

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2016

Volume 30 Number 2

## In Our Woodlot

by Ed and Wanda Piestrak

We purchased a piece of property this past January which encompassed a large area of fields. Since we have 50 plus bluebird houses on our existing property, we wanted to assist with some bird housing on the new property. Last week we installed nine bluebird houses along the field edges. Within one week we went back to check out the houses and several were already occupied by birds. The saying, "if you build them, they will come" holds true.

In the past when installing the 4x4 poles to hold the houses, we would dig a hole approximately 24" deep and place dirt and stone around the edges. We noticed that the poles came loose from the frost and have a tendency to lift out and sway. Thus we have come up with a method to make them more stable. The bottom 8" of the 4x4 we pound in four to six 16 penny nails and let them stick out 1 - 1 1/2 ". Then place the poles in the hole and fill it in half way with concrete. That way, they remain very solid for years to come. The frost does not lift them out. Cost is very little, a bag of concrete will do approximate 3 poles for the cost of \$3 - \$4 per bag. We have found this procedure will work very well when installing poles for whatever reason. Good digging.



## Wildflowers and Mothers Day

by Peter Muench

The Interpretive Center at the Genesee County Park was the meeting point for a walk on a cool, beautiful Mothers Day. The Park is 430 acres of forests and fields with 10 miles of trails, many ponds, and a wide variety of wildlife, trees and woodland plants.

Fifteen people gathered on May 8th to hunt the Spring flowers in those forests and fields of the park. Sheila Hess, a wildlife biologist and wild flower enthusiast led the excursion, with support and details provided by her son Adam, and her daughter Erin.



photo credit Peter Muench

Participants Listen to Tour Leader, Sheila Hess

perspective of forest ecology from the ground up. We hope to create another wildflower walk to examine flowers that bloom later in the season so keep an eye on this newsletter to find out when that may happen.

Finally, our thanks to Sheila and family for sharing the beauty of Spring Wildflowers with us, on a sunny Mothers Day.



We practiced the basic art of keying out wildflowers using the flower itself and leaf arrangements. Once we were all self-declared experts we started onto the trails. We examined jack-in-the-pulpits, bloodroot, trillium, may apple, trout lilies and many more. We discussed some invasive species such as garlic mustard, honeysuckle and the ever-present multiflora rose.

It was an interesting day for all who attended and an interesting



photo credit Peter Muench

Tour Leader, Sheila Hess Points Out Plants of Interest

# Panel Discussion: "The Tourism Boom in The Finger Lakes, Are We Part of It?"

by John Holtz

On May 18, at the United Church of Christ, in Honeoye, a panel discussion took place regarding tourism in the Finger Lakes region.

The panel consisted of Dennis Money, of Seneca White Deer, Valarie Knoblauch, from the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, Eric Moon, owner of The Quiet Place franchise, Nate VanBortel, Supervisor of the Town of Richmond and Jesse Slezzer, for the office of State Senator Rich Funke.

They mentioned that visitors to the area are looking for "authentic", and unique experiences. As forest owners we may be able to bring them to us, in order to create an additional revenue stream by thinking outside the box. An example given was to create sleeping pods hanging from trees for overnight stays, as the speaker had experienced on a trip to Vancouver. Another thought was to work together to link forested lands into a "Forest trail" with each stop allowing access into unique habitats, land features and take advantage of a visitors desire to learn about the place that they are visiting.

The two government representatives expressed that they are always welcoming ideas and they will work to help projects get off the ground in any way they can.

The bottom line was that we live in a truly beautiful area and that people want to come here. If you have the energy and desire to implement a creative idea you have, and that idea represents the land in an interesting manner, chances are that people will pay for that experience.

A final note - I am stepping away for my board position as Program Coordinator after serving for two years, due to increased commitments in other areas of my life. It has been a fun, and interesting, experience for me and I hope that you will consider stepping up and taking this position yourself. The guidance that was given me, I am sure will serve you too, and that was "Get people to speak on topics that interest you and I am sure other people will find it interesting too."

## Welcome New Members

Michael Morris	Rochester
Donna Pogroszewski	Hilton

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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](http://www.nyfoa.org).

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

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

**Note:** The deadline for our Fall 2016 issue is August 15.



## Letters to the Editor

Hello Dick,

Just enjoyed reading your article on Cedrus Libani (Cedar of Lebanon) in the WFL Newsletter.

My wife's parents immigrated to the US from Lebanon in 1922 and Alvaire and I traveled to Lebanon and Egypt 15 years ago. I have enclosed a scanned photo of a small grove of cedars we visited while there. We saw very little evidence of reforestation while we were there, but we are aware of current efforts to do so.



Scanned Photo from Jerry Michael

About 20 years ago one of my Christmas Tree seedling suppliers offered Cedrus Libani seedlings and I purchased 50 to try out. I discovered that they do not thrive in our heavy, clay soils, and are very hard to transplant. I only have three left on my Broome County tree farm; two of them are about 12 feet tall now, seem to have stopped adding any vertical growth, and are thinning out. One of the photos attached is of my wife's cousin and his sister posing by one of the trees on my farm 8 years ago. The other shows the same cousin posing with one of the trees that we successfully transplanted to his home near Rochester. After many failures, I found that by root pruning only a third of the root system each year for three years,



photo credit- Jerry Michael

I could successfully move the tree. Unfortunately, the cousin recently sold his house and I'm sure the new owner will not fully appreciate what he has growing in his back yard.

Always enjoy your writing in the newsletter.

Best wishes,

Jerry Michael

**Editor's note:** Jerry Michael is Secretary of the NYFOA Executive Committee, Program Co-Chair of the Southern Tier chapter and principal behind the Restore New York Woodlands initiative.



photo credit- Jerry Michael

## iMapInvasives Training

by Colette Morabito

Healthy forests are essential for sustainable forest management. There are countless threats that can cause a negative impact on forest vitality and health. For example, poor harvesting practices, impacts from deer, fire, and of particular importance here, invasive species.

New York is presently holding free, spring training sessions to instruct interested citizens in a statewide, early-detection network of invasive species called: iMapInvasives. Partnerships with Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) will coordinate the training for both basic and advanced data entry along with species identification modules. Trained participants are encouraged to assist in keeping the online mapping system up-to-date and accurate by reporting invasive species locations and control efforts. In an effort to make the system easily accessible, you are able to use your smartphone to report new findings.

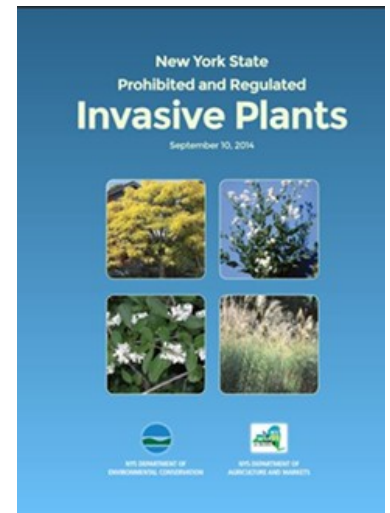
For general questions write:

[imapinvasives@nynhp.org](mailto:imapinvasives@nynhp.org)

More info, schedule details and registration at:

<http://www.nyimapinvasives.org>

Please consider being a part of the solution to the countless invasive species attacking our land, waterways, and woodlots. Early detection by forest owners, citizen scientist, educators and natural resource professionals is key in the successful containment and eradication of any invasive species.



Cover of Document Available for Download at the Referenced Web Site.



July 10 - 16 is Invasive Species Awareness Week in New York State. More info at <http://www.nyis.info/blog/about>.

# NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2015 Service Award Winner:

## Jim Miller

by Dale Schaefer and Laurie VanNostrand

Jim Miller has been a volunteer in the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County Master Gardener Program since 2007 when, after attending training over a three month period, he became certified as a Master Gardener Volunteer. Since then he has helped Wayne County consumers be more successful with their home gardens and landscapes answering questions from our gardening hotline, during site visits and through community presentations.

As part of his volunteer efforts he helps maintain educational displays at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County that include the composting display and educational gardens. Jim also provided a "Heating with Wood" display for a CCE Energy Workshop and has helped youth learn about trees and the environment during the CCE Wayne County 4H Winter Walk event at Camp Beechwood over the past several years.

In 2011, to address the increasing need for information about the Emerald Ash Borer, Jim attended Master Gardener training from Cornell University staff and became part of the EAB team that was established to provide consumers with unbiased research based information about EAB management. In addition to the Master Gardener Program, Jim has been a Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer in Wayne County since 1995. He is one of three MFO volunteers in Wayne County responding to client calls to CCE for woodlot information.

Jim has worked at the MFO and NYFOA booth during Empire Farm & Field Days in Seneca Falls for several years. He has also worked with CCE staff to help facilitate woodlot workshops at CCE Wayne County since 2010. Jim has participated in the Game of Logging workshops.

Jim has managed to volunteer for all of these important tasks while maintaining three woodlots totaling 100 acres and with great support from his wife Martha!

Jim is an asset to the New York Forest Owners Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Master Forest Owners Program, actively promoting woodlot stewardship, the MFO program, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension mission - putting knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological

sustainability and social well-being; bringing local experience and research based solutions together to help New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA would like to thank Jim Miller for his dedication and present him with the 2015 Chapter Service Award.



photo credit- Mary Beth Malmshiemer

**WFL Vice-Chair, Dale Schaefer, on left presents WFL Honoree Jim Miller with the WFL 2015 Chapter Service Award**

### WFL Board Meeting

The next WFL Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday July 13th. Members are welcome to attend. Location is the American Hotel at the stop light in Lima, NY. Meeting is 7 PM with pre meeting meal at 6 PM, same location.

### Gift Membership

Do you know someone that might benefit from a membership to NYFOA? Need to give someone a gift? NYFOA is extending a program whereby a member can give a nonmember a year's subscription for \$25. This is a substantial discount over the normal \$45 cost. The only requirement is the newbie cannot have been a member in the previous 3 years. See inside the back cover for a form or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA secretary. See page 2 for contact info.



# Pine Tree Riot

by Dick Starr

As colonization of North America began in the early 1600s, an argument with Britain meant a fight with the English navy and they could probably kick your yardarm. The English navy ruled the seas at the price of depleted forests. Especially needed were tall, straight trees suitable for the mast of a sailing ship. At the time, Riga fir from the Baltic coast provided such trees but it was often necessary to splice them together to get the needed height. Thus a lustful royal eye was cast on the tall, straight eastern white pines of Maine and New Hampshire. These old growth trees were large enough to supply a main mast 40 inches in diameter, 120 feet tall and weighing only 18 tons. The white pine weighed 25% less than Riga fir and were often without blemish from top to bottom. The first cargo of new world white pine masts arrived in England in 1634.



**The King's Broad Arrow Seal**

To ensure mast trees remained available for the English navy, the largest and best white pines were declared property of the king. They were marked with a Broad Arrow Seal which could be made with 3 swings of a hatchet. It was quick and looked like an arrow without fletching. To cut down a marked tree, or be in possession of same, meant a fine. In 1722 all white pines fit for masting

the Royal Navy were declared reserved for the king by the New Hampshire General Court. In 1772 this same court made it a crime to harvest, "any white pine tree of the growth of 12 inches of diameter." This caused more angst among colonists than the Stamp Act or the tea tax and a patriotic backlash made it unfashionable to have floorboards less than 12 inches wide.

With Riga fir available the law was not strictly enforced until John Wentworth was appointed governor of the New Hampshire colony in 1766. A search of sawmills was ordered in 1772 to look for white pine logs and apparently they were not difficult to find. After all, these trees had many uses besides masts. Some mill owners paid the fine while others refused. On April 13, 1772 Sheriff Benjamin Whiting and deputy John Quigly were sent to arrest the leader of the defiant mill owners. Many townsmen gathered and the sheriff and deputy were treated to one lash with a tree switch for every tree being contested.

The rioters then cropped the ears and shaved the manes of the sheriff's horses and forced them to ride out of town through a gauntlet of jeering voices. The British militia soon returned and arrested the perps who were ordered to post bail and appear in court to answer a number of charges. They plead guilty, were given a light fine and ordered to pay court costs. This whole fracas is now called the Pine Tree Riot and the light fines given are believed to have inspired those who carried out the Boston Tea Party a few years later. The Pine Tree Riot was a test of British royal authority, foreshadowed the American Revolution and was a precursor to the more famous battles of Lexington and Concord.

Flags have always been important and colonial New England flags often included the pine tree, a symbol of American independence. In 1786 artist John Trumbull completed his June 17, 1775 *Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill*. In the painting Trumbull showed a red flag with a white corner containing a pine tree. A later painting by Trumbull showed the flag as blue. On June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as a unifying national flag. Some New England states still fly the pine tree.

A personal aside to this saga involves Governor John Wentworth. My paternal great grandmother was a Wentworth prior to succumbing to the charms of Arthur Starr. Our Starr clan attended the local Wentworth reunion when I was a child. I guesstimate great grandma Wentworth was born about 1860, roughly 3 generations after the American Revolution. Is Governor Wentworth in my lineage?



**The Flag of New England During the Revolutionary War.**

Red background, white canton with green pine tree. *Pinus strobus*, the eastern white pine, is the most common symbol of New England and most often represents that tree's former importance in shipbuilding and New England maritime culture. This flag has also been adopted by the New England Revolution Major League Soccer team.

**Source:** Wikipedia

## MFO Volunteers Needed

The Master Forest Owners initiative is planning their next training session for new volunteers September 7 - 10 at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in Van Etten, NY. Visit their website, <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo/>, or contact their office Phone: 607-255-2115 for more information, or E-mail: [dlt5@cornell.edu](mailto:dlt5@cornell.edu) for the application materials. Your help is critical to the continued success of the MFO Program and contributes greatly to our collective mission of sustainable woodland management.

# Multiflora Rose

by Dick Starr

**M**ultiflora rose is also known as Rosa multiflora and Japanese rose. To a woodlot owner it probably generates more cuss words than any other vegetative resident of the forest. It reminds me of a blackberry patch without the benefit of pie to sooth the pain and irritation of venturing close enough for contact. The hooked thorns, resembling a bird of prey beak, have been known to puncture tractor tires and cause painful gashes on unprotected skin. A native of Japan, Korea and Eastern China it's described as a multi-stemmed, thorny, sprawling, perennial shrub. It climbs over other plants on stout arching stems forming impenetrable dense thickets that smother and choke out native plants in the process. Older specimen can be 15 feet tall. Its name comes from being a member of the rose family and the clusters of 1 inch fragrant white flowers it develops in May and June. It readily invades forest edges and open wood lands.

There were good reasons for its introduction to the U.S. even though it's now considered an invasive. Some states label it as a noxious weed. It was imported from Japan around the civil war as root stock for ornamental roses. In the 1930s the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service promoted it for erosion control and living fences to confine livestock. In the 1960s state conservation departments, including our own DEC, thought it valuable wildlife cover and a food source for song birds. All probably true. It's good goat fodder but they supposedly eat anything including poison ivy and unguarded laundry. Multiflora rose has even been planted in highway medians to reduce headlight glare. So it does have many admirable qualities but a pox on those thorns.

The flowers develop into ¼" hard bright red berries that remain through the winter providing birds with food and thus the seed is spread. An average plant can produce one million seeds a year and these can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years. The plant can also reproduce by layering wherein the tips of the curved stems come in contact with the ground and take root. Black raspberries do the same thing but their little spikes seem childish in comparison to m-rose.

Sources say the ripe fruit, which softens and gets sweeter after a frost, is edible by humans while the flower petals add color and flavor to salads. The fruit, petals and leaves can supposedly be brewed as an herbal tea. I've not tried any of this but it sounds interesting. Perhaps marketing m-rose as an herbal tea can cause

its demise. History tells us when an item gets fashionable it soon gets scarce as we humans over harvest it in our quest for monetary advantage. Much information is available on line if consuming this plant interests you. In a future issue we'll consider some control methods other than herbal tea.



**The Vicious Thorns of Rosa Multiflora  
(Multiflora Rose)**

## Western Finger Lakes Chapter On-Line

This issue of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter Newsletter as well as previous issues are available to download from the Western Finger Lakes section of the NYFOA web site. Look us up at <http://www.nyfoa.org/chapters/wfl.php>

## Plea for Pictures

Our outreach activities involve displaying pictures to show what we're about. It also helps initiate conversations. This has been effective over the years but some of our pictures are showing their age and it's time to update them.

If you have photographs you think might be useful in showing NYFOA's mission and the kinds of activities we engage in, we'd like to have them. Actual paper pictures should be sent to Dale Schaefer and electronic ones to Jim Minor. Addresses for both are on page 2. Thanks

## Classifieds

**Wanted: Woodlot and Related Activity Photos.** We're building a small collection of photos for publicity and similar NYFOA purposes. If you have photos from woodwalks, woodlot activities, NYFOA activities, etc. and are willing to share, please e-mail them to Jim Minor, [jcminor@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jcminor@rochester.rr.com).

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member(/Non-Member) price: 4' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 4' w/ stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 5' (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' w/ stake (7.00/\$7.50). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

**Wanted:** up to 50 acres of recreational land including woodlot. Prefer eastern Wayne, Ontario, Steuben and Yates counties. Rick Lee 585-406-6676

**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.



# Vernal Pools

by Dick Starr

It looked like a puddle, maybe a mud puddle too wet to walk through without boots. Tony Ross was pointing out a vernal pool as we walked their woods. That's my first recollection of hearing the term and then I began seeing it in print. Folks were listing vernal pools as positive attributes of their property.



**A Vernal Pool in the Spring**

**Note:** All photos on this page are by Betsy Leppo and are from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program's web site at [http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/VernalPool\\_Ecology.aspx](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/VernalPool_Ecology.aspx)

A vernal pool, or pond if it's big enough, is an inconspicuous depression shaped wetland with no inlet or outlet. It will have a seasonal cycle of flooding and drying and can be found in many ecological niches from grass lands to deep woods. Some fill in spring with melting snow, rain or a high water table and are typically dry by summer's end. Others fill in autumn, hold the water during winter and spring, only to dry out by late summer. In the northeast we expect to find them in woodlands where the cool shade extends the wet time. The Latin "vernus" gives us the term vernal and means "belonging to spring." That's why the first day of spring is known as the vernal equinox.

Vernal pools are critical breeding habitat for a variety of amphibians. The young must mature before the pool dries and disperse into the surrounding woodlands where they will live

their lives, often within a few hundred feet of the pool where they were born. It's not uncommon for adult amphibians to return to the pool of their birth to give birth to the next generation. Many endangered amphibian species are linked to vernal pools by a fragile cord and would cease to exist without the pools for reproduction.

The dry period of the cycle makes vernal pools different from other wetlands and plays a key role in what wildlife species use it. The dry time usually means no fish which prey on young amphibians. As a result, vernal pools provide key breeding habitat for amphibians and include wood frogs and various salamanders. Fairy shrimp are small crustaceans that require vernal pools for breeding and are often used as indicators to define a vernal pool. A lack of fish does not mean a lack of predators. Turtles, blue herons, hawks, ducks, raccoons and predatory insects feed on the eggs and immature amphibians that inhabit vernal pools.

Being frequently wet means tree species tend not to grow in the pool. However, red maple and hemlock commonly grow about the edges. A dry vernal pool can often be spotted by the presence of dark, matted leaves within a ground depression. What can we



**The Same Pool in the Summer**

do to protect these small vital pools? 1) resist the urge to fill it in 2) don't run a woodland trail through it 3) allow at least a 100 foot undisturbed buffer zone around it 4) leaf litter is an important part of the pool ecosystem 5) don't dump debris in a dry pool or depression 6) don't dig in a pool as it might impact the ability to hold water and/or damage dormant salamanders.

Work carefully when doing timber stand improvement and thinning near vernal pools. Minimizing the impact of such is desirable. Falling timber and skidding during a harvest can damage existing pools. Alternatively, they can also cause depressions that subsequently become new vernal pools.

**Afterword:** By a happy coincidence the subject of this article will also be the subject of our Annual Dinner Meeting on October 19th. Be sure to attend to get a more comprehensive understanding of this important topic. More info on page 11.



**The Same Pool in the Winter**

# Stumpage Price Report

ref: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html>

Species	Western/Central <i>Doyle Rule</i>			New York State <i>Stumpage Price Report</i> <i>Winter 2016/#88</i>	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
<b>Most Common Species</b>					
Ash, White	100-600 (350)	200-700 (550)	200-870 (700)	<b>Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet</b>	
<b>Cherry, Black</b>	<b>100-750</b> (420)	<b>300-1000</b> (600)	<b>400-1660</b> (770)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	42-310 (200)	100-450 (300)	100-610 (400)		
<b>Maple, Sugar (Hard)</b>	<b>100-800</b> (460)	<b>400-900</b> (650)	<b>500-1220</b> (850)		
Oak, Red	100-700 (400)	300-850 (600)	400-950 (710)		
<b>Pine, White</b>	<b>25-75*</b> (50)	<b>50-100*</b> (80)	<b>50-200*</b> (100)		
<b>Less Common Species</b>					
Aspen	10-50* (10)	20-50* (30)	25-50* (40)		
<b>Basswood</b>	<b>50-150</b> (100)	<b>100-280</b> (150)	<b>100-310</b> (200)		
Beech	10-50* (30)	20-100* (50)	50-100* (70)		
<b>Birch, Yellow</b>	<b>30-200*</b> (125)	<b>50-310*</b> (200)	<b>80-435*</b> (300)		
Birch, White	200-200** (200)	100-300** (200)	400-400** (400)		
<b>Butternut</b>	<b>100-400*</b> (200)	<b>200-500*</b> (300)	<b>200-600*</b> (400)		
Elm, American	50-50** (50)	75-100** (90)	75-200** (140)		
<b>Hemlock</b>	<b>10-60*</b> (40)	<b>40-80</b> (50)	<b>50-100*</b> (65)		
Hickory (spp.)	40-200* (100)	60-300 (175)	90-400 (250)		
<b>Oak, Chestnut</b>	<b>100-500*</b> (200)	<b>150-600</b> (250)	<b>200-700*</b> (350)		
Oak, White	100-400 (250)	200-550 (350)	200-1000 (500)		
<b>Pine, Red</b>	<b>25-80*</b> (40)	<b>40-130*</b> (50)	<b>50-220*</b> (100)		
Spruce (spp.)	30-110** (70)	45-190* (140)	50-245** (220)		
<b>Tulip Poplar</b>	<b>50-250*</b> (100)	<b>100-400*</b> (200)	<b>100-400*</b> (250)		
Walnut, Black	400-1000* (660)	500-1400* (1000)	500-2000* (1500)		
Aspen	4-7** (5)	2-10* (5)	5-13** (10)	<b>Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord</b>	
<b>Birch, White</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>15-15**</b> (15)	<b>NR</b>		
Hemlock	5-5** (5)	5-15** (8)	5-5** (5)		
<b>Mixed N. Hardwoods</b>	<b>1-10*</b> (6)	<b>2-16*</b> (10)	<b>5-24*</b> (8)		
Pine	4-6** (5)	5-8** (6)	5-12** (9)		
<b>Spruce/Fir</b>	<b>5-8**</b> (7)	<b>5-11**</b> (6)	<b>18-18**</b> (18)		
Firewood	5-10* (10)	2-17* (12)	5-25* (18)		

**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.



# Readings

Dick Starr

I like to read. I gravitate towards magazines but enjoy books as well. So it was I found an article by Joel Salatin in the October/November 2015 issue of Mother Earth News that had some sound forestry advise.



Likewise, nobody would argue the wisdom of not planting seeds from less than perfect veggies. So why, Joel asks, do we enter our degraded, genetically inferior woodlots as if they're too sacred to be weeded with a chainsaw? Most of our woodlots have far more weedy, weak and wounded trees than good ones.

Today's forest economy recognizes lumber as the forest's only value. A forest economy built on board feet will inherently degrade the forest. We desperately need to value the culls so our woodlots can grow superior genetics and reverse a multicentury slide to weaker species.

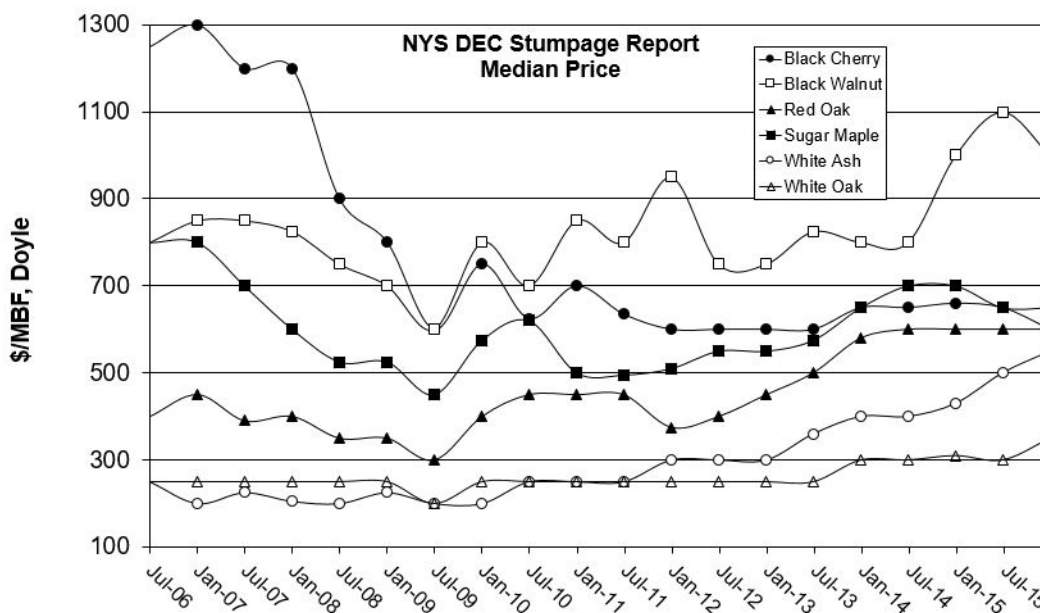
Joel's contention is that the colonists arrived with steel tools that could harvest the big trees and turn them into lumber. The more primitive tools of native people forced them to generally ignore the big trees. Thus value of trees in colonial times skewed towards the big trees with the biggest and best taken first. Our modern forests are hundreds of years into a take the best and leave the rest mind set. Joel states, "If I want to upgrade my woodlot, I can't continuously take the straight, tall, solid trees; I must figure out a way to take the diseased, infirm, crooked and weak." Remember, he says, "A poor cow eats just as much food as a good cow." People would think a farmer wise to replace the poor cow with the good cow's offspring.

## Chapter Job Opening

After two years of service as chapter Program Coordinator, John Holtz has decided to take his retirement. Thanks for your faithful service John. This position arranges for topics and speakers at our 4 general meetings each year. If you have an interest in helping in this vital role, contact Dick Starr for further information, info on page 2.

## Tracking Stumpage Prices

WFL member Dean Faklis started tracking the stumpage price reports for certain hardwoods within DEC region 8 several years ago. This proved of considerable interest to other members so here we continue Dean's tradition...



# Old Testament Trees 3

by Dick Starr

**E**cclésiastes 1:9, “History merely repeats itself. Nothing is truly new; it has all been done or said before.” Does this include trees? Consider the following Old Testament ideas in light of modern practices.

## #1 Forests can be a dangerous place

a) Deuteronomy 19:5, “For instance, a man may go into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood and as he swings his axe to fell a tree, the head may fly off and hit his neighbor and kill him.” b) Ecclesiastes 10:6, “whoever splits logs may be endangered by them.” c) 2 Samuel 14 tells us king David’s 3rd son was Absalom, a handsome man without blemish from head to foot. When his hair became too heavy he’d cut it and the weight of the shorn locks could be 200 shekals, about 5 pounds. In 2 Samuel 18 we read that Absalom conspired to overthrow his father the king and the resulting battle was in the forest of Ephraim. Twenty thousand men died in the fight and “...the forest claimed more lives that day than the sword.” Absalom fled from David’s men and apparently his magnificent mane became entangled in a large oak tree as he rode beneath it and he was left hanging in mid air by his hair. I’m thinking he would have done better with a brush cut.

Three javelins to the heart dispatched Absalom as he swayed between heaven and earth. His body was thrown into a great pit in the forest and covered with rocks. I wonder if pits and a supply of rocks is what made the forest so dangerous. Imagine thousands of sword swinging javelin throwing men racing around the forest on horseback trying to kill each other and avoid being killed in the process. I visualize grand scale chaos with many a horse and rider pitching headlong into pits and horses stumbling over rocks, throwing their riders who crash into these rocks as they fall. I also suspect many a rider was torn from the saddle by low hanging limbs. There must have been more concussions this day than in the entire history of the NFL.

## #2 Different uses for different woods

a) 1 Kings 6 relates that King Solomon paneled the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling and covered the floor

with planks of cypress b) 1 Kings 10 states almuqwood, probably sandalwood, was used to make supports for the temple and to make harps and lyres for the musicians c) Isaiah 40:20 mentions selecting rot resistant wood d) Ezekiel 27 describes boat building using timbers of pine, a mast of cedar, oars of oak and a deck of cypress from Cyprus e) Nahum 2:3 says, “...the spears of pine are brandished.”

## #3 High grading and clear cutting

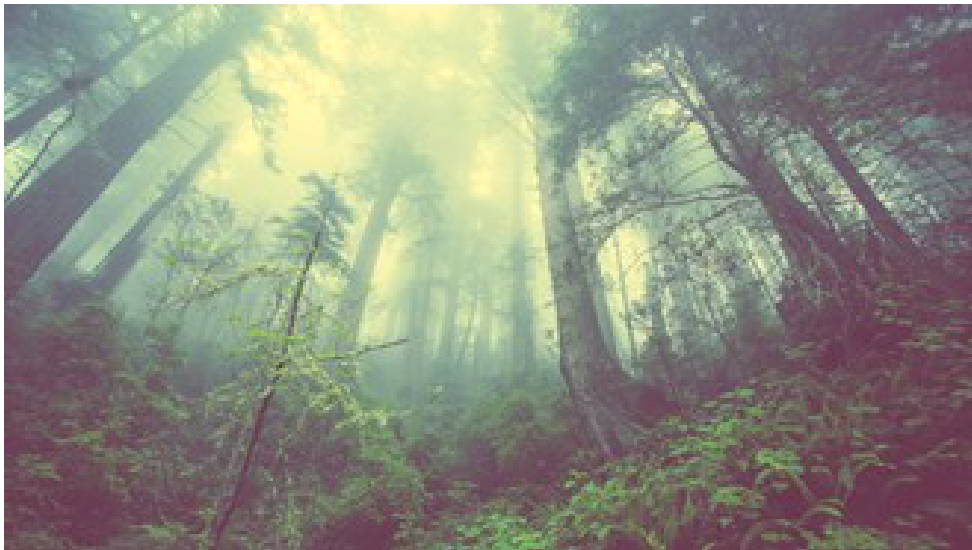
a) Jeremiah 22:7, “They shall cut down your choicest cedars...” b) 2 Kings 3:25, “...and felled all the good trees.” c) 2 Kings 19:23, “I have cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its pines.” d) 2 Kings 3:19, “...and shall fell every good tree...” e) Jeremiah 22:7 says, “Cut down her trees and build siege ramps...” f) Jeremiah 46:23, “...like woodsmen who clear a forest of its trees. They will chop down her forest.” g) Zechariah 11:2, “Weep O cypress trees for all the ruined cedars; cry in fear, you oaks of Bashan as you watch the thickest forests felled.”

## #4 Reforestation and crop tree management

a) Isaiah 9:10, “...the fig trees have been felled, but we replaced them with cedars.” b) Isaiah 44:14, “...choose a holm tree and let it grow.” c) In 7:14 Amos claims, “I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees.” Sounds like a guy trying to make a living with sheep and trees. Maybe both were needed to scratch out a living.

## #5 Foresters and loggers

a) In Nehemiah 2:8 we read, “...a letter to Asaph, the manager of the king’s forest...” Asaph took care of the forests claimed by Artaxerxes, king of Persia. Artaxerxes reigned 464 – 424 BC in what is now Iran b) 1 Kings 5:6, “...for as you know, no one in Israel can cut timber like you Sidonians!” c) In 2 Chronicles 2:8 king Solomon tells king Hiram, “...for your men are without equal as lumbermen.” d) Jeremiah 46:22-23, “They will come against her with axes, like men who cut down trees.”





# Upcoming Events

## WW Reminder

There will be a woods walk on Saturday July 9th at the Morabito property in Belfast, NY. Start time 9 AM with light breakfast provided. Property is at 6067 White Creek Road or County Road 17. Bruce Robinson will lead the walk and plan to stay for open fire hot dogs, s'mores, cold drinks and conversation. More details in the spring edition.

## Ayers Tree Farm Woods Walk

Linwood, N. Y.

Saturday, August 13, 2016

9AM – 12 Noon

Please join Jerry Ayers at his tree farm at 2021 Linwood Road, Linwood, NY, 14486, on August 13, at 9AM. The tour will be given by Jerry, a retired conservation teacher of 32 years, and business owner. This will include a discussion of the choose-and-cut Christmas tree lot, self harvesting of commercial saw logs, sawmill operation as a small business and utilization of rough cut lumber to build farm structures.

The woods walk entails 33 acres of woodland through 3 woodland parcels, which will take approximately one hour, about two miles. Those needing assistance can have vehicle access to the biggest parcel with their own vehicle.

At the conclusion of the woods walk, please plan on joining us for conversation and lunch cooked at the recreational area at our farm pond. Cold drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. **Please RSVP by calling (585) 584-3467 by August 9th.**

## Topic for Our Annual Dinner Meeting: Vernal Pools

(October 19th - Details in our Fall Newsletter)

Our speaker, Robert H. Benton Jr., will give a presentation on Vernal pools, also called vernal ponds or ephemeral pools. These are temporary pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals. They are considered to be a distinctive type of wetland usually devoid of fish, and thus allow the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species unable to withstand competition or predation by fish. Several species of amphibians are threatened because of the loss of vernal pool environments.

Our speaker has Bachelor Degrees in Biology, Physics, and Criminal Justice; a Masters Degree in Globalization; and Post-Masters work in Character Development and Education. He describes himself as a generalist in Biology/Ecology...knows a little bit in just about everything. He is a specialist in Limnology and Herpetology with a side interest in Myxomycetes [Slime Molds]. Mr. Benton has lived in Central New York since 1966.

## Join and/or Give

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests. Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

**Note:** For Gift Memberships, list the recipient's information (must not have been a NYFOA member for 3 years) directly below.

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 Gifto's (NYFOA member) name \_\_\_\_\_

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- 3-yr \$120

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- Steward \$500 or more
- Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues)

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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



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Volume 30, Number 2



**"The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill"**

Artist John Trumbull's 1786 painting of the June 17, 1775 event. One of the rallying flags, upper left, has a pine tree in it. What's that all about? See page 5, inside, to find out more about this contentious issue.

## Mark Your Calendar

- Saturday July 9th Morabito Woods Walk \*
- July 10 - 16 - NYS Invasive Species Week. More information at [www.nyis.info/blog/about](http://www.nyis.info/blog/about)
- Wednesday July 13th WFL Board meeting \*
- Saturday August 13th Ayers Woods Walk \*
- Tuesday through Thursday August 9th – 11th Empire Farm Days - <http://empirefarmdays.com/>
- Wednesday October 19th annual dinner meeting \*

\* See inside for details

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