

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Spring 2014

Volume 28 Number 1

In Our Woodlot

by Ed and Wanda Piestrak

White Pine Planting

On an 80 plus acre field we sought to plant some conifer trees to break up the open areas. Thus from 1989 – 1999 we planted approximately 500 trees each year with the majority of them white pines. Then in 2002 we acquired some additional property and considered an aggressive tree planting program. That involved purchasing a tree planting machine and purchasing 10,000 trees from the Saratoga state nursery, Steuben County Soil and Water as well as from private nurseries. The seedlings were predominately white pine but also a mix of Norway spruce, white spruce, blue spruce, Australian pine, red oak and cherry. At this time we'd like to give our assessment of the planting program.

The trees planted over the ten years are growing but the white pines have suffered from the weevil. Die back of the leaders when the trees reach 3 – 15 feet has been severe. We would cut out the infected leader(s) and also the surrounding top branches with the exception of one to become the new leader. The branch remaining would become dominant and the tree

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Making Charcoal

by Dick Starr

To make charcoal we need to drive off the water and volatile gasses contained in the wood without consuming the wood. Driving off the water and volatiles requires heat while oxygen starvation prevents combustion and consumption. There are various approaches to accomplishing this. For the amateur not desiring large production, smaller containers filled with chunks of wood are easier to handle, especially with fire near at hand. Start simple and keep it small.



All photos by the author

Loaded Retort



Escaping Water Vapor

As the wood in the retort heats and begins to cook, the top vent will have white smoke, mostly water vapor, coming from it. Eventually gasses in the wood begin to vaporize and escape via the vent hole. Being volatile these wood gasses ignite and the vent hole can resemble a blow torch and is fun to watch at night as it dances on the top. Note the color

Select a metal container with a metal handle and sealable metal top. This could be a gallon paint pail or a 5 gallon pail. I find a 2.5 gallon paint pail is easily handled and makes approximately half a plastic shopping bag of charcoal. Fill the container, known as a retort, with chunks of hardwood. Punch/drill a 1/2" vent hole in the top, seal the top on the container and place the whole thing in a camp fire.



Burning Volatiles

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Letter to the Editor

In reference to Ed and Wanda Piestrak's article "In Our Woodlot" in the Fall 2013 WFL Forest Owner, about 60 years ago my father (and mother), who bought our 60 acres in 1929 decided to plant Black Walnut trees in our yard. He advised me they would be worth money someday. They grew quite well and over the years produced many more nuts than we would ever want, especially when they drop in the part of the yard that we mow. I usually raise the mower deck a little to avoid most of them.

Now this is where the issue of the squirrels comes in. None of them live in any of the trees around our house but they seem to come from far and wide to eat at our cafeteria and also haul some away for future use. However they also bury some in other parts of the yard. These appear annually as seedlings in our flower beds and also the lawn.

Regarding their sense of smell we can assure you they have it. At some point when they have disposed of all the surface nuts, they run around sniffing here and there and suddenly start digging. In no time at all they bound off with a nut in their mouth, run to the shelter of a nearby tree and eat it. We have seen them dig thru several inches of snow, to get to the nut in the ground below. Hardly a day

goes by from early Fall until late Spring, where there are no squirrels searching our yard.

They apparently only search by smell, not memory because each year we pull, dig or snip off dozens of walnut seedlings from the flower beds. Some of them come out with the remains of the nut still attached and those we snip off usually reappear the next year. Recently I noticed walnut seedlings around the house across the road from us though they don't have a mature tree there. I told the owner they will have some in a few years.

Transplanting them is not an option for us, as there are dozens of walnuts elsewhere on the property, especially along the creek and therefore probably many more downstream, all the way to Long Pond and Lake Ontario.

Hopefully this sheds a little light on Ed and Wanda's problems with trying to grow seedlings from nuts. Also it is worth noting that my long deceased father's advice came true. Last fall I sold the largest tree in the yard for a sum more than he might ever have thought of. An added bonus is there will be less nuts in the lawn this year!

Sincerely,

Joe Reinschmidt

Spencerport, January 16, 2014

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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 Summer 2014 issue is May 15th.

Bruin Brothers

by Ed Piestrak

In September 2013 I received a telephone call from the NYS DEC bear division that two young bears were available to be released onto the land. It appears the mother of the cubs was killed in late winter somewhere near our property and the two cubs were orphaned. The bears were taken to a wildlife rehab center in the Syracuse area to care for them at that young tender age. They are now about 5 or 6 months old, approximately 50 pounds and both males. They rehabbed very well and the DEC staff and rehab staff felt they could make it in the wild with the proper placement.

The DEC staff remembered being on our property and felt it would be a good fit. We plant approximately 25 acres of corn, soybeans, turnips, clover, rye, oats and sunflowers for wildlife consumption. We were very accepting of the new bears and told they would bring them the next day. Immediately my wife, daughter and grandson said they wanted to be there. My grandson's teacher felt it would be a good learning field trip for him.

The bears arrived approximately 5 PM and we drove to the middle of a 75 acre field that was planted with corn producing multiple large cobs, some of the nicest corn we ever had. The bears were in a transport container on a trailer and they had tags in each ear. Upon release they immediately ran into the corn. We are going to monitor our trail cameras to see if the bears stay in the area. With a good food supply they should do well even without a mother to guide them. We have multiple bears on the property and



Photo Credit: Ed Piestrak

Bruin Brothers' Release

hopefully they can integrate with the resident population.

A story will demonstrate how the local bears are on top of the food chain. My son and two grandsons were sitting in an elevated tree stand in a field area one fall evening observing about 10 deer in and about the field. Suddenly all the deer stood still and looked toward one end of the field. They immediately all ran from the field. My son looked up the field and four bears came walking down together. Hopefully our two new male bears can make friends with the natives.

The Polar Vortex, Bombogenesis and the Emerald Ash Borer

Submitted by Mark Gooding

As I write this in late January, there is no doubt that we have had some extreme cold weather events. Polar vortex, bombogenesis, whatever the Weather Channel calls it this week, it has been pretty darn cold! As the Polar vortex swept into the central and eastern US, some folks began to wonder if the cold snap would freeze the emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae. As often is the case, the scientific community had already considered this and has been studying the cold hardiness of EAB larvae. Although study results have varied, the average temperature that larvae freeze at is around -13°F. A recent report by Rob Venette and Mark Abrahamson predicted that when larvae reach 0°F, 5% will die; at -10°F, 34% will die; at -29°F, 79% will die; and at -34°F, 98% will die. Of course there are always a lot of variables in research. Some caveats to these numbers - these temperatures need to be sustained for at least 24 hours to have an effect; wind chill doesn't count; depending on age and species, tree bark has variable thickness etc. The numbers above were derived from green ash logs placed in a freezer or outdoors in Minnesota and North Dakota for over 5 weeks.

So with a low of -10°F at my house in Lima, at best we would see larvae mortality around 20%. And I tend to think it wasn't that cold for a prolonged period - so the mortality rate was likely lower. Did the cold kill some larvae? Yes. Will that reduce the probability that my ash trees will eventually be attacked by EAB? No.

Having asked several leading entomologists in New York State, they all agreed that the cold temperatures will slow EAB down, but it definitely won't stop it. The extremely cold temperatures in Minnesota may have killed around 80% of the larvae and significantly slowed the advance of the insect. However, this was not the case in New York State. Also, any EAB that do survive these cold spells might be more resistant to cold than the average population and may give rise to a new generation of cold tolerant insects, but researchers don't have a lot of information about EAB and this type of selection.

So the next time we experience a polar plunge that makes your eyelashes freeze and teeth chatter, we can take solace in the thought that some EAB larvae are freezing to death, which gives me a warm feeling.

Harry Dieter 1932-2014

NYFOA lost a great friend when Harry Dieter passed away on January 4, 2014 at the age of 81. We extend our condolences to his wife, Pat, and the rest of Harry's family and his wide circle of friends.

Harry spent his life in western New York and was active in working for our forests on a number of fronts. He and his family own a 400 acre farm and woodlot in Nunda, and one of Harry's favorite occupations was taking care of that property. He also served as a Master Forest Owner for many years and helped countless other landowners learn how they could better manage their properties on visits he made in that capacity.

Harry was a NYFOA member for more than 20 years and actively served both the chapter and the statewide organizations in many ways. He served on the board of directors of the Western Finger Lakes chapter for more than 15 years, until health concerns forced him to step down a couple years ago. While on the chapter board he served as activities director, organizing many tours and woodswalks for our members. Harry also served 12 years on NYFOA's state board of directors. His carefully-considered comments were always respected by other board members and he quietly influenced NYFOA policy in many ways.



Everybody who talked to Harry found him unfailingly pleasant and helpful. He was always willing to take time to help people, and his extensive knowledge and experience in the woods made him a tremendous resource for anybody who had questions. He was a great influence on both the people he met and on the landscape.

Harry's obituary suggested that donations in his name could be made to our Western Finger Lakes chapter. The WFL board would like to thank the many people who have made contributions.

- Mike Seager.

Western Finger Lakes Service Award for 2013

Jim Minor has been selected by the board of the Western Finger Lakes chapter to receive the Chapter Service Award for 2014.

Jim has been involved in NYFOA for many years and in that time he has worn a lot of different hats. For the past several years he has been a member of the WFL board of directors, where he has brought his management experience and discipline to our planning and financial practices. He has also taken on the role of editing our chapter newsletter, assembling articles and tirelessly working with printers to find good pricing and high quality work. He has adopted new technology in producing the newsletter and making electronic copy available for review before it goes to press. The WFL newsletter is among the best

of chapter newsletters in NYFOA thanks in large part to Jim's work in this area.

Jim has done all this for the chapter while also serving as president of the statewide NYFOA organization, a position to which he devotes countless hours and limitless energy.

Somehow Jim still finds time to manage his own woodlot of about 200 acres in Schuyler County, where he has a diverse woodlot, open fields, food plots for wildlife and a variety of other activities and experiments under way.

We would like to congratulate Jim and thank him for all of the contributions he makes to New York's forests and to NYFOA at both the state and chapter levels.

- Mike Seager

Walnuts

by Mike Seagers

After reading about the Piestraks' travails in trying to grow walnuts from seed, I thought I would offer a summary of the experience Dad and I have had with similar efforts. We have several walnut trees around the house, and in a good year they produce a huge pile of nuts. Some of our work has been intended to grow nuts; some has just been to get rid of the nuts in the yard before the lawnmower flings them through a window.

The simplest disposal method has been to dump a bucket of nuts in a pile out in the pasture. We have done this numerous times over the years, with a couple clumps of trees to show for it. In the most

successful patch, there are about 10 trees that have grown to 6-8 feet tall in a few years, with numerous smaller seedlings around them. This is not a very efficient planting method – we get a few seedlings from a lot of nuts, and the trees come up close enough to one another that we will be lucky if we can keep two or three as they get larger. But there is hardly any work involved – just tip the nuts out of the bucket used to carry them from the yard.

Several years ago we decided to try something a little more systematic. We picked a small area in a field, mowed the grass and weeds, and planted nuts. On a grid of points about 10 feet apart, we peeled back a bit of sod with a pick, tossed in a couple walnuts, and let

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White Pine Planting - *continued from page 1*

continued to grow but the trees were not perfectly straight and a few years later the weevil would be back to kill the new leader. As the trees got taller we could not cut out the weevil infected leaders thus we have defective crooked trees.

The trees planted during the 2002 aggressive planting have met a similar fate. The white pines are predominately weevil infested and as they get taller we can't reach the infected area to cut it out. We would not recommend planting white pine seedlings. With the weevil extremely active the majority of trees are infected and would not make timber trees. The Norway spruce are also subject to weevil attack but to a lesser level.

The oak and cherry trees that were planted throughout the conifer plantings have not survived. We placed hundreds of them in 4 foot tree tubes and initially they appeared to be holding their own. Then the bears discovered them and they would bend the tubes in half killing the tree inside. We concluded the bears attacked the tubes to get at bees that had been in some of them. Throughout the winter, even when bees were not present, the bears continued to damage the tubes. It appears that whenever the bears came out of hibernation in the winter they attack the tubes. We observed a mother bear watch her cubs as they struggled with the tree tubes. It was as if they enjoyed playing with them.

We discussed this issue with our forester, Mr. Bruce Robinson, and he indicated the beautiful tall white



Photo by the author

Weevil Damaged White Pine

pine trees on the property grew before the weevil was introduced to our forest. Then again, it would depend on what the goals are for a property. If you want timber trees, white pine are not the ones to plant. If you want wild life cover, white pine would be desirable as they grow fast, are natives to the NY landscape and provide thermal cover.

Hopefully the above will help fellow landowners to make an informed decision when considering a seedling project. We are still learning. Our hope is that since the white pine were planted 3 – 4 feet apart, we can cut out the weevil trees in about 10 years and still have some non-weevil trees twenty or so feet tall. That way we could at least salvage a couple of logs from each tree.

Stumpage Price Report

Species	Western/Central Doyle Rule			New York State Stumpage Price Report Winter 2014/#84	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
Most Common Species					
Ash, White	50-400 (250)	150-600 (400)	250-800 (550)	Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet	
Cherry, Black	50-775 (400)	300-1000 (650)	500-1400 (870)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	50-300 (150)	100-400 (265)	200-500 (400)		
Maple, Sugar (Hard)	50-700 (450)	435-925 (650)	535-1100 (850)		
Oak, Red	50-700 (400)	300-900 (580)	475-1000 (750)		
Pine, White	25-100* (50)	50-120* (90)	60-200* (125)		
Less Common Species					
Aspen	10-50* (25)	25-80* (40)	25-100* (50)		
Basswood	50-150 (100)	50-250 (150)	100-375 (200)		
Beech	20-150* (30)	30-100* (50)	50-200* (90)		
Birch, Yellow	25-250* (100)	50-375 (195)	100-500* (300)		
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Butternut	100-250* (150)	100-380* (200)	100-420* (325)		
Elm, American	NR	NR	NR		
Hemlock	10-100* (30)	35-110* (50)	50-125* (100)		
Hickory (spp.)	50-200 (100)	50-300 (150)	100-500 (250)		
Oak, Chestnut	50-200 (150)	50-350 (200)	125-500 (300)		
Oak, White	60-300 (200)	130-400 (300)	200-750 (400)		
Pine, Red	45-85* (55)	50-120* (80)	70-150* (100)		
Spruce (spp.)	45-135* (90)	50-185* (100)	100-240* (145)		
Tulip Poplar	50-200* (100)	50-300 (150)	100-400* (245)		
Walnut, Black	200-900* (500)	500-1200* (800)	100-1500* (1000)		
Aspen	NR	5-18** (6)	NR	Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord	
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Hemlock	NR	NR	NR		
Mixed N. Hardwoods	2-15* (5)	5-25* (9)	5-20* (12)		
Pine	NR	NR	NR		
Spruce/Fir	NR	5-15** (9)	NR		
Firewood	2-14* (7)	5-17* (10)	10-20* (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.

Winter Apples

By Dick Starr

In April 2006 our chapter's spring meeting was about fruit tree grafting. I was instantly hooked and reviewed my successes and failures in our chapter newsletters Fall 2008 and Winter 2008. These can be accessed at nyfoa.org if you'd care to read them again. Grafted twigs, called scions, develop fruit sooner than planted seedlings since the host tree already has an established root system. The key to a successful graft is getting maximum cambium contact between root stock and scion and the chance for this is enhanced if both are the same diameter. Also the graft is best done in spring before the buds open.

Deer hunters and wildlife observers are always alert for ways to attract animals. The usual method is through their tummies – feed them and they shall come. An entire industry has grown up around food plots to attract wildlife. A mature deer eats about one ton of food/year and is probably the number one reason our forests are having difficulty with regeneration. Food plots might reduce deer damage to young trees as they provide another option for deer to eat. The ideal wildlife food attractant is available for consumption when little or nothing else is growing.

Wild apple trees, provided free by Mother Nature, can be a marvelous supply of food for wildlife but are not always growing in a good spot. Fruit trees require a few hours of sun each day to bring fruit to fruition and mature wild apple trees are often in a totally shaded forest setting. Such trees can be released to get more sun or fruit tree seedlings can be purchased and planted where they will get sun exposure. Some object to the expense of nursery seedlings and the needed protection from browsing deer. It also takes effort to plant them properly and it can be several years before they start bearing.

Focusing on late season apple trees for purchase

reduces the available options since many ripen in early to mid fall. Lucky indeed is the hunter or watcher who has access to apple trees still holding fresh fruit in early winter. The wild life should be considered lucky as well. In our climate can apples be found that are still fresh on the tree in early winter? Yes.

In the late fall of 2013 I noticed at least half a dozen apple trees within a few miles of our home that were still holding fresh apples in the late November – early December time frame. All but one were in lawns. I can't imagine why these have not caught my attention in the past. One of these trees is in a neighbor's yard. While the apples have mostly dropped from the tree, the ground is strewn with edible apples as I write this in mid January.

My hope is, with homeowner permission, to take scion clippings from some of these late season apple trees in early April 2014 and graft them onto wild

apple trees on our land. Once established they should be a maintenance free food source for wild life in mid winter, a time of year when fresh food is hard to come by.

I had expected to use the same grafting technique as in the past, until my 2014 Harris Seed catalog arrived. I noticed a new item (#41039-900) in the catalog. It's a Zenport grafting tool (ZJ67) and resembles heavy duty clippers. It maximizes

cambial contact by making an Omega-like cut in the root stock and a matching cut in the scion clipping. Omega is the Greek letter that resembles a horse shoe. Both root stock and scion are cut with the same blade and go together like pieces in a jig saw puzzle. Every twig on the host tree is a candidate for accepting a scion and it should take less time to accomplish the graft using this tool. Hopefully with greater chance of success. Cost from Harris (800-544-7938) = \$36.95 + S/H & tax = \$50.33. Those adept at internet purchases will probably find it for less.

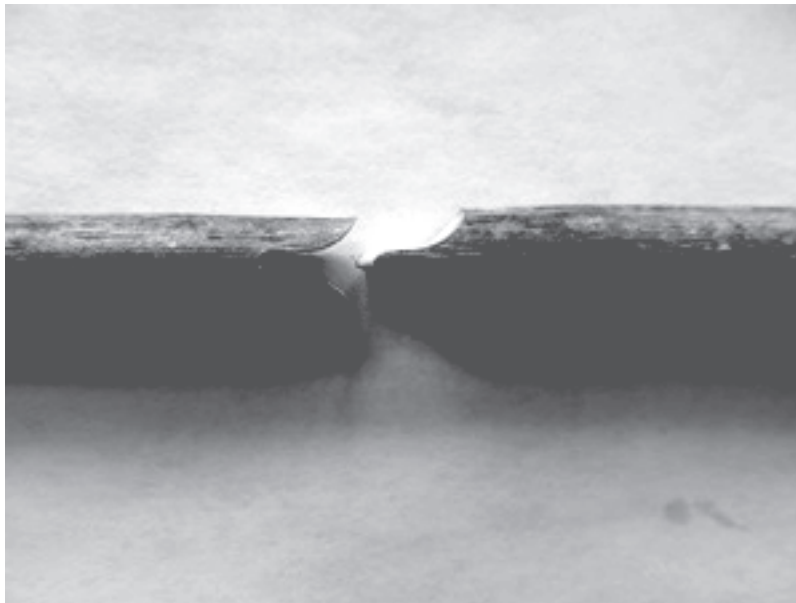


Photo by the author

Omega Notch and Matching Insert

Charcoal - continued from page 1

contrast in the photo with the wood fire being mostly orange hot and the burning volatiles being yellow hot and even white hot. When the gasses are consumed the blow torch dies and the smoke stream becomes transparent. The charcoal is now done cooking. However, another 5 to 10 minutes in the fire ensures that larger chunks of wood are also cooked. I prefer chunks of similar size since they finish cooking about the same time. The cooking process can take a few hours depending on retort size and moisture content of the wood being cooked.

Remove the retort from the fire when cooking is done and cover/plug the vent hole and let things cool. The vent should be sealed (I use a flat rock) during cooling or fresh oxygen can enter the retort and ignite the hot charcoal. If the campfire is about over when cooking is done I often leave the retort in the fire overnight and let it cool gradually as the fire dies. The cooking process can be stopped at any time and restarted in a later fire.

Additional notes: 1) Seasoned wood is preferred for cooking into charcoal since much of the water is already gone. This reduces both the time and energy needed to cook the wood. 2) I use my cordless skill saw to dice 2" diameter limbs into 3" long chunks. It works very nicely and gives uniform fist sized pieces of wood to cook. 3) A hard tined rake makes it easier to maneuver the retort in the fire. 4) Wood without bark makes a cleaner charcoal with less ash. 5) There is a reduction in both mass and volume with the final product. I was surprised how "weightless" the charcoal seems and it gives a sense of how much of



The Finished Product

wood's weight is water and gas. 6) Hardwoods are superior to pines for charcoal making. In fact, don't use pine as it gives grilled food a bad taste. The meaning of the term charcoal is obscure. Consulting various dictionaries didn't help much. I have concluded that charring (burning) of wood makes it resemble coal thus the name charred coal or charcoal.

Why make your own charcoal? For me the fun factor is important as well as self sufficiency. What chemicals are used as a binder to hold briquettes together and do you really want that on/in your food? The quick starting stuff is probably even worse for addition of nasty chemicals we'd never elect to ingest. If you prefer to buy get the chunk variety which has few/no additives.

Opportunities

Your chapter is doing its part to help reduce unemployment numbers by advertising the following openings. All come with the standard pay package including generous retirement options and full membership to the Western Finger Lakes Board of Directors.

In addition, these openings do not rise to the level of requiring congressional approval so any dirty laundry hiding in the closet will not see light of day. Ask not what your chapter can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your chapter.

- 1) **General Meetings Coordinator** – this vital service arranges for speakers at our four general meetings each year. We thank Eileen Schaefer for her service in this role and wish her well in retirement.
- 2) **Outdoor Activities Coordinator** – this person is responsible for arranging things like woods walks and other "outdoorsy" things.
- 3) **Refreshments Coordinator** – arranges for "nibble food" at our three general meetings held in January, March and May.

If you can help us out with any of these please contact Dick Starr, info on page 2.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events

WFL General Meeting: The Asian Longhorned Beetle

A threat to maples, and other hardwoods

Tuesday **March 18**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Ave, Rochester, 7:30 pm.

Gene and Georgia Binder will be presenting a program of great importance to owners of commercial maple forests, and anyone else concerned with saving our maples, and several other hardwoods, including willows, birches and poplars.

Although the Asian Longhorned Beetle has not been found in our area, nearby places, such as New York City, Worcester, MA, Toronto, ON and Cincinnati, OH have significant infestations of this invasive pest. Infestation is always fatal to the host tree and millions have been lost since its discovery in 1996.

If an infestation is detected before it has become too massive, aggressive efforts can, and has, resulted in complete eradication. In this program, the presenters will show you how to detect this beetle, if it should ever get here, and what to do if you think you have detected it. Preserved specimens of the beetle, and signs of its infestation and damage, will be shown. Material on this pest will be available for you to take, as well as specimens, infestation signs and takehome material on the Emerald Ash Borer, which has already killed many of our ashes.

Gene Binder has a Master of Science degree with major in entomology. He was employed as an inspector in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and, almost exclusively, on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Project, since its discovery in 1996. Georgia has Associate degrees in Conservation and Horticulture, which included several entomology

courses, and worked for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, on this cooperative project, since 1998. They both retired in 2002, but have not lost the habit of looking at maple trees, and sharing their knowledge.

Mushroom Cultivation as a Farm Enterprise

Saturday, **April 5**, 2014

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

A recently completed research grant worked with 23 farmers around the northeastern US to determine the costs and potential profits of log-grown shiitake mushroom cultivation. The results are in – and they look very good! Small operations from 100 to 2,000 logs are considered commercially viable. Join extension educator Steve Gabriel to learn the basics of commercial cultivation of shiitake mushrooms including tree selection, log inoculation, maintenance, harvesting, and marketing. Participants will be inoculating a log to take home.

Existing and beginning farmers interested in growing mushrooms for sale are encouraged to attend along with woodlot owners and folks with a strong hobby interest.

Mushroom Cultivation as a Farm Enterprise is a regional workshop brought to you by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices in Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates Counties. This workshop will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch, an inoculated log and a copy of “Best Management Practices for Log-Based Shiitake Cultivation in the Northeastern United States”.

Space is limited. Pre-registration is requested by contacting Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or send your name, address, and phone number to nea8@cornell.edu

continued on following page

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.

AFC Chapter Woodswalk

Saturday, **May 17**, 9:00 - 3:30
6702 County Road 43, Angelica, NY

Our neighbors to the west, the AFC chapter, invites us to see an approximately 300 acre forest of NYFOA member Rob Chamberlain, with sugar bush, mixed hardwoods species and with some outstanding Red Oak and White Pine. Consulting Forester Tom Frair will lead the walk from 9:00 - noon. All are welcome. For further information contact Jeff Rupp at 716-257-5652 or Tony Pingitore at 716-962-4041.

Directions: From I86 take State Route 19 North and proceed to the first right at County Road 16. Cross the Genesee River, go right on Old State Road after about a mile, take right to County Road 43 approximately 1/2 mile. Park on west side of County Road 43 across from "6702" address sign.

WFL Chapter Meeting

Monday **May 19**, 3:00 pm
Pioneer Millworks

1180 Commercial Drive, Farmington, NY 14425

Our May general meeting will feature a tour of Pioneer Millworks in Farmington NY instead of the usual sit down classroom presentation. Pioneer Millworks salvages wood from agricultural and industrial structures and reprocesses it into flooring and other products that meet clients' needs. That is a pretty simple version of all that goes into what they do at Pioneer Millworks. The owner, Jonathan Orpin, grew up in Rochester and started New Energy Works in the early eighties working with insulation and solar panels. From there he started a timber frame construction company. A partially collapsed roof of his business revealed some large old timbers and the rest was history one might say.

We will meet at 2:45 pm in the parking lot at 1180 Commercial Drive in Farmington. Please rsvp to Eileen Schaefer at 367-2849 by May 14th if you are planning on attending.

Woodswalk

Saturday, **May 31st**, 10:00 AM
Wolcott, NY

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA invites you to an informative woodswalk at Black Creek Farm on Saturday May 31 near Wolcott N.Y. about 40 miles east of Rochester. The woodswalk will be hosted by Geff Yancey, owner and Corey Figueiredo, forester. The regeneration of forests will be discussed and observed and we will look at the results of a harvest 5 years ago as well as a TSI project 2 years ago. There will be cheeseburgers, chips, drinks and ice cream provided after the walk. The walk will begin at 10am. The address is 4261 Whiskey Hill Rd. Butler, N.Y.

From Rochester follow Rt. 104 east to the Wolcott area, then turn right onto Whiskey Hill Rd. about 4 miles on the right is the stone driveway into the property. From the south go to Rt. 414 in Clyde, go north out of the village to Clyde- Hunt's Corner Rd. and follow the signs about 5 miles to the farm. Please call Geff Yancey 585-747-8888 with any questions.

Woodswalk

Saturday, **May 31st**, 9:00 AM
Lindley, NY

On Saturday May 31, 2014 a woods walk will be held at Piestrak's Forestlands, Lindley NY, in Steuben County. We will be meeting 8-9 a.m. for coffee, juice and pastry, with the program beginning at 9a.m. As usual, we will be transported around the property to observe some recently completed projects. At approximately 12 noon we will break for a provided lunch and then hopefully continue to observe projects until 3p.m.

Mr. Bruce Robinson, our knowledgeable, excellent forester will be narrating the tours. All are welcome to share in this very worthwhile adventure and learning experience.

With the completion of the interstate in Lindley, people traveling from the north (Corning) will have to get off at the Presho exit and take old route 15 south to the town of Lindley. (Approx 5 miles). In Lindley, after passing the Green Shingles Restaurant on the left, see Watson Creek Road on the right. A sign will be posted at Watson Creek Road with an arrow. The house is about 300 yards on the right.

Please call Wanda Piestrak at 607-205-0349 so we can prepare for a specific amount of folks. Hope to see

continued on following page

you!

Woodswalk

Sustainable Woodland Management and
Timber Harvesting
Saturday, June 7th, 9:00 AM
Penn Yann, NY

Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Master Forest Owners Volunteers, New York DEC, Future Forest Consulting, Inc. and NYFOA will host a woods walk on June 7th from 9:00am – Noon at Del Allen’s woodlot located at 530 State Route 54, Penn Yan, NY. Landowner Del Allen, DEC Region 8 forester Jim Bagley, and Future Forest Consulting forester, Corey Figueredo will lead the woods walk. The landowner has been managing his woods for over 30 years and is getting ready to have a commercial thinning which will produce salable timber. Learn how a timber harvest, when properly done, can improve the health, species

diversity and future value of the woodlot. This won't happen unless the trees intended for sale are marked in advance to leave a sufficient stocking of healthy, valuable trees to repopulate the woodlot after the harvest. The health and quality of the residual stand of trees, those that remain after timber has been cut, makes all the difference.

The trees that will be cut have been marked. Attendees will have the opportunity to see what a marked woodlot looks like and learn why specific trees have been marked for cutting and why others have not. This woods walk will be led by both the landowner and the foresters who have worked together in making these thinning decisions and they will take the time to talk about the decisions that they have made and why. The presenters will also address issues that every landowner should be aware of when preparing for a commercial timber harvest. Being fully informed ahead of time will ensure a quality harvest and peace of mind for the landowner. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

Pre-registration is required by calling Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 315-536-5123.

Walnuts - continued from page 5

the sod flop back over them. We made no effort to kill the grass and weeds growing in this patch, although we often trim around the seedlings when they get shaded. A lot of seedlings sprouted in this patch, mostly along the edge where the surrounding weeds did not block the sun. But so far none of them have gotten more than a couple feet tall – the deer keep nipping the tops off them.

Last year we were still more deliberate. We selected about 30 of the best-looking walnuts from the fall crop and planted them in individual one-gallon pots filled with a mix of topsoil and composted leaves. We left them in the barn over the winter, covered with boards to try to keep the rodents out. In the spring we moved the pots to the side porch where they would get a lot of sun, and we kept them watered. We also potted about a dozen butternuts that somebody had given us, and left them on the porch as well.

We were a bit surprised that the nuts were not consumed by

mice and squirrels over the winter. In the spring we got sprouts from a dozen walnuts and two butternuts. I am told that a 30% germination rate is typical, so we did reasonably well. That fall we planted the seedlings in the pasture. We dug a hole for each one and tried to transfer it from the pot to the hole with as little disturbance to the soil around the roots as possible. We put a two foot tree tube over each seedling, and piled old hay for mulch around each one in about a two foot radius to a depth of twelve to eighteen inches.

This spring, we were pretty happy when almost all of the seedlings leafed out – we lost only one walnut over the winter. When we had a late frost they all lost their leaves, but most of them recovered and sent out another crop of leaves. A second late frost, however, was the last straw. After losing their leaves a second time, only three walnuts and two butternuts survived. Of those, the butternuts and one walnut are waist-high after only one year, and despite being topped by deer when they outgrew their tubes. The other two walnuts are a couple feet tall, just at the top of their tubes.

The bottom line in all this, I think, is that it is possible to grow trees from nuts. As with most things in life, the more work you put into it the more likely you are to succeed. In particular, tree tubes and lots of mulch seem to help a lot. This is no surprise since everything you read about planting trees stresses the control of competing vegetation. On the other hand, no matter how much work you put into such a project there is still a large element of luck – we can only hope that a frost won't strike at a bad time. We will continue our efforts to nurse these seedlings along and plant more when we get the opportunity.

Welcome New Members

Dean & Kathleen Beh	Webster, NY
Chad Engler	High Springs, FL
Karl F. Leopold	Fairport, NY
Steve Marcus	Arkport, NY
Rusty Mehlenbacher	Dansville, NY
James Smith	Branchport, NY



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Photo credit- Jim Minor

Our January speaker, Ken Harbison, explains the intricacies of bluebird houses. If you missed this presentation you have plenty of other opportunities, coming up, to take advantage of your NYFOA membership. See the adjoining "Mark Your Calendar".

Mark your Calendar!

- March 18. General Meeting: The Asian Longhorn Beetle.*
- March 22. NYFOA Annual Meeting In Syracuse, NY.
- April 5. CCE Workshop: Mushroom Cultivation.*
- May 17. AFC Woodswalk in Angelica, NY*
- May 19. Field Trip- Pioneer Millworks*
- May 31. Woodswalk: Ed and Wanda Piestrak's in Lindley, NY.*
- May 31. Woodswalk: Geff Yancey's in Wolcott, NY.*
- June 7. Woodswalk: Del Allen's in Penn Yan, NY.*
- August 2. Woodswalk: David and Colette Morabito's in Belfast, NY.**
- August 5 – 7. Empire Farm Days.**
- October 28. WFL Annual Meeting.**

* See inside for details.

** See our Summer newsletter 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