

Texas Schoolhouse State Forest Woods Walk

Southern Tier Chapter Event

September 30, 2017



Participants in the Sat. Sept. 30th woods walk at the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest had the opportunity to see first hand some of the timber harvesting practices being used by the DEC on the 350 acre tract of Norway Spruce, and Red Pine that will be go

out on bid later this year.

DEC foresters Nathan Funk, and Scott Moxham, led the walk along some newly opened trails that were part of a recent Voluntary Stewardship Agreement between the local town and the DEC. The trails were cleared by a group of Town of New Lisbon volunteers, including NYFOA members Jeannine and Stacey Kazacos.



During the woods walk



forester Nathan Funk provided insight into the planned sales, and release of the various stands through limited clear cut practices, which would be conducted over a twenty year period at five year intervals, demonstrating that not all 'clear cut' timbering is necessarily damaging to timber reforestation.

In addition to deer browse concerns, Nathan explained how controlled use of herbicides such as Glyphosate and Oust were being used to control undesirable invasives like ferns, diseased beech, and striped maples from taking over the under story in the forest. It was noteworthy to learn that not all invasive ferns reacted to the same herbicide treatment. While the "NY fern", and the common "hay scented" fern reacted to glyphosate treatment, Nathan noted that the use of "Oust" was needed for the treatment of areas of heavy concentration of "wood fern". The Texas Schoolhouse State forest contained a large variety of

various ferns as does the entire state. Nathan and Scott provided a very informative look at these fern species in addition to the other invasives that needed to be dealt with for the improved health, and future reforestation efforts at the park.



Christmas fern



Jeannine stands by a cinnamon fern

Other items of interest during the woods walk included a beaver pond where the ongoing work of the beavers along the pond banks was evident on many of the trees where the beavers were doing their own form of timbering.



Beaver Dam and Pond



Beaver gnaw on a tree

Participants also got to view a great blue heron nest located at the pond. Old stone walls throughout the forest were evident during the walk which Nathan explained would remain as a historical reminder of the areas past agricultural history. We would like to thank Nathan Funk, and Scott Moxham for taking the time to present this unique view into the efforts of the DEC to provide for reforestation in our state forests, but also the wonderful environment their efforts will provide for future generations visiting these forests for recreational purposes. Many thanks also to Jeannine and Stacey for making this woods walk possible.