

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2016

Volume 30, Number 4

In Our Woodlot

by Edward Piestrak

During the year 2000 a section of our Lindley property was cleared out before we purchased it. Shortly thereafter we noticed multiple oak and hardwoods being established, but many were being consumed by a large hungry deer herd. Thus, we went about the property and placed several 100 oak trees in 4-foot tree shelters. We would examine the seedlings and pick the largest, straightest, and the most dominant tree for tubing. We can also notice in the two pictures that the tubed tree was tubed is a skinny and poorly formed. The trees next to the tube trees are straight, much larger and quite dominate.



A pair of our tree tubes.

(Continued on page 2)

NYFOA 2016 Annual Dinner

by Mike Seager

Our chapter's annual dinner on 19 October was another packed evening of fun and information. We met at the Monsignor Schnacky Center in Mendon for the second year, and the venue is working out well. The hour of socializing before the dinner started flew by as more than 80 people mingled and sampled the appetizers. Chef Brad of Laurier Catering provided the dinner again this year, and it was up to his usual standard of excellence.

Several brief items of business followed dinner:

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Our dinner speaker, Bob Benton, making a point (or six) about vernal pools.

September 24th Woodswalk

Greg & Kathy Lessord Farm, Spencerport, NY

by Peter Muench

Weather forecasts offered the potential for rain on the 24th, which left mixed feelings over needing rain for the drought and needing sun for the woodswalk. The sun won and we were able to enjoy a beautiful early fall day. The eager crowd of 25 or so enjoyed donuts, muffins, pastries and beverages in the barn as we learned the history of the land and the hopes of its future. Consulting Forester Susan Keister captivated the crowd with stories of trees past, present and future before beginning our trek.

Greg and Kathy's 81 acre farm is

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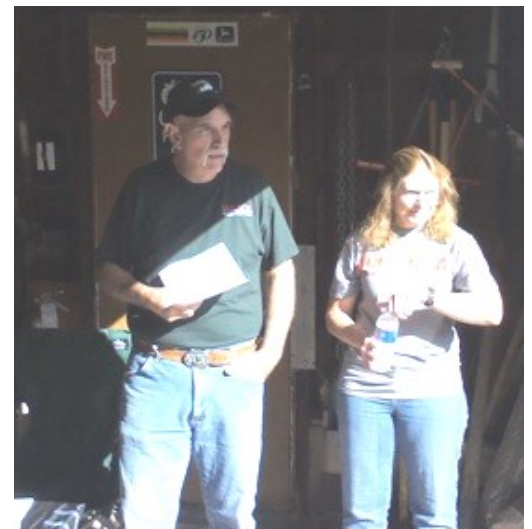


photo credit—Jim Minor

Greg and Kathy going over the history of their property and plans for the future.

Most of the tubed trees turned out to be of very poor quality. The last few years we removed the majority of the tubes and discarded them. We left a few on the trees to demonstrate the failing of the system to help Mother Nature out. A few of the two trees grew very

rapidly, but a upon growing out of the tubes they were skinny, bent over and extremely poor quality. One can see by the pictures that the regeneration was very good and we have learned that at times its best to allow Mother Nature to bring back the forest.

PS. The bears love to destroy the tubes. Especially cub bears.

WANTED

Are you a good listener, able to analyze and think creatively, work well with individuals and groups? Are you friendly, do you possess a good sense of humor, and have personal integrity? Would you like to make a difference and have extra time to volunteer for the improvement and continuity of NYFOA?

The WFL Chapter of NYFOA is looking for a candidate to sit on the State Board to represent us.

There are 3 meetings a year: Annual meeting in April and meetings in both June and September.

6-year term limit and mentoring is available for your suc-

cess. Reporting back to the WFL Board with the State information keeps us all linked to the goals and mission of NYFOA.

Some of the various projects presently organized: Northeast Timber Growing Contest, Silent Auction to benefit youth forestry programs, Restore NY Woodlands initiative, work with DEC and others regarding 480A tax relief as well as cost-sharing money for woodland owners, influencing policy makers that affect forest owners, etc.

Please consider volunteering. The respect and gratitude of the membership is "tree-mendous"!

Contact Dick Starr for information on this quality, volunteer opportunity.

About Us

NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2017 Board of Directors

Richard Starr, Director and Chairman
231 Farm View Dr.
Macedon, NY 14502
(585) 377-4849
pockaa@aol.com

Jim Minor, Director
WFL Newsletter Publisher
22 Bryn Mawr Road
Rochester, NY 14624
(585) 247-7069
jminor@rochester.rr.com

Dale Schaefer, Director and Vice Chairman
6017 County Road #37
Springwater, NY 14560
(585) 367-2849

Colette Morabito, Director & Chapter-Designated State Board Member
1100 Main St
East Rochester, NY 14445
(585)248-0654
cmorabi2@rochester.rr.com

Cathy Gardner, Director and Secretary
7400 Corby Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
585-624-7636
cathygardner10@yahoo.com

Peter Muench, Director & Outdoor Activities Coordinator
P.O. Box 473
Naples, NY 14512
(585) 412-3447
munchme.444@gmail.com

Ron Reitz, Director and Treasurer
6086 Canadice Hill Rd.
Springwater, NY 14560
(585) 367-2847
rrrlpr@aol.com

Mike Seager, Director & At-Large State Board Member
P.O. Box 1281
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 414-6511
seager_michael@yahoo.com

Ray Cavallaro, Director
245 Hurstbourne Road
Rochester, NY 14609-5503
(585) 288-3411

Dick Dennison, Director
137 Wood Creek Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 586-9098
Kibbycamp@rochester.rr.com

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 state-wide 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 2017 issue is February 15th

Bears

by Edward Piestrak

We have been referring to the bears on our Lindley property for the past year or so. We built five bear houses for the bears to winter in, but last winter they were not utilized. My daughter Crystal and I placed additional straw bedding in each house last week to further entice the utilization. We will continue to monitor the houses during the winter to see if the bears decide on one thing to reside in a protected, soft and secluded area. I have attached photos of bears that were photographed this fall. One can see we have a couple bear families. As well as a large number of medium sized bears.

P.S. Aren't they cute.?



all photos courtesy of the author

DEC Seeks Assistance to Locate Black Bear Dens

This winter, State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) wildlife biologists are seeking the public's help to learn about new black bear dens throughout New York.

As part of DEC's ongoing monitoring of black bears in New York, wildlife biologists periodically check on black bears during the winter den season. The bears may be fitted with a radio collar to help biologists track the bears' activities throughout the rest of the year and to relocate dens in subsequent years for monitoring cub production, condition, and survival.

Bears may den in a rock crevice, tree cavity, or under heavy brush or fallen trees. Since female bears generally give birth in January or early February, a high-pitched squeal from the

cubs may be audible if near a den. New York hikers and hunters typically cover countless miles of wooded terrain each year. DEC urges anyone who finds a bear den to not approach or disturb the den, but simply to note the location and move away from the den site.

DEC requests that anyone locating a bear den contact their local DEC Wildlife office with specifics about the den location, including GPS coordinates if possible. A list of regional wildlife offices is available on DEC's website.

More information about black bears in New York is available at DEC's Black Bear web page. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html>

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just up the road from where Greg grew up and he played and hunted on the land most of his life. They acquired the farm in 2003 and have been improving the land ever since.

The original forest stewardship plan was drawn up by DEC forester Mark Gooding in June 2011. Greg and Kathy have used that document since to perform various TSI, invasive species management and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

As the plan called for a commercial thinning in an 18.5 acre hardwood stand 2016-2017 and the emerald ash borer made its presence known, their current DEC forester Gary Koplun steered them toward the services of a consulting forester. They ultimately chose the services of Susan Keister of Wayland, NY

The 18.5 acres we walked today was marked by Sue and her husband Mark to remove the poorer quality stems of numerous species including a special effort to remove an over-abundance of beech. No ash was marked as all ash 8” DBH and larger that is marketable will be removed. The area for ash harvest also encompasses additional stands.

Sue is working hard to complete Greg & Kathy’s goals and was in the process of marketing the timber at the time of the woodwalk. Two days later on Monday, Kyle from Wagner Lumber came and inspected the wood lots. Subsequently a contract has been signed and work will proceed as weather permits. It will be handled as a production cut.

Sue will be controlling the cutting as the logger will take all marked hardwoods and beech marked that is marketable. Beech marked and left standing will fall to Greg & Kathy’s

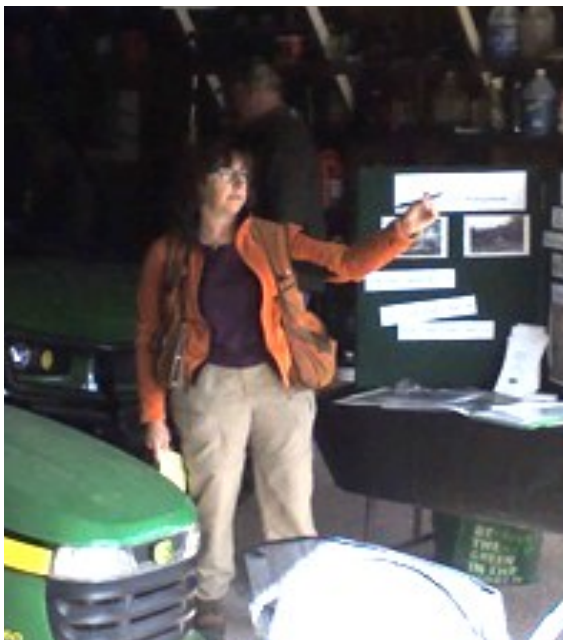


photo credit—Jim Minor

Consulting Forester Susan Keister giving some background on what we’re about to see.



photo credit—Peter Muench

Participants seeing the result of recent work.

saws for firewood and the stumps and sprouts treated with glysohate. All marketable ash will be cut. No need to mark them ahead of time.

One of the benefits of a woodwalk is to examine various perspectives of managing a forest stand to achieve goals of the landowner. This walk enjoyed the added benefit of having the forester who marked the stand for cutting with us to explain how the marking is to achieve the landowner’s goals.

We walked to the woodlot looking at access issues as the drought year provided a reasonably firm surface at the time and how increasing precipitation might change that. Along the way we passed through agricultural fields and several other stands where we saw the effects of field reclamation from years of abandonment, TSI work, invasive species control efforts, tree plantings for wildlife food and cover and bird and bat houses.

The stand has higher ground in the central portion and low, poorly drained soils surrounding that. Spicebush is so thick in places it will have to be controlled through mechanical or chemical means to facilitate adequate regeneration.

Once this woodlot is cut, we will schedule an “after” woodwalk, hopefully again with Sue, to review the completed logging and discuss how well the cutting satisfied the landowner’s goal. Before and after pictures always tell a better story. Keep in touch with the newsletter for this and other future woodwalks.

Ayers Tree Farm Woods Walk, York, N. Y.

Part Two –

Commercial Sawlog/Firewood Operation

by Peter Muench

The August 13th woodswalk at Barbara and Jerry Ayers focused on their Christmas tree farm, their sawmill and woodlot. While these are an integrated operation, the day began with the Christmas tree operation and the second half of the day focused on the mill and the management of the woodlot. Part 1 is in the Fall 2016 Newsletter, and always available on the NYFOA/WFL website.

Jerry's Backhoe Service provides the equipment needed for the self-harvesting of commercial saw logs from their 32 acre woodlot. We toured the sawmill and the Evergreen Mill Lodge that Jerry built to house the mill, firewood operations and the administration end of the business. The Woodmizer sawmill (Photo 1) is under the roof on the back of the Lodge building. Here, a variety of logs, both low grade and quality logs from Prime to Grade 3, are cut into



All photos by the author.

Photo 1—The Woodmizer sawmill.



Photo 2—The Homemade Cutting Table

lumber. Jerry explained his detailed analysis of the Doyle Log Rule through the estimated volume versus actual lumber volume from his mill and its potential effect on timber sales value.

The firewood operation utilizes all wood not sawn at the mill. The homemade cutting table (Photo 2) is the platform for blocking the wood, which is split and stacked in pallets for sale. We moved to the woodlot and discussed various tax incentives for woodlot owners and farm fields and started the tour (Photo 3).

We walked the access roads through the woodlot discussing



Photo 3—Heading Into The Woods.

Apple Workshop

by Mike Seager

Last year a group of friends visited the Seager farm to learn about pruning and rehabilitating apple trees. In 2016 we had another gathering, attended by many of the same people but with a few new faces. Both sessions were led by forester Bruce Robinson.

In 2015 we focused on dealing with trees that are growing in the open, either by themselves in a field or in a small stand consisting mostly of apple trees. This year we moved into the woods, and talked more about apple trees that are on the edge of a larger woodlot or that are surrounded by other trees that have grown up around them over the years.

We started this year by reviewing some of the work done the previous year. When pruning a tree, cuts should be made along the bark ridge where the branch joins the main stem. A proper cut will heal by forming a donut of new wood around the pruned branch, and will not generate suckers. Bruce stressed that it is important to revisit your work to gauge your technique and to prune any suckers that do form. We reviewed cuts made last year that ranged from quite good – there was a healthy donut of new wood growing around the cut – to quite poor – there was little or no new wood growing around the cut, and there were multiple suckers sprouting from the cut area.

Bruce also reviewed the principles of rejuvenating apple trees and stimulating them to produce fruit. Whether in the field or in the woods, the first concern is competition. An apple tree needs sunlight and airflow to be productive, so trees that interfere with its crown must be removed. In some cases this means scrub trees such as thorn apple or hop hornbeam have to be cut – these are the easy decisions. In other cases when two apple trees are too close together, one of them should be cut to release the other. You need data to make these decisions – more on that in a moment.

The second factor to consider in rehabilitating apple trees is the structure of the tree. Last year we learned that trees growing in the open should have an open center with strong lateral branches. This structure allows air movement and produces fruit that will be accessible when we want to pick it. By contrast, apple trees that are in the woods should have a tall, strong central leader so the tree can get to light in the canopy. This means that fruit will be produced high up, out of the reach of people but available to birds in the tree and to deer and other animals when it falls to the ground.

We also learned last year that rehabilitating an apple tree is often a multi-year exercise, and that it is often quicker to get a productive tree by planting a new one than by working on an existing tree. This is less true in the woods, where the small root system of a new tree combined with limited light coming through the canopy minimize the chance that a newly planted tree will survive. By contrast, it is possible to deliberately stimulate sucker growth on an old tree by

wounding it with a saw kerf that penetrates the inner bark – exactly what you don't want to do when pruning branches. By generating suckers near the base of the main stem, you can reconstitute a new tree from one that is mostly dead, or has very poor structure. This technique allows the new growth to receive support from the established foliage and root system of a larger tree. As the sucker grows over several years it can be trained to have good form, and the remnants of the original tree can be pruned away.

Trees with multiple stems present another sort of challenge. These can form when a tree dies and multiple shoots come up from the stump. The result is a number of trees growing very close to one another, with their trunks touching and their branches entangled. The trees must be thinned, but it requires some careful work. In such close quarters it is easy to damage one stem while cutting another. And with the branches of the various stems tangled with one another, take care not to break some branches when trying to extract the branches of a cut stem.

Wild apple trees will typically bear fruit every 2 – 4 years – very few trees will bear fruit every year, and some never will. Thus it is important to keep records on each tree so you can identify those that have desirable characteristics. What characteristics are desirable depends on your management goals, but in my case, where the goal is mostly for wildlife habitat, the characteristics I am looking for are whether and how often a tree produces fruit, how late in the season the fruit stays on the tree (later is better for wildlife), and how well the blossoms survive late spring frosts. With this data gathered over several years, it is easier to make decisions about which trees to cut when they interfere with one another.

To collect that data, I bought some numbered aluminum tags and nailed them to my apple trees. I have made the rounds of the trees several times this year, keeping notes for each tree on how it is faring – the amount of fruit, pruning that needs to be taken care of, and so on. In another article I will share some of the results of that exercise.

See photos on opposite page.

Don't forget...



**NEW YORK
FARM SHOW
2017**

February 23-25, 2017

NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUND
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

(www.newyorkfarmshow.com)



photo credit—All photos by the author.

A good example of what a pruned branch should look like a year later. Note the uniform “donut” of new growth all the way around the old branch.



This tree is little more than a hollow shell with a few live branches still hanging on. Note the kerf at the right. It was made with a bowsaw and is only about an inch deep. The hope is that this kerf will stimulate sprouts in this area that can be trained into a new tree using the existing tree’s root system.



The type of tree tag that I purchased, already embossed with consecutive numbers. They are attached to the trees with aluminum nails at about knee height, leaving the nailhead an inch or so from the bark to give the tree room to grow. You can see on the stem to the right that the local beaver have not taken Bruce’s principles of pruning to heart.

Examples of pruning do’s and don’ts from preceding page.



An example of a poorly pruned branch. Note that there is very little new wood growing around the wound, and several suckers have formed nearby.

Nuts About Nut Trees

by Colette Morabito

On September 24, John Wertis of Trumansburg, hosted an enjoyable and thought provoking tutorial in relation to nut trees on his farm. Approximately 20 attendees from across the Finger Lakes region and beyond attended with great anticipation. Multiple samples of nuts from his property were on display for both touching, cracking, and eating. Mr. Wertis is a member of the New York Nut Growers Association (NYNGA).

Wertis's farm has a varied history in agriculture production, meat goats, and a woodlot. Over the years, his passion has moved to managing his nut producing trees. Several native varieties found directly on his farm are Black Walnut, Butternut, Hickory, and White Oak. Hybrids/exotics such as Hazelnut, English/Persian Walnut, and Heartnut have been planted in several different areas of his property. He explained numerous topics in relation to nut trees: quality of seedling trees vs. grafted trees, stratification of nut seeds, planting methods, disease issues, pests (voles, deer & squirrels), competing plants in relation to seedlings, record keeping, and the countless benefits of nut trees as crops and timber.

If you are nuts about nut trees, I highly recommend contacting NYNGA. This is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that promotes nut tree growing in New York State. Their mission is to educate people on the benefits of nut trees and provide cultural information to assist in growing nut trees. Please feel free to contact them with questions, membership opportunities, and assisting in your nut grove success. Their website can be found at: <http://nynga.org/>



photo credit—Colette Morabito

Ripe hazel nut in fibrous husk

Pres-To-Logs

by Dick Starr

In 1930 Robert Bowling, an engineer for Potlatch Forest Industries in Spokane Washington, developed Pres-To-Logs, later called Presto Logs. This represented a step in more complete utilization of harvested trees through use of waste material. These man made logs were composed of clean, dry sawdust, wood shavings and green waste materials pressed under great pressure and intense heat without binders or glues. From this development came Wood Briquettes, Inc organized in 1933 by Weyerhaeuser Corporation. Briquette, or briquet, is from the French and is related to brick but not necessarily rectangular in shape. A briquet is a molded block of combustible biomass.

According to Wikipedia, wood briquettes have lower ash and sulfur content than cordwood. Due to their increased density they have a higher energy content per cubic foot, require less storage space and release more heat per pound than cordwood. The Weyerhaeuser patent covered from 1934 to 2004.

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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 woodswalks, woodlot activities, NYFOA activities, etc. and are willing to share, please e-mail them to Jim Minor, 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.

More Tree Tubes! - NYFOA's Auction Team has sixty 5' tree tubes for sale (new & lightly used), \$210 or \$5 ea or \$40 for ten. Call Dean at 585-669-2956.

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.

Certified Firewood

by Dick Starr

Transporting untreated firewood more than 50 miles is a violation of DEC regulations. That's 50 straight line miles, not road miles. A self issued certificate of transport is required even when moving firewood within the 50 miles. The purpose of this regulation is to slow the spread of invasives like the emerald ash borer. Certainly a worthy goal.

We have a woodlot near the Pennsylvania border and well beyond the 50 mile limit. What am I to do with the results of my timber stand improvement efforts when our wood stove at home craves winter fuel? Leaving it on the ground to rot violates my conservative upbringing of waste not, want not. The solution might be to treat the firewood and certify it bug free. What's involved in doing that?

The DEC has adopted USDA standards which say if the firewood core is heated to 160 degrees F. and held there for 75 minutes, any critters the wood contained will be dead and the wood is now safe to move beyond 50 miles. A monitoring system and record keeping are required to certify the firewood has met these conditions. So the question is how to heat the core of firewood to 160 degrees F. and hold it there for 75 minutes?

My first thought was maybe a solar kiln might get hot enough to do the job. A closed car certainly gets hot on a sunny summer day. To get a sense of the possibilities I placed an empty plastic milk jug in the sun on a warm October day. A thermometer monitored the temperature and the air inside the jug reached 120 degrees F. This was encouraging. Is it reasonable to think a well insulated box with double glazing in mid July would add the extra 40 degrees?

Before embarking on a solar kiln construction project I decided to do some reading. It seems that kilns, regardless of heat source, are usually intended to remove moisture from lumber or fire pottery. The general consensus seemed to be a strictly solar kiln would not satisfy the USDA/DEC requirements. One source stated, "It's rare for a non parabolic solar oven to exceed 200 degrees F." Of course, I only need 160 degrees. I was disappointed but glad I did some research before construction. Perhaps a failed solar kiln might become a successful greenhouse.

I haven't completely given up on solar. I saw plans for a solar oven that was essentially a foil lined cardboard box and it claimed to heat food to 300 degrees F. The June/July 2014 issue of *Mother Earth News* has an article about a home made solar food dehydrator. It claims to reach 200 F. on a sunny day of 75 degrees. I have a small solar panel that plugs into the 12 volt socket of a car and is intended to keep the car battery charged. The instructions state, "Temperature on the dashboard can reach 195 degrees F. on a hot day. Remove solar panel ... to prevent plastic frame from melting." The solution it seems is to fill my car with firewood and park it outside on a sunny day – or not.

Readings

by Dick Starr

The internet headline said, "Oldest Tree in the World at 9550 years." I stopped surfing and started reading. Surprise, the attention grabbing headline didn't tell the whole story. The tree in question is a Norway (Norwegian) spruce living in the mountains of Sweden. It was found in 2004 by Leif Kullman, professor of physical geography at Umea University and Lisa Oberg while doing research on how alpine areas might react to global warming. The tree was named Old Tjikko (OT) after Kullman's Siberian Husky. The age was determined by carbon 14 dating of the roots.

The above ground visible tree is thought to be about 200 years old and is 16 feet tall. New seedlings sprout from the root mass even when the above ground visible stem dies. This cycle has repeated itself numerous times since the ice age ended. Counting tree rings to determine age would only give the current stem's age thus the need to age the roots. It's unlikely an older tree will be found in the area since the ice released its grip about the time OT germinated. OT and a few other ancient spruce are above the tree line and appear to have emerged from a bonsai like shrub existence sometime during the 20th century in response to warmer temperatures. If so, global warming is not a recent phenomena although the attention it generates seems to be.

I've been slow to jump on the global warming bandwagon but the data is becoming more compelling. The August 29, 2016 issue of *Time* magazine stated that July 2016 was the hottest month ever recorded globally at 62 F. Further, every month since October 2015 has set a new monthly high and there's little doubt 2016 will be the warmest year since record keeping began. An article by Hillary Rosner in the April 2015 *National Geographic* magazine stated, "All over the world drought stressed forests are being tipped toward death by rising temperatures." Locally, the September 1, 2016 *Democrat & Chronicle* said, "The Rochester region has never endured a summer with such an oppressive combination of heat and humidity." I'm guessing you remember that.

If we can believe what glaciologists tell us, both hemispheres have seen numerous periods of cooling in earth's past with glacial advances followed by warming periods and glacial retreat. The question is what affect human activities have in this, if any. Ancient glacial cycles of warming and cooling occurred long before any human activity could be credited with causing them. But back to OT.

The original seed that became OT must have germinated about the time the last ice age ended, roughly 7550 B.C. For comparison, the invention of writing and thus recorded history was about 4000 B.C. Actually, OT is a clonal organism meaning new seedlings emerge from the root mass even as visible tree stems die. OT gained fame as the world's oldest tree but that is not accurate. Only clonal

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Chainsaws For Charity – Team Blasts Through First Log Load!

by Dean Faklis

As you know, NYFOA has begun a fun project whereby firewood is generated for the purposes of raising money for charity and providing a social function for NYFOA members. The project's short-term goal is to generate 100 face cords in the first year, which may net up to \$10,000 for charity.

It is my pleasure to report that NYFOA's Chainsaws for Charity (C4C) Team has completed the first log load from Wagner Hardwoods! The extended team is really doing a great job and includes ~40 volunteers and they really enjoy participating. Not bad for being launched just five months ago; I think there are more than 35 face cords already done and spoken for. That should net \$3,000 for charity, and there is another big log load on the way to the site in Avon!

Since my last note, I've had the pleasure to meet in person with our partners at the charities: Nash Bock of Ontario County Habitat for Humanity, Jim Clark of the VFW's veterans outreach effort, Jonathan Wordingham (Edward Jones, Ontario, NY) and Dr. Greg Gullo, DDS (Canandaigua), both of The Rotary Club. All these guys are great assets to our community and they are working hard to raise money with us and their respective teams. For example, Rotarians are planning to meet with us on NOV 25 with a dump truck to haul many face cords, which are mostly pre-sold in Walworth. The Rotary will make another trip to haul more firewood to Canandaigua, all to benefit Camp Onseyawa for disabled children (www.onseyawa.org).

I've also had the pleasure of communicating with Tom Gerow of Wagner Hardwoods. Tom follows our progress closely and I'm extremely happy to report that Wagner will donate another log load! The generous support we're receiving from Tom and Wagner Hardwoods is extremely strong. Like all of us, Wagner really wants to make a difference all across our region and their leadership speaks loud and clear. Thanks Tom! Also a BIG Thanks! to each and every one of you for making this project a ton of fun. While we may have a little lull in the action during the holiday season, we'll continue to schedule time making wood chips!

Do you love woodlands and want to help people in need? Please join us in Avon, the camaraderie and food are great. Just let Eileen (dschaefer1@frontiernet.net) know and she will put you on the mailing list. If you would like to make a donation of cash to help with expenses, delivered logs/firewood, or equipment (we sure could use a hydraulic splitter), please send me a note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net).

There are several C4C articles at the Cornell Forest Connect Ning site. Lots of pictures and explanations of how things work, including information on the beneficiaries. Check them out!

<http://cornellforestconnect.ning.com/>

Click the Blogs tab near the top and search for C4C; there are five articles with a bunch of fun pictures. And...we're calling all artists...we need a volunteer to paint C4C's portable "billboard." Check with your friends, art teachers, local art clubs, etc. and thanks!



photo Credit—Dean Faklis

The C4C (Chainsaws for Charity) Team at a recent outing.

Silent Auction for Youth Forestry is Building Steam!

by Dean Faklis

NYFOA's traditional silent auction coincides with its annual meeting on April 8, 2017. The auction's beneficiaries for 2017 have been selected from several worthy organizations that are passionate about forestry and NY's young people. The winners are.....NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team and NYFOA's Woodlands Mini Grants for Educators! There is a lot of good information on the auction and its beneficiaries at the NYFOA website. Please follow the link at NYFOA's home page, www.nyfoa.org.

The NY 4-H Forestry Team continues to post strong results but needs our help to reach more NY youth. We've structured a "one-two punch" to help 4-H. Financially, through our auction, and with our time using our newly-developed forestry workshop for beginners. I gave the workshop for the first time on October 23 to Livingston County families and the room was overstuffed with children ages 6 to well over 60! Thirty minutes of talk and sixty minutes of woodswalk, which included tree identification and tree measurements. Wow, do the kids catch on fast; it was my pleasure to be able to deliver the good news about woodlands. Oh...did I mention that we topped it all off with 30 minutes of Q&A and eating serious amounts of sweetened goodies? What Fun!



Your auction donation and purchase will help the 4-H Team and its efforts with cash (their proposal is on the auction's website). And if you're inclined and ready to see big smiling faces, your donation of your time in your community will have big impacts. The presentation and worksheets are free to you for the asking (dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Just coordinate with your Cornell Cooperative Extension and add refreshments for a complete and balanced education.

Please visit the auction website at nyfoa.org today. Download the donation form, check it over and please consider giving a generous gift. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization. Soon, we'll be posting pictures of the donated items at the auction website for some pre-auction inspection. Some of the items will be available for bidding on-line before and after the annual meeting. Some

items will only be available for bidding at the annual meeting on April 8 in Syracuse, mostly to keep shipping costs down. Meeting attendees have the added advantage of being able to bid in-person and on-line, which gives them access to all donated items.

We're trying to raise \$5,000 for these fine youth forestry programs using the auction. Cash donations directly to NYFOA earmarked for the auction are greatly appreciated too. If you have questions about the auction, please send me a note directly (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) or send a note to the auction email account, auction@nyfoa.org. If you'd like to volunteer to help implement the auction, we sure could use a few more hands so please send us a note. It's easy and many hands make lite work.

(Readings- Continued from page 9)

trees, not individual trees, live so long.

While OT is the oldest known clonal Norway spruce, it's not the oldest known clonal tree. That distinction goes to Pando a clonal Quaking Aspen in Utah. Pando, Latin for "I spread" is estimated to be 80,000 years old, is the world's heaviest known organism at 6000 tons and is among the oldest known living organisms. Pando has 47,000 stems emerging from the same root mass covering 100 acres and it's considered one tree!! Pando is thought to be dying for reasons unknown. May I be so bold as to suggest old age could be a factor? Nothing in human experience lives forever.

Master Forest Owner Volunteer Refresher Class

by Colette Morabito

On Saturday, October 23, the Master Forest Owner (MFO) Annual Refresher class was presented and organized by Emily Staychock-Northwest Regional Director from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County along with Regional Directors Kristina Ferrare of Central/Western Adirondacks and Brett Chedzoy of the Southern Tier. Under cloudy skies, brilliant fall color, and a cold wind, this event was very well attended with approximately 40 attendees. The information was plentiful, opportunities to share ideas were ideal, and resources gleaned from MFO's from neighboring chapters proved very beneficial. The quality of the speakers was highly regarded, namely Mark Whitmore and Peter Smallidge both from Cornell University. They discussed timely and relevant topics for all of us to take on our property visits as well as consideration for our own woodlots.

Mr. Smallidge spoke about the effects of White Tail Deer pressure on NYS forests and how deer are directly impacting forest regeneration. I suggest referring to his co-authored PDF document found on the web titled "Wildlife Control Information, Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer". Peter gave us a thorough description of this new endeavor, namely Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID). Peter introduced us to the document outlining how to observe whether woodland landscapes exhibit maturing trees and a variety of vegetation. He also provided examples of interfering vegetation caused by excessive deer browsing which may be impacting the regeneration health of the forest floor. A step-by-step approach to analyze a forest plot site is carefully detailed to assure your success in addressing excessive deer browse in relation to your forest management goals. Documentation and keeping careful records of your observations by either spring flowers or tree seedlings are available for duplication on the AVID site.

Mark Whitmore gave us the sad and demoralizing progress of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) as it continues its fast and furious effect on the Northeastern United States. Ash seed collection, whether to



Dave Deuel proudly sharing his Shiitake mushroom production site in his woodlot. Shade and moisture are key ingredients for success.

remove Ash from your woodlot, insecticide treatments, notification to authorities upon detection, and the hope of discovering individual Ash trees resistant to the EAB were just a few of the subjects and queries discussed. Mr. Whitmore also expounded on the

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid identification and management which is so necessary in curtailing the spread in NYS. Hemlock trees are a foundation species which makes these trees "generally so common, they are taken for granted". The loss of hemlock tree stands would compromise important ecological conditions important to forest health. There is a regulated NYS Hemlock Initiative which organizes State efforts and stakeholders to quickly act with detection and prompt reaction to newly discovered infestations. Please see the website: NYSHemlockInitiative.info

After a satisfying lunch, we were hosted by David Deuel to see physical examples of EAB impacts in his woodlot. To see the tangible effects up close is helpful but also a sad commentary about the spread of the EAB. Mr. Deuel also graciously gave us a tour of his farm where we could see firsthand the woodlot management activities he and his wife pursue: maple syrup and Shiitake mushroom production, timber sale, Wetlands Reserve Program, to name a few. His hospitality for the MFO Refresher was greatly appreciated but also his commitment and generosity to the Chainsaws for Charity (C4C) initiative through Western Finger Lakes Chapter (WFL) of NYFOA. A gracious thanks to Dave and his wife for their hospitality.

MFO's have an important role to play in the health and welfare of NYS forests. Offering a free, no obligation visit to neighbors and other interested forest owner's invites an opportunity to listen and guide woodlot owners, much like ourselves, with advice and direction in order to meet their forest management goals. Healthy forests are of great value and beneficial to all. Please feel free to communicate directly with Emily Staychock (Email: ecs268@cornell.edu) for questions or comments regarding any aspect of the Master Forest Owner Program or at: www.CornellMFO.info



All photos by the author

This one small woodpecker blemish on the bark of this Ash tree in Dave Deuel's woodlot is a sign of the Emerald Ash Borer



This is what lies beneath the woodpecker bark fleck. EAB larvae create serpentine feeding galleries. These galleries disrupt the flow of nutrients and water to the tree eventually girdling (killing) it.

(Continued from page 1)

- We had our official annual meeting whose chief item was the re-election of the current board members. You can find the list of board members on page 2 of this newsletter.
- Dale Schaefer gave us an update on Chainsaws for Charity. With a load of logs donated by Wagner Lumber and partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Rotary and VFW, the program is well on its way to the goal of delivering 100 face cords of firewood to help these organizations raise money for their programs.
- NYFOA president Charlie Stackhouse filled us in on two advocacy efforts NYFOA is pursuing with the DEC: helping to ensure the proposed changes to the 480a law regarding taxation of wooded land, and the proposed timber harvest notification regulations, serve to promote good forest stewardship and advance the interests of our members and other landowners. (Charlie has since sent a letter on each topic to the DEC Commissioner. You can see those letters at www.nyfoa.org.)
- Jim Minor told the group that we have two open board positions, that of our representative to the state board of directors and that of publicity director. Both positions remain open and anybody interested in taking on one of those roles should contact Dick Starr.

Next came the annual drama of prizes. Dan Ras, our regional representative for Stihl, again donated a chainsaw, and this year he added a safety kit that included a helmet with visor and earmuffs and a pair of protective chaps. We drew tickets for the chainsaw and the safety kit separately. Tony Ross won the first selection and opted for the safety kit; Ray Cavallero's number came up next and he had to be content with receiving a new chainsaw. This year's door prizes included a wide range of items, both liquids (maple syrup, cider, wine) and solids (books, protective equipment, wooden craft items). A few of these prizes were purchased by the chapter but most were donated by our members. Our thanks to everyone who contributed a door prize.

When the excitement of all the prizes abated we were ready to hear from our keynote speaker, Mr. Bob Benton. Bob is unabashedly enthusiastic about all things related to herpetology and his topic tonight was vernal pools. Vernal pools are a type of wetland that is at maximal depth in the spring but dries out by late summer or fall. Many species need water for only the first part of their lifecycle – two to four months – and then move onto dry land. In a pond that has deep water all year, and thus supports fish, these creatures suffer heavily from predation by the fish. Vernal pools can't support fish and so are an ideal habitat for these species. Spotted salamanders, spotted turtles, wood frogs, spring peepers and fairy shrimp are just a few of the species that thrive in vernal pools.

The reptiles and amphibians that come of age in vernal pools move into surrounding uplands as adults, so they need buffers of woodland ranging from 500 yards to 2 miles in order to complete their lifecycles. Crustaceans and insects remain in the area of the pool even after it has dried out in the fall, wait-

ing for the pool to fill and emerging again when it does. Species that use vernal pools are often at the bottom of the food chain, so promoting their populations by protecting or constructing vernal pools can be the key to maintaining a robust and dynamic ecosystem in your woodlot.

It was a relief to learn that the severe drought this summer did not have much effect on vernal pools or their inhabitants. The region was not in the grip of the drought until the time when most vernal pools have dried out anyway.

Work done for NYFOA's State Wildlife Grant included production of a vernal pool fact sheet; you can find it on NYFOA's web site at <http://www.nyfoa.org/swg/docs/NYFOASWGVernalPoolBrochure.pdf>.

(Pres-to-Logs- Continued from page 8)

Fire log is apparently a modern term for any artificial log made of waste materials. Such materials can include cardboard, paper, coal dust, peat, charcoal, cotton plants, nut shells, fruit pits, hay, straw etc. Essentially whatever is at hand and they are to be used like wood fuel and should burn longer and more efficiently than cordwood. By adding paraffin to the mix they are easy to ignite since the paraffin readily burns. They are easily found under names like EZBurn, Qualiflame and Duraflame. They can be purchased in various sizes from 2 pounds to 6 pounds per log. The main criteria for selecting a log is how long one wants the fire to last. A 6 pounder should go about 4 hours.

I get the feeling a manufactured fire log is a wood pellet on steroids. A fire log is intended to be added to a fire like cordwood while pellets are loaded into a stove's hopper and feed automatically into the fire. As such, a fire log fire requires more tending than pellets unless one wants a 1 hour fire. Either requires purchase and those of us with a woodlot and chain saw wonder why. True a saw also requires purchase, unless your ticket is pulled at our annual dinner meeting, as does the fuel and bar oil but what value is placed on time in the woods? And it's more fun than time in the gym which, I'm told, isn't fun at all.

According to the internet, Lowes sells the original Pres-To-Logs started in 1934. They are advertised as good for fire-place, wood stove or camp fire. They are called a densified fire log that has less ash, less creosote and less mess than cordwood. If you have lots of sawdust available there are many YouTube videos that show how to make your own pressed logs. After watching some of these Rube Goldberg devices I'm content to continue tossing my waste sawdust straight into the stove or the composting toidy.

I once read of a fellow who suspected a neighbor of pilfering from his fire wood pile. He didn't have proof and was reluctant to confront the neighbor without it. His solution was to hollow out a log and insert some fireworks. A few evenings later the neighbor's chimney turned into a roman candle. Proof found.

Snapshots from our Annual Dinner

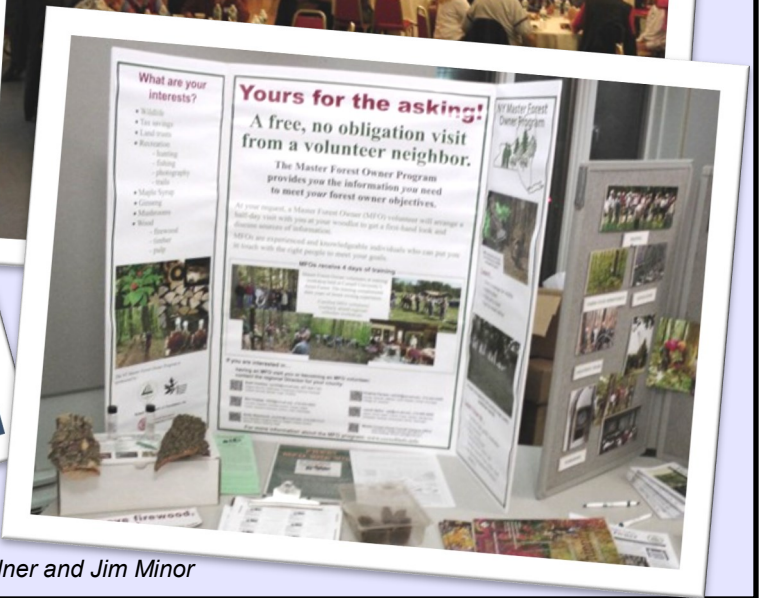


Photo credits—Cathy Gardner and Jim Minor

General Meeting

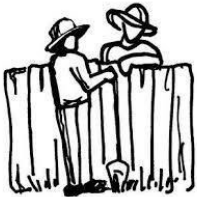
Our next general meeting is March 28, 2017. Jim Engel of White Oak Nurseries will discuss how to mitigate the impact from the loss of ash trees in a forest. His technique is to use tree seed to diversify and establish ash seedlings. Meeting will be held at the United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Ho-neoye, NY. Meeting at 7:30 PM.

Mystery Photo

The back cover photograph shows what appears to be a petrified snake den. In fact, it's tree roots exposed by untold numbers of human feet. People hike through a forest to obtain a better view of a waterfall in the Canadian Rockies. In the process of doing so over time they have compacted the soil. Soil compaction can be a serious problem in a forest environment. If tiny human feet can cause this kind of compaction imagine the result of large human machines.

Welcome New Members

Jena Buckwell	Holley
Alison Harding	Naples
Greg Muller	Bath
Dwight Orndorf	Mifflinburg
Micheal Osier	Canandaigua
Ann Remchuk	Bath
William Stopinski	Spencerport
Charles Sundloff	Dansville



Wait! Instead of recycling this issue of the *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner*, why not pass it on to a friend/neighbor to give them a hint at what they're missing by not being a member of NYFOA.

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, woodwalks, 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.

I/We own _____ acres of woodland.
 I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/ Zip: _____

Optional:

Telephone: _____
Email: _____
County of Residence: _____
County of Woodlot: _____
Referred by: _____

Regular Annual Dues:

- Student \$15 (Please provide copy of student ID)
- Individual/Family \$45
- 1 Year Gift Membership \$25
Gifto'r's (NYFOA member) name _____

Multi-Year Dues:

- 2-yr \$80
- 3-yr \$120

Additional Contribution:

- Supporter \$1-\$49
- Contributor \$50-\$99
- Sponsor \$100-\$249
- Benefactor \$250-\$499
- Steward \$500 or more
- Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues)

NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) taxexempt organization and as such your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Questions: 1-800-836-3566

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photo credit—Dick Starr

Yikes! What's Going On Here?

See page 15 for more info.

Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ (no January meeting this year)
- ◆ **Tuesday, March 28, 2017**—General Meeting— Dealing with the loss of Ash Trees*

* 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