

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2016

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Morabito Woodswalk

by Colette Morabito

On Saturday, July 9 we had the pleasure of hosting a woods walk at our Belfast property. The theme of the day was access into your property, encouraging wild-life habitat in the process, regeneration, and forest succession, all in direct relation to a non-commercial logging operation.



photo credit— Colette Morabito

Forester Bruce Robinson (plaid shirt on left) shows elements of creating a vernal pool.

Bruce Robinson, our Forester and Consultant, as well as a man of great wisdom and knowledge-is our most valuable resource for the proper management of our woodlot. He maintains that the forest's continued health, growth, as well as its sustainability, should be influenced by what you see

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Ayers Tree Farm Woods Walk

York, N. Y.

Part One – Tree Farm Operation
by Peter Muench

Saturday, August 13, was forecast for rainy conditions. Although rain was welcomed as at least partial relief from the drought, just sun and clouds were with us for the duration of the day's activities.

The rain was appreciated, but later in the day nineteen people and one enthusiastic labradoodle joined Gerry and his wife Barbara for an educational day starting at their tree farm and sawmill on the Linwood Road.

Gerry is a businessman and retired conservation teach-



photo credit— Peter Muench

Gerry Ayers discussing elements of their operation.

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Game of Logging Levels 1 and 2

Genesee County Park & Forest
by Peter Muench

The Game of Logging was hosted by the Genesee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry and the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association. The New York State Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) subsidized most of the cost of the program.



photo credit— Peter Muench

Participants Gather Before Heading Into The Woods

Three events were held, Level 1 on Saturday the 5th, Level 2 on Sunday the 6th both open to the public. Eight people attended the Level 1 Class and the same eight attended Level 2. Monday's program was for Park employees and five were in attendance. Bill Lindloff of the Game of Logging

provided the training at all three sessions.

We met at the Park Interpretive Center for the classroom part of the training covering personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, safe starting, sharpening, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, open face notching and understanding hinge wood strength. After lunch the program moved to Memory Lane for felling trees. Bill discussed the lean, crown weight, hazards, and direction of fall and escape routes. The plantation we were working in had numerous hazards such as pine snags, so Bill discussed and demonstrated how to drop those to create as safe a work site as possible. Each participant then felled a tree under



photo credit— Peter Muench

Putting Into Practice What They've Learned

(Continued on page 2)

IN OUR WOODLOT

by Ed Piestrak

I had the privilege of attending a woods walk on the Morabito property in Belfast New York this past July of 2016 (*ed. see page 1*). Forester Mr. Bruce Robinson kept repeating the word 'releasing' with such determination and passion that one could not ignore the process.

When one really looks at releasing selected trees it begins to make good forestry sense. One wants to improve and enhance the targeted quality in the forest and releasing them from inferior competition accomplishes this end.

Most people think of timber stand improvement (TSI) as the way to proceed on improving the forest. TSI is satisfactory but releasing targeted trees is a much more prudent and successful method of improving a woodlot.

Mr. Robinson has introduced the word 'releasing' into my vocabulary and I would suggest that woodlot owners consider that process as well. The results of releasing are outstanding and I could attest to that in our Lindley woodlot.

Note: the Morabito woods walk was extraordinary and they made the attendees feel like family. A special thank you goes out to the family.

Empire Farm Days, August 2016

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that worked at the NYFOA and MFO booths at Empire Farm Days this year; Dick Starr, Tony Ross, Colette Morabito, David Deuel, Peter Clappier, Jim Miller, Sarah Stackhouse, and Charlie Stackhouse. We signed up new members and made contact with people we might not have reached otherwise. The weather was hot and humid as usual, so the volunteer's time is appreciated even more. Thanks for another successful event.

Dale Schaefer

Game of Logging (Continued from page 1)

Bill's guidance.

The Level 2 course is more focused on chainsaw maintenance, limbing and bucking, spring poles and more felling. Although Sunday started out wet, the skies cleared enough to provide a good training day.

More programs are scheduled throughout the State this summer and fall. For further information, visit the GOL websites at www.gameoflogging.com or NYCAMH at www.nycamh.org. To sign up or ask about up coming events call NYCAMH at 1-800-343-7527 x2200.

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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 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 Winter 2016 issue is November 15.

Annual Dinner Meeting

Mark your calendar – **Wednesday October 19th** is the date for this year’s chapter dinner meeting. Chef Brad of Lauier Catering will once again prepare a food feast for us. Chef values the meal at \$28 but WFL chapter offers it at \$23 per person. To reserve your place send a check made out to NYFOA for \$23 per person to Dick Starr at 231 Farmview Drive, Macedon, NY 14502 by Friday October 14th. Doors will open at 5 PM with snacks a 5:30 and dinner at 6.

Once again we will meet at the Monsignor Schnacky Community Center of St. Catherine’s of Sienna Church at 26 Ionia-Mendon Road in Mendon, NY. Mendon-Ionia Road is Route 64. The big parking lot is well illuminated and the facility is handicap accessible.

Robert H. Benton Jr is our speaker and vernal/ephemeral pools will be his topic. Mr. Benton has a Bachelor’s degree in biology, physics and criminal justice. In addition he has a Master’s degree in globalization and post masters work in Character Development and Education. He describes himself as a generalist in biology/ecology and knows a little bit about most everything. He is a specialist in limnology and herpetology with a side interest in slime molds.

Feel free to donate a door prize and **who will leave this year with a new Stihl chainsaw?**



A Vernal Pool

Piestrak Woodswalk

Ed and Wanda Piestrak

On Saturday June 18, a woods walk was held at Piestraks Forestlands in Lindley, New York. Approximately 35 people attended and it was a beautiful sunny comfortable day.

We discussed TSI in a young forest, small pond issues, natural gas pipelines, invasive species as well as other topics as we drove past various projects.

Our forester, Mr. Bruce Robinson, did an excellent job of narrating various topics and how they dovetailed into the overall management plan of the property.

We went about the property on a tractor drawn wagon which allowed us to cover a vast amount of area in the limited time we had available.

At noon we returned to the staging area and were treated to a nice prepared meal by Becky Piestrak.

At 1pm we again went out and this time we went four miles to a newly acquired property to examine some projects in the infancy stages: road construction, pond improvement, TSI, etc. It was a nice day for a wagon ride along the town roads in Lindley. We completed the program with a closing chat at 3pm.

Each participant was treated to a large wooden black squirrel as well as a limited amount of blue bird boxes.

Crystal Piestrak will be processing a video of the woods walk and all that want a copy will be sent one. The video is very useful to review since it is a reminder of the events and information that was presented at the woods walk.

Multiflora Rose 2

Dick Starr

There are various ways to attempt control and eradication of multiflora rose. They can be classified as chemical, manual, mechanical or some combination. In the mechanical category would be repeated cutting or mowing at least three to six times per year for two to four years. This approach requires diligence and patience but works no doubt. Ripping the plant from the ground roots and all with a tractor works but the storehouse of dormant seeds in the area can take root in the disturbed soil requiring more efforts in the future.



Multiflora Rose in the field.

Manually cutting the stems with loppers works after you gain access to the stump area. Much trimming can be required to do this on a big specimen. I have found the longer reach of my power pole pruner helps solve this problem. Welding gloves offer more protection from the thorns than ordinary gloves which offer essentially none. A four-tined potato hook works well for grabbing a bunch of cut stems to move them, perhaps to a burn area. However, they tend to resprout so some chemical

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growing in each particular stand or lack thereof. Releasing the best trees based on the forest's age and health should be the motivator rather than generalizations that are made in text books and industry standards. Working with highly skilled and experienced foresters who have spent their careers caring and nurturing forests as well as the creatures that reside there is key to the success of your woodlot and for the generations that follow.



Photo credit—Colette Morabito

A future vernal pool.

A lovely sunny morning greeted the 30+ attendees as we set out onto our access road into the woodlot. A two-year thinning/releasing project has been on-going. Many, many hundreds of the worst stems have been removed along with some choice saw logs as well. Access to your timber crop is essential for cost efficiency. However, there are many “road blocks” to reaching the timber. Road building and running water were two subjects we focused on with particular concentration. Streams, seasonal run off and/or wetlands can undoubtedly be a major difficulty accessing your property on many levels. Thus, there was an in depth conversation on how to build an access road with minimal cost. The proper use and the reliability of road fabric was discussed and direct observations were made along our access



Photo credit—Colette Morabito

A water runoff collection basin on an access road.

road. Working with water so that it is allowed to move freely, can assist in the creation of vernal pools and/or small ponds that complement the wildlife in the area. If you can offer water sources to the immediate area, the flora and fauna will come. Thus the water run-off and drainage from the road surface can be recaptured to create habitats to meet any number of goals for your timber stand improvement (TSI) objectives.

“To clear cut or not to clear cut” that was the big question of the day and considerable care and thought was discussed in regard to this type of management. From the conversations that we all shared throughout the day, the consensus is we all have a deep respect for our woods and a desire to do what is best for our woodlots as a whole. Each forest stand is unique and is at a different level of succession based on its history, soil, slope, etc. Regardless of the past practices, every plant, bush or tree has grown there based on the previous TSI that was chosen. There is always a choice of moving forward in succession or backward based on what is removed, how much is removed, and what your objectives are with both. In conclusion, clear cutting was determined to set you back to a place you may not have anticipated. It is not always evident that you will recreate what you want, but rather what Mother Nature decides is most viable for the next 20 years! Working with what nature has decided to cultivate can assist you in gaining a successful succession plan. Honorable, thoughtful, and careful management of your forest invites the possibility of meeting your desired goals regardless of the current stage of development in which you find your present day woodlot.

A gracious thanks is extended to all the folks who came from near and far to experience our woodlot expertly guided by Bruce. Although the area is suffering from a severe dry spell, we all managed to get soaked and muddy by a major cloud burst. Hot dogs expertly cooked on the stove and s'mores perfected in the microwave proved to satisfy our bellies. Bruce continued to feed our minds and inspire our personal woodlot goals with continued conversation and laughter.



Photo credit—Colette Morabito

One of our guests, Jonathan, busied himself creating a shelter.

NYFOA Silent Auction – Spring 2017 Get Ready!

Dean Faklis

Get ready for some fun while doing some good! NYFOA's Membership Committee has rekindled the tradition of having a silent auction coincide with NYFOA's **annual meeting** in the springtime. The auction's beneficiaries for 2017 are being selected from worthy forestry-related organizations and events. The rotund list includes several youth programs, scholarships, internships and conservation programs. Choosing will be difficult, but we have our best minds on it and you will certainly be pleased! Stay tuned to www.nyfoa.org and Facebook for details.

Frequently asked questions about the NYFOA Silent Auction

How does it work?

Kind and generous members donate items and services and kindred members buy them. All of the proceeds go to the auction's beneficiaries. There is no "auctioneer." The donations are made available for inspection both in person at the annual meeting and online. Prospective buyers place bids either online or in person. The highest bidder is the winner! Payments go directly to NYFOA.

What can I do to help?

That's an easy one! You can make a donation and make a purchase. We're trying to raise \$5,000 this year to benefit people that care deeply about woodlands.

What kinds of items and services are welcome?

It's important to have a nice selection of donations across a range of prices. Some members will spend \$25 and some might like to spend \$1,000 to help the beneficiaries. Here are some examples, but please don't let this be limiting:

1. Member offers to give a Timberframing Workshop. Participants learn history, materials, tools, techniques. ~20 people, \$50 each, \$1,000 value. What kind of fun workshop could you provide?
2. Member offers handcrafted items from their studio or workshop. Wood, glass, metal, paintings, sculptures, etc. \$25-\$500 value. We love creativity!
3. Member donates portable sawmilling services. Perhaps another member will donate time to cut and gather logs from your woodlot for the sawyer.



4. Member offers their cottage or condominium to another member for a weekend stay. \$200-\$500.

When would you like to have the donations in hand?

Sooner rather than later! The online portion of the auction will likely start in February and we'll want to have the items before then. We'll collect them as soon as you can provide them!

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Limitations certainly apply so please check with your accountant beforehand.

I really like the idea and have more questions, who can help me?

Me! dfaklis@frontiernet.net. You can also obtain more information from the auction's leader, Emily Anderson, using the auction's email address: auction@nyfoa.org. Silent auctions are fun and they really bring the membership together to help advance the mission. Please join us by making a donation and by making a purchase. If you'd like to make a donation but are not sure what to give, send me a note including your price range. I have some ready-to-go ideas! Thanks!

Ayers Tree Farm Woods Walk (Continued from page 1)

er of 32 years. Gerry and Barbara started their tree farm and sawmill on their Linwood Road property along with the farm buildings built with rough-cut lumber from their own mill.

The tree farm began with white spruce and scots pine, and through trial and error is now made up of balsam fir, concolor (white) fir and blue spruce. It takes a good eight years from the beginnings of a tree farm to reach commercial harvests. Trees are normally planted on a 6 x 6 foot spacing, 1200 trees per acre, but with double planting, small trees in between trees ready for harvest, that can be increased to 2400 per acre. Trees are sheared in



Photo credit—Peter Muench

Another view of the Ayers' property.

Chainsaws For Charity!

Dean Faklis

NYFOA WFL has begun a fun project whereby firewood is generated for the purposes of raising money for charity, providing a social function for NYFOA members, and to provide a vehicle for NYFOA to attract new members. The name "Chainsaws for Charity" is brilliant and comes from Dick Starr. Dick won the naming competition and a \$20 gift card from Tim Horton's is on its way to Dick!

The project was kicked off on June 5, 2016 at Dale and Eileen Schaefer's property, with ten NYFOA members in attendance (Dick Starr, Dale and Eileen Schaefer, Dana Allison, Ron Reitz, David and Celia Deuel, Chris Howard, Dean and Julie Faklis). Since then, about ten more NYFOA members have signed up including Jim Miller, Keith and Lorie Bowers, and Greg and Kathy Lessord. A second meeting was held at David and Celia's homestead on July 24 to discuss the details....and to enjoy the mutual trust and friendship.



Photo credit—Dean Faklis

Volunteers pose before some of their future handiwork.

The project's short-term goal is to generate 100 face cords in the first year. To get an idea of the amount of money that will be realized by the beneficiaries, it is possible that quarter face cords will be sold for \$25, half face cords for \$45 and full face cords for \$75. This provides a lower bound of \$7,500 and an upper bound of \$10,000. Not bad!

A Model

Generating and selling hardwood firewood to raise money for charity has a long history. Here is just one example, which is in place in Illinois with Habitat for Humanity:

"(Fire)wood sales are the largest fundraiser for Habitat. Six to eight volunteers spend each Thursday morning when weather permits chopping wood with four Habitat-owned log splitters and a pair of chain saws.....it's a good cause that allows (them) some regularly scheduled exercise." "It also fits into the Habitat theme of getting your hands dirty to further the cause....volunteerism is the biggest asset for the organization."

Please read more details on how they generate \$27,000 per year for charity:

<http://www.journal-republican.com/news/people/2014-04-29/wood-you-help-habitat-humanity.html>

WFL's approach is different. It does not plan to sell or deliver firewood; that is the job of the charity/beneficiary. They do not plan to cut live trees. They plan to cut firewood from logs, which are harvested in TSI operations and then delivered to a landing.

The firewood will then be picked up and transported to a location specified by the beneficiary. The beneficiary will sell the firewood to raise funds for its programs. A similar approach is used by the Boy Scouts, where Christmas trees are donated and the boys sell them to raise funds for their programs.

The primary goal of the model is to provide value to NYFOA members, to increase the awareness of NYFOA's mission, and to obtain new members.

The Progress

1. A site for firewood processing has been established at the lands of David and Celia Deuel, near Avon, NY. It is viewed to be centralized so that we can operate in accord with NYSDEC regulations regarding firewood. If the project is successful, other locations within the WFL region will be established to serve more volunteers and charities.

2. The first load of hardwood logs was donated by Tom Gerow and Wagner Lumber and has been delivered to the site. We are all extremely grateful to Wagner for stepping up immediately



Photo credit—Dean Faklis

Donated logs ready to be processed.



Photo credit—Dean Faklis

Some fine work in the making.

with strong support! The estimated value of the donation to NYFOA is \$1,200-\$1,500. They have a desire to be a long-term partner with NYFOA in this project. Here are some pictures of the log pile at David and Celia's place (July 1, 2016):

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NYFOA Rewards its Members – With Cash!

Dean Faklis

Thanks to an idea advanced by NYFOA's Charlie and Sarah Stackhouse, NYFOA now has a special program called **NYFOA Rewards**. The benefit program is designed to offer substantial discounts to members when they make purchases at participating organizations. It was launched in March 2016, and while it's still in its infancy, it's growing nicely.

There are now nine firms partnering with us and in the first three months of operations, NYFOA members have saved somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Not bad for just getting started! One of our partners, David Williams, is also on the NYFOA Board of Directors and has already provided cumulative member discounts approaching \$500. The members that have done business with Dave are earning discounts well in excess of NYFOA's annual dues payment....they are getting paid to be members.

It's easy for our members to participate in **NYFOA Rewards**. As of this writing the details of the discounts are given on [the next page](#) but for the most up-to-date list see the NYFOA web page at:

http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/about_nyfoa_docs/Business_Offering_Big_Discounts.pdf

That's a long link, and rather type it in, you can access it from NYFOA's Home Page at www.nyfoa.org.

NYFOA Rewards is small and we want it to grow. We're working to add more and more participating vendors. The NYFOA Membership Committee has set a goal so that our members can have access to discounts, which are more than sufficient to pay NYFOA's annual dues. Kind of a free lunch!

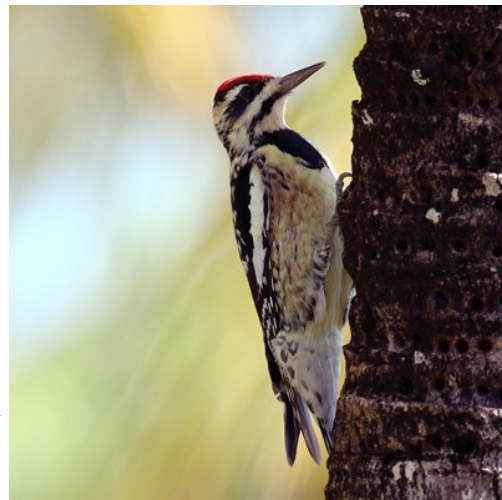
If you know of a business or organization that would be a good fit for our members, please send me a detailed note (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) and I will reach out to them.

Please be sure to check the **NYFOA Rewards** webpage at least monthly for updates. And, to help us improve the program, tell us about your experiences, including how much you saved!

Mystery Photo

(from back cover)

A row of holes on a tree as depicted in the back cover mystery photo is the work of a bird. Specifically, the yellow-bellied sapsucker. The SS is part of the wood pecker family and there are four species found in North America. The yellow-bellied is found in the eastern U.S.



A Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

The SS drills a row of holes in a tree's bark. These holes fill with sap which attracts insects. At a later time the bird returns and sucks up the sweet sap and tasty insects for a delicious meal. Both male and female are red heads with the male also having a red throat. They are migratory birds preferring warmer climates in colder seasons. They prefer nesting in aspens which allow easy excavation of nest cavities. Birch, maple and hemlock are preferred for feeding in the lakes states. Bruce Robinson says a few holes suggest a migratory bird just passing through while many rows of holes are a resident bird living in the area.

The SS nesting and feeding preferences are not to a tree's liking. In time, a tree used frequently for feeding can die from the bird's need to eat. Hardware cloth and/or burlap wrapped around a favorite tree can discourage the bird. On the other hand, letting the bird have free access to a tree it prefers can often save nearby trees from activity and injury.

Chainsaws for Charity (Continued from page 6)

3. The first cash donation, to help offset project expenses, has been received from new member Mike Sanchez in the amount of \$150. Thank you very much for the leadership Mike!

4. A donation of ~50 new pallets has been received from Keith & Lorie Bowers and have been delivered to the site through the help of Greg & Kathy Lessord. Approximate value of this donation is \$400. Due to their kindness, an ongoing supply is available to the project. Thanks!

5. The local Zoning Officer has allowed a sign to be placed at the site, which will highlight NYFOA on Rt 20. It is limited to a size of 3' x 4' (12 sq. ft.). WFL volunteers will build the sign and plant it. An artist (Dottie of Canadice, NY) will paint the sign as a donation to NYFOA. Approximate value of this donation is about \$300.

6. We're working with several non-profits right now and hope to receive some proposals from them soon. Based on merit and overall benefit, WFL will make some decisions on which organizations and groups it'll partner with. Stay tuned!

7. David, Dale and Greg are putting the pieces together regarding the firewood process. The first firewood session is planned for the end of August, well before you'll be reading this article.

In summary, this is an example of FANTASTIC Teamwork and Volunteerism!

Estimate, Value of Donations to Date: \$2,350

This project can be replicated across the state, if we are successful.

Take Action!

Sound like fun?! Send a note with questions and comments to Eileen Schaefer (dschaefer1@frontiernet.net) if you're interested in participating and/or making a donation of delivered logs/firewood, equipment, wood transportation or cash to help with expenses. Eileen will put you on the mailing list so you'll be up to date on all the action!

Perhaps the largest benefit of NYFOA membership is camaraderie. Get involved. It's easy, not time consuming and extremely rewarding.

NYFOA Rewards

Organizations Offering Big Discounts to NYFOA Members!

NYFOA already offers a fine array of benefits to its members and the list keeps growing with the new **NYFOA Rewards** benefit program. The following organizations have agreed to provide NYFOA members with financial benefits through discounts on purchases. Your NYFOA membership is great for forests and your pocketbook too!

The following is a current list of participants, listed alphabetically. Let us know if your organization would like to participate!

Send a note with questions, comments and suggestions: dfaklis@frontiernet.net

David Abeel (Traverse City, MI, abeeldavid@hotmail.com)

10% discount on Windsor chair workshops.

Arborchem (Mechanicsburg, PA; <http://www.arborchem.com/>)

NYFOA members receive contractor pricing on select products (e.g. Accord XRT).

Email: Todd Hagenbuch, thagenbuch@arborchem.com or call 570-401-7098.

Finger Lakes Boating Museum (607-569-2222, <http://www.flbm.org/>)

Save nearly 30% on admission to this great museum in Hammondsport, NY. Bring your current copy of NYFOA's Forest Owner magazine to be eligible for \$5 admission, limit 2. Youth admission is free.

Forestry Suppliers (Jackson, MS; <https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>)

NYFOA members receive their best price. Online or phone ordering [1.800.752.8461, ATTN: Katie Patterson (pattersonk@forestry-suppliers.com), Becky Dawson (dawsonb@forestry-suppliers.com), or Beckie Tucker (tuckerb@forestry-suppliers.com)]. A quote will be provided with their best prices. Or use these exclusive NYFOA code letters at checkout: FNY for an automatic 10% discount. The letters are for NYFOA members only & distribution is controlled.

FTD Florist (<https://www.ftd.com/58251/>)

This link is for NYFOA members only and its distribution is controlled.

Enjoy 20% discount on all flowers, plants and gifts!

Saw It Coming, Mike Grover, Sawyer (Newfield, Tompkins County, NY; www.sawitcoming.net).

10% discount on portable sawmill services. Discount does not apply to mileage and blade fees. Email Mike at: mikg8162@gmail.com

Springwater Forest Products (Springwater, Livingston County, NY; dci@perluma.com)

\$500 discount on timber frame kits (cabins, sheds, studios, sugarhouses, tiny houses)

10% discount on green firewood, custom lengths available, pick up only.

20% discount wood shipping/storage crates (fine art, furniture, valuables, heavy items)

<http://perluma.com/services/crates.htm>

Voss Signs (<http://www.vosssigns.com/products/>)

NYFOA posted signs (aluminum and polymer) are available at a big discount. See the latest issue of NYFOA's Forest Owner magazine for complete details, including the option to purchase sawyer-friendly aluminum nails at the same time.

Dave Williams, Sawyer (Bainbridge, Chenango County, NY; kdwillmill@gmail.com)

10% discount on portable bandsaw milling. Discount does not apply to damaged blade fee or mileage charge for travel beyond 15 miles, one way.

Forests Are Good for Climate Change: True or False?

Peter Muench

Forests play an important role in regulating the earth's temperature and weather patterns by storing large quantities of water and carbon. So, when I stumbled across an article challenging the concept that forests helped to mitigate global climate change, that a healthy well-managed forest helped to store carbon and reduced the temperature at the crowns and thus helped reduce global warming, I had to do some digging to see where the challenge originated.



A study in Europe indicated European forests overall, have increased by 149,035 square miles since the 1700's. There has been a loss of 168,340 square miles of hardwood forests and an increase of 245,000 square miles of coniferous forests, basically through commercial investment. Conifers absorb more sunlight than hardwoods, thus increasing the temperature above the canopy, the foliage stays year round increasing the amount of light absorbed, resulting in an estimated increase in localized temperature in the lower atmosphere of a little over 0.1 degrees centigrade. The broad leaf forests are lighter in color, and open in the winter collecting more snow on the ground and reflecting more sunlight from that snow. Managing for coniferous species may slightly increase localized temperatures.

The earth's surface is a jigsaw puzzle of color from ice to oceans to forests. Forests, taken as a single ecosystem, have a large effect on the local and global ecosystems. For example, the Amazon Rain Forest is estimated to create 50 to 80 percent of its own precipitation through transpiration. Clear cutting, removal of that forest, changes the moisture regimes and surface albedo, thus potentially affecting wind and ocean current patterns and ultimately rainfall distribution. Another estimate placed tropical deforestation as contributing 20 percent of human caused carbon emission.

New York has approximately 18 million acres of forests with about half of that in private ownership. These forests are regenerating and are being managed. What are the effects of silvicultural techniques in this State,? How do the woodlots we manage here in New York affect local or regional temperatures? Is a well-managed woodlot more effective in carbon storage than coniferous stands managed as crops? These questions are more numerous than the answers available and studies are ongoing.



So back to the question offered in the title; it IS true forests are critical in affecting global and local weather patterns. But silvicultural techniques may have far reaching effects, including shifting the answer from it "IS" true to "MAYBE", depending on how a forest is managed.

The question is very complicated, with very complicated answers and there are contradictory studies. If you simply Google any statement related to this, you will be overwhelmed by the information you will be presented with. When we as NYFOA members are looking at woodlots, small forests, our management may not have the impact of rainforest degradation, but we need to keep in mind that healthy, well-managed diverse forests contribute more than unmanaged forests.

Readings

Dick Starr

This segment of readings comes from an article by Dan Hart in the November 2015 issue of *Peterson's Hunting* magazine. Thirty years ago Virginia's George Washington National Forest bustled with deer camps on opening day. Today only a handful of die-hards hunt the 1.8 million acre national forest. Deer are few and far between. Some blame coyotes but even they seem to struggle finding enough food.

Grouse numbers are a shadow of what they once were in Virginia and have all but vanished in Indiana's Hoosier National forest and Sumter National Forest in South Carolina. Turkey numbers are down in many national forests as well. Dan Dessecker of the Ruffed Grouse Society states, "We aren't just talking about game species. Things like Golden-Winged Warblers, Brown Thrashers, and Yellow-Breasted Chats are in decline..."

The data argues these conditions are a direct result of habitat loss. Blake Henning of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation says the reason is simple, "We have too many mature trees in our national forests. There is complete canopy coverage which crowds out desirable species that provide food and cover for wildlife. Wildlife need openings and edges. That's where most of the food grows."

The best situation for a wide variety of wildlife species is known as early successional habitat. This will typically consist of dense growth in the form of young trees, vines, grasses, and other beneficial plants that flourish once sunlight is introduced to the forest floor. Such habitat can be created by removing and thinning stands of mature trees. A U.S. Forest Service study found that soft mast is up to 20 times more abundant in early successional habitat than in mature forests. Species diversity and abundance are also higher in the young forests of early successional habitat.

What is threatening game species and other wildlife on public lands? It appears to be environmentalists. A steady stream of litigation has reduced logging activities on national forests to a fraction of what it was decades ago. Nationally, timber management on public lands has fallen from 900,000 acres in 1990 to 192,000 acres today. This translates to less than one-tenth of one percent of our national forests system is being managed. This has apparently sent populations of game species and other forms of wildlife plummeting.

The lack of cutting on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire has had a negative impact on moose numbers says New Hampshire biologist Dan Bergeron. Timber cutting would create the habitat that help moose get through the winter. Hunting has historically been one of the most popular activities on national forest land and nearly 70% of all western hunters rely on public land. As game species disappear so do those who hunt them and the money these folks contribute to conservation and local economies.

Arkansas representative Bruce Westerman (R) has introduced the Resilient Federal Forests Act. If signed into law it would pave the way for increased timber management on federal lands through out the country. Environmental groups aren't too happy with the bill. A Wilderness Society press release stated, "This bill would put our national forests at risk for reckless logging practices and short-cut vital environmental reviews and public involvement." Dan Dessecker says, "It would streamline the review process which is bogged down by unnecessary and costly red tape, mostly in the form of lawsuits."

Multiflora Rose (Continued from page 3)

treatment of the stump might be in order unless you're in love with your loppers.

Two approaches fall in the chemical category. Herbicide application on the living foliage or to the exposed stump after cutting the stems. A variety of chemicals have been developed as herbicides with some requiring training and a license to apply while others are not for sale in NYS. For the non professional the choices seem to be glyphosate and triclopyr, both from Monsanto. Glyphosate, marketed as Roundup since the early 70s, is not selective. That is, it kills every broadleaf plant it touches, roots and all. Triclopyr, first registered in 1979, is selective by attacking woody plants and broadleaf weeds but does no harm to grasses and other monocots. If the desire is to do as little collateral damage as possible to surrounding vegetation, triclopyr would seem to be the better choice.

A foliar (spray) application to a shrub 15 feet tall sounds like a challenging task needing an extension ladder, agility and luck. No doubt over spray would kill more than the intended m-rose plant. However, a foliar application would work for resprouts and small plants just getting started where overspray is less likely. The recommended Roundup strength for a foliar application is 1% - 2%. It's a good idea to avoid application within a few days of expected rain to prevent washing it into the environment even though Monsanto claims it's "rain ready" in less than an hour.

Probably the most effective eradication method with minimum collateral damage is applying the herbicide directly to a freshly cut stump. I suspect the same is true for poison ivy and beech. In this manner a concentration of 20% is recommended. Different packaging of herbicides contain different concentrations so always read labels carefully and follow recommendations.

The herbicide can be applied to the stump from a sprayer but I suspect overspray at this concentration should be avoided. I'm going to try a "dip stick" applicator and rub the herbicide directly to the exposed stump. I'm thinking a 1" square of sponge attached to the end of a stick and soaked in herbicide would work nicely. Simply touch the herbicide soaked sponge to the exposed stump and the roots should be toast. This method should minimize contact with non target vegetation thus reducing collateral damage.

Checking the big box stores I found both Lowes and Home Depot stock glyphosate in the form of Roundup. They also carry triclopyr, Lowes as BrushKiller and Home Depot as PoisonIvy. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup. It was patented in 1964 by Stauffer Chemical and developed as a descaling agent that stripped mineral deposits from inside pipes and boilers. It was soon found to kill plants and bacteria, good and bad. The plant killing trait would surely generate more money than a boiler cleaner. Monsanto bought the rights and patented it as a nonselective herbicide. One report stated that in 2010 it was patented as an antibiotic. The World Health Organization has designated glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans. Clearly this is not a chemical to handle casually. Follow directions and use it with care .

**Greg and Kathy Lessord Woodswalk
September 24th
Spencerport, NY**

There is a special walk planned for the 24th of September in the woodlot of Greg and Kathy Lessord on Hubble Road in Spencerport. The 18.5-acre woodlot is scheduled for a commercial thinning per the management plan to include targeting ash that has suffered damage.

The parcel was marked by Sue Keister this past spring and she will be with Greg and NYFOA on the walk to discuss the objectives of the thinning and how the marking will accomplish those goals. The bidding process will be discussed and when the cutting might occur.

We will be meeting at 10AM at the woodlot at 449 Hubble Road, Spencerport. Late September is a beautiful time to be in the woods, so join us for an educational stroll thru a hardwood stand ready for a commercial thinning. We hope to have a second walk here to see how the thinning went so join us to see the "before" and maybe the "after" as well

Welcome New Members

Mike Arman	Honeoye Falls
Cathy Catranis	Geneva
Mark Howes	Nunda
Darren Holupko	Brockport
Nick Jensen	Prattsburgh
Ryan Kromm	Macedon
Daniel Merriam	Rochester
Duane Miller	Cobleskill
Ron Read	Sanborn
Dorothea & Mike Sanchez	Rochester
Richard & Joan Schmidt	Springwater
Todd Terwilliger	Lindley
Tyler & Brandy Turner	Phelps



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, 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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What's Going On Here?

While attending an apple tree pruning workshop, NYFOA member Colette Morabito took this picture, right, of an apple tree damaged (multiple holes) by a woodland creature.

What did this? See page 7 for the answer.



Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ Saturday, September 24th—Lessord Woods Walk*
- ◆ 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