

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

May 14 Workshop Scheduled: “Small-Scale Woodlot Management & Low Impact Harvesting”

Many woodlot owners want or need to be more active in harvesting sawlogs or firewood from their property, as well as timber stand improvement. Many properties have too few acres or too few trees to interest a commercial-scale operation. In other cases, the forest owner just wants to be more personally involved in the selection, felling, movement and utilization of the wood.

Cornell University has developed a new workshop to address this need, which will be presented by Dr. Peter Smallidge, NY State Extension Forester at Cornell. Participants will learn about specialized tools and safety practices, basic silvicultural principles, and tree selection choices for multiple management objectives. Peter will also demonstrate directional felling under a felling plan (as taught in the popular “Game of Logging” program). The use of an ATV with towable arch for moving sawlogs and firewood will also be demonstrated. This is a “hands-on” workshop; participants will be given their own Biltmore stick and will be instructed in its use for measuring tree volume.

The workshop is co-sponsored by your NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. Registration will be limited to 30 attendees and there will be a chapter-subsidized registration fee of \$5 for NYFOA members. **If 30 NYFOA members have not signed up by April 15, CCE will open the workshop to the general public with a registration fee of \$15.**

DETAILS: The workshop will be held at Apple Hills Fruit Farm, 131 Brooks Road, Binghamton, on May 14th from 8:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. (See www.AppleHills.com for directions). We will begin assembling by the open-front barn behind the main building at 8:15 and move to the woodlot promptly at 8:30. There will be a brief mid-morning break. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and a hard hat is recommended.

Apple Hills has a fine rustic restaurant which is open from 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. You might have time for a quick breakfast, or at least a donut and coffee before the workshop. They are also famous for their homemade soups, breads and desserts at lunchtime.

Make your registration check out to “CCE-Broome County” and mail it to Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905-1500, Attention: “Carol”. Include your phone number so we can reach you in case of severe-weather cancellation. If this workshop interests you, act now! Our “early bird” registration opportunity expires **April 15th**!

WOODSWALK PLANNED FOR JUNE 11TH

Our Spring Woodswalk will be held at Cole Park from 9:00 till 11:00. There is a wide variety of tree species at Cole Park and the theme of our woodswalk will be Tree Identification. The walk will be led by Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Kevin Mathers, assisted by Master Forest Owners if the group is large. This event will probably be of most interest to some of our newer members, and CCE will also be making it available to the general public. (continued)

Visit www.GoBroomeCounty.com/parks/natcole for directions to the park. We will assemble by the picnic tables next to the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. The walk will be approximately three miles, around the lake, on generally level ground. There will probably be wet spots, so waterproof hiking boots or shoes are recommended. Pre-registration is not required, and the walk will be held even if the weather is “drizzly”.

POT LUCK SUPPER A GREAT SUCCESS !!

About forty Chapter members joined the Southern Tier Christmas Tree Growers Association for our annual Pot Luck Supper on January 20th. The food was outstanding, as usual, and the fantastic decorated cake provided by Barbara VanDusen was featured in an article by Larry Lepak in the latest issue of the N Y Forest Owner magazine (the black & white photo in the Forest Owner doesn't do the cake justice). We enjoyed a wonderful program by Earl Vellecco and Sue Garing of the Southern Tier Beekeepers Association, and Earl brought us several jars of honey for door prizes. Your editor was fortunate enough to win a jar of honey the bees made from the flowers of the dreaded Japanese Knotweed. I have been enjoying it for the last two months, and may be persuaded to soften my aggressive stance towards this invasive plant.

GERRY KACHMOR RETIRES

DEC Forester Gerry Kachmor retired at the end of 2010 with more than thirty years of service to forest owners in the Broome County area. His support to your editor over the years is probably typical for many of us: In the late 1970's, Gerry marked my red pine plantation for thinning (for free, in those days). In 1984, he marked a hardwood harvest for me and prepared the bid package (there were relatively few consulting foresters at that time, and the DEC was not as understaffed as they are today). In 2003, Gerry helped me prepare a new management plan and apply for FLEP cost-sharing for a hardwood replanting project. Gerry has also handled the recertification of my Tree Farm every five years. In addition to the direct services rendered to forest owners, Gerry has been generous with his time in support of the educational missions of the New York Forest Owners Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension. He has served on our Chapter Steering Committee for many years, and has presented at dozens of workshops and led countless woodswalks. Gerry plans to spend his retirement working in his own woodlot and doing some part-time consulting (his number is in the phone book). We thank him heartily for his dedicated service and wish him the best for the future!

IS THERE A FOREST IN YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE ?

Most thoughtful forest owners spend a lot of time worrying about the future of our trees, but may not focus on how our carefully crafted forest management plans will survive after our stewardship comes to an end. Will the future owners of our property be willing, or able to follow the blueprints we have established? What can we do now to help ensure that the woodlands we cherish will go on serving our families and communities effectively in perpetuity?

Cornell's ForestConnect webinar series recently featured a presentation titled “Your Land, Your Legacy” which deals with these questions. Led by Paul Catanzaro of the University of Massachusetts, the webinar is designed to help us apply the principles of estate planning to the special needs of our forest legacy.

Although this webinar was presented live in February, it has been archived and can be viewed anytime. If you have not previously registered for the webinar series, you can do so, for free, at www.ForestConnect.com Archived webinars can be viewed from this same website.

On-Line Resources for New York's Rural Landowners

Forest Connect – www.forestconnect.info

ForestConnect is the on-line portal to woodland resource information in New York, connecting people who use and benefit from woodlands to the knowledge and resources needed to ensure sustainable production and ecological function on private lands.

Woodland Owners Forum – www.forestconnect.info/forum

Got trees? Got questions? Then visit the new Woodland Owners Forum to share ideas, information and questions with fellow woodland owners, foresters and other members of the forest community across New York.

Invasive Plants and Insects – www.nyis.info

A clearinghouse for science-based information, breaking news, and new and innovative tools to prevent, detect, control and manage biological invaders in New York.

Agroforestry – www.mushrooms.cals.cornell.edu/cornellagfo.htm

Information on mushrooms, medicinal plants and other non-traditional, non-timber forest products can be found on this website.

Natural Gas – www.gasleasing.cce.cornell.edu

Find the latest unbiased and verifiable information on natural gas, wind farms and other energy development issues that affect the rural landscape.

Cornell Sugar Maple Program – www.cornellmaple.info

The Cornell Sugar Maple Program exists to improve the production and use of maple products by working with producers, consumers and others interested in this fascinating and traditional New York agricultural and woodland product.

New Farm and Forest Enterprises – www.smallfarms.cornell.edu

Valuable and comprehensive information for the new or diversifying farmer for successful start-up and expansion of farm and forest-based enterprises.

N Y State DEC – www.dec.ny.gov/land/4972.html

Department of Environmental Conservation foresters serve private forest owners by advising on management activities tailored to meet individual ownership goals. Foresters provide expert advice on wildlife habitat improvement, erosion control, tree planting, recreation enhancement, sugar bush management and silviculture. Federal cost-sharing programs and the state's property tax reduction program are administered by DEC Foresters.

American Tree Farm System – www.treefarmssystem.org

Tree Farm strives to promote the growth of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all the benefits of productive forestry. For information on certification as a New York Tree Farm, E Mail nytreefarm@hotmail.com

The NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter (SOT) includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego Counties. SOT sponsors several workshops and woodswalks each year, usually in cooperation with county CCE associations. SOT publishes a Fall, Winter and Spring Newsletter to announce programs and other educational information for members.

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**SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER
COMING WORKSHOPS & WOODSWALKS**