

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2015

Volume 29 Number 2

A BUSY SPRING FOR WFL

Bristol Woods Walk

Rick Lee

Despite a less than perfect weather forecast, on May 16th, 19 members of WFL/NYFOA attended a woods walk on the Lee family property in South Bristol. This 10 acre parcel was acquired in May 2013 and consists of a wood lot, hilly topography and two streams. A single room hunting cabin from



Photo credit - Mike Costello

A stop along the way at the Lee Woodswalk

Lee Woods Walk - continued on page 8

Game of Logging

Peter Muench

The Game of Logging (GOL) training is a program provided by Soren Eriksson's nationwide



Photo credit - Peter Muench

Putting theory into practice

organization. Instructors combine demonstration with participation to teach chainsaw safety, productivity, conservation and cutting techniques. Four levels of chainsaw safety training are

GOL - continued on page 9

SumacAde

Mike Seager

Staghorn sumac is a weedy tree that often grows in dry, sandy areas, such as along roads or railroad grades, where few other trees will grow. It rarely gets more than four or five inches in



Photo credit - Mike Seager

A Sumac Drupe

diameter or more than 30 feet tall. The leaves turn bright red in the fall. The female trees sport large

SumacAde - continued on page 3

May General Meeting

Dick Starr

In October 2014 I noticed an odd plant in our woods. My first reaction was a strawberry plant with one ripe berry. Closer inspection showed the "berry" to be a golf ball sized sphere of bright red berries. Plus the October woods is not where or when one looks to find strawberries. Some internet reading convinced me I

had stumbled on some wild ginseng.

I prepared an article for our spring 2015 newsletter summarizing some of what I'd learned about ginseng. I was delighted when John Holtz, our program director, arranged for Russ Wesler to speak about ginseng at our May general meeting. Russ shared a ginseng power point prepared by Bob

Ginseng - continued on page 10



photo credit - Dick Starr

Ginseng Emerging This Spring

In Our Woodlot

Ed & Wanda Piestrak

Last year we related how we planted eight English walnut seedlings and they all died. The 100 walnuts we planted were removed in a short period of time by our adventurous squirrels.

We haven't given up on planting. During this past March we purchased eight 4 foot high apple seedlings with a nice root formation as well as some green leaves. We planted them in the same area as the deceased English walnut trees, trusting the apples will survive.

We dug 16 inch deep holes, placed potting soil in the bottom. Then we put potting soil around the planted tree with a somewhat of a dam appearance to hold water from weekly watering. We installed a

4 foot high wire fence around each tree and fastened the fence to three independent wooden stakes. On top of each fence we installed a bar of Irish Spring soap to deter any deer from removing the precious leaves. Now we will just wait and see if the project is a success. At times we feel we are like squirrels whereby we have to plant something for future use.

Cost of project:

Eight trees at \$13.00 each	= \$104.00
Eight bars of Irish Spring	= 4.00
Fencing & stakes on hand	= free
Labor as usual	= no charge
Total	= \$108.00

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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 Fall 2015 issue is September 1st.

AgrAbility Conference

Colette Morabito

AgrAbility is a program sponsored by the USDA that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers and caregivers of those with disabilities. The vision is to educate and help eliminate obstacles that block success in the production of these farmer's agriculture related occupations. This year's conference was held at Rochester's Hyatt Regency hotel with participants from 38 states as well as Canada, Brazil and Sweden.

An important mission of NYFOA includes education and providing resources and providing hands on approach with peer support to forest landowners. In August 2014 some WFL chapter members began interfacing with the sponsors of AgrAbility about a forestry presentation at the April 2015 conference. The concept of sustainable forestry had not been presented in previous conferences and we were happy to oblige.

After many months of planning and a bit of trepidation, on April 14, 2015 Dick Starr WFL chair, Gary Koplun DEC service forester and myself, WFL board member, presented an educational session on

sustainable forestry. Well over half of our 34 participants have a woodlot on their farm property. Dick provided each individual with a repertoire of informational handouts, a tree identification book, a basal area gauge and more to spark appreciation of the value in a woodlot. I explained the benefits of NYFOA and encouraged the group to develop personal goals as a first step in proper forest stewardship.

Gary's carefully crafted power point tutorial met with great interest. From timber management to types of thinning operations, water filtration and quality to overcoming common hurdles were discussed. Gary explained services available from government agencies and private consultants as well as the details for developing a Forest Management Plan. He highlighted actual examples of work he is doing with property owners. His presentation was well received with barely time for some Q & A.

Based on participant feedback we received a 99.9% rating for the session. We were grateful for the opportunity to share our passion for sustainable forestry at the conference. NYFOA continues to bring comprehensive and up to date forest education to more wood lot owners.

SumacAde - continued from page 1

red clusters of flowers called drupes. The drupes often stay on the tree through the winter and can be a valuable food source for migrant birds when they arrive in the spring.

And those same flowers can be turned into a



photo credit - Mike Seager

Staghorn Sumac in the Field

refreshing lemonade-like drink. I remember reading about this many years ago, but it took until last fall for me to try it. It turns out to be pretty simple.

When the flowers ripen to a dark red color in the late summer – typically August or September - take a pair of hand-clippers and cut off a bunch of the drupes. Sumac trees are small enough that you can probably find plenty to harvest while standing on the ground, although in some cases a stepladder might be handy. I cut enough to fill a couple of half-gallon pitchers.

Back at the house, I used the same clippers to cut the drupes into smaller pieces, half an inch to an inch long, so they would take up less space. I filled each pitcher about half-full with the flowers, then filled it the rest of the way with water. I stirred a bit to crush some of the flowers (some say a potato masher works well) and let it sit overnight. This is much like making sun tea – just let it sit long enough to steep the flavor out of the flowers. It took only about half an hour from the time I set out to cut the flowers until I had the flowers soaking.

SumacAde - continued on page 5

Typical Trees

Dick Starr

The following is summarized from an article by Thomas O. Perry titled “Trees and Their Ages and Growth Rates.” At the time, Dr. Perry was professor of tree physiology at the school of forestry, North Carolina State University.

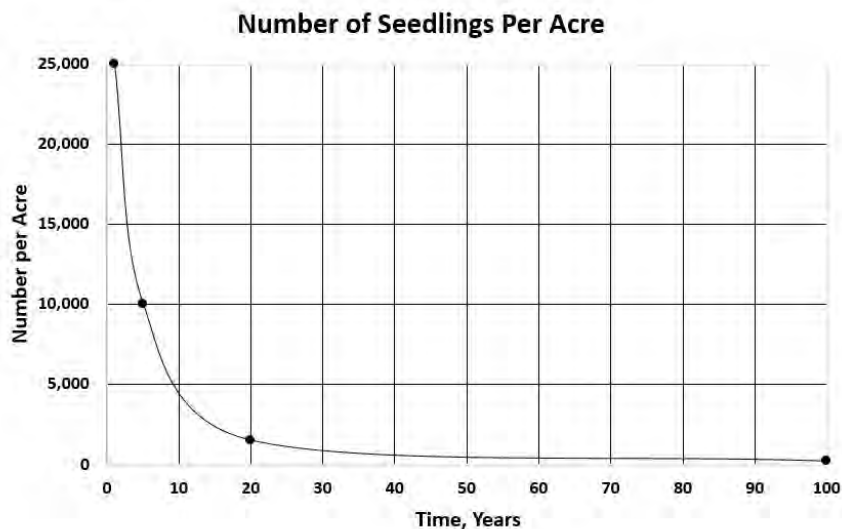
Bristlecone pine and California Redwoods live thousands of years, but it would be an error to assume this is typical of trees in general. Fewer than 3 of the trees planted by Thomas Jefferson on the University of Virginia campus are still alive today. Further, fewer than 10 of the trees he planted at Monticello are still alive. Presumably lots of TLC was given to all of President Jefferson’s plantings. Jefferson lived 1743 – 1826.

Some people chase fire engines and ambulances. Professor Perry chases loggers, tree specialists, rights of way clearers and construction firms. He measures stumps and counts growth rings. When possible, he arrives before the chain saws to measure and record a tree’s condition before felling. This stump sitting, ring counting activity has been done from south Florida to northern Maine, from L.A. to the Olympic peninsula of Washington state and from London to Inverness, Scotland. The results of these measurements are amazingly homogenous. If there is sufficient room for root growth, water is in reasonable supply, competition between trees is kept to a minimum and man and his machines are reasonably restrained, the average age of trees is 70 years and average diameter in the 36 inch range.

Competition in a young forest stand is intense. Tens of thousands of seedlings/acre struggle to survive and dominate the canopy. A typical hardwood forest will contain 25,000 or more stems/acre at year one. At year five 10,000 stems/acre are still living and 1500 stems/acre are alive at year 20. Fewer than 200 of the original stems/acre are still alive at year 100. Note this means that less than 1 tree in 100 lives to be 100. (see graph)

Rates of growth are highly variable in a crowded forest and size bears little relationship to age. Trees growing without competition can attain diameters of 30 inches by age 50 while the same tree might have a diameter of 3 inches if growing in a crowded forest. Given growth rate variability, various types of soil, questionable moisture availability and the unpredictability of crowding, guessing tree age based on size is a risky endeavor. Trees that we judge to be large are fairly common. Trees or stands of trees that are older than 120 years are indeed uncommon.

I have tended to think of trees as long lived, at least well beyond that of humans. It took awhile to adjust to the notion that, like us, the average tree has a 70 year lifespan. Consider what we read in Psalm 90:10, “*The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore.*” This seems reinforced by Isaiah 65:22 where we read, “*...for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be ...*” Also like trees, less than 1 human in 100 lives to be 100. As I write this in late May, news reports say a Michigan woman is now the oldest living human at 116 years.



Survey Summary

Mike Seager

A capacity crowd was on hand at the Lima campus of Genesee Community College March 24 to hear Dan Holtje's presentation about land surveying. Mr. Holtje, of Finger Lakes Surveying, is a licensed land surveyor with years of experience locating and marking property lines in wooded areas. He first explained that in New York State a surveyor has to go through a very rigorous process to get a license. The process requires an eight year apprenticeship before taking the licensing exam, and the exam is very difficult. Mr. Holtje compared becoming a surveyor to becoming a "land doctor." A surveyor will often mark only the corners of a property, but while marking corners he has to traverse the boundaries. If you are having your property surveyed, it makes sense to ask the surveyor to mark the lines in addition to the corners. A surveyor can mark the lines to within one foot for little additional cost; by contrast, a handheld GPS device, which can be skewed by steep slopes or dense canopy cover, might be off by as much as 50 feet, so a line marked by a surveyor will be much more accurate than if you try to fill in the lines between corner markers yourself.

A surveyor has legal liability for the accuracy of his lines, and he might be called on to defend the accuracy of a line he marks in court. In the event of a timber

theft or other boundary dispute, a landowner has a much better case in court if he can rely on the accuracy of a professionally marked line rather than his own amateur boundary marking.

It is illegal to disturb a marker that was set by a licensed surveyor. If you think that corners or lines are incorrect, you need to get another surveyor to re-do the survey. It is also illegal to replace a survey marker that somebody else has disturbed; even if you can see exactly how it was placed, such a marker is supposed to be replaced only by a surveyor. Similarly, you should not replace an official survey marker with something more visible – if you are painting boundary lines or highlighting survey stakes, you should leave the original marks or stakes visible and put new paint elsewhere on the tree.

Mr. Holtje said his base price to survey a parcel is \$40/acre. There are lots of adjustments to that rate – rugged terrain with lots of boundaries and creeks takes longer to survey and so costs more than a simple rectangle. The price is also affected by season – surveying is easier when the leaves are off the trees.

Finally, Mr. Holtje concluded by suggesting two web sites that provide maps: mytopo.com, which is a commercial site where you can buy maps, and orthos.dhSES.ny.gov, which is a state-run site that provides a variety of different types of maps.

SumacAde - continued from page 1

The next day I strained the liquid through a piece of cheesecloth into another pitcher. The straining is important, because the flowers contain lots of small hairs. They are not really harmful but it would be annoying to have them lodge in your throat.

Once the sumac-ade is strained it is ready to drink. I prefer to chill it in the refrigerator for a while. It tastes like a mixture of lemonade and iced tea; a little sugar or honey might make it even more flavorful.

Sumac is related to cashews, so if you are allergic to cashews you might also react to sumac. When harvesting any wild food it is important to be sure you are harvesting the right plant. In the case of sumac it is pretty easy – the flowers are very distinctive, and I know of nothing in this area that looks similar. There is a plant called poison sumac, but it is found on wet ground and has white berries – it looks nothing like staghorn sumac. Nevertheless, err on the side of caution and if you aren't sure of the identity of the plant, offer the first taste to somebody else.



photo credit - Charles Stackhouse

Dale Schaefer (left) presents long-standing WFL Treasurer Ron Reitz with the 2014 WFL Service Award. See full story in the WFL Spring Forest Owner

Firewood 2

Dick Starr

What we want for wood stove fuel is firewood dried to a moisture content (MC) of about 20%. This is generally referred to as seasoned wood. Seasoning does not mean adding your favorite spices but rather removing as much water as possible. This can be accomplished in a kiln or by exposing wood to the atmosphere for at least 6 to 12 months while sheltered from the elements. The MC of air dried wood won't go much lower than 20% unless it's in a very dry climate. Cracking and checking of the end grain is a fairly good indicator that the wood is seasoning.

The simplest way to determine MC is to buy a moisture meter or make your own with a volt meter as Dean Faklis did. See our WFL spring and summer 2010 newsletters at nyfoa.org for Dean's method. Another way to determine MC involves the kitchen range. Weigh a piece of wood then place it in the oven set on low with the door propped open a bit. The heat drives off the moisture which escapes through the opened door. Weigh the piece again, perhaps every 30 minutes, until there are no future changes in weight. The weight lost is/was the water content of the piece. For example, a 5 pound piece weighs 4 pounds after the oven process so it lost 1 pound of water. The water lost (1 pound) divided by the original weight (5 pounds) = .20 or 20% of the original piece was water.

The accompanying chart shows the green and seasoned weight/full cord for some eastern hardwoods. Note Basswood weighs 4400 pounds/cord when freshly cut and 1980 pounds after drying to 20% MC. That's 2420 pounds of water removed during the drying process. No wonder it burns poorly when green, it's mostly water. Osage Orange on the other hand only loses 390 pounds (5120 - 4730) in drying to 20% MC. It would probably burn effectively if placed in a stove 30 minutes after being dropped. It takes time to remove moisture from wood and, as the chart shows, some woods contain more water than others.

Even at 20% MC, there's still water in firewood even though it's often called dry. At 20% MC, a 5 pound piece of wood is 1 pound water since 1 out of 5 = 20%. When added to a stove's fuel load, this water must be heated to evaporation and leave the wood before the wood can burn. When white smoke is exiting a chimney, it's often condensed water vapor and may indicate that water is being driven off.

What's the preferred method for air drying firewood? First, dicing chunks to length and splitting as needed will expose more surface area and hasten water loss. Stack it off the ground to prevent picking up ground moisture. Wooden pallets, available free, work for this and keep the wood clean. It should be under cover of some kind but exposed to good air circulation. A permanent shed is great but in its absence a temporary cover, maybe a tarp, can be used. The cover should overhang the pile to shed rain and snow but not inhibit air circulation of the sides and ends of the pile. In other words, protect the wood from rain and snow but give it free access to the atmosphere. A pile sealed in a plastic tarp seasons very slowly as the tarp traps the moisture that's leaving the wood. Storing firewood at least 30 feet from the house will minimize rodents and bugs wandering from the wood pile into the house.

Another reason to split the wood is stacking volume. A full cord of wood 4 feet high by 4 feet deep and 8 feet long is 128 cubic feet of wood, bark and air. Air space between chunks reduces the actual amount of wood in the pile. Stacking wood of varying sizes reduces the air space and increases the amount of wood in the pile. It takes about 160 cubic feet of loosely thrown wood to equal 128 cubic feet (full cord) of stacked wood.

Weight Loss Through Seasoning

Name	Green weight Pounds	20% MC Pounds	Lost in drying Pounds
Osage Orange	5120	4730	390
White Oak	5570	4200	1370
Apple	4850	3890	960
Red Oak	4890	3530	1360
Tamarack (Larch)	5450	3320	2130
Black Walnut	4580	3190	1390
Green Ash	4180	2880	1300
Sycamore	5100	2810	2290
Willow	4320	2540	1780
Cottonwood	4640	2270	2370
Basswood (Linden)	4400	1980	2420

A Gift

A gift membership to NYFOA is a wonderful way to introduce a friend or family member to the wonders of the woodland. Contact Liana Gooding at 585 624-3385 (lgooding@nyfoa.org) for details. Alternatively, register on-line at www.nyfoa.org.

Maple Sugaring

by Greg Michne

Each spring in the northeast and upper midwest, mild days and freezing nights usher in the maple sugaring season. From Minnesota to Maine sugarmakers, as they are called, set their taps and begin the wonderful process of converting maple sap to maple syrup, cream, candy, and sugar. When I was growing up in eastern NY we had about 40 acres of woodlot and our neighbor tapped our trees with an elaborate tubing system. In exchange we received syrup, and I have very fond memories of helping in the sugarhouse. I made syrup a couple of seasons back then and always knew that I would go back to doing it one day. In 2014 I visited a sugarhouse in Honeoye Falls during Maple Weekend. That was all it took to hook me again. I spent the rest of the year preparing to do my own sugaring.

Although I had made a firm decision to make my own syrup in 2015, the problem was that I live in the heart of Rochester on less than a quarter acre. I have no maple trees, so what was I to do? Many sugarmakers borrow or lease trees owned by others. Of course I knew I would need to do this, so that's when I started driving all over the place and looking at Google maps to try and find trees. Fortunately, someone suggested I contact NYFOA and from the list of members I picked Dick Starr to contact. Dick was very interested in helping my cause and was able to put me in touch with a landowner in Macedon who agreed to let me tap his trees in exchange for syrup. In the end I made 21 gallons of grade A maple syrup and I've been invited back to do it again in 2016. And yes, I hauled the sap back to the city and boiled in my garage, which I have converted to a sugarhouse.

The point here is that forest owners in NY have an opportunity to become maple producers and make a tremendous product for which the demand is increasing. If owners are not interested in the investment of time, money, and work involved in making syrup, leasing their trees is a great option. In fact, NY landowners can, under certain conditions, receive a reduced tax assessment if their land is used for agriculture. Maple syrup production is qualified under this program. If you are a producer, you can use this tax break as an incentive to entice forest owners to lease trees. Those interested in this program can find an easy-to-understand description at www.nebeginningfarmers.org. Click on "Resources", then select Guides & Handbooks, choose Guide to Farming in NY, and click on section #21. Depending on the individual situation, the tax benefit alone can exceed the value of the lease payments received.

For the forest owner interested in leasing trees, you should be aware that it will probably make sense to have

the producer install a tubing system in the woods and agree to a long-term contract of at least 5 years. Payment is negotiable, but it's not uncommon to see rates of \$0.25 - \$0.75 per tap per season, and this is in addition to the benefits of the agricultural tax assessment, once qualified. Another angle is to set up your own tubing system and sell the sap to a local producer. Fresh sap is typically priced per gallon based on sugar content. With the tremendous growth in the maple industry over the last decade, selling sap could be a lucrative supplement to your income. At the very least, you can further offset your property taxes. With a number of variables, to be addressed in a future issue, sap should sell for \$.25 to \$.30/gallon.

There is a tremendous maple resource in NY State and it is estimated that less than 1% of "tappable" maple trees are being utilized. Vermont has long been the leader in US maple production but this is actually because they tap a higher percentage of their resource. It is possible for NY producers to far exceed that of Vermont if we utilized more trees. The current market may not support such an increase in production over a short period, but times are changing. The world market for syrup is expanding and new products are gaining traction. For example, there is a handful of firms that are now bottling and selling maple sap as a beverage. In fact, a recent start-up in NY is now bottling and selling permeate water from reverse osmosis machines used in the maple industry. The product is called Asarasi and can be found at Sprague Maple Farm.

Sweet Tree, LLC in Vermont recently started an operation of nearly 100,000 taps. They are owned by an investment arm of Mass Mutual Insurance and have poured millions of dollars into this new operation. No concrete details of what they plan to do with all this syrup have been released other than plans to make value-added products. My point is that a multi-million dollar operation has been started and they are spending even more to create new markets. What this means to us is that the demand for maple as a sweetener could continue to grow at a healthy rate. Therefore, the opportunity for NY forest owners could become sweeter in the near future. Mike Farrell of the Cornell University maple program in Lake Placid, NY has said numerous times that if we market maple effectively, we cannot possibly tap enough trees to meet demand.

If you have a substantial stand of maples on your land, why not consider the maple industry? It is a great alternative to harvesting the timber and could provide cash flow for many years. Please contact me at gmichne@gmail.com if you have questions. Of course I am always looking for more trees to tap as well.

the 1940s as well as an outhouse was on the property at the time of purchase. As a life long sportsman, my dream of acquiring land came to fruition when I convinced my wife our son needed a place to hunt. I believe she sees how much this purchase has meant to me as well.

It is a property I love and not only for what it is but the opportunity for time away with my son, Joe. He is a great young man whom I am very proud of. We may bicker at times as we complete projects at the land. These discussions typically occur when I do not have the sense to take a break in an effort to finish the task at hand. We have learned to work through such issues when he convinces me to take a break.

I feel very blessed to have this piece of land. It is small in size yet offers many benefits. It contains plenty of wildlife, is wooded, quiet and peaceful. It gives me a place to get away from it all and work in the outdoors with no shortage of projects. It is only 35 minutes door to door from our home. Our yellow lab has an endless supply of chipmunks to chase while Joe and his sister have enjoyed playing in a waterfall with a deep wading pool. It also offers a place to just chill out and I have heard some people are into that sort of thing. Admittedly I am not very good at this and one of these days I'm going to try to do something about it.

We do not have many neighbors at the land but those who are around have been nothing but encouraging, helpful and keep an eye on things when we are not around. The neighbor across the street often uses the word "we" when speaking of projects underway and never misses an opportunity to tell us what he would do on a given project. At first this took some getting used to but now Joe and I feel slighted if Al does not give us his opinion on the current project.

The first order of business after acquiring the property was to clean up the old cabin both inside and out. A tree had fallen on top of the front porch taking out the entrance door, electric riser and tore a hole in the roof. These minor details in no way bothered the resident critters who called the place theirs.

With the help of family and friends, the damaged porch was dismantled, trees cut, fill and stone brought in and a pad for a travel trailer was made. In the process trees were sold and my wife could not believe it when she was handed a check for \$1500 from a furniture maker who bought 3 cherry trees. This was a learning experience for me. The buyer and I agreed to the terms of this small sale which included him buying logs and me keeping the tops. Upon my return from an out of state hunt I found a mess and no tops. I vowed then never to have any work performed unless I knew and worked with the contractor prior.

Time marched along and I had more downed trees than I desired. In turn I started a small company with Joe and for the past two years have sold firewood. This has proven to be a great source of exercise,



photo credit - Dick Starr

The old cabin - a work in progress.

utilization of natural resources not to mention income which gets placed back into the property. We are in the process of doing site work in preparation of building a garage or large shed. By doing so we can then remove the old cabin and perform additional site work in preparation of building a year round cabin. This cabin will include all the comforts of home, a shameless attempt to get my wife and teenage

daughter to visit more often than just on Fathers Day. We are currently in the process of putting a small timber sale out to bid. The objectives of which are to improve the health of our wood lot, primarily by taking out Poplar trees, cull trees and some oaks. The proceeds of which sale will be funneled back into the property for additional improvements.

I hope all who attended the woods walk had as much fun as we did hosting. The timeline of the walk forced me to finish a couple of projects earlier than expected. The mental preparation of the woods walk as well as preparing this written summary have provided me with the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come in a short period of time. Lastly I want to thank Dick Starr for providing me with a membership and introduction to NYFOA. In the short period of several months we have met and learned from a great group of like minded individuals.

F Y I

Dick Starr

In 1988 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its first performance standards for efficiency and particulate emissions as they relate to wood burning appliances. Modern wood stoves can be fairly sophisticated and some approach 90% delivery of the heat energy available in the wood.

The EPA recently adopted new standards for wood burning devices intended to further reduce emissions of soot, carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbon (organic) compounds. Older style stoves can still be sold through the end of 2015 but thereafter new wood stoves for sale must meet the updated standards. I saw one advertisement that essentially stated, "Buy our stove while it's still legal."

It has been stated that few to no wood burning devices currently for sale can meet the new standards. Thus the delay in implementing the new regs until

2016. It gives manufacturers time to design, test and produce compliant units.

The new regulations have lead some to think that home owners will be forced to remove their older non compliant wood stoves from service. At the present time this is not true but a general distrust of the gov'mint in some quarters might explain this thinking. An EPA spokesperson supposedly stated, "If you like your wood stove you can keep your woodstove." Probably not the best choice of words given how smoothly the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was implemented.

If you're in the market for a new wood burning stove, you might want to do some looking before January 2016. Surely the extra engineering and manufacturing costs of more complex stoves will not result in prices going down. Further, I suspect the number of stoves available to select from will diminish, at least initially.

Ginseng - continued from page 1

Beyfuss. At the time Bob was NYS ginseng specialist for Cornell University. The very next day after our meeting my spring 2015 issue of National Woodlands magazine arrived and it contained an article about ginseng. In short order I've gone from ignorant about ginseng to surrounded by information.

Russ pointed out that ginseng has been hunted to near extinction and it's site requirements are particular. If you want to hunt for or cultivate ginseng it helps to know what conditions it likes. The ideal ginseng growing site has mature sugar maple trees which provide dense shade and grow on a cool, moist and rich soil. There will likely be a north, east, or northeast slope of 10% to 25% grade which provides good drainage as well as cooler conditions. There will be few surface rocks and little understory. Other plants liking the same conditions include jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, bloodroot, jewelweed, may apple, solomon's seal, blue cohosh, red berried elderberry and certain ferns. Finding some ginseng is proof the site is good. It's also a plus if the grower's residence is in close proximity and there are noisy outside dogs to alert the grower to potential poachers.

Russ also shared DEC regulations as they apply to ginseng. The objective is to protect the ginseng we

have left. Ginseng can be cultivated but the wild variety has the desired "kick" and is most prized. Wild ginseng may only be legally collected between September 1 and November 30. Purchase or sale of green wild ginseng between January 1 and August 31 is prohibited. Dry wild ginseng may not be purchased or sold between April 1 and September 15 unless previously weighed and recorded by DEC by March 31.

Only plants with at least 3 prongs (stalks topped by 3 – 5 leaflets) are mature enough to be collected. No plant with green, unripe fruit and immature seeds may be collected. All seeds from collected wild ginseng must be planted in mineral soil to a depth of the seed thickness within 50 feet of the collection place. All NY ginseng intended for export from the state must be certified by DEC. Inspection and certification are made at DEC offices in regions 2 – 9. The older the ginseng the more potent and valuable it is. Like a saw log, bigger is better.

Russ also distributed a 51 page pamphlet titled, "The Practical Guide to Growing Ginseng" by Bob Beyfuss. I have read many articles about ginseng and this pamphlet is the best of the bunch. It was produced by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County at 518-622-9820.

offered with satisfactory completion of each level a requirement for advancing to the next course. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA and the New York Association for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) recently cosponsored a Level 1 program with training by Bill Lindloff.

This session of GOL was held on Saturday, May 9th in a 38-acre woodlot owned by Peter and Georgi Muench in the Town of Italy. Ten trees between 11 and 13 inches DBH were marked for cutting plus one for Bill to use as a demonstration of techniques taught in the classroom. Also provided were stumps five foot

opportunity to learn how to safely finish bringing that tree to the ground.

Bill asked questions of the class as they watched others felling their trees, all the while evaluating for continued safety awareness in the woods. Safe practices are not just while dropping trees but rather a full time practice. Grading for each student was based on their performance in cutting a tree. The whole class discussed each individual felling while Bill reviewed the points received for each part of the process. Each student received a final grade and the class ranking was summarized.

We returned to the classroom where certificates were completed and went our separate ways about 5 PM, having started the day at 8 AM. NYCAMH and the Game of Logging have other Level 1 Classes scheduled around the state in 2015. Contact Erica Scott at x2204 800.343.7527 to obtain information on the location and dates of those classes.



photo credit - Peter Muench

"Classroom" Training

high for directional felling and open face notching practice before moving into the woodlot.

Classroom training covered personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, safe starting, sharpening, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, open face notching and understanding hinge wood strength. Each participant was required to notch and bore cut a stump and graded on same. Also graded are direction of the notch, hinge wood, and use of safety equipment and procedures learned during the class.

After lunch the program moved to the mountain for felling trees. Bill discussed tree lean, crown weight, hazards, direction of fall and escape routes. He then demonstrated the open face notch, bore cut, final cut and escape by dropping a 13-inch DBH, 70-foot tall white ash. We moved to the trees marked so each participant could fell a tree under Bill's direction employing everything just learned. One student hung his tree up on an adjacent tree so we had the



Charlie Stackhouse has a bobcat prowling his property.
(2 of 3 photos)

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Frank & Lucy Atkinson | Springwater |
| Julie & Dan Holtje | Lima |
| Kendra & Paul Porter | Seneca Falls |
| Gregg Sargis / | |
| The Nature Conservancy | Rochester |
| Kevin Stone | Springwater |

Upcoming Events

BOD Meeting, July 14th, Lima, NY

Our next Western Finger Lakes Chapter Board of Directors' meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14th, at the Lima Hotel at the stop light in Lima. All members or would-be members are invited to attend. The meeting will start at 7 PM and an optional pre-meeting dinner gathering is at 6 PM for those interested.

Dixon Hollow Woods Walk: Saturday August 8, 2015 11:00 am, 5107 North Old Bald Hill Road in Hemlock, town of Livonia

WFL is invited to join the Springwater Trails hiking group in exploring the Canadice Outlet Creek area including the remains of a 19th century village called Dixon Hollow. The Canadice Outlet Creek channels the waters from the City of Rochester water reservoir of Canadice Lake into Hemlock Lake. Historically several mills were located along the fast flowing creek and some of their remains can still be located. The creek passes through a steep gorge which can be explored during the summer along the creek bed area and surrounding forest.

The area has basically been untouched for over 100 years and is a unique treasure. Access into the area along the old Dixon Hollow Road is being provided by Pam Masterson, former employee of Sugar Bush Hollow Maple Syrup Farm. She is currently working on developing a small sugar bush of 100 maple trees on her property.

The date for this woods walk is Saturday August 8, 2015 at 11 AM. The location is 5107 North Old Bald Hill Road in Hemlock, town of Livonia, Livingston County. After the 2-3 hour walk a social time is planned. Bring your drink and a dish to pass. The Trails group will provide table service. Water proof boots will be good if the water is high and your favorite bug spray.

Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls

Volunteers Needed!

Empire Farm Days (August 11, 12, 13) has become WFL's #1 outreach activity. We set up our information table and chat with passersby

about forestry issues. We like to have 3 people staff our booth each of the days. This provides some break time to explore the grounds. If you can help out call Dale Schaefer at 585-367-2849



Charlie Stackhouse has a suspicious coyote checking things out. (3 of 3 photos)

Map: Dixon Hollow Woodswalk - 5107 North Old Bald Hill Road in Hemlock (black dot)



Overview

Detail

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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Summer 2015

Volume 29, Number 2



Tom Turkey Strutting His Stuff

NYFOA President and WFL member, Charlie Stackhouse, is getting some noteworthy wildlife photos. 1 of 3 photos. More inside.

Mark Your Calendar

- July 14 - WFL Board of Directors meeting in Lima*
- August 8 - Dixon Hollow Woods Walk*
- August 11 - 13 - Empire Farm Days*
- August 21 - 23 - Woodsmen's Field Days, Boonville, NY
- October 21 - Annual Dinner Meeting**

* See inside for details.

** Details to follow in our Fall Newsletter.

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