

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2013

Volume 27 Number 4

In Our Woodlot

by Ed and Wanda Piestrak

Deer Fencing

During 2005 we had installed an 8 foot deer fence that encompassed 17 acres of forestland. It was an area that we wanted to observe what would happen to the forest regeneration without the influence of deer. For the first 3 years or so the deer were not in the fenced area. But we could not determine any difference with tree growth within or out of the fenced area. We monitored the fenced area on a regular basis to ensure there were no holes or trees fallen on the fence causing deer easy access to these areas.

Approximately two years ago we determined a doe had jumped the fence and claimed the area as her private home. (We observed her in the fenced area a couple of times). When mating season approached she became a desired and welcome mate for the local buck population. Within a couple of months we encountered six holes where the love sick bucks dug under the fence to enter and exit the area. We tried blocking the holes with logs, wire, etc but they would persist to reopen the areas. We know they were bucks since we had trail cameras set up

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ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

A photo collage from our annual dinner, held on October 29th, having 70 in attendance. All photos courtesy of Maurice Seager.



Our raffle prizes. Master of Ceremonies and WFL President, Dick Starr. Raffle drawing with Tony Ross.



Stihl chainsaw winner Roger Moore. A Baltimore Oriole, donated to and watching over the raffle. Our evening's speaker Dr. Bruce Gilman who gave a humorous, informational talk on snakes in New York State.

at the hole sites and were able to photo the antlered deer entering the holes they made. Now we have several families living within the fenced area since we have seen many tiny deer tracks within the enclosure.

Problems with fencing:

1. Does a deer enclosure fence prove worth while?
2. Cost of installing the fence
3. Maintaining the fence
4. What do you do with the fence now?
5. Cost and problems of taking it down
6. Not a difference inside or outside the fence with regeneration



Photo courtesy of the authors

Attempt at closing a deer entrance hole with logs.

Before fencing the deer had overrun the area and regeneration was affected, but about the same time we had the fence installed we set a goal of reducing the deer population by hunting. For a few years we had hunters harvest 40 – 45 deer each year and that solved the problem of over-browsing. Now with a reasonable herd size the forest appears to be holding its own. Planting of multiple food plots have kept the resident deer well nourished and we will continue to monitor their numbers so that the deer do not get out of balance with the available food supply. Should landowners consider fencing an area? We believe one has to look at the total picture and then determine if it is right for them. Sadly, sometimes you have to learn the hard way.

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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.

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

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

What do I want to accomplish in my woodlot?

by Colette Morabito (AFC/WFL)

Greenwood Hill Farm Woods Walk

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, Dana and Jim Kruser provided 25 or more participants to an information packed day while enjoying a gorgeous fall backdrop in Andover, NY. We were all treated to delicious homemade refreshments as Bruce Robinson, forester extraordinaire, lead us in a discussion of the Krusers Nonprofit Organization with 501(c)(3) status farm, a privately owned, family run, public park. A unique concept incorporating their 125 acres, 60 of which are forested. The program held in the heart of their farm compound, awarded us an opportunity to hear all the details of the Krusers goals and work plan for their woodlot. Their desire is to maintain a farm that supports diverse wildlife habitat, organic agriculture, and saw timber, to name a few.

Mr. Robinson described their three different forest sites. The property is recovering from abandoned agriculture and oil exploitation. In the first site, this young forest contains typical Pioneer species (black cherry, sugar and red maple were the dominate species). He explained why and how the trees crowd each other and branch out, to receive more energy from the sun and the cause and affect of forked trees. This site was thinned by 1/3 in order to release certain individual trees. No one specific species was targeted and size was not the main focus. The second site incorporates a Sugar Bush Maple stand with two active oil wells. This site also sustained a thinning in which 16,000 board feet were sold. The timber sale was professionally logged with horse-drawn



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Kruser

Another "diversion" at the Greenwood Hill Farm.

equipment. The third site is a red oak forest regeneration project. Deer are always a lively topic of conversation when it comes to the influence they can impede on a woodlot. During our discussion Mr. Robinson also taught us countless fine nuances of individual trees. For instance, how the soil influences which trees will prosper, forest and forest floor density, how to identify the age of a forest stand based on the variety of trees, their size and physical attributes (or lack thereof). Birds, of particular delight to Bruce, were often interjected into the conversation as particular plants and trees would invoke their presence and importance to the woodlot.



Photo courtesy of the author

Dale Schaefer, Dave Morabito and another participant pondering one of the many forked trees in this young forest at Greenwood Hill Farm.

Immediately after lunch we all headed out for a truly enjoyable walk through the Kruser's woods, either escorted on foot or tractor drawn trailer. The warm fall day was another treat. We all came away with plenty of new information, real examples from our discussions and an equal amount of new questions! However, we can all agree with Bruce in that we need to participate in the life of our forests. That every tree is an individual. We are working toward sustainable forests. Mr. Robinson pointed out that you cannot make a mistake unless you do nothing at all. A woodlot is not a park. Debris invites wildlife. The forest floor should be dense and not "neat". Try to grow the very best tree on the site. Always ask this question before you cut down a tree, "What do I want to accomplish in my woodlot?"

The conversation did take several lively twists and turns away from the topic of trees as the group agreed that offering your wife a chainsaw, tractor, pressure canner, or some such item as an anniversary or birthday gift is not recommended! All the ladies present agreed, whole heartedly! Thanks again to the Krusers for a fine day in their impressive woodlot!

A Trip

by Dick Starr

In the fall of 2013 Marlene and I took a seven week nearly 11,000 mile trip to the west coast and back. Our objectives were to visit some states we hadn't seen before (checked off 12 new ones), see some of the famous trees in that part of the country, visit national parks and spend time with family. The government shutdown prevented seeing Joshua trees and Bristlecone Pines but we did encounter other special trees. There was the largest known Ponderosa Pine in Oregon. The coast Redwoods are awesome and what can be said about the Giant Sequoias? One Sequoia has a limb 6 feet in diameter over 100 feet above ground level. Now that's a widow maker.

As we strolled among the coast Redwoods in Jedediah Smith State Park in California the air was still and it was a peaceful cathedral like setting. People talked in hushed tones as though visiting a holy place. I couldn't help but think of forest bathing as reviewed in a previous WFL newsletter and one of our general meeting topics. The bark of these trees is deeply furrowed and craggy but when a tree happened to be near the walking trail human hands had reached out and, over time, rubbed the bark smooth and shiny. Like many before me I couldn't resist the urge to



Photo courtesy of the author

Gazing up a Coast Redwood

touch these magnificent giants and did my best imitation of the Vulcan mind meld. Sadly I had no mental revelations but then my ears are round and my blood is not green. (Apologies to non Trekkies).

We learned of Galen Clark. After his wife died he moved to California around 1848. In 1853 at age 39 he contracted consumption, now known as TB. With no antibiotic treatment available at the time he was given 6 months to live and told to rest and get outdoor air. He, "...went to the mountains to take my chances of dying or growing better, which I thought were about even." After discovering the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite he built a cabin among them and lived there guiding, writing and urging protection for the great trees, some approaching 3000 years old. During the Civil War President Lincoln paused in 1864 to set aside the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley as a protected State preserve.

Mr. Clark died March 24, 1910, four days shy of his 97th birthday. I had to wonder if his illness was a misdiagnosis or did a daily dose of forest bathing with the giant trees cure him. Maybe it was just the fresh air and, by today's standards, a vigorous lifestyle. I believe there are many things we still don't understand and maybe the benefits of forest bathing is one of them.

It was special to gape at the General Sherman Giant Sequoia. It's the largest tree on planet Earth as measured by sheer volume of wood contained. Some trees are taller and some are older but none are larger than Sherman. I'm thankful some of our predecessors were willing to fight for preserving these unique trees.



Photo courtesy of the author

General Sherman, Giant Sequoia, Largest Tree on Earth

Charles E. Winship (1942 - 2013)

by Dean Faklis

Charles E. "Chuck" Winship, 71, of East Springwater, NY passed away at his home on Sunday October 13, 2013, with



care and love of family and friends. Born in Salamanca, NY, Chuck attended the University of Buffalo and went on to have an extremely successful technical and business career at

Xerox. After retiring from Xerox with 33 years of innovation, Chuck hit the books again, with purpose, and earned a Masters degree from Cornell University in Natural Resources.

And then he made his way methodically, back to the land, some 200 acres at Sugarbush Hollow, with great vision to produce New York's finest maple syrup. With unwavering support of family and friends, both old and new, the operation grew in size and technical achievement. Chuck's strong focus on quality and love for the maple forest was evident to all. Friendships, too many to count, were born and nurtured in those woods.

Chuck made several important contributions to the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA. In the late 1990's, he managed the WFL newsletter and then became Chairman and Board Member of WFL shortly thereafter. He then served NYFOA at the state level as the WFL representative. At the same time, Chuck was an active Master Forest Owner and held annual woodwalks at Sugarbush Hollow, where he showcased his maple operation, cherry/maple plantation and maple research forest.

Chuck played a key role with the Springwater Fiddlers Fair and American Crafts Show, which is held annually at Sugarbush Hollow. A day filled with good music, good food, and thousands of good friends! Chuck and WFL made sure that there were many opportunities for young and older alike to learn about the forest and forest products during Fiddlers Fair.

We'll miss him. We'll miss his extraordinary enthusiasm, keen mind, and infectious smile. We'll miss gathering in the sugarhouse, hiking on the trails, and tapping the trees, all with him. We'll miss his generosity, kindness, and..... the strong sound of his voice.



An Apple Tatoo

by Dick Starr

In October 2013 I was sorting through some recently picked apples. Those that appeared to be in good shape went into a winter storage container while those that were suspect went into the "you're gonna make a pie" pile. Then I spotted one with a symmetrical and circular pattern of small dark spots. It appeared the apple had visited a tattoo parlor. Knowing that was unlikely I suspected some kind of insect activity.



I showed it to a local apple orchard owner and he instantly said, "Flyspeck but not caused by flies." Flyspeck is a surface blemish caused by fungal spores and the name reflects its resemblance to fly excreta. It does the fruit no harm and does no harm if eaten. However, the blemish doesn't live up to our standards that better looking fruit is better tasting fruit. The blemished fruit is destined to become an apple based product, not displayed at the fruit stand. Its market value is greatly diminished and growers try to avoid it.

The fungus requires water on the developing fruit. That makes it more common in a wet growing season. We can't control the weather but we can strive for greater air circulation within fruit trees which hastens drying time. Pruning for an open center promotes air circulation and admits more sunshine. The fungus winters over on twigs so removing neglected trees or woody materials like nearby berry bushes can help.

Commercial growers spray with fungicides to control Flyspeck. Those concerned about chemicals entering the food chain are more inclined to accept a harmless cosmetic blemish.

Charcoal

by Dick Starr

In the spring of 2013 I had an urge to try making charcoal, probably because I had never done so. First came some research on how such a thing is done. This will review some of what I learned about charcoal and a future article will review my attempts to make some.

The origins of charcoal making are lost in pre history. Making it has been going on for at least 5500 years and it fueled the bronze and iron ages. This was such a momentous event in the course of human history that it's specifically mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis 4:22 we read the following about Tubal-cain, "He opened the first foundry forging instruments of bronze and iron." (Living Bible) Charcoal is any vegetative matter, read that wood if you prefer, that has been heated enough to drive off water and various gasses leaving carbon behind. This process occurs in an oxygen starved environment. Excluding oxygen prevents the wood/charcoal from igniting and burning up during the cooking process.

In the past charcoal makers would dig a pit and fill it with wood. This was a pit kiln. The wood to be cooked was arranged around a central flue which contained fuel for generating heat. The resulting fire hopefully stayed in the flue at the center of the pile.

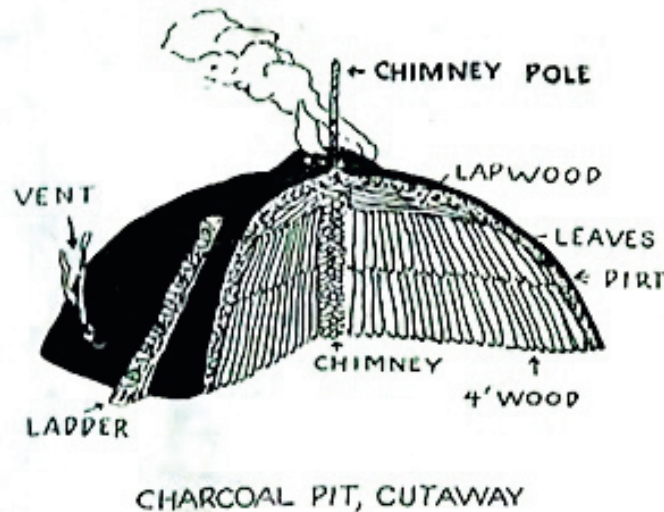


Photo source - Wikipedia

Wood mound before covering it by turf or soil, and firing it (around 1890)

To keep the pile oxygen free it was covered with soil or clay and air vents around the base admitted the oxygen needed to burn the flue fuel. If all went as planned, the heat in the burning flue cooked the surrounding wood into charcoal and didn't ignite the whole pile.

Digging the pit was hard work as bull dozers and backhoes didn't exist at the time. Later versions had the wood piled directly on the ground, known as a forest kiln, near where the wood was harvested. Such piles could measure 100 feet in circumference at the base and be 15 feet tall. A central flue and air vents were built in as in the pit kiln prior to covering with soil or clay to make it air tight. Once ignited a pile could burn for upwards of two weeks and require almost constant tending by the collier and his crew. A collier is a professional charcoal maker.



Drawing source- Franconia Iron Furnace



Stereopticon image of making charcoal in the mountains of Western North Carolina

Long before charcoal was used to grill supper it was a source of domestic heat. Charcoal burns with little or no smoke, little leftover ash and is cleaner and hotter than wood. So hot it can melt iron ore. This in turn lead to deforestation in Europe as iron mills required

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Charcoal - continued from page 6

huge amounts of charcoal. A big mill could consume the charcoal from an acre of forest each day. Early America had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of wood but by the mid 1800's dwindling forest land forced a shift to coal as the fuel for furnaces. Charcoal making is still a contributor to deforestation as aboriginal peoples enter the rain forest to make charcoal with forest kilns.

Carbon in the form of charcoal is a key ingredient in gunpowder. Those who like to make their own prefer willow wood for the carbon component. In making charcoal drawing pencils sections of grapevine are often used. Charcoal made from fruitwoods has unique aromas that are prized for BBQing. The Ford Model T had many components made of wood. To

reduce the waste wood and sawdust at his sawmill plus turn a profit, Henry Ford turned this waste material into charcoal then pressed it into briquettes. With E. G. Kingsford, a relative, they formed the largest charcoal maker in the U.S. The Kingsford Products Company still turns one million tons of wood scraps into briquettes annually.

During our September 2013 visit to Crater Lake in Oregon I learned that road crews have dug into ash deposited 7700 years ago and found chunks of charcoal. It's thought the hot ash from an eruption cooked the surrounding forest. Even as the ash cooked the trees it quickly buried them thus eliminating oxygen. Researchers have learned much about the ancient forest from the buried charcoal chunks.

Upcoming Events

BOD Meeting -

A board of directors meeting for WFL will be held **January 7, 2014**. Any NYFOA member is welcome and invited to attend. We meet at the Lima Hotel at the stop light in Lima. The meeting starts at 7 PM and a pre meeting dinner gathering is at 6 PM for those interested.

Upcoming General Meetings -

January 21, 2014, Monroe County Cooperative Extension on Highland Ave, 7 PM. Ken Harbison will present "Birdhouses for bluebirds and strategies for dealing with predators and competing species."

March 18, 2014, Monroe County Cooperative Extension on Highland Ave, 7 PM. At press time the program and speaker were still in flux. As the time draws near an e-blast will alert members to the details.

A Gift

A gift membership to NYFOA is a wonderful way to introduce a friend or family member to the wonders of the woodland. Send a check for \$30 individual or \$35 family to NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Now you can also enroll on-line at www.nyfoa.org.

Welcome New Members

Ron Feldman	Cameron Mills
Chris Leonard	Pittsford
Mandy & Jeff Trickey	Clifton Springs
John W. Trickey	Seneca Castle
Inger & David Williams	Fairport

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 (\$6.50/\$7.00). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

Quality Tree Care at Affordable Prices by Eastern Tree Climbers, Tom Dunn, Proprietor. 35+ years in business, BBB highest rating; bucket truck, chipper, knuckle boom loader, stumper; Experienced in large hazard trees 585-367-3738

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.

1947 Ford Tractor 2N (9N-8N), 2 speed Sherman transmission, 3pt hitch, belt driven buzz saw. \$2,100, call 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.



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Photo credit- New Hampshire Forest Journal

A "modern day" charcoal kiln. Read about the background of the industry in "Charcoal" on page 6.

Mark your Calendar!

- January 7, 2014 WFL Board Meeting*
- January 21, 2014 General meeting: "Birdhouses for Bluebirds" *
- March 18, 2014 General Meeting*
- August 5 – 7, 2014 Empire Farm Days
- October 28, 2014 WFL Annual Meeting

* See inside for details

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