

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2012

Volume 26 Number 4

## In Our Woodlot *by Ed Piestrak*

I have noticed a large amount of black walnuts that have fallen to the ground. The first week in October I was thinking the squirrels will soon round them up and put them into winter storage. The following day I received my September/October issue of the New York Forest Owner magazine and noted an interesting article about planting nuts, especially black walnuts.

The next day I went to Home Depot and purchased a large bag of potting soil and two plastic containers that were approximately two feet long by six inches deep. In a fenced area of the property I placed the containers in the ground level with the soil and proceeded to place a dozen or so walnuts into each container and filled them with potting soil. I had several pieces of fine wire mesh that I placed over the containers and sealed them on the ends with large rocks. Note that we have large and smart squirrels.

Now I have to wait for springtime to see if that planting method works. Should we get seedlings, I will transplant them to an area on the property that has deep soil where walnut trees are now growing. Hopefully this planting method will work.

I belong to the New York Nut Growers Association and last year I was given a dozen butternuts to plant and I did plant them within a couple hours of receiving them. I did not protect them from the squirrels and by the look of that seedbed, the squirrels enjoyed my precious planting. Hopefully I outsmarted them this time. Stay tuned for results of this planting.

## WFL Member Honored With Prestigious Forestry Award

*by Dick Starr*

On October 11, 2012 the Region 8 DEC office announced that Edward Piestrak of Piestrak Forestlands, LLC had won the Forest Champion Award for Exemplary Forest Steward. The contest was sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the U.S. Forest Service and other partners to recognize forest champions throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Ed was nominated by Greg Muller, a DEC regional forester.



**Three Generations of Piestraks.** Ed Piestrak, center, backed by his grandson, Joshua, and son, Jeffrey, are on hand to accept the Forestry Champion Award for Exemplary Forest Steward from Craig Highfield of the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay and Sally Claggett of the U. S. Forest Service.

Piestrak Forestlands encompass nearly 900 acres in the town of Lindley in Steuben County. The land has been a certified tree farm since 1997. Ed has demonstrated on the ground impact and public engagement including sponsoring regular woods walks. A professional forest management plan, updated every 5 years, has been in place since 2003 and is used to manage the mostly forested property. It is managed for wood, water, air, wildlife and recreation by construction of ponds, vernal pools, deer

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## WFL Member Award (continued from page 1)

enclosures, wildlife food plots, nest boxes, access roads and planting of trees. Timber stand improvement is an ongoing process and water control structures were recently installed to restrict erosion on the roughly 5 miles of forest roads. Ed also wages war against invasive vegetation such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose.

Ed manages the LLC while his sons and daughter have shares to ensure the land will stay intact and be actively managed for generations. He's an active Master Forest Owner volunteer and willingly shares his experiences with other landowners. A woods walk on the property describes

a variety of ongoing projects in a fun and informative manner and sets the gold standard for such activities.

Ed, accompanied by son Jeffrey and grandson Joshua (see photo) was honored at the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum in September in Shepherdstown, WV. Ed, your forestry family salutes you and your family. Well done! Not as impressive perhaps but Ed and Wanda have been selected by the WFL board of directors to be recipients of our **2012 Chapter Service Award**. Congratulations!

## Welcome New Members

<b>Roger and Sharon Allen</b>	<b>Penn Yan</b>	<b>Richard Lent</b>	<b>Penn Yan</b>
<b>John Ballan</b>	<b>Prattsburgh</b>	<b>Davies Nagel</b>	<b>Pittsford</b>
<b>Dave Bojanowski</b>	<b>Perry</b>	<b>Curt Petzoldt</b>	<b>Phelps</b>
<b>Jack Butler</b>	<b>Pittsford</b>	<b>Tom Reagan</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>
<b>Laurel Nelson and Rock Castou</b>	<b>Dansville</b>	<b>Colleen and Bryan Roof</b>	<b>Newark</b>
<b>Alan Comstock</b>	<b>Penn Yan</b>	<b>John Schouten</b>	<b>Rochester</b>
<b>Michael and Diane Dambra</b>	<b>Springwater</b>	<b>David Tomlinson</b>	<b>Keuka Park</b>
<b>Dansville Public Library</b>	<b>Dansville</b>	<b>Colleen and Dave Voellinger</b>	<b>Springwater</b>
<b>Nancy Kirby Kurjakonic</b>	<b>Corning</b>		

## About Us

### NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2013 Board of Directors

**Richard Starr, Director and Chairman**  
231 Farm View Dr.  
Macedon, NY 14502  
(585) 377-4849  
pockaa@aol.com

**Dale Schaefer, Director and Vice Chairman**  
6017 County Road #37  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 367-2849

**Cathy Gardner, Director and Secretary**  
7400 Corby Road  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472  
585-624-7636  
cathygardner10@yahoo.com

**Ron Reitz, Director and Treasurer**  
6086 Canadice Hill Rd.  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 367-2847  
rrlpr@aol.com

**Jim Minor, Director  
WFL Newsletter Publisher  
At-Large State Board Member**  
22 Bryn Mawr Road  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(585) 247-7069  
jcmminor@rochester.rr.com

**Ray Cavallaro, Director**  
245 Hurstbourne Road  
Rochester, NY 14609-5503  
(585) 288-3411

**Dick Dennison, Director**  
137 Wood Creek Drive  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
(585) 586-9098  
Kibbycamp@rochester.rr.com

**Peter Muench, Director**  
P.O. Box 473  
Naples, NY 14512  
(585) 412-3447  
munchme.444@gmail.com

**Eileen Schaefer, Program Director**  
6017 County Road #37  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 367-2849  
dschaefer1@frontiernet.net

**Tony Ross, Director  
Anne Ross, Director**  
358 Hurstbourne Road  
Rochester, NY 14609  
(585) 288-4821  
aaross@frontiernet.net

**Walt Schuchardt, Director  
Video Librarian**  
20 Webster Road  
Spencerport, NY 14559  
(585) 352-4897

**Mike Seager, Director &  
At-Large State Board Member**  
P.O. Box 1281  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
(585) 414-6511  
seager\_michael@yahoo.com

*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.

For event reminders and late-breaking news, **subscribe to our email list** by sending a blank email to [nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)

**Note:** The deadline for our next, Spring, issue is March 1st.

# Seager Woodswalk

by Mike Seager

“I want you to enjoy your woods.” In a woodswalk filled with nuggets of information and wisdom that kept 50 people captivated for more than two hours, that was forester Bruce Robinson’s recurring theme. If you don’t enjoy your woods you are a lot less likely to

rose, purple loosestrife and other exotics that are moving in. And while there is nothing wrong with engaging in that battle, I sometimes need to walk with others who can remind me of the nice aspects of the woodlot – the diversity of tree species, the potential timber value, the interesting wildlife habitat. Left to myself too long, all I see sometimes are garlic mustard and honeysuckle springing up. So while it might not seem like I should need a reminder to enjoy my woods, sometimes that is exactly what I need.



*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

**Bruce Robinson addressing his audience at Mike Seager's...**

Another theme of Bruce’s talk was that there is a great complexity in natural systems, and learning about those systems can take a lifetime and be enjoyable as well as educational. Consider, for example, developing food sources for wildlife, whether by encouraging wild plants such as apple trees or planting areas with food crops. To make an area more attractive to wildlife, there is no need to cultivate food sources that ripen in the summer and fall, when plenty of other food is available. The real draw for wildlife

do other things that you should, such as maintaining trails, improving wildlife habitat or timber stand improvement. It is important not to be a slave to such tasks; if you let them take the fun out of being in the woods, neither you nor the woods are well served.

This is not a new theme for Bruce, and I have heard him make similar comments about this same woodlot a number of times over the years – he is my consulting forester and the setting was the woodlot on my family farm. But I tend to forget these lessons and so it is good to have an occasional refresher.

Take invasive species, for example. It would be nice to eliminate them, but that is rarely practical. I usually spend some very unpleasant hours each year doing battle with multiflora



*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

**...while they listen in rapt attention.**

*Continued on the next page.*

**Seager Woodswalk - continued from page 3.**

will be food that is available through the winter and the early spring, when other supplies are scarce. Thus sumac is a valuable food source for birds, because despite not having great nutritional value it lasts through the winter and is available to feed the migrating songbirds when they arrive in the early spring. Similarly, apple trees that hold their apples into the winter are more valuable to wildlife than those that drop their fruit early, even if the latter might produce more fruit.

Walking in the woods and watching the local wildlife are the day-to-day pleasures of owning a woodlot. I also view my woodlot as part of my retirement plan, and to that end Bruce is guiding us in developing high quality timber for future income. Like many woodlots, ours has been high-graded and otherwise abused for many years, and recovering from that abuse is a long process. We had the first timber harvest under Bruce's direction less than two years ago. We marked a lot of low-grade trees, mostly maple and hemlock, and sold them for not very much money. The point of this harvest was



*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

**Bruce pointed out signs of a sapsucker passing through Mike's woods.**

not to make money, but to begin restoring the health of the woodlot by increasing the average quality and health of the remaining trees. Our management plan calls for another similar harvest in about 10 years. That should remove a lot more of the substandard trees. Eventually, 20 or 25 years from now, we should be in a position to sell timber of fairly high quality every 10-15 years while retaining a stand of diverse, healthy and valuable trees.



*Photo courtesy of Dick Starr*

**It appears Mike has some beavers walking his property on their hind legs who want to make sure they don't bump their heads. Seems like the beaver equivalent of a widowmaker.**

While Bruce did not say this in so many words, another lesson he reinforced for me during this walk is the importance of having the right people help manage a woodlot. The complexity of the ecosystem and the difficulty in managing for multiple objectives make it far too difficult for a novice such as myself to juggle effectively. There is a lot to learn, and the consequences of making a mistake can take decades to repair. On the other hand, working under the guidance of a professional can pave the way to realize a number of different objectives, have fun in your woodlot, and perhaps, eventually, to make some money from it.

# Annual Meeting

by Dick Starr

We had one uninvited gate crasher at our 7th annual dinner meeting – hurricane Sandy. The worst was over by meeting time but the power outages, actual and anticipated, made it a tad tense. We set records for most reservations, most no shows (probably because of Sandy), most money in the 50-50 raffle pot and we closed the evening's books in the black. This was courtesy of the many raffle tickets purchased in hopes of winning the new Stihl chain saw. The lucky winner was Mike Seager (see photo) who quipped, "Why did I buy the extra tickets?" Many outstanding door prizes were provided and we thank the donors. The winner of the 50-50 raffle donated half his winnings back to the chapter. Thanks for your generosity. Should we rename it the 75-25 raffle?



Photo courtesy of Dick Starr

**Chainsaw winner Mike Seager with his brand new Stihl saw.**

Hydrologist Kim Sherwood was our guest speaker addressing horizontal hydraulic fracturing and shale gas recovery. This is a hot button topic at the moment and Kim kept his comments unbiased and factual. He started by showing the DEC's proposed set of guidelines. I judged it as roughly three Rochester phone books in thickness. It probably doesn't hurt NYS to have neighboring Pennsylvania embroiled in this topic. In almost any activity much can be learned

by watching the person in line ahead of you. In fact, these are not new regulations but supplements to those adopted in 1992.

Kim showed a map indicating that most past drilling for gas and oil in NYS occurred in the western part of the state. These were vertical wells and each could drain approximately 40 acres. The new idea is to have 6 to 9 wells on a single pad draining 640 acres. This will have fewer well sites dotting the landscape but concentrate activity for a longer period of time at a single site. The old method required about 80,000 gallons of water per well. The new process will need 3 to 7 million gallons of water. A loaded water truck takes a toll on roads equal to 9500 cars. Sometimes pipe lines can deliver the needed water removing trucks from the picture. Of course, burying a pipe line carries its own burdens.

Some of the concerns about hydraulic fracturing include contamination of drinking water, use of chemicals, a possible need to refracture, well casings not holding up over the projected 30 year life of a well, surface spills, infused fluids coming back out of the hole, naturally occurring radioactive materials and brine.

Well pads must be at least 500 feet away from a private water supply and water quality must be measured before, during and after drilling within 1000 feet of a private water supply. For public water supplies there can be no surface disturbance within 2000 feet. Surface disturbances, including pipe lines, can be seed beds for invasive plants. DEC estimates it will need an additional 40 employees to monitor the

increased drilling activity.

Part of the driving force for horizontal hydraulic fracturing is creation of jobs and the financial benefits for landowners involved. At the present time the supply of natural gas is high which tends to keep costs down and suppresses the number of proposed new drilling sites. Hopefully this will help DEC get the supplements prepared without "hurry up" pressure.

## Up Front & Personal: Wild Boar in Lima, NY

by Dan Dumar

I'm a NYS certified wastewater treatment plant operator for the village of Lima. The plant discharges into Spring Brook, a small tributary of Honeoye creek in the Genesee River basin. Spring Brook winds its way through agricultural land and is lined with hardwoods and underbrush. It also serves as a corridor for a wide variety of wildlife traveling from food sources to bedding areas.

Ken East, a neighboring farmer, stopped by one morning in mid July 2012. His wife Sarah, who walks their dogs and rides horses along Spring Brook, had a recent confrontation with a wild boar. Her horse was startled and it was all she could do to control her dogs; needless to say a very frightening experience. Ken had talked with other neighbors and many had seen the wild boar feeding in a harvested wheat field a few hundred feet from the treatment plant. Ken asked me, a hunter, if I would remove the feral hog and the significant danger it posed. I checked the regulations on DEC's website and learned of a hog's destructive nature and source of diseases and parasites affecting both humans and livestock.

I sat in the brush along the wheat field the same

evening. The boar, sharp tusks and all, came into the field about 8 pm. It was foraging through the wheat stubble and clover planted as a cover crop. It reminded me of a bird dog in search of a pheasant's scent trail, constantly moving and stopping for a few seconds to eat. The 200 lb boar stopped and turned, quartering toward me presenting an opportunity which was taken. Note the photo (outside cover). DEC was alerted and a report filed with the conservation officer. Pictures and a report were also sent to the USDA for analysis.

A few weeks later I found damage done by the wild boar to the bank of Spring Brook. The boar had rooted up sections as long as 30 feet and 10 feet wide in a number of different locations along the creek. Whatever the boar was feeding on was living or growing in the low, flat sections of the creek bank. The damage done could very possibly change the course of the creek during a period of high precipitation. The eastern edge of the tree line above the creek that borders a farmer's soybean field looked as if someone had run a rototiller down it. I have never seen this much damage done by a single animal. I could only imagine the negative impact groups of these animals would have on an ecosystem.

## Remembering

by Dick Starr

Childhood memories came flooding back as I listened to Kim Sherwood's comments at the annual dinner meeting. He showed a map indicating that past oil and gas wells in NYS were mostly found in the western part of the state. Marlene and I grew up in that area in the small village of Richburg and remember oil and gas wells just about everywhere including back yards. We both had family members who made their living in the oil field. Marlene's father had his own tools meaning he owned a drilling rig and could be hired to drill an oil well. My father drove a transport truck and delivered fuel oil to various businesses. Marlene has a cousin with a gas line running directly from a well to his home. He pays no one for his domestic gas supply.

Our wells were the vertical variety since horizontal drilling technology did not exist at



Photo supplied by Dick Starr

**North of Richburg, NY. March, 1882.**

*Continued on next page.*

## Remembering - continued from page 6

the time. Once the drill bit reached the oil and gas bearing formation a shooter was called to drop a container of nitroglycerine down the hole. The resulting blast busted up the underground rock creating a subterranean reservoir. Another result of the nitro blast could be a geyser of oil and water jetting up the well casing often going hundreds of feet into the air spraying everything and everybody nearby with black crude. Then the crew had the job of capping the well to control it.

In high school I did some part time work for Sherm Lyons, the local shooter. He had his own remote nitro making facility and once gave me a tour. All tools were made of wood since the last thing one needs in a nitro plant is a metal tool generating a spark. At the time he was set up to make dynamite as I recall. He mixed nitro with sawdust then used wooden "fingers" to stuff the mix into cardboard tubes. Being a shooter was a dangerous profession and not all lived to retirement age. Mr. Lyons did. Rumor had it he was a wealthy man since folks paid generously for his service. I recall my mother not wanting to be anywhere near the nitro truck as it took the local roads to a well shooting.

After the well was capped and controlled, a mix of oil and water were pumped to the surface where it was stored in wooden tanks – note foreground in accompanying picture. My maternal grandfather's occupation was to go from tank to tank and use a wooden mallet to remove a wooden plug at the base of the wooden tank. This let the water, often brine, flow out onto the ground. Since oil floats on water the water drain plug had to be at the bottom. When it began flowing crude oil the water had been drained away and he'd hammer the plug back into place. At the end of his shift he was often covered in crude oil. Imagine doing his laundry.

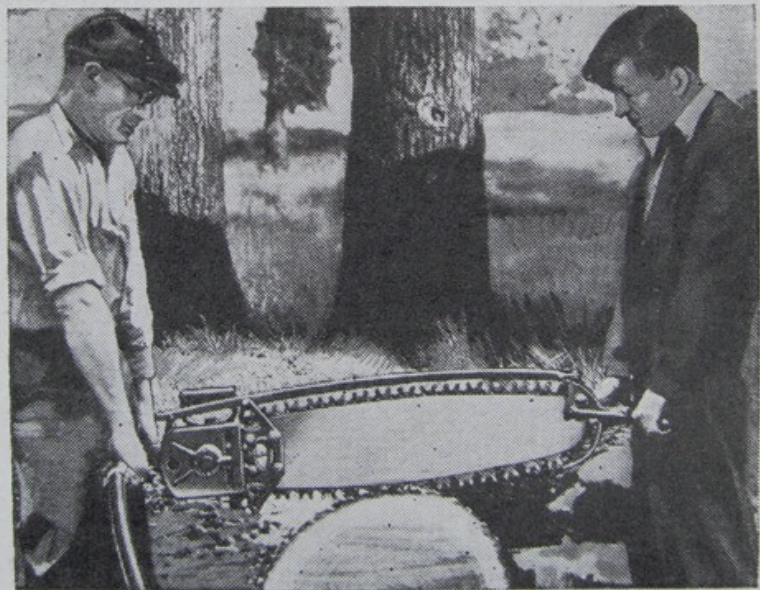
Decades later, little grows on some of those tank sites where brine and a bit of crude once flowed. With our modern environmental awareness it doesn't seem possible this was allowed. Of course, DEC didn't exist then and maybe that's why it does now. It was also acceptable at the time for a school principal to apply the

board of education to the seat of learning for uncooperative students.

The discovery of oil in Richburg in April 1881 ignited a drilling frenzy fueled by human greed. Combine this with little respect for environmental impact and it's not difficult to see the need for governmental oversight in today's frenzy to drill. The photo, overlooking the northern half of Richburg in March 1882, clearly shows a "forest" of drilling derricks not present 11 months earlier. I count at least 40 derricks. The lack of any true forest is not the result of drilling but farmers clearing the land for crops. Standing in the same place today one would see little but mature forest and it's been that way for many decades. To put this in historical perspective, Billy the Kid was killed in July 1881 and the Gunfight at the OK Corral was October 1881.

### Powered Lightweight Chain Saw Can Operate under Water

Working efficiently both above and below water, a chain saw is adaptable for use with gasoline engine, electric motor or pneumatic power units. Lightweight and portable, the amphibious saw cuts off piles under water, fells trees on land, and saves labor in cutting up large logs or lumber.



*Cutting a log with the power driven chain saw*

*Photo supplied by Dick Starr*

**What was considered a "lightweight chain saw" per a 1940 *Popular Mechanics* article.**

## With Age Comes Wisdom (maybe)

by Eileen Schaefer

Friday afternoon, September 7th, I was looking up information for the 30th Annual Macedon Center Community Lumberjack Festival for 2012 on the internet with the expectation that either Dale and I, or just Dale would be attending the event Saturday or Sunday. My Saturday working habits put a crimp in activities that both of us are able to attend, so many Saturday mornings Dale heads off to some type of forestry event by himself.

But I digress; what I didn't know was Dale really had intended to get information to participate in the amateur competition on Saturday September 8th. So like a good partner, I said "Sure honey you should go for it". Of course in my head I was thinking "Is he nuts? It's

were dwindling. But finally a phone call was returned and Chris Howard was willing to join in this adventure.

Unfortunately I was unable to witness this grand adventure. But as the two warriors returned from the event I could see it had been something they would never forget. They could barely describe the day to me since they were laughing so hard. The very first event, log rolling, just about did them in. Dale injured something (probably a pulled muscle) along his ribcage, enough that he had to hold his side when he laughed. Chris already had a problematic shoulder, which started to hurt quite a bit more after the log rolling. That log didn't move as easily as they expected it to and they were dismayed to find out they had to

attempt the event twice; once for a scored time for Chris and once for Dale. Competitors not only had to finish an event, but finish it with the best time. The same rules applied in order to compete in the two-man crosscut; one "heat" for Dale and one for Chris.

Dale became a coach after one attempt at the two-man crosscut since further injury to his side might result in "no working in the woods!" Chris couldn't quite complete the buck saw competition as Dale cheered him on; his shoulder couldn't take anymore. Which meant no attempt would be made competing in the log chop. If any of you have watched this type of competition, you stand on a log and chop down between your feet with a hatchet until the log is cut through.

Not great for a sore shoulder! The

chainsaw and tree felling competitions would also have to wait for another year. They completed the competition with the last event "making fire". Dale and Chris were paired up with two other competitors. They had to start a fire using one match at a time under a pot with water and dish soap; and the task was completed when the water boiled over!

No big money prizes or trophies were won that day, but both Chris and Dale can boast they have competed in a lumberjack competition!



*Photo courtesy of Ryan Van Damme and Ryan Staychock*

### **Dale Schaefer and Chris Howard whiling away a Saturday afternoon.**

Friday afternoon and the competition starts Saturday morning at 9:00." Not to mention he has not trained or practiced for any of the events.

After a phone call to an event coordinator, Dale knew all the details of entering the competition which included having a partner. After naming several possibilities of people he might be able to talk into this adventure, the list was narrowed down to the ones that might actually have the time or inclination. As the afternoon slipped into the evening, hopes for competing



# Liability Workshop

by Jim Bagley

The Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Yates County Master Forest Owner volunteers, with assistance from the DEC Region 8 staff, held a workshop on September 29th about Understanding Landowner Liability Issues including posting and trespass. It was a beautiful fall day and 75 people turned out, some traveling 2 hours for the session.

Featured presenters were:

- David Colligan, Attorney at Law and NYFOA member
- Matt Lockner, Lieutenant with the Environmental Conservation Police, Region 8
- Ed Nemitz, Sergeant with the Yates County Sheriff's Department
- Jason Cook, District Attorney Yates County
- Jim Bagley, Senior Forester, Region 8 DEC

Mr. Colligan covered many aspects of landowner liability issues, the General Obligations Law, posting and gas leasing. He used real life examples to illustrate his point for every topic discussed. The two officers and the District Attorney explained posting laws, penalties and how to handle a trespass. They too used real life examples for illustration.

Points to remember:

1) A landowner should become familiar with the General Obligations Law as well as the En Con and Penal Laws

2) Under En Con posting law a sign must be no smaller than 11"x 11" and have the word "Posted" or something similar along with the owner's or representative's name and address. Signs must be at every corner no more than 660 feet apart

3) There is a Penal trespass law and an En Con trespass law. As long as the posting is done by En Con law a violator can be charged for both violations

4) The DEC does not provide posting signs but they do provide "Ask Permission" stickers and blue "Permission Cards" for owners willing to give access to their property for certain activities like hunting, hiking, bird watching etc.

5) The penalty for violating En Con trespass law is a fine up to \$250 and up to 15 days in jail

6) A personal "Do Not Trespass" notice can be served by the local sheriff to a particularly troublesome person(s)

7) When it comes to trespassing prosecution, it's not what you know but what you can prove

8) The General Obligations Law provides some protection for landowners who permit others to use their property for a variety of casual uses whether posted or not. However, if there is a body of water where people swim, it must be posted with something like "Swim by Permission Only"

9) Landowners should probably meet with their insurance agent and discuss issues unique to the property. A policy that fits your individual circumstances can be prepared

## Book Report, Part 2

### "The Man Who Planted Trees" by Jim Robbins ©2012

by Dick Starr

PBS once broadcast a program stating there were individuals genetically predisposed to survive the Bubonic Plague of medieval Europe. Since they survived, this genetic advantage was passed to their progeny. Survival of the fittest at work. If this is true, is it difficult to believe some trees might have genetics that give them survival advantages?

Jared Diamond, UCLA professor of geography and physiology, authored "How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed." Dr. Diamond tried to identify the traits and

characteristics of civilizations that fail or survive. Among other things, he found that all failed civilizations deforested their environment. Read that last sentence again. Is that not profound?

Los Angeles has a program to plant 1 million trees. Each tree will store 200 pounds of carbon annually, equal to taking 7000 cars off the road when the goal is reached. Flooding is often the result of man-made deforestation. A

*Continued on next page.*

## "The Man Who Planted Trees" - *continued from page 9.*

100 year flood occurs every 5 years when deforested land is ¼ of the total. Further, floods last 4 – 8% longer for each 10% of forests lost.

Dr. Diana Six, an entomologist at the University of Montana, used to plan her field work for mid July. Now the pine killing beetles she studies fly from May through October. She predicts if it gets a couple of degrees warmer there could be multiple generations of the beetles each year.

As of 2010 eight million acres of lodge pole and ponderosa pine have been killed by beetles across Colorado, Idaho and Montana. A recent outbreak in British Columbia killed 43 million acres of trees and some predict an 80% loss of old-growth lodge pole pines. Further, a freak wind event a few years ago blew the death dealing insects across the Continental Divide for the first time in history. Freed from the bitter cold of the Rockies that once kept them in check, it is feared the insects will move across Canada's boreal forest killing trees all the way to the Atlantic.

The massive British Columbia die off sent the province

from a carbon sink to being a source of atmospheric carbon. Something similar happened in 2005 in the Amazon Basin. An El Nino generated drought plus a violent storm killed half a billion trees in 48 hours. The Basin went from being a carbon sink to a carbon source essentially over night.

While average temperature in the Rocky Mountains is up 2 degrees in the last 50 years, it's the bone numbing minimum temperatures that are of concern. Minimum temperatures are 15 – 20 degrees warmer allowing more overwintering beetles to survive.

### A Special Holiday 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/member (\$35 for family membership) to NYFOA, PO Box 541 Lima, NY 14485.

## Oak Regeneration in the Bristol Hills, Part 2

*by Franz Seischab, Professor Emeritus RIT*

**The following article is the 2nd and final part of a response to questions posed by WFL member Audrey Fernandez. See the *WFL Forest Owner Fall Issues* for the first part. We thank Audrey and Professor Seischab for his response.**

All of this raises the question, "Then why were there so many oaks in the past?" That can't be completely satisfactorily answered but there are some clues as to the success of oaks in the past. The historic record shows that oaks were found on the drier sites and dominated on upper south and west facing slopes where they could compete better than the sugar maples and beech which require greater soil moisture (Seischab, 1990, 1992). The western New York forests in the 18th century were predominantly beech. On the lower east and north facing slopes oaks were rare, so don't expect to find them on these sites today.

In the late 18th and early 19th century the forests had been clear cut to make way for agriculture. When these farms were abandoned the fields were open to invasion by all tree species, however, oaks and red maple had an advantage in full sun situations because their seedlings can tolerate drier soil conditions, as on the upper south and west facing slopes. McIntosh (1972) did a study in

the Catskills where he saw that oaks regenerated well in agricultural fields following agricultural abandonment. However, once the canopy closes and soil moisture improves, the maples have the advantage again.

Therefore, maples are on the increase in the Bristol Hills and throughout the Eastern Deciduous Forest. This is particularly true of red maple, as shown by Abrams (1998). It tends to be left behind by loggers looking for trees of greater value than the red maples. Even if it is harvested, red maple stump sprouts and avoids the necessity of establishing by seed. It's got a head start.

I hope this has clarified what is taking place in the forests of the Bristol Hills.

McIntosh, R.P., 1972. Forests of the Catskill Mountains, New York. *Ecol. Mono.*, 42: 144-161.

Seischab, F. K., 1990. Presettlement forests of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase in western New York. *Bull. Of the Torrey Bot. Club*, 117: 27-38.

Seischab, F. K., 1992. Forests of the Holland Land Company in Western New York, circa 1798. *New York State Museum Bulletin No. 484.*

## Upcoming Events



### WFL Chapter Meeting-

### *Care and Releasing of Apple Trees in the Woodlot*

Tuesday January 15, 2013, 7:30 pm  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County  
480 North Main Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Mr. Russell Welser, Natural Resources and Agriculture Senior Extension Educator will discuss the care and releasing of apple trees in the woodlot.

Take a walk in your woods to look for apple trees you would like to give a little extra care to and jot down your questions to bring with you!

### Workshop-

### *Restoring New York's Forests*

On Saturday March 2, 2013 Yates County MFO's and CCE, with support of NYFOA, will be hosting a workshop about the need to focus attention on the questionable regeneration of New York's forests. It will be held at the Yates County Office Building, 417 Liberty St., Penn Yan, NY. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and the program will run from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Recent studies by Cornell University and the Nature Conservancy concluded that up to 70% of New York forests are not successfully regenerating themselves. This is a direct result of overbrowsing of tree seedlings by deer, interfering and invasive vegetation that prevents the germination of desirable species and in some cases a history of high grading harvest practices (take the best and leave the rest). Our second growth forests range in age from about 80 to 120 years and most of the trees present today will be gone within another 50 years or so. Without successful regeneration the forest as we know it won't exist in the next century.

Solutions to the regeneration problem will require intensive forest management including the control of

deer populations and interfering vegetation. NYFOA member Jerry Michael will discuss the Cornell study in the context of our second growth forests during the 29th century. A wildlife biologist will discuss the impacts of deer browsing on forest regeneration. A forester will cover methods to control invasives and interfering plants plus silvicultural treatments necessary for successful forest regeneration.

Come learn about management techniques to restore the health and diversity of your woods. Bring a friend or neighbor. For more information and to register, please call Yates County CCE at 315-536-5123

### WFL Chapter Meeting-

### *forest bathing*

Dr. Les Moore,  
Director, Integrative Medicine  
Clifton Springs Hospital

Tuesday March 5, 2013, 7:30 pm.  
Monroe County Cooperative Extension  
249 Highland Avenue, Rochester  
Light refreshments will be available.

Dr. Moore holds a master's of science in Oriental medicine; he is a licensed acupuncturist, and a naturopath medical hydrologist. He recently published an article in the Democrat & Chronicle Health Checkup section November 7, 2012 titled *Find therapeutic healing in "forest bathing"*. According to Dr. Moore, Shinrin-yoku or "forest bathing" is a short leisurely trip to a forest for its healing benefits. Pencil this meeting in your calendar and learn some of the additional benefits we reap from our forests!

## Classifieds

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member/Non-Member price: 4' (\$4.50/\$5.00); 4' w/ stake (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 5' w/ stake (\$6.00/\$6.50). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

**Polymer Nails for Posted Signs** - 100 tough non-metal nails, 2 1/4" long. Be kind to your trees and sawyer. \$12 + \$3 S&H = \$15, check to Perluma at PO Box 74 Springwater, NY 14560. Information: dfaklis@perluma.com.

**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.



**New York Forest Owners Association**

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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2012

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Lima, NY, hunter Dan Dumar, at the request of a neighbor, shot this wild boar near his home. See Dan's story inside.

## Mark your Calendar!

- January 9, 2013- WFL Board of Directors meeting  
7 PM Lima Hotel
- January 15, 2013- General Meeting 7:30 PM \*
- March 2, 2013- Restoring New York's Forests  
Workshop \*
- March 5, 2013- General Meeting 7:30 PM \*
- October 29, 2013- 8th Annual Dinner Meeting  
Monroe County CCE

\* See inside for details

**Note:** For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe to our email list by sending a blank email to-  
[nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)