The Nature Conservancy, started in 1957, is active in over 30 countries and every U.S. state. They have helped protect 120,000,000 acres world wide.

Jim and his staff of 16 have been instrumental in protecting nearly 100,000 acres in our area. He states we need to keep forests intact and healthy as they are lanes for wildlife migrations. The five year goal is to secure up to 5000 acres of NY forest corridors.

The mission of the Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth. This is done by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. By finding common ground solutions to environmental challenges, tangible and lasting results are accomplished.

A cholera outbreak in 1852 lead City of Rochester engineers to look at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes as a water source. In 1876 the city began drawing drinking water from these lakes. In 1896 the city started purchasing lakeshore properties to protect its water source investment. This was completed in the 1950's. By 1970 the only breeding pair of bald eagles in NYS was on the pristine shores of Hemlock Lake.

In 1996 the Nature Conservancy began efforts to facilitate a state purchase of the City's lands surrounding the two lakes. Through patience and perseverance, in June 2010 the DEC purchased nearly 7000 acres of former city property for about \$14,000,000. Thus the forested shorelines will be protected from development forever. For comparison, in 1867 the U.S. purchased Alaska's 586,412 square miles from Russia for \$7,200,000.

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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, fall, issue is September 1st.

# Seminar Summary

by Dick Starr

**N**YFOA exists to promote better care of New York's 19 million acres of forest lands. That's enough for 1 acre of wood land per NY resident. Your chapter board of directors has had discussions about how we might reach more of the 600,000+ NY forest owners with the message of good forest management practices. However, the logistics of how to accomplish this lofty goal has kept it at the discussion level.

Enter Laurie VanNostrand. Laurie works with the master gardener program at Wayne County's Cornell Cooperative in Newark. She called me in the fall of 2009 and wanted to know if our chapter might like to cosponsor a forestry workshop. She would advertise the event, handle registration, arrange a room, provide refreshments and host the event. Our role would be to show up and talk about forestry. This is a great dream I'm having!

Time to fish or cut bait. I told Laurie that's why NYFOA exists and we'd love to partner with them. Now comes the nightmare part. How do I tell the others that I've committed them to conduct a workshop? Further, Marlene and I will soon be heading to Florida for the winter and I can't help. Good luck and have fun.

Mike Seager, WFL board member and then president of NYFOA and DEC forester Mark Gooding accepted the challenge. On a lovely Saturday in May 2010 seventeen participants showed to hear Mark review invasive species and Mike explain the value of having a wood lot

management plan. Jim Miller and Dale Schaefer offered advice on having a free visit from a Cornell trained Master Forest Owner (MFO). Six joined NYFOA before departing for the day.

Mark and Mike repeated the workshop in Newark on March 12, 2011. A group of twenty participants were enthused and energized about how they might better care for their forests. The word is getting out and more joined NYFOA.

In the fall of 2010 I got a call from Sarah Stackhouse, WFL member and currently NYFOA state treasurer. She and husband Charles work with the Yates County MFOs and they were interested in exploring some forestry education for that area. Could the chapter offer any advice or assistance? Good news Sarah. I happen to know two guys who've done that very thing and they're willing to take their show on the road. On March 26, 2011 Mike and DEC forester Jim Bagley traveled to the Yates County CCE in Penn Yan where they conducted the workshop for over 30 eager participants. Sarah reviewed the free MFO program. Once again, several joined NYFOA.

We've had three seminar/workshop sessions to date and reached over 70 forest owners. Thirteen have joined NYFOA before departing for the day. That amounts to one new member per seminar contact hour. Nothing else in our outreach arsenal comes close to this level of response. It is our plan to continue with this seminar series, eventually targeting each county in the chapter.

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## Great Day in Sodus

by Laurie VanNostrand

**T**he first part of this 2 part workshop focused on identification and control of invasive threats to woodlots. Participants were not disappointed. DEC forester Mark Gooding gave an excellent presentation that included seeing onsite invasives as well as samples brought in for the morning. Luckily, hostess Mary Grace Schmidt doesn't have too many non native plants invading her property. Several booklets and fact sheets were free for taking that could be referenced at a later time. Oftentimes deer won't eat the invasive plants and soon that's all that remains. The fruit on invasive plants is often less nourishing than on native plants. Birds that eat invasive fruit in preparation for a long migration enter it undernourished for the rigors of their flight.

The second part of the workshop had Dick Starr, chair of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association, Jim Miller, Wayne County CCE Master

Forest Owner and NYFOA member and Dale Schaefer, Regional MFO Coordinator and NYFOA member explaining the concept of Crop Tree Management. CTM identifies the trees that will help a landowner meet management objectives for a woodlot. Objectives can be numerous and often overlap one another.

After the CTM introduction, it was into the woods for hands on experience. Participants divided into two groups with one focusing on improving a timber stand while the other concentrated on improving wildlife habitat. Both groups tagged trees that could help bring about the stated objective. The groups rejoined for a discussion of the results. In many instances one tree can serve multiple objectives. Sometimes the woods help decide management objectives for us. For example, maple syrup can't be made from a grove of oaks and veneer logs aren't numerous in a beech thicket.

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

## From Latin

The Latin words *silva*, *ager* and *cultura* mean woodland, field and cultivation. From these we get the English words silviculture and agriculture.

Webster's defines silviculture as the branch of forestry dealing with the development and care of forests.

## 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

## Classifieds

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member/Non-Member price: 4' (\$4.35/\$4.85); 4' w/ stake (\$4.90/\$5.40); 5' (\$4.85/\$5.35); 5' w/ stake (\$5.50/\$6.00). 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.

**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)

So there are still a bunch of details to finish, but I feel much better about the project now that a lot of the work has been done, and done pretty well. I am no expert on logging operations, but it looks good to me and my forester seems pretty pleased with the condition of both the woods and the trails.

Just before the cutting started I took a bunch of pictures of the harvest area, as I related in the previous column. A few weeks ago I took a bunch more, so that I could have before and after versions. I tried to follow the same grid in both cases, but the second time was a lot harder. Not only were there the same gullies to work around, but there were also (naturally) tops all over the place that I had to go through, around and over. It made for another pretty tiring day and I did not manage to get quite the same set of pictures, but I think I got a pretty good sampling. I have yet to catalog all of them and put them side by side for comparison, but look for that in a future column.

I don't really know what comes next on this front. I have been trying to get together with my forester for a post-harvest walk to review what has been done and what the next steps are. Our schedules have yet to

mesh, and there does not seem any urgency to get that done so it will probably wait until the summer. He has mentioned in the past that I will have lots of work to do once the loggers wrap up, and I am looking forward – I think – to finding out what that entails.

Other work this spring has been the usual variety of tree-planting activity. My ongoing project of trying to stabilize the banks of the creek still has me experimenting with different things. I planted a lot of willow cuttings, as always, and as always many did not take but it looks like some will survive. After a number of years of this we are finally getting some trees tall enough to be seen over the goldenrod, and it is nice to see some tangible signs of progress.

I had an idea that I could try the same thing with some red maple shoots. In my TSI work I have cut a lot of red maple, so I thought there might be some stump sprouts that I could stick in the mud along the creek. That plan did not work out – the maple stumps had produced very few shoots, and those I did find had all been heavily browsed by the deer. Maybe I can find some shoots next year, or perhaps I will break down and buy some seedlings to plant.

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*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*

# Walk in the Woods

*by Phil Huber*

**O**n a beautiful April 30th day, Chuck Winship hosted our 9th visit to Sugar Bush Hollow. There were three components to this year's visit. #1 A talk on coyotes, #2 a visit to the Huber homestead (see article below) and #3 a summary of this year's syrup season.

After some tasty treats in the Sugar House, DEC biologist Scott Smith gave an insightful talk about the wily eastern coyote. Scott says we must realize the coyote has become an entrenched part of our upstate landscape. Its ability to adapt means they are found in the suburbs, high peaks of the Adirondack Mountains and the farm country of the Finger Lakes. Scott says Coy dogs, half dog and half coyote, don't exist. The similarity between coyotes and some dog breeds probably causes this misconception.

Coyotes are east of the Mississippi river because we have eradicated the wolf in this area. Wolves won't

tolerate coyotes as coyotes are intolerant of fox. When coyotes move in, so do Ravens. It seems the Raven's beak is shaped to consume meat, not open the carcass. Coyotes open it and Ravens help eat it. Does this suggest the presence of Ravens means nearby coyotes?

Back at the Sugar House, Pam has sausage and pancakes waiting. Chuck reports his best season of syrup production to date in spite of serious defoliation from pests the past 2 years. The defoliation prompted him to hire an aerial spraying to prevent a third year of defoliation, stressful to both trees and syrup producers. He considered not tapping at all this year.

Not just great quantity but great quality as well with more light amber than normal. Until the season ends in Quebec we won't know the industry production numbers but Chuck is happy with the results at Sugar Bush Hollow.

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## Huber Homestead

*by Phil Huber*

**M**y daughter Greta and I explained the wildlife enhancement projects we have made to our 80 acres. Purchased six years ago, it was mostly a travel corridor for wildlife passing through to go somewhere else. Management goals were established for timber, wildlife, aesthetics, and recreation.

There are 5 different hardwood timber stands on the property and thinning to enhance under story growth continues. The first logging was five years ago and consisted of cull and crop trees. The resulting regeneration has transformed the woodland floor into an oasis of browse. Trails were seeded to avoid any potential erosion and are maintained for aesthetics and recreation. TSI work is ongoing in each woodlot focusing on promoting future crop trees. Some snags are left to provide nesting cover opportunities for birds and den cover for raccoons, squirrels, and other small mammals. Releasing, pruning, and fertilizing twenty wild apple trees has created a smorgasbord of

food opportunities for the area black bears, whitetails, and other wildlife.

Food for wildlife is our number one focus but we're trying to include shelter and water in substantial acreage as well. A new pond addresses the water issue. While TSI work and timber management has enhanced cover on the property, planting over 2000 white spruce in the center of the property has added thermal cover as well. Feathering woodlot edges creates a comfort area for wildlife entering the numerous food plots. Based on trail camera photos, soybeans and chicory are wildlife favorites.

Orchard plots are a staple on the property with nearly a hundred fruit trees planted in the past five years. These plots, along with the reclaimed raspberry patches, have provided quality food for both the Huber family and the wildlife. There is not very much on the property that cannot be eaten at different times of the year by something.

*Phil Huber, a new NYFOA member, teaches Health at Honeoye Central.*

# May Meeting

by Dick Starr

**D**r. Tony Nekut was guest speaker at our May general meeting. Dr. Nekut holds a PhD in applied physics from Cornell University and believes the time has come for us to increase the use of woody biomass as a commercial fuel source. It's a good use for low grade timber and is ideal for rural communities. Local jobs are created, money generated stays in the community, it improves forest health, increases land values and is carbon neutral or even negative.

In 2008 Tony was part of a delegation that traveled to Austria to learn first hand how the process works. Since the first 'oil crunch' in the 1970's Austria has become a European leader in finding alternative energy sources. Entire small towns heat their homes with one wood fired boiler with pipes running to each residence. The key to getting maximum BTU recovery and minimum emissions is to introduce air to the boiler as certain gasses are generated. This can all be done under computer control.

Some interesting approaches are being tried in this country as well. Vermont has a "Fuels For Schools" program that focuses on woody biomass as the fuel source. The spring 2011 Southern Adirondack Chapter newsletter states that Hartford Central School, northeast of Glens Falls, has an alternative energy facility fueled by wood chips. The district saves up to 70% on fuel costs each heating season.

The wood products industry often leads on the innovation front as it tries to get value from its waste stream. Tony showed a 'brick' made from

compressed sawdust. The brick is denser than wood, does not float in water and is easier to transport because of its compact packaging. Tony purchased a supply of the bricks and quickly sold them on Craig's List.

Near Ithaca, Tony assisted in converting the Cayuga Nature Center's propane boiler to one fueled by wood chips. They are realizing a savings of \$15,000/year in propane costs. The European made boiler can output ½ million BTUs/hour, emits only steam from the chimney and consumes about 50 tons of wood chips each year. The burn is so efficient only two garbage cans of ashes remain of the 50 tons of chips. It's anticipated that the fuel savings will pay for the boiler in eight years. When added to soil, wood ashes raise pH albeit more slowly than lime.

The objectives for the Cayuga Nature Center's boiler conversion were reduced heating costs, demonstrate bio mass heating technology, maintain the health of the Center's forests, and demonstrate good forest management. In addition, let the public know that wood can be burned cleanly and it's OK to cut some trees.

Another interesting project Dr. Nekut mentioned is grinding the woody bio mass to a fine flour like consistency. It can then be sprayed from an injector and ignited. As such it behaves like natural gas but at a fraction of the cost. Attempts at generating electricity with wood chips has not fared so well. A facility in Yates County using coal and wood chips could not compete and closed recently.

## Welcome New Members

**Pamela Castronova**, Honeoye  
**Jane and David Day**, Red Creek  
**Sue and Joe DeGeorge**, Branchport  
**Paul H. Enos**, Bluff Point  
**Carol and Jim Fitzgibbons**, Branchport  
**George Gamer**, Pittsford  
**Bruce T. Hotto**, Lyons  
**James E. Houle**, Penn Yan  
**Jim Howe**, Rochester  
**Phil Huber**, Springwater

**Karen and Jeffery Keber**, Naples  
**Georgianne and Peter Muench**, Naples  
**Bill Newkirk**, Springwater  
**Donald O'Berlin**, Pavillion  
**Patricia Owen**, Penn Yan  
**Victor A. Parella**, Marion  
**Roxana and Gregory Sammons**, Arkport  
**Gary Schwarz**, Dundee  
**Russ Talbo**, Lyons  
**Maureen Williams**, Middleton

# Camera Security

by Dick Starr

We've had two incidents of vandalism at our woodland property. This was on my mind when I purchased a trail/game camera in 2006. The camera could watch the critters both bipedal and quadrupedal during our absence. A second unit was added in 2007. This will summarize some of what I've learned about trail cameras and how I use them.

Trail cams combine cameras and motion sensor technology. Early versions used 35 mm film but digital dominates today. Most allow still shots or video clips and usually the date and time are imprinted on the picture. Because of this I've learned much of the deer activity on our land occurs at night. Some models add moon phase and temperature as well. Most permit a choice of 1, 2 or 3 pictures per triggering. There's also an option on picture resolution which influences picture clarity and the memory space used to store it.

The assumption is any warm moving object is worth a picture. Warmth is recognized by detecting infrared radiation. Since the sun emits infrared, trail cameras facing the sun, or even the sky, can be falsely triggered when a nearby leaf or twig moves. For this reason I strive to keep my cameras in the shade or facing north.

The clarity of a digital picture depends on the camera's pixel rating, given in megapixels (MP). A camera rated 5 MP will give better resolution than 3 MP but will likely cost a little more. To ID a trespasser the extra cost might be worth it. My trail cams are rated at 2 MP. The accompanying picture shows how well this works.

How long battery packs will operate the camera is a major consideration. One of mine uses four C cells and they power the camera about two weeks, less when it's colder. The other uses a 6 volt lantern battery and it functions about 3 weeks. When not detecting heat and motion, cameras enter a sleep mode to reduce battery drain. Less expensive models can take several seconds to wake up and take a picture.

All units have some built in memory where a limited number of pictures can be stored. When this memory is full the camera essentially ceases to function. Add a memory card and the stored pictures can number in the thousands. My two trail cams and Canon digital camera all use secure digital (SD) memory cards. To check what the trail cams have recorded I place their SD cards in the Canon and look at the pictures, deleting unwanted shots. This has worked well.



*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr.*

Units come with software and USB cables for downloading pictures to a computer. This requires bringing the trail cam to the computer or vice versa. I prefer to leave the trail cam in the field and bring the SD card to the computer via the Canon.

There's always the risk of thievery when a camera is left untended. Locking cables can increase the difficulty of theft as does placing them up a tree out of reach. I read an article where two cameras were used to catch a thief. One camera was placed in the open while a second was concealed and watching it. The thief was caught on camera stealing a camera! More in a future issue.

*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.*

# Stumpage Price Report (corrected\*)

Species	Western/Central Region Doyle Rule			New York State Stumpage Price Report Winter 2011/#78	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
<b>Most Common Species</b>					
Ash, White	50-425 (170)	185-530 (250)	215-550 (300)	<b>Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet</b>	
Cherry, Black	100-800 (498)	400-1200 (700)	550-1400 (900)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	50-290 (150)	150-315 (200)	150-460 (250)		
Maple, Sugar (Hard)	100-610 (315)	250-800 (500)	400-1100 (700)		
Oak, Red	100-600 (300)	250-675 (450)	400-830 (600)		
Pine, White	20-80* (50)	50-125 (75)	50-175* (120)		
<b>Less Common Species</b>					
Aspen	25-90* (35)	25-85* (40)	35-140* (50)		
Basswood	50-200 (100)	70-200 (150)	85-275 (185)		
Beech	20-100* (50)	25-150 (65)	60-250* (95)		
Birch, Yellow	30-150* (90)	25-250* (125)	50-400* (175)		
Birch, White	50-100** (75)	75-200** (140)	75-300** (190)		
Butternut	30-200* (200)	75-600* (100)	60-1000** (475)		
Elm, American	NR	NR	25-150** (90)		
Hemlock	20-100* (40)	30-125 (50)	45-150* (75)		
Hickory (spp.)	50-250* (100)	50-290 (140)	150-410* (200)		
Oak, Chestnut	50-375* (100)	100-400* (200)	200-720* (250)		
Oak, White	50-400 (175)	200-500* (250)	200-800 (340)		
Pine, Red	30-80* (50)	50-120* (75)	60-165** (110)		
Spruce (spp.)	50-130** (105)	60-165* (100)	100-225** (165)		
Tulip Poplar	50-150* (100)	75-200* (125)	100-350* (200)		
Walnut, Black	300-800* (500)	500-1200* (850)	900-1800* (1200)		
Aspen	NR	5-12** (6)	NR	<b>Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord</b>	
Birch, White	NR	5-10** (8)	NR		
Hemlock	NR	10-12** (11)	NR		
Mixed N. Hardwoods	5-15* (6)	2-20* (10)	4-18* (13)		
Pine	NR	5-12** (7)	NR		
Spruce/Fir	NR	6-12** (10)	9-16** (13)		
Firewood	5-10* (7)	5-15* (10)	12-24** (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.

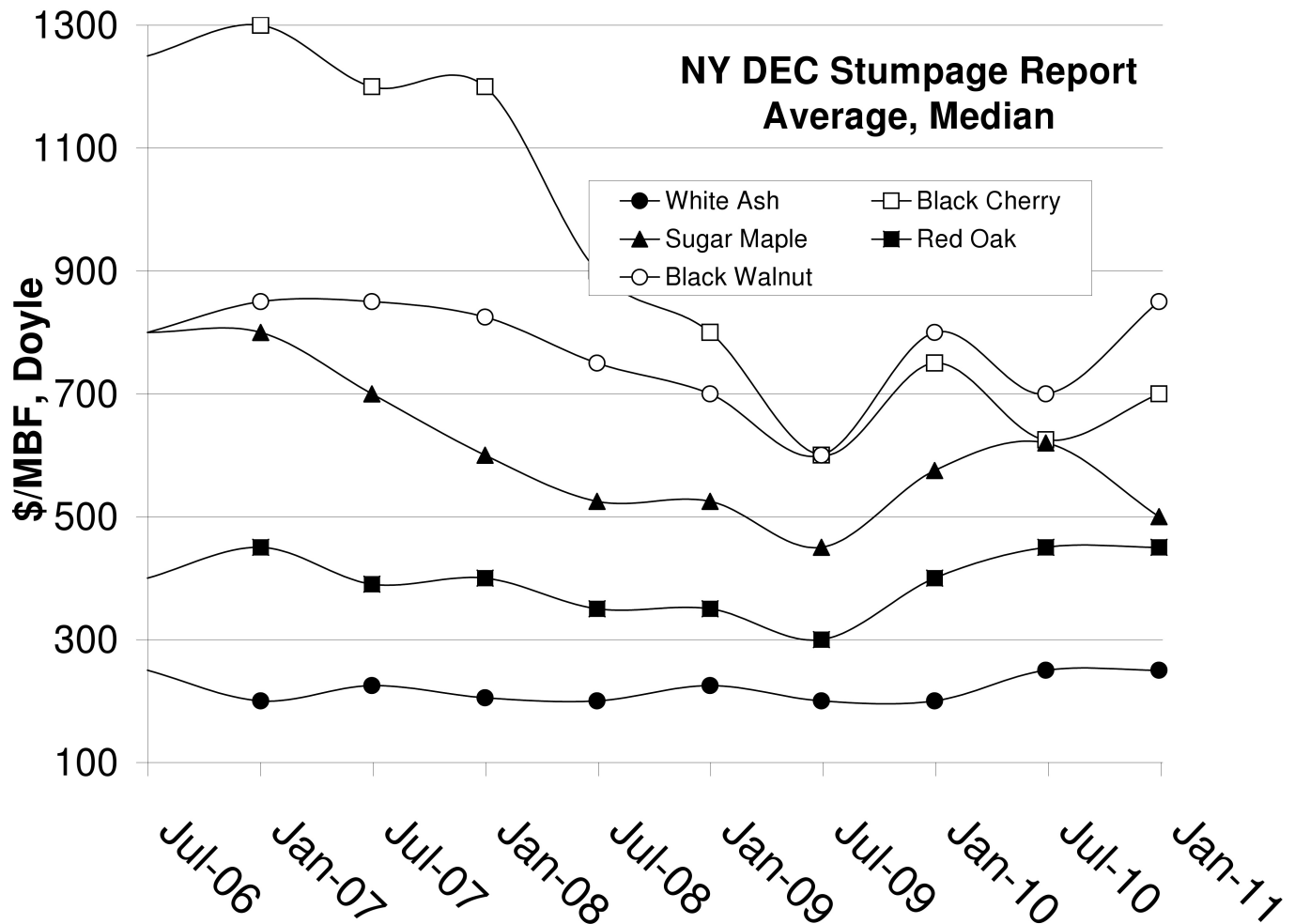
\*\* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 5 survey responses.

\* The Stumpage Price Report given in the Spring '11 issue of the WFL Forest Owner was for the 2009 - 10 winter, not the winter of 2010-11 (as now presented here). The publisher regrets the error. DEC will publish the Summer report in July and we plan on including it in our next issue.



# Tracking Stumpage Prices

WFL Steering Committee member Dean Faklis has been tracking the stumpage price reports for certain hardwoods within DEC region 8 for several years now. Here's Dean's graph of the changing median prices...



## Yates County - continued from page 1

where Jim explained and discussed several issues and interests observable at each location. Additional information and perspectives were provided throughout the walk by Consulting Foresters Corey Figueiredo and Scott Graham and Associate Forester Stanley Stek from Future Forest Consulting, Inc., as well as Dale Schaefer from NYFOA. Topics discussed and examples shown included tree identification, high grading, the importance of boundary line maintenance and access road layout, forest stand identification and timber stand improvement methods, wildlife habitat, invasive plant identification and control methods, soils and site tolerance for various species, and much more.

A high point of the walk was a stop at what could be one of the oldest living white oak trees in the Finger Lakes area. With a DBH in the 5 ½ - 6 foot range and an age estimate by those in attendance of between 300 and 500 years, the grand old tree provided a perfect background for the group picture.

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*Besides actively managing their farm with her husband, Charlie, Sarah Stackhouse is treasurer/bookkeeper for their farm as well as her husband's medical practice, is an MFO and is Treasurer of the New York Forest Owners Association.*

## Could Your Woodlot Be A Future Energy Resource?

A recent analysis of forest resources in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont showed that wood could replace up to 25% of the oil and gas currently being used for commercial and industrial heating in the northeast. "The heat generated by locally-grown biomass can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and support local economies," said Dr. Charles D. Canham, a forest ecologist at the Cary Institute in Millbrook, New York and co-author of the report. "But each forested landscape is different, and regional variation in forest conditions and energy infrastructure means there is no one-size-fits-all solution."



**Aerial view of a biomass harvest in the Adirondacks**

The report found that using wood for heat in the region was far more effective in replacing liquid fossil fuels than converting it to cellulosic ethanol. Wood burned in combined heat and power plants reduced fossil fuel use more than five times more effectively than substituting gasoline with cellulosic ethanol. Under the right circumstances forest biomass can provide a domestic energy resource, create local jobs, and provide incentives to forest owners.

But the report cautioned that ongoing oversight is necessary to ensure that forest biomass is sustainably harvested. According to Dr. Canham; "Unrealistic growth in biomass energy facilities could lead to serious degradation of forest resources. While forest biomass is part of the renewable energy toolkit, it is by no means a panacea."

The full report is available on-line at:  
[www.ecostudies.org/report\\_biomass\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ecostudies.org/report_biomass_2011.pdf)

## New DEC Commissioner Appointed\*

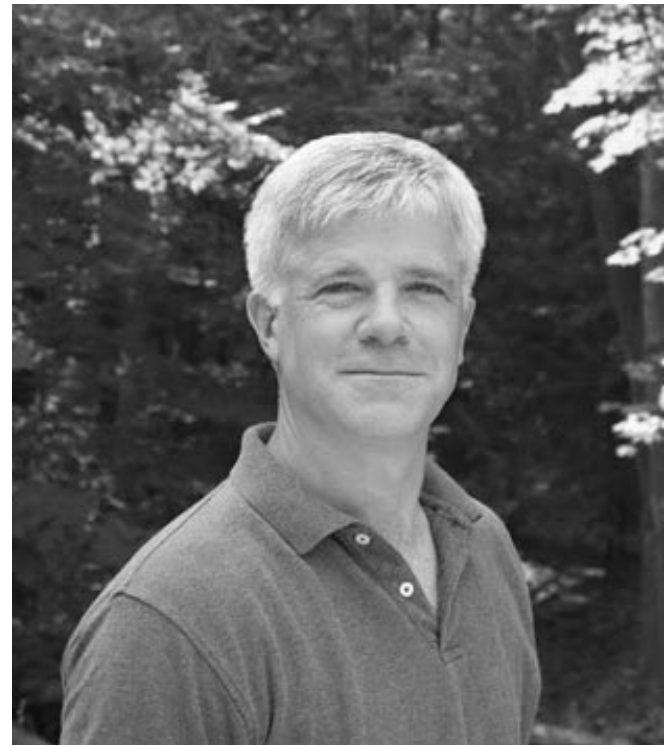
Joe Martens has been appointed the new commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Commissioner Martens served as deputy state secretary of energy and the environment from 1992-94, during the gubernatorial administration of Mario Cuomo. Since 1998 he was president of the Open Space Institute. OSI is a nonprofit that works largely in the northeastern United States to acquire lands for conservation and sustainable development and farming. Martens is also the chairman of the state Olympic Regional Development Authority, based in Lake Placid.

Mr. Martens received a Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Economics from UMass in 1978. He later received an M.S. in Resource Management from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University.

Martens was a standout competitor for the UMass Minutemen from 1974-1978 when he set the indoor high jump record of seven feet, which still stands today as the school record. He also set the outdoor record in the 400 meter run, which was held for 25 years before being broken in 2000.

Pete Grannis, the previous commissioner, was fired for protesting budget cuts and layoffs at the DEC. Grannis has since been hired by Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli as first deputy comptroller.



**DEC Commissioner Joe Martens**

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\* The two articles on this page first appeared in the April, 2011, Capital District Chapter of NYFOA Newsletter, Carl Wiedemann, editor and are used with permission.

## Upcoming Events

### Woodlot and Sugar Bush Workshop

Select your location. From 9 AM to 1 PM **Saturday July 30th** in Sodus at 6877 Sergeant Road OR **Saturday August 6th** in Canandaigua at 6285 Ketchum Road. Cornell University's ForestConnect program offers this workshop with Dr. Peter Smallidge to help participants learn the basics of small scale woodlot harvesting and management.

The workshop emphasizes safety, silviculture and woodland assessment techniques. Principles of tree growth, tree measurement techniques, assessing tree quality, tool and equipment inspection, safe practices and tree selection criteria are addressed. A demonstration of directional tree felling will be enjoyed by all. An ATV and arch will be used to show how to move a log.

Registration is \$15/person and includes all handouts, refreshments and a take home Biltmore tree measurement stick. Limited to 30 participants per session. Dress appropriately for the weather and expect walking on moderately rough ground. Bring a hard hat, clipboard and pen.

For July 30th workshop register by July 22nd with Laurie VanNostrand at Wayne County CCE, 1581 Route 88 North, Newark, NY 14513. 315-331-8415 Ext 107 with questions. For August 6th workshop pre-registration is required by August 2, 2011 and costs \$15.00 per person. To register or for more information contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424, 585-394-3977 x 427 or email your name, address and phone number to [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu).

### Forest Management and Conservation Easements

**Saturday, September 10**, 10:00 AM - noon, Co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association and hosted by the Morse Conservation Club. Join Future Forest Consulting Vice President, Scott Graham, and Land Trust staff members on a hike through the Morse Conservation Club property in the town of South Bristol to learn about the compatibility of timber management, recreation and conservation easements. This beautiful property is managed for timber production, quality

deer and recreation. It is also protected by a conservation easement with the Land Trust. This is a free event but parking is limited; please call 607-275-9487 for directions and to reserve your spot.

### Game of Logging Offered

Our chapter is sponsoring two sessions of the Game of Logging Level 1 this fall, on **October 1st and 2nd**. The first will be near Naples in Ontario County and the second will be near Sodus in Wayne County. Bill Lindloff, of BL ProCuts, will be the instructor for both sessions.

The Game of Logging is the premier training class for chainsaw safety. Level 1 participants learn about safety equipment, chainsaw maintenance, and basic tree felling techniques. The class begins with a review of safety principles and saw maintenance, then progresses to chainsaw practice exercises and finally to felling a tree. Everybody will have the chance to cut down a tree under the guidance of the instructor during this session.

This is an all-day class that goes on regardless of the weather, so come prepared. Participants should bring a lunch, a chainsaw and personal safety equipment (helmet, eye and ear protection, and chainsaw-resistant chaps or pants). Work boots and gloves are also recommended.

Registration for each session is \$90 for WFL members, \$110 for members of other NYFOA chapters, and \$125 for those who are not NYFOA members. To register, send a check payable to NYFOA for the appropriate amount to Ron Reitz, 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater NY 14560. Be sure to indicate which session you want to attend. Each session is limited to 10 participants, and space will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Everybody who uses a chainsaw, whether frequently or not, will benefit from this class. Many people take it more than once, since an occasional refresher can often prevent people from developing poor habits.

If there is sufficient interest, we will plan to offer level 2 and possibly level 3 in 2012. You must take the levels in order; level 1 is a prerequisite for all the others. Directions to each location will be mailed to participants so be sure your name and address are included with registration.



**New York Forest Owners Association**  
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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2011

Volume 25, Number 2

## Mark your Calendar!

- July 12 - WFL Board meeting 7 – 9 PM Lima Campus GCC
- July 30 - Small Scale Woodlot Management in Sodus\*
- August 6 - Small Scale Woodlot Management in Canandaigua\*
- August 9 – 11 Empire Farm Days
- August 19 – 21 Woodsmen's Field Days at Booneville
- September 10 - Forest Management and Conservation Easements\*
- September 17 - Fiddler's Fair at Sugar Bush Hollow
- September 24 - NYFOA state wide fall meeting
- September 24 – 25 DEC Hunting and Fishing Days
- October 1 - Game of Logging near Naples in Ontario County\*
- October 2 - Game of Logging near Sodus in Wayne County\*
- November 1 - WFL annual dinner meeting

\* See page 11 for details