

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2014

Volume 28 Number 4

In Our Woodlot

by Ed and Wanda Piestrak

Squirrel VS Man

(Anyone know the score?)

An acquaintance of ours came by one day last summer and related he had multiple English Walnut on his land and the ground was covered with seedlings. He offered to dig up a dozen or so and provide them to us to plant. Since we are always ready to try something new we accepted the offer. We do not have any English Walnut on the property thus it would be an interesting diverse project. The next day he arrived with 12 seedlings about 18" high and about 100 English Walnuts.

We immediately went to Lindley and planted the seedlings by digging large holes about 20" deep, putting in fertilizer and potting soil in the bottom and surrounding the roots with soil. Then we watered them with two gallons of water each. We immediately placed a 4 foot high wire fence around each seedling.

The nuts we planted in neat rows about 2" deep and put a hand full of hot pepper flakes on them before covering them. We were quite proud of the project.... but not of the outcome.

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Treadmill Trailer

Dick Starr

I seem to have acquired a love affair with trailers. We have three that require registration with DMV for road use and another five for off road yard and woods duty. These function as small log mover, firewood mover, limb debris mover and general "this is more fun than a wheel barrow" mover. I have built most of the off road contraptions and they generally have a single purpose use. I pull them with an ATV or riding lawn mower.

When our treadmill died a few years ago I dismantled it for ease of disposal. When the steel frame was finally exposed I couldn't believe my eyes. It was 62" long by 22" wide with rollers for the walking belt (below). This was clearly my next homemade off road trailer or at least the skeleton thereof.



All photos courtesy of the author

The trailer frame with tires and tow bar.



The bare treadmill frame.

However, construction couldn't start as I didn't have any wheels on hand.

Fast forward one year. The transaxle on my neighbor's old riding mower gave up and it wasn't worth the cost of repair. Since neighbor has neither road trailer nor hitch on his car I offered to dispose of the rider for him. He seemed truly appreciative. You can see where this is going – I wanted the wheels from his old rider for my new trailer. I gave the engine to another neighbor who sold it on Craig's List for \$80 and I got a few dollars for the steel frame as scrap. Plus

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Squirrels- *continued from page 1*

All twelve trees died within one month and the 100 nuts we planted were each removed from the soil by our close friends - the squirrels. It was somewhat of a shock to see each row of nuts with the soil removed and the nuts missing but they left behind the red pepper.

Our acquaintance came by about two months later and offered to provide us with more seedlings and nuts but we sheepishly declined. Another win for the squirrels.



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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 youngsters 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 \$45 and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA statewide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and to statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level \$50-\$99; Sponsor level \$100-\$249; Benefactor \$250-\$499; and Steward \$500 or more 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 Spring 2015 issue is March 1st.

Sustainable Road Building

by Colette and David Morabito

On Saturday, August 2, 2014, the Morabito Family hosted a "different sort" of woods walk at our camp in Belfast, New York. We were delighted to have over 35 participants observe and discuss the opportunities that building a logging road in a woodlot can offer. Our knowledgeable and witty Consulting Forester, Bruce Robinson, after receiving the 2014 Heiberg Award, began his engaging tutorial on the topic of building a sustainable logging road.

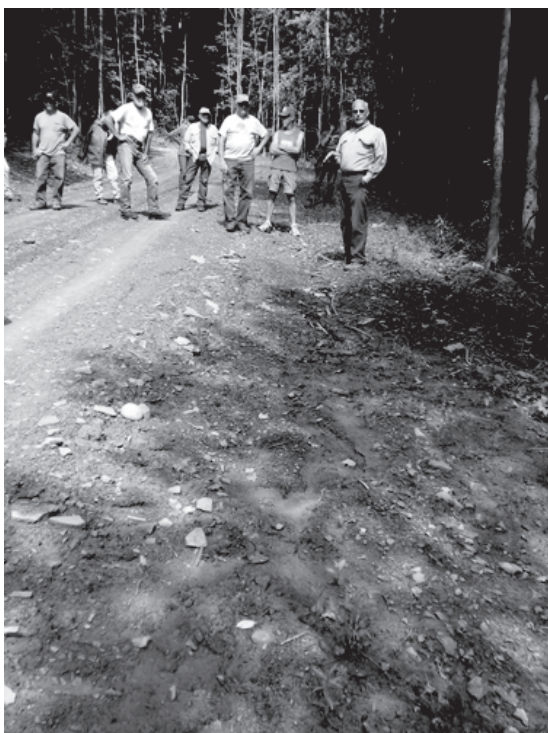


Photo credit - Colette Morabito

Bruce Robinson, on right, describing what was done on the road.

Our original Forest Management Plan, prepared for us in 1997 by State Forester Paul Kretser, was the foundation for our stewardship role in our woodlot. We originally purchased the land for recreational use. As our family goals have developed significantly in relation to the woodlot, we are now focusing our energy on timber stand improvement. This property was mismanaged for years through high grading and had varying stages of abandoned pasture. An important question arose over time based on the size of the property: How best do we achieve proper access? A series of skid trails were present throughout the property from past logging operations. These trails were degrading due to insufficient water bars and poor trail construction by the exiting loggers.

The opportunity to enhance and improve our woodlot with the expert guidance of Mr. Robinson has been tenfold. As he so expertly explains, in order to release any trees for timber stand improvement, we need access deep into the property by building a road. The ability to move woodlot materials the shortest distance possible, i.e. to the landing, will improve our profits. Logging trucks need to be able to drive on this road to a landing, load up, turn around, and take the logs to a mill. Let's face it, the cost was foremost on our minds. And, what kind of scars will this road make in our beautiful wood lot? Will this road negatively affect wildlife? How can we guarantee that the underground pipes to our water source not be disturbed by the road crossing? What do you do with all the trees, stumps and debris that are in the path of the roadway as it is being constructed? How do you deal with the many water issues imposed by Mother Nature as we move up the mountain? How many truck loads of gravel will be utilized in this endeavor and at what cost?

With profound confidence in Bruce's knowledge and expertise, we prepared the contracts and secured a logger. Pulpwood, Ash saw logs, and Aspen for firewood on approximately 200 acres would be harvested. Bruce will conduct the sale from start to finish as well as supervise the road building, location of landings, placement of culverts and any special improvements to attract wildlife. Due to the extensive work and time required to complete the operation, contracting out the sale made the most economic

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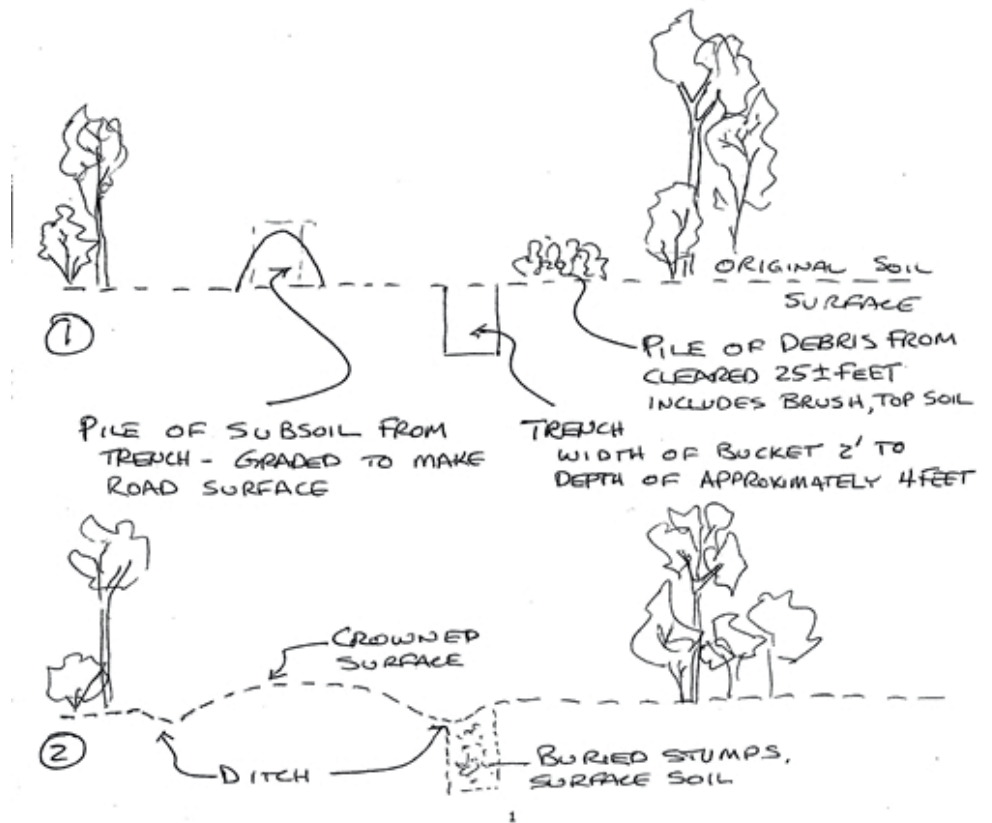
Photo credit - Colette Morabito

The Morabito's Landing Zone

Road Building - from page 3

sense to our family.

Bruce carefully marked the direction and path of the road with plastic tape tied to limbs and branches up the side of the mountain, approximately 2,600 feet long. This allowed the person on the excavator to follow a distinct path. The concept for building this road is a simple one. Nothing was brought in from off site to make the road, not one single stone. Culverts and Road Fabric were the only extra material purchased for the project. The road is projected to be approximately 25 to 35 feet wide. There will be no residual debris left to scar the appearance of the finished project.



1. The excavator pushed the brush and trees to the left side of the trail. All the downed logs become part of the timber sale; therefore, all the wood in the right of way became cost effective. The logs were stacked out of the way of the road construction in makeshift landing areas as needed.

2. As an area was cleared out, a trench measuring 4 to 6 feet deep was dug on the right side of the clearing and all the subsoil, consisting of gravel, clay and shale was placed in the center of the path or soon to be roadway. This on-site material will become the physical road surface.

3. The newly dug trench was then filled with all the stumps, limbs, and debris from the trees that were previously pushed out of the way and are not part of the timber sale.

4. At this point, the dirt and gravel is mounded highest in the center of the road, the left side is carefully configured to a smooth angled surface as a path of least resistance for water running off the road and down the mountain. Any extra dirt, rocks and debris are put in the trench on the right side of the roadway to fill any holes as settling may occur.

This allows for no mess or debris during the work in

Drawing courtesy of Bruce Robinson

Bruce Robinson's Approach to the Road Construction Project

progress or at the conclusion of the road construction. Also, the use of on-site gravel and shale saved enormous costs associated with the purchase and trucking of gravel to build the road.

5. The road building continued in this fashion until we came to a stream. The most important starting point here was to manage all the water. A 20 foot culvert was placed on shale. A vernal pool was dug at the head of this culvert, inviting all sorts of water guests almost immediately. The culvert was placed on the roadway in what appeared to be a position too high for the road surface. However, the bulldozer skillfully covered the culvert entirely. The roadway was configured so that all was angled perfectly for any traffic that might drive over the stream. The culvert is barely used as water filters through the rock directly beneath it. If the shale ever becomes blocked, water will be able to continue to drain through the pipe. During any episode of major run off from the mountain, for example the spring thaw or severe storms, the culvert becomes the path of least resistance.

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The Western Finger Lakes Annual Dinner

by Mike Seager

The Western Finger Lakes chapter's annual dinner and business meeting was held at Monroe County Cooperative Extension on 28 October. It was nearly sold out, as usual, with about 75 people attending to participate in the business meeting ably conducted by chairman Dick Starr. The business meeting consisted of electing a slate of the chapter's board of directors and took about five minutes.

The other business item of note was an announcement of NYFOA's gift membership challenge. As a membership incentive, NYFOA is encouraging our members to give gift memberships to their friends and neighbors. The incentive is that for a few months, gift memberships cost only \$25. At www.nyfoa.org you can find all the details, purchase a gift membership or print out a form to mail in.

With the business taken care of, we moved on to enjoy a wonderful dinner, as we have every year, catered by chef Brad Laurier. Also as usual there were lots of door prizes available, provided by donors, the chapter, and many of the attendees. Door prizes ran the gamut from bottles of whiskey and wine to walking sticks, maple syrup and various craft items.

For the fourth year, local Stihl representative Dan Ras donated a chainsaw for us to raffle as a fundraiser. In previous years circumstances have conspired to prevent Dan from attending the dinner. This year he was able to attend and for the first time we had a chance to thank our benefactor in person. The chainsaw raffles have been a highlight of our annual dinners and have been very helpful in funding our annual dinner, and we want Dan to know how much we appreciate Stihl's generosity. This year the donated model MS180C saw was won by Sharon Van Niel.



Photo Credit - Moe Seager

Stihl Distributor Dan Ras presents the Stihl Chainsaw to Lucky Winner Sharon Van Niel



Photo Credit- Moe Seager

Our Evening's Speaker, Professor Marty Dodge

Our featured speaker this year was Marty Dodge, a retired professor from Finger Lakes Community College where he taught conservation and coached the woodsmen's team. One of Professor Dodge's students moved to Alaska and offered him space to build a cabin. Marty has spent much of the past two summers working on that cabin, and documented his experience in a short video that he shared with us.

Since Home Depot is not conveniently located to remote areas of Alaska, most of the building materials were cut from nearby spruce and shaped with a chainsaw to form piers, timbers, flooring and siding, as well as stairs, benches, and other furniture components. There was a lot of footage showing the fabrication of these pieces that was eye-opening in terms of the fine work that is possible with a well-tuned chainsaw in the hands of a skilled operator.

Building with unseasoned lumber carries some risk, however, and Professor Dodge was not shy about showing some of the problems he encountered. One memorable scene showed the framing of a wall coming apart as the nails pulled out of the members while they were trying to lift the wall into its final position with a front-end loader. But all in all it sounded like Marty had a lot of fun and the end result looked like an elegant and snug cabin.

Marty made several references to the cabin's loft being the place where his writing desk would go. We are eagerly awaiting the chance to see what writings come from his future summers in the cabin.

Road Building - *continued from page 4*

6. Our next road block was the water line which passes underground, across the roadway. This area is critical in that retaining the integrity of our water supply to our camp is essential. This particular area is also very wet and so we had to again manage the water running down hill before we could attempt the road fabric process. Road fabric is a woven textile used for dirt roads and their longevity. After rains, the roads can turn muddy and eventually erosion will take place. The fabric can be used as a base stabilizer. It is permeable and strong. The woven fabric allows water to flow through it to the gravel and soil underneath but prevents rutting and erosion. Laying the road fabric down on the roadway, covering it adequately with 2 to 4 feet of gravel, depending on the wetness of the area, will prevent the fabric from buckling. This important process will assist in distributing the weight of the trucks and other heavy equipment using the road. Ultimately, the fabric will make the road safer and longer lasting. A long conversation about preventing the fabric from squeezing up was had by all!

7. The road building process continued all the way to the top of our mountain. Temporary landings were established as the number of trees increased the deeper we went into the property. Some tree tops were left on the forest floor while others were utilized in the logging operation for firewood. The sunlight that now streamed in, not only on the roadway but into the adjacent woods was breathtaking. We began to feel disoriented by the road as it changed our perceptions of the base of trails that we had enjoyed from our early days on the property. At the top of the mountain on a large, flat area, a landing was created for trucks to come and remove the bulk of the logs. Again, the shorter the distance the operator of a skidder has to move a log to the landing, the less cost which means greater profits.

The heavy logging equipment in the woods was of concern to us for a number of reasons. We appreciate that having a logging operation in the winter would negate the most damage to the ground surface as it is frozen. In our case the majority of the work was done through the summer months. Due to the skidder dragging countless logs to the landing, the trails transformed into paths that were knee-high thick with mud and impossible to traverse. However, the well established sedges and grasses that once covered the forest floor before the arrival of the skidder, these unassuming plants prevented saplings from regenerating due to the soil composition. By disturbing the surface layer of the forest floor will allow more diverse plant life to flourish on this newly created

surface that is now receiving sunlight. Regeneration, however, is not a significant goal with the residual trees at this point in time. The residual damage to some of the remaining trees also caused some concern. Trees are most susceptible to damage in the summer months when their cambium is so soft and jelly like. However, Bruce reminded us, you have to deal with each tree on an individual basis. Some of the trees that are damaged through the course of the logging operation will become "bumper" trees for future sales. As Bruce so conscientiously stated ". . . with every improvement comes a compromise."

As of this writing, there are some water issues that will have to be addressed as time, Mother Nature, and traffic have changed the road in some instances. However, we now have a large, wide area on the right side of the road to utilize in the future as a work space for anticipated forest projects. It will be seeded to prevent any future erosion and as a wildlife observation area. The traffic on the road is not just motorized. The deer left many indications that they have traveled the route! We have access to some of the prettiest areas on our property that we had yet to discover. Our new road is a pathway to the heart of our forest. It is an artery to the life of our property and our legacy.

Orchestrating the "worst first" harvest, Bruce marked hundreds of trees with the least timber value--the goal was to remove the lowest quality trees. In the end, our biggest financial investment was to remove timber that had the least value. However, we now see what we want to keep and how we can create a woodlot that is more productive by releasing an assorted number of quality species. We will need to continue to manage what we leave in the forest. But by carefully releasing trees more frequently but with less severity, we are truly becoming partners with our forest.

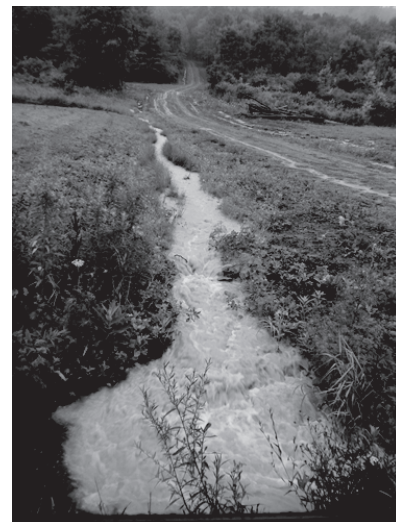


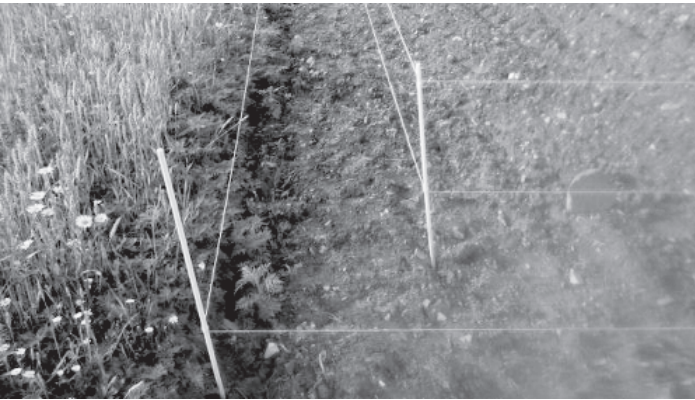
Photo credit - Colette Morabito
Morabito's Road Ditch in Action

Cheap and Easy Temporary Deer Fencing

Charles Stackhouse

Hungry deer cause lots of problems for forest landowners. NYFOA's Restore New York Woodlands initiative has informed us of the almost complete destruction of tree seedlings and saplings that occurs in many woodlands. Rural landowners who attempt vegetable gardens or orchards quickly learn that success depends on dealing with deer. Establishing hunting food plots successfully can be almost impossible in the presence of a sizable deer herd.

After successfully planting a few small food plots with



Photos are by the author

The Deer Fence in Position

clover mixtures, we attempted to grow soybeans for a “sure thing” hunting food plot that was about 1 1/2 acres in size. We spent money on lime, 10-10-10 fertilizer and quality soybean seeds. The soil was carefully worked up and seeded with a drill rented from a nearby farmer. The result was dismal failure. Inside a three foot diameter cage of welded wire fencing placed in the midst of the plot, there grew several healthy and strong soybean plants. Not a single plant survived the deer in the rest of the plot.

My neighbor and hunting partner, Jason, found an article in a deer hunting magazine that described a way to fence off food plots and convinced us to try again. This method works. It does require some initial investment and some occasional maintenance. Using it we have successfully grown several soybean plots each year for the past few years. It also works well for the vegetable garden.

The fence we use consists of only three strands of electric polywire fencing twine surrounding the food plot. The key is the spacing of the twine. The inner row has two strands of twine mounted on insulators with the bottom strand 12 inches from the ground and the top strand 26 inches from the ground. The outer row has a single strand of twine 18 inches from the ground. The two rows are spaced three to four feet apart. This gives a

three- dimensional character to the fence and it stops the deer. This is surprising since it looks like a deer could step right over it without a second thought.

The first fence was built with line posts of old wooden two-by-fours which we ripped in half and sharpened. Plastic electric fence insulators were nailed to each post at the appropriate height. We later bought fiberglass electric fence posts with slip on insulators. These are much easier to put in place and to remove. Posts are needed about every thirty feet or so depending on terrain. Use enough to prevent the twine from drooping down and shorting out on the ground. We used 3/8ths inch posts along the sides and sturdier 1/2 inch posts for the corners.

The fence must be electrified to work. We use 12 volt D.C. fence energizers powered by small lead acid batteries. To keep the batteries charged we use small



The Electric Fence Power Source

solar electric panels connected to the batteries with solar charge controllers to prevent destructive overcharging of the batteries. The solar panel, controller and energizer can be purchased separately or as a single unit.

The fence lines require mowing, weed-wacking or herbicide spraying to keep weeds from shorting out the wires. We have seen deer in the plots only when we failed to keep the fences electrified. A short section was once destroyed by a lightning strike and early in the season we have found a few posts pulled out, likely from a startled deer contacting the fence.

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Poison Ivy Part 2

Dick Starr

On November 7, 2013 USA Today reported, "World carbon dioxide pollution levels in the atmosphere are accelerating and reached a record high in 2012 ... at 393.1 parts per million." Many believe this is a result of human activities which includes the automobile and breathing.

Dr. Jacqueline Mohan, assistant professor at the University of Georgia, studied the effects of increased CO₂ on plant growth rates. After all, plants "eat" CO₂ and through photosynthesis carry on their life functions. This includes exhaling oxygen as a waste product. By increasing the available CO₂ Dr. Mohan found, "The average little tree ... grew 8% faster. And poison ivy grew 149% faster." Lewis Ziska, PhD and weed ecologist at the USDA in Beltsville, MD states an increase in atmospheric CO₂ causes bigger and stronger poison ivy plants. Further, the itch generating urushiol oil produced by these larger p. ivy plants is more plentiful and potent. He finds the growth rate of p. ivy has doubled in the last 50 years. Estimates suggest it will double again if the CO₂ level reaches 560 ppm.

Apparently poison ivy takes in more than its fair share of CO₂ and probably releases more oxygen in the process. If so, doesn't this make poison ivy a bellwether of increasing levels of CO₂ and a scrubber of atmospheric CO₂ at the same time? Surely this is a good thing. Perhaps we should be celebrating the urushiol producing vine and be cultivating it instead of trying to kill it. Imagine a day when the DEC makes it illegal to harm poison ivy. Isn't that just like Mom Nature though? Some aspect of the environment gets out of whack and she already has something on standby to correct the problem. Why does it have to be poison ivy? Why not peach trees or strawberries or lilacs? Come on Mom, poison ivy?

Vines in general are the Rodney Dangerfield of the plant kingdom – they get no respect. Even the Bible heaps disdain on them. Consider the Living Bible's rendition of the opening verses of Ezekiel 15: "Son of dust, what good are vines from the forest? Are they as useful as trees? Are they even as valuable as a single branch? No, for vines can't be used even for making pegs to hang up pots and pans! All they are good for is fuel – and even so, they burn but poorly! So they are useless both before and after being put in the fire!"

A 45 year study in Wisconsin found that poison ivy was the only woody vine to show a significant reduction over the study period. The researchers speculated that the freezing winter temperatures may limit ivy growth more than increases in CO₂ fuel it. "It may be too cold for ivy to take advantage of the higher CO₂" states Stefan Schnitzer author of the Wisconsin study and professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Mohan points out that the Wisconsin study occurred during a period of increased numbers of white tailed deer and a reduction in the number of deer hunters. Since deer are

known to eat p. ivy it's reasonable to assume more deer eat more ivy thus reducing its abundance. Unfortunately, poison ivy is an understudied plant, probably since most folks who research it get the itch. Who needs that? I assume deer eat the leaves, not the vine. If so, once the leaves get out of reach the deer are no longer a limiting factor to the vine's growth. I'm going to see if I can find a poison ivy browse line when leaves return in the spring.

All parts of the ivy vine appear to contain some urushiol oil all the time and water helps spread it. Oil does float on water. In summer 2013 I set out gallon jugs of water for watering some new seedlings. The next morning we returned to water the seedlings and encountered heavy dew. Marlene supported the wet with dew water jugs on her hip as she carried them to the seedlings. Her shirt was soon soaked with dew from the jugs. A few days later large and itchy red spots developed on her hip precisely where she supported the water jugs. Apparently some water jugs picked up urushiol when they were placed on p. ivy plants. The oil was then carried through her shirt by the water.

Some rhymes developed over time to assist in identifying poison ivy: 1) hairy vine, no friend of mine 2) if it's got hair, it won't be fair 3) hairy rope, don't be a dope 4) berries of white, take to flight 5) one, two, three? Don't touch me 6) leaves of three, let them be.

Electric Fence - *continued from page 7*

The needed fencing supplies can be purchased at local farm supply stores such as Tractor Supply Corp or Country Max. The Web and mail order can be used at places like premier1supplies.com (1-800-282-6631) or Gemplers.com (1-800-382-8473).

The solar chargers were built from kits but commercial versions are readily available. Easy to build wooden stands hold the solar panels, solar charge controllers, batteries, and fence energizers. Cheap plastic tubs protect batteries and charge controllers from the weather. Wind up reels save time and aggravation installing and dismantling the fence.

Experience has taught us several things. Put the fence up as soon as the food plot or garden is planted. A good ground rod should be driven for each fence charger – these can be removed with vise grip pliers and a jack if needed. The fences should be checked frequently, especially when the plants are small and tender. I suspect one could lose a whole plot of young soybean plants in a single night if the fence weren't working. Forget about using this fence if snow is deep enough to bury a wire.

There are now three of these fences on our property and a fourth will be put up next year. They do indeed keep the deer out and allow the food plots and gardens to grow.

Treadmill Trailer - *continued from page 1*

four gorgeous but dirty tires including rims and hub caps. I decided this trailer would be the ultimate multi tasking machine doing all the above mentioned off road functions plus be a mobile saw buck. Photo 1 shows the treadmill frame with tires and towing bar attached plus some reinforcing steel and a new coat of paint.



Log Mover This is essentially a miniature boat trailer complete with hand winch and roller. A log does substitute duty for the boat. The winch pulls the log onto the trailer and the roller helps reduce the force needed to do so. The roller also helps in unloading the log.



Limb Mover Cleaning up a downed tree generates lots of limb debris. Some like to leave this debris where it falls as it will eventually decay and add to the soil. Others like the look of a pile which might do duty as a rabbit house or protect seedlings from deer browse. I like to gather limb debris for future camp

fires. By adding a 2 x 4 post to each corner of the trailer frame, a cradle is made that can hold many limbs for transport.



Saw Buck Lower the 2 x 4 corner posts until each pair forms an “X”. Secure them in this position with a nut and bolt where they cross and the trailer has become a mobile saw buck. All of my previous saw bucks have been heavy, awkward and difficult to move. Being on wheels makes this saw buck very easy to move, especially when pulled by a machine which I’m riding on.



Firewood Mover It depends on frame dimensions but when carefully stacked this unit holds roughly 12 cubic feet (1/4 face cord) of firewood. In fact, the firewood chunks frequently fall directly into the trailer as a log is diced although not neatly stacked. Like I said, sure beats a wheel barrow.

New DEC Forester

information provided to Dick Starr by Gary Koplun

Garrett (Gary) Koplun joined the Region 8 DEC forestry staff in Avon this July. He joins Mark Gooding and Brice June at the office location in Avon. Gary transferred from his previous DEC post of six years in New York City for the opportunity to live and work closer to his family and home area of Western NY.

Gary is a graduate of Forest Technology from SUNY Ranger School 04' & Forest Resource Management from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) 06'. He worked as a forest technician for a private forestry consultant business from 2006-08 marking timbersales, collecting forest inventory, inspecting logging jobs, maintaining boundary lines, and sampling for forest pests. He started with the DEC in July 2008 working out of the Long Island City office in Queens, NY. There his duties were split between land management of State properties and the DEC's Urban & Community Forestry program. His current role in Region 8 is Service Forester for Orleans, Genesee and Monroe Counties.

DEC Service Foresters administer programs overseen by the DEC Bureau of Private Land Services (PLS). The PLS offers help to private landowners, municipalities, various government and non-government organizations, and all New York State residents in need of assistance or consult in matters of forestry & arboriculture. There are three broad categories of assistance: Cooperative Forest Management (CFM), Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF), and Natural Resource Education. CFM includes site visits & consultation, forest health inspections, stewardship plans, EQIP assistance, 480-a Forest Tax Law administration, and forest landowner education events. U&CF includes assistance to municipalities and town or village tree boards with urban forestry management. This program also hosts urban forestry outreach and education meetings and workshops collectively known as ReLeaf. Natural Resource



Education has traditionally included participation with events directed toward youth environmental education (i.e. Conservation Field Days & the Environthon). The following webpage on DEC's public website provides more detail and other sources of information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/843.html>

There are five Service Foresters available for assistance to residents of counties in Region 8 as shown above.

Below are the counties each Forester serves and their office locations:

Avon Office (585)226-2466, 6274 Avon-Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414

- **Mark Gooding**, Supervisory Forester – Wayne County
- **Brice June** – Livingston, Ontario & Seneca
- **Gary Koplun** – Orleans, Genesee & Monroe

Bath Office (607)776-2165, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, NY 14810

- **Jim Bagley** – Yates, Schuyler & Chemung
- **Greg Muller** - Steuben

A Gift

A gift membership to NYFOA is a wonderful way to introduce a friend or family member to the wonders of the woodland. For this upcoming holiday season we're offering a **special rate for gift memberships of \$25**. See the November/December issue of *The New York Forest Owner* and/or contact Liana Gooding at 585 624-3385 (lgooding@nyfoa.org) for details. Alternatively, register on-line at www.nyfoa.org.

Lack of ROPS-Equipped Tractors

A majority of work-related deaths that occur to farmers are from tractor rollovers. ROPS (Rollover Protective Structures) protect the tractor operator in the event of a tractor rollover. ROPS are 99% effective if the operator wears the seatbelt. To date, the New York State ROPS Rebate Program has placed ROPS on close to 1400 tractors in New York State. The ROPS Rebate Program will rebate 70% (up to \$865) the cost of retrofitting a tractor with ROPS. For more information, call the ROPS Rebate Program hotline at 1-877-ROPS-R4U (1-877-767-7748).

January 20th Meeting

by John Holtz

For the winter meeting, the topic will be Archeology in the Woods. The speaker will be Dr. Ann Morton who is a member of the NYS Archeology Association, a professor at FLCC and the Cultural Resources Manager for Fisher Associates. If a work site uncovers native relics and it needs an archeological survey done before the work can proceed, she is one of the people that gets hired to do that.

Many of us have stone walls, foundations and possibly have uncovered arrowheads in our woods. The question is what to do, both legally and if you are just curious as to what you might have.

Please reserve 7:30 PM on January 20th, 2015, on your calendar for this presentation. Plan on arriving a few minutes early for light refreshments and a chance to meet with fellow woodlot owners. See below for location.

March 24th Meeting

by John Holtz

The March meeting will have as our guest, Dan Holtje from Finger Lakes Surveying of Lima NY. Mr. Holtje has considerable experience marking property lines in wooded areas and he has been called as an expert in court cases concerning timber theft. He will explain how, and when, you can use "informal " do-it-yourself GPS surveying and when that might cause a problem for you and might better use a professional surveyor. He will also cover how to use different web sites that can be used as resources.

Mr. Holtje has asked members to e-mail him at d_holtje@yahoo.com with questions that they want to be sure he answered during his presentation.

Please reserve 7:30 PM on March 24th for this presentation. Plan on arriving a few minutes early for light refreshments and a chance to meet with fellow woodlot owners. See below for location.

Location for our January and March Meetings: With the closing of the Highland Avenue office of Cornell Cooperative Extension we are working to find a new location for our general meetings. Current plans are for them to be held at the Genesee Community College campus at 7285 Gale Rd, Lima, NY. Gale Road is north of Lima off Route 15A (see map below). As of this writing the location has not been confirmed. In the event of a change, an e-mail will be sent to all who have registered their e-mail address per the instructions at the bottom of the "Mark Your Calendar" box on the outside back cover of this magazine. For those of you who do not wish to register, please call the NYFOA Office Administrator, Liana Gooding, at 585 624-3385 prior to the event to confirm the location. We apologize for the inconvenience.



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.



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**True
Tree
Huggers!**



*Photo Credit-
Dick Starr*

Mark your Calendar

- January 20th - General Meeting: "Archeology in the Woods"*
- March 24th - General Meeting: "Surveying Issues on Your Property"*

* 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