

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2014

Volume 28 Number 3

In Our Woodlot

by Ed and Wanda Piestrak

A Prickly Situation

We have multiple food plots planted about the property to feed the various animals and birds once the plants mature. One area is about 1.5 acres in size and planted with roundup ready soybeans. We have a treated white ribbon surrounding the plot to keep deer away until it matures. This is very effective on the deer.

During July when the soybeans were a few inches tall, we checked the area before dark and noticed five large porcupines feeding on the young tender plants. They were going up and down the rows and eating the plants down to an inch or so. The deer fence had no effect on the porcupines. We would walk up to the creatures and they would slowly walk away without fear of humans. What do you do?? They had to go!

We declared war on the soybean eating critters and now the plants have somewhat recovered. The majority of animals can now enjoy the beans when they mature during the fall. We could not believe the amount of porcupines that were on the property and concluded some had traveled quite a distance when food to their tasting is available. The statement, "If you plant it, they will come" is quite accurate.

Yancey's Woodlot in Wolcott

by Jim Miller

There are many things we can do as landowners that improve our woodlots such as removing invasives, improving access and stand improvement but there is one thing we can't change; the soil and the lay of the land. Fortunately for Geff and Cindy Yancey, nature has taken care of those two items for them. The woods are on top of one of the many Wayne County drumlins which contain some of the richest soils around our western finger lakes area.

On a beautiful Saturday the last day of May, Geff and Cindy hosted yet another woodwalk on their 400 acre property in Wolcott. Corey Figueiredo and crew were on hand to get into forestry plans while Geff provided the overview of his tenure on the property.

It seems sometimes that forests grow frustratingly slow but Geff has an aerial map that shows the southern woodlot on that property was an overgrown apple orchard in 1960. That same orchard property has already had its first timber harvest and from the look of it, not too much time will pass before it will be ready again. Then again this is a superior site with a diverse hardwood composition with the notables being sugar maple and tulip.

Geff has worked with Corey and his Future Forestry crew to ensure that the woods will have sustainable harvests but he also instructed the crew



Photo courtesy of the author

Participants learn of activities in the Yancey's woodlot.

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

(Note: Space permitting, we're delighted to print letters from our readers. Please send them to Dick Starr at the address below)

Jim,

I enjoy the newsletter each quarter. The deer fencing portrayed in the article (Summer, 2014) is the same fencing I installed on our tree farm in Jefferson county approx. 7 years ago, except we stretched it and stapled to pressure treated 4x4s about 10 ft apart. We also ran a stainless cable 3/16 around the top so we could tighten it up if it sagged over time. Then we attached white plastic tree marking ribbons all over the fencing each piece hanging down and waving in the breeze so deer would notice.

For the last three years I've inspected the site (approx. 1/2 acre) and we've had multiple spots where the deer have jump THROUGH the fencing and munched on some of our transplants (DEC and Jefferson County Soil & Water). This is frustrating. Any suggestions? Thanks

Steve Walther

The Author, Jerry Michael's, Reply:

Hello Steve,

The Gemplers catalogue offers polypropylene fence material in three different weights. The material I have been using, and mentioned in the newsletter article, is their "Heavy Duty Deer Fencing" which has a 610 pound breaking strength. In my opinion, the posts would pull out of the ground before a deer could push through this fence material. Plastic fencing is available from many sources with varying specifications. For instance, the Southern Adirondack Chapter recently completed a demonstration deer enclosure project, using a less expensive fence material from Kencove which has a breaking strength of 510 pounds. Not knowing the specifications for the material you used, I can't say whether that was the cause of your problem, or whether you just have a very large population of starving deer. Although I have never observed this, or heard of it, I suppose determined deer could stand on their hind legs and

continued on page 11

About Us

NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2014 Board of Directors

Richard Starr, Director and Chairman

231 Farm View Dr.
Macedon, NY 14502
(585) 377-4849
pockaa@aol.com

Dale Schaefer, Director and Vice Chairman

6017 County Road #37
Springwater, NY 14560
(585) 367-2849

Cathy Gardner, Director and Secretary

7400 Corby Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
585-624-7636
cathygardner10@yahoo.com

Ron Reitz, Director and Treasurer

6086 Canadice Hill Rd.
Springwater, NY 14560
(585) 367-2847
rrrlpr@aol.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

John Holtz, Director and Program Coordinator

5938 CR #33
Canandaigua, NY 14424
585-229-4833
berbyacres@msn.com

Jim Minor, Director

**WFL Newsletter Publisher
At-Large State Board Member**

22 Bryn Mawr Road
Rochester, NY 14624
(585) 247-7069
jminor@rochester.rr.com

**Colette Morabito, Director
& Chapter-Designated State Board Member**

1100 Main St
East Rochester, NY 14445
(585)248-0654
emorabi2@rochester.rr.com

Peter Muench, Director & Outdoor Activities Coordinator

P.O. Box 473
Naples, NY 14512
(585) 412-3447
munchme.444@gmail.com

Eileen Schaefer Director

6017 County Road #37
Springwater, NY 14560
(585) 367-2849
dschaefer1@frontiernet.net

Walt Schuchardt, Director & Video Librarian

20 Webster Road
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 352-4897

Mike Seager, Director & At-Large State Board Member

P.O. Box 1281
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 414-6511
seager_michael@yahoo.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 boys and girls 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 \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level \$50- \$100 and Supporting level \$101 & up) 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 2014 issue is November 15th.

Annual Dinner Meeting

Members, family and friends of WFL/NYFOA are invited to WFL's 9th annual dinner and chapter meeting Tuesday October 28th. Appetizers at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 at Monroe County Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY. Marty Dodge, retired FLCC Conservation Professor, will present "Tiny House at the Top of the World." Marty spent summer 2013 in Alaska building a small home with chainsaw and hewing axes and will share his experiences.



Once again we will raffle a new Stihl chainsaw. We thank Stihl and territory manager Dan Ras for their generous gift and continued support of WFL. We invite donations for door prizes. A 50/50 raffle will be available.

Chef Brad of Laurier Catering will prepare a meal of memory, valued at \$28. WFL chapter will subsidize \$7 of the cost so each attendee will pay \$21. Space is limited to the first 84 people who sign up so send a check for \$21 per person made out to WFL/NYFOA to Dick Starr,

231 Farmview Drive, Macedon, NY 14502 by Tuesday October 21st.

Sodus MFO Wins National Game of Logging Competition

by Jim Miller

In early May 2014, Lee Calhoun, a Master Forest Owner and WFL/NYFOA member, won the landowner division in the National Game of Logging (GOL) competition in Essex Junction, Vermont. Lee was behind after the first five events and then put it all together on the final event, targeted felling. Previous to this outing Lee won a regional competition in

Margaretville, NY in the summer of 2013. Due to his good showing at that competition, Bill Lindloff, the GOL instructor, invited him to the finals held this spring. To prepare, Lee set up a series of similar test stations a few days before the competition and began his practice for the event. Since Lee's margin of victory was a razor thin 3 points it seems the practice was a sound investment.

This saga started when Lee went to a woodlot workshop at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Wayne County in the spring of 2010. Lee was curious about the

chainsaw safety training (GOL) that the presenters mentioned that day. One presenter remarked "he had been using a chainsaw for thirty years and hadn't won the friendly competition during his own Game of Logging level 1 class." That comment piqued Lee's interest in GOL since he had some timber stand improvement (TSI) to do on his own woodlot including felling some large trees per the forest management plan provided by state forester Mark Gooding. In addition, he had recently been reminded by family and friends of the inherent dangers of

running a chain saw and felling trees so he decided to sign up for the GOL courses. A few weeks later Lee was completing Level 1 and 2 under the supervision of Lindloff along with 8 other students. He liked the courses so much that he immediately signed up for L3 the following month. After completing the GOL training he was confident enough to safely do his own TSI work.

I'm sure anyone who has taken any of the GOL training sessions can appreciate what it took to reach this level of competency. Congratulations Lee from all of us who have hung up trees when they failed to fall the way we planned, with or without GOL training.



photo credit - Lee Calhoun

GOL Champ Lee Calhoun

Bruce Robinson Wins Heiberg Award

Western Finger Lakes members of NYFOA have had many opportunities to hear forester Bruce Robinson speak as he has been a long-time supporter of our organization. This year he was recognized at the state level when it was announced at NYFOA's annual meeting in March that he had won the Heiberg Award.

The Heiberg Award is named for Svend Heiberg, one of the charter members of NYFOA. It has been given annually since 1967 to recognize outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State.



photo credit - Dick Starr

Dale Schaefer, on right, presents the Heiberg Award to Bruce Robinson

The Wit and Wisdom of Mr. Robinson

by Dick Starr

I have followed Bruce on several woods walks and always learn something new. Below are some nuggets of wisdom I heard from Mr. Robinson at the May Piestrak WW.

- 1) Ed Piestrak loves to make hare houses, which he calls rabbit condos, by piling brush around stumps. It's so nice in these rabbit condos the hares never have to leave. As a result, Ed is producing a generation of ingrown hares.
- 2) Piestraks have 900 acres here. Rumor has it that Ed has the right of 1st refusal if the state of Pennsylvania comes up for sale.
- 3) To control the effects of flash flooding we created a dry pond which leaks. That was our objective.
- 4) Regarding basal area, my goal is to not reach my goal.
- 5) Our super cold winter of 2013-14 caused snowshoe hares to migrate farther south than normal. As warmer weather returned these critters moved back northward causing a receding hare line.
- 6) There is no target species. I want the very best of every kind of tree.
- 7) In converting a hemlock forest to a hardwood

forest we have to take advantage of what's happening in the woods and then take credit for it.

- 8) Our practices of suppressing fires and high grading the woods plus poor soils has favored the hemlock tree. I do everything I can to discriminate against the hemlock.
- 9) If your land is growing 6000 board feet of red oak each year your land is worth \$4000 per acre. If your land is growing 6000 board feet of hemlock your land is worth \$300 per acre. I want a forest to move towards the hardwoods.
- 10) Always move towards the more valuable economic end of the scale but leave a diverse habitat.
- 11) The northern hardwood forest is the most challenging of forests with its many aspects and varying habitats.
- 12) A spring was keeping this woods road perpetually wet and muddy. The solution, it seemed, was to build a dike and impound the runoff up to the dike's level thus controlling the flow. However, the layers of shale and clay below ground had other plans and we couldn't plug the leaks. So we lowered the dike to the water level and it now looks like we planned it that way.
- 13) As the gate was opened to give us access to a deer enclosure, Bruce said, "Special deer get their own key to the gate."



photo credit - Dick Starr

Attendees at Ed and Wanda Piestrak's Woodswalk on May 31st.

Piestrak Woods Walk

by Ed & Wanda Piestrak

On Saturday May 31st we hosted our biannual woods walk at our forestlands. With dew on the grass, the sun shining brightly and fog in the valleys, a beautiful day on tap. About 35 people attended and were entertained by our top notch forester, Mr. Bruce Robinson. It's very difficult to lay out which sites to visit since time is limited and we have numerous projects in the works at any given time. Bruce picked out a half dozen areas to view and discuss as to the

purpose and how it affects the overall plans for the property. Most went home with a better understanding of how a working forest operates.

It was nice to view how Josh Piestrak, our grandson, has identified a section of forest and entered it in the timber growing contest headed by Dean Faklis. It is very beautiful and gratifying to see a teenager take such an interest in outlining and marking trees in a particular area. Many commented about the wonderful lunch and a DVD of the day will be sent to those who requested same.

Welcome New Members

Brenda and Curt Carter	Geneva
Pam Castronova	Honeoye
Garrett Koplun	Henrietta
Mark A. Malchoff	Sodus

A Gift

A gift membership to NYFOA is a wonderful way to introduce a friend or family member to the wonders of the woodland. For this upcoming holiday season we're offering a **special rate for gift memberships of \$25**. See the upcoming November/ December issue of *The New York Forest Owner* and/or contact Liana Gooding at 585 624-3385 (lgooding@nyfoa.org) for details.

Ghostly Plants

by Richard Conolly

As cooler weather approaches and All Hallows Eve nears, the mind turns to objects that chill our souls and test our credulity. While walking in our forests, one occasionally stumbles upon skeletal white fingers grasping 4 to 8 inches out from the dank forest bed. These are not the boney remains of some poor buried soul grasping at our feet or even a fungus but rather a pale plant without chlorophyll. Commonly known as ghost plant, Indian pipe or corpse plant it is *Monotropa uniflora*. Resembling the clay pipes of early Dutch settlers or even Indian peace pipes it is most often found in the dark shade of pine, hemlock, oak or beech trees. *Monotropa* is a perennial found in the temperate regions of Asia and the Americas and is rather common in eastern North America.

The Latin nomenclature describes the plant as having one flower (*uniflora*) turned once downward (*Monotropa*). The leaves are small and scale-like adhering to the white stem while a single flower with 3 to 8 petals hangs downward as though drooping its head. Thus the resemblance to a pipe. As the plant matures in early fall the flower turns upward to release its seeds and more resembles a tulip. The other species of *Monotropa* is *hypopitys* or pinesap. In this case the Latin translates to “under pine” which describes its common locale.



Monotropa uniflora

Where *uniflora* has one flower per stalk, *hypopitys* has from 2 to 11 flowers per stalk and may have a yellow or red tint compared to its ghostly white cousin.

Having no chloroplasts, *Monotropa* cannot synthesize its own energy from sunlight and is in a parasitic relationship with certain fungal mushrooms. Not needing sunshine for survival explains why *Monotropa* is found in the dark understory. The fungus in question wraps its mycelia (roots) around the roots of a tree in what is called a mycorrhizal relationship. The tree obtains extra water and nutrients

from the fungus while the fungus gets sugars from the tree. Both tree and fungus benefit from the relationship. Enter the clever *Monotropa* thief. The *Monotropa* roots tap into the mycelia of the fungus and steal nutrients from both fungus and tree while giving nothing in return. Evidence for this 3 way relationship has been demonstrated by exposing the tree leaves to radioactive carbon dioxide and tracing the isotope through the fungus and into the *Monotropa*.

Monotropa is an interesting plant but, unlike *Trilium* and *Jack in the Pulpit*, does not hold much promise as a garden plant. There are too many difficulties with its propagation. One would need the right tree, the right fungus, the

Monotropa seeds, the proper soil pH and a very dark garden.

Mr. Conolly is an MFO- Allegany County, Master Gardener - Monroe County, and certified Naturalist out of Cornell Arnot Forest.

Hunting Dates

Following are the dates for big game hunting in the Southern Zone of NYS. Hunting hours are sunrise to sunset and Sunday hunting is allowed. Archery: early Oct 1 – Nov 14, late Dec 8 – Dec 16. Shotgun/rifle: Nov 15 – Dec 7. Crossbow: Nov 1 – Nov 14. Blackpowder: Dec 8 – Dec 16. Youth firearms deer hunt Oct 11 – 13. 1-877-457-5680 to report game law violators or contact Environmental Conservation Officers.

One Cord Will Make

Noted at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake - A cord of wood, 128 cubic feet or a pile 8 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet, will yield the following: 7.5 million toothpicks, one ton of paper, 942 one-pound books, 61,370 business envelopes, 4.3 million postage stamps, 460,000 personal checks, 89,870 sheets of letter bond paper, 1200 copies of National Geographic, 2700 copies of an average daily newspaper, 250 copies of the Sunday New York Times, 30 Boston rockers, 12 dining room tables.

January Meeting

by John Holtz

For the winter meeting, the topic will be **Archeology in the Woods**. The speaker will be Dr. Ann Morton who is a member of the NYS Archeology Association, a professor at FLCC and the Cultural Resources Manager for Fisher Associates. If a work site uncovers native relics and it needs an archeological survey done before the work can proceed, she is one of the people that gets hired to do that.

Many of us have stone walls, foundations and possibly have uncovered arrowheads in our woods. The question is what to do, both legally and if you are just curious as to what you might have.

Location will be announced in our Winter newsletter but please reserve 7:30 PM on January 20th, 2015, on your calendar for this presentation. Plan on arriving a few minutes early for light refreshments and a chance to meet with fellow woodlot owners.

Our New Coordinator

Thanks to John Holtz for taking on the important role of Program Coordinator. We have general meetings in January, March, May and October and the Program Coordinator arranges and coordinates the topic/speaker for these meetings. If you have an idea for a meeting topic let John know. His contact info is on page 2.



photo credit - Dick Starr

**Mystery Photo - Do you know where this tree is?
Answer on page 11.**

In Search of Solutions

by Dick Starr

On December 31, 2013, *USA Today* and the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* newspapers contained an article summarizing some of the issues revolving around CO₂ emissions and possible climate change. In the 1890s New York City was concerned about another kind of emission – horse manure. Horses were the primary mode of transportation and in the process of doing their duty did their dooty when ever and where ever they happened to be. One million pounds of hay burner residue was deposited each day on NYC streets and was cause of a sanitation crisis.

Then, shift happened according to Harvard chemist Daniel Nocera. The automobile arrived, replaced the horses and cleaned up the streets almost overnight. Cars were hailed as an environmental savior. We now realize the emissions from cars might be worse than the emissions from horses.

Forest owners are aware that trees sequester carbon when they take in CO₂ for the miracle of photosynthesis and then release oxygen. This is a very neat trick and one that benefits everyone, not just

forest owners who get no tax breaks for providing this fine service.

Welcome to the world of modern science and technology. With no federal funding, Mark Herrema founded Newlight Technologies, a California based company that captures methane emissions from dairy farms and uses them to make plastics. In 2011 Professor Nocera unveiled his “artificial leaf”- a credit card sized silicon wafer. When placed in a glass of water and exposed to sunlight the wafer generates hydrogen and oxygen bubbles that can be stored and recombined in a fuel cell to generate electricity.

Bordering on the “are you kidding me” category is the work of Klaus Lackner at Columbia University. Professor Lackner is working on a synthetic tree that will absorb CO₂ a thousand times faster than natural trees. I asked a DEC forester, “What’s a synthetic tree?” He said, “I don’t know.” I expected that but rest assured faithful reader, as soon as I learn of a nursery selling synthetic trees I’ll let you know. Maybe they have artificial leaves made of silicon. Would they change color in October?

New Energy Works

by Dick Starr

On May 19th our spring general meeting dealt with reclaimed and sustainable wood products. Roblyn Powley guided us through Pioneer Millwork's 29,000 square foot facility in Farmington. They also have a shop in Oregon and employ 105. They bill themselves as being "pioneers in the salvaged antique wood industry." In the past two decades they have rescued 23,000,000 board feet of wood from being sent to a land fill. Samples of their work can be seen locally at Anthropologie (Eastview Mall), Mixers (Farmington), Bristol Harbor (Canandaigua), TRATA (The Armory), Village Bakery (Pittsford), LL Bean (Eastview Mall), Bully Hill Winery (Keuka Lake) and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (Rochester).

It all began in 1989 when Jonathan Oprin, a Rochester native, started Pioneer Millworks. A building he owned partially collapsed under snow load and a couple asked if the old timbers in the rubble might be used in construction of their new house. Soon customers began requesting the beauty and character of old wood. To fill this niche he began removing old barns, factories, warehouses, agricultural buildings, bowling alleys, gymnasiums, shipping crates, wine vats - essentially anything made of wood. This old wood is given new life as flooring, siding, paneling, cabinetry, timber frames and more. Customers say the aroma of wood reclaimed from old wine barrels and vats lingers in the room.



photo credit - Dick Starr

WFLers at Pioneer Mill Works

Currently they purchase 12,000 to 16,000 board feet weekly, two truck loads, from demolition and salvage operations. Each year 30 to 40 tons of metal is removed from the incoming wood and 95 tons of wood dust is collected and sold for agricultural bedding and fuel. All the company's electricity is either purchased from wind power sources or generated from solar panels. Scrap wood left over from the machining process is used to fire two kilns and heat the facility.

The same craftsmen who cut the joinery on a timber frame also raise it. A "raising" is a celebration and causes some excitement in the process. Check the Events and Raisings page of their website at newenergyworks.com and come watch.

Thank You

We thank the following members for giving their time to staff the WFL display table at Empire Farm Days in August. This is an important part of our chapter's outreach program. Special thanks to Dale Schaefer for coordinating the team.

Day one = Dale Schaefer, Colette Morabito, Pete Muench

Day Two = Tony Ross, Colette Morabito, Dick Starr

Day Three = Charles and Sarah Stackhouse, Jim Miller, Pete Muench



WFL depends on volunteers to be as successful as we are. Here WFL Director Colette Morabito represents us at Empire Farm Days.

Contact any WFL Director (page 2) if YOU'd like the opportunity to become more involved.

Poison Ivy

by Dick Starr

A few years ago I was helping our son gather firewood on a property we were unfamiliar with. I asked if the vines growing on the trees were grape or poison ivy. Son didn't know and neither did I, until a few days later. They weren't grape. Being a warm day I was in T shirt attire and apparently my bare arms had ample contact with the vines. My forearms soon had "the itch" and I'd awaken at night realizing I had been scratching in my sleep. Scratching skin raw is not only unsightly and uncomfortable, it invites infection. I decided to educate myself about p. ivy and strive to avoid it in the future. It turns out our woodlot has a healthy supply of the itchy vine and I sometimes call the place Ivy Acres.



photo credit - Dick Starr

Poison Ivy Vines on a Tree

If you spend time in the woods it's prudent to be able to distinguish wild grape vine from p. ivy vine. If it's the growing season then "leaves of three, let them be" is a good rule of thumb. On p. ivy one leaflet points right, one to the left while the third points straight ahead on a small stem. P. ivy isn't the only plant with three leaves and I avoid them all unless I'm positive of what I'm seeing. How does one ID p. ivy during the roughly 6 months when our plants are without leaves?

From my observations I can state that the bark of wild grape vine is brown tending towards a chocolate color while p. ivy leans to light gray resembling the color of wood ashes. Grape vine hangs from a tree, p. ivy clings to a tree by means of hairy looking aerial roots. Grape vine has a shaggy bark that peels like shagbark hickory or badly sunburned skin and p. ivy bark is smooth. Wild grape vines will often have small grapes while p. ivy vines can have small berries, green colored in summer and cream colored in fall. Ivy berries will last on the vine through the winter and are

food for birds which spread the seeds via their droppings.

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac all have urushiol, the itch causing oil. About 80% of people are sensitive when urushiol is absorbed by the skin which can take from 1 to 12 hours after contact.



photo credit - Dick Starr

Wild Grape Vine Bark

David Deng, MD says to wash potentially infected areas with rubbing alcohol, then with plain hot water then soap and hot water. Discard the soap and wash the wash cloth. IvyBlock is an over the counter product that, if applied before exposure, provides a physical barrier that blocks absorption of urushiol. I carry a bottle of Oxy pads, called zit pads by teens, in my vehicle and wipe any skin potentially exposed to the ivy vine with the pads. Skin oils are a factor in acne formation and the Oxy pads attempt to reduce/remove the oils. I'm assuming the pads also work on urushiol oil.

Deer eat p. ivy and I've been told horses and goats as well with no apparent ill effects. You can catch the ivy itch from a pet. If the pet romps and rolls in p. ivy it

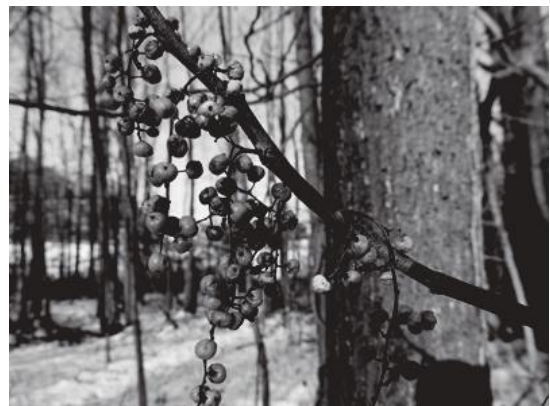


photo credit - Dick Starr

Poison Ivy Berries

continued on the next page

Springwater Wood Bank

by Dean Faklis

Our region is blessed with pristine waterways, abundant wildlife, and majestic forests. As part of the bargain, we have long cold winters, which makes the cost of keeping warm a huge challenge. Fortunately, our soils are good and it is possible to manage our forests responsibly to provide clean-burning wood heat at reasonable cost. Many of our members are in their woodlots right now in preparation for the upcoming cold season.

But for our Seniors that are now unable to harvest enough wood because of a disability or lack of tools, purchasing firewood or heating fuel is the only option for staying warm. With firewood nearing \$250 per full cord and fuel oil headed back to \$4 per gallon, some must decide whether to “heat or eat?” To be sure, there are Government assistance programs in place but should we rely on them?

The Springwater Wood Bank was born at the tail end of 2009 to become a free supplemental fuel assistance program in the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. We communicated with the Livingston County Office for the Aging, Catholic Charities of Livingston County, and the Springwater community to help find and address people in need. Once the word got out, the kindness of volunteers and firewood donors was overwhelming and needs were met.

The volunteers at the Springwater Wood Bank, many of which are NYFOA members, perform Timber Stand

Improvement (TSI) in their woodlots and they donate some as firewood to help Seniors in need. The wood removed from the forest is put to good use as a home-grown source of heat.

Some volunteers never raise a chainsaw or enter the forest as they help with relationships, processing, donations, and delivery. Contrary to popular belief, even with inflation, you cannot fit a standard cord in a pickup truck! Firewood delivery remains the biggest challenge for the group.

The Springwater Wood Bank's goal is certainly not to sell firewood and it does not even have a fixed location. It's a “virtual safety net” and the supply of free firewood is currently limited to heat emergencies in and around Springwater. The volunteers hope to expand the free heat effort as conditions evolve. We do what we can and we're working right now on planning for 2015-2016.

If this sounds interesting and it's a good complement to your forest management efforts, why not consider teaming up with your friends and neighbors to start a wood bank in your town? With proper coordination and enough helping hands, imagine what you could achieve in a few Saturdays per year. Your efforts would lead to better forests through fun teamwork, and most importantly, kinder communities that come together to help each other.

If you have any questions about the Springwater Wood Bank or The Northeast Timber Growing Contest (www.timbercontest.com), please send an email to: dfaklis@frontiernet.net.

Poison Ivy - continued from page 9

will have urushiol on its fur. Pet the pet with care after such an event.

Trees use some of their resources to build support structures like trunks and limbs. Vines of all kinds have decided to avoid the need for this by using other structures, such as trees and fences, for support. Young trees can become so burdened with ivy vines that they fall to the ground. This usually kills the tree but not the ivy.

I often take clippers and loppers as I walk the woods. Poison ivy, multiflora rose and buckthorn are my usual targets with these tools. I have encountered ivy vines too large for the loppers. I resist the urge to attack these with a chain saw as the sawdust stream must surely contain urushiol. This stuff is to be

avoided. Ivy itch was the impetus for developing mustard gas in WWI and later versions of chemical biological weapons.



photo credit - Dick Starr

Poison Ivy Hairy Roots

Letters - continued from page 2

“rake” the fence with their front hooves, eventually cutting an opening in it. If something like that is happening, you will just have to go with the more expensive woven wire solution. Whatever it takes, continue your efforts. Whoever owns your woodlot 100 years from now will thank you for it.

Jerry Michael

Steve Walther's Response:

Jerry,

Thanks for your quick response. I did buy my fencing from Gemplers, in a large roll, much of which I still have. I might double up all the way around again, or might use chicken wire. The deer could be “raking” as you call it, but I don’t believe so. As I mentioned earlier, we ran a 3/16 in stainless cable all around and electric stapled to the tops of the 4x4s with pulleys on the corners so we could tighten any sags out, then attached top of fencing by zip ties to the wire. When I find holes in the fence, most of the fencing is ripped down from the zip ties 10 ft in either direction. I think they get spooked and just run through it.

I guess we’ll have to bag more deer this year.

Steve Walther

---and Jerry Michael's Reply:

Steve,

The fence material mentioned in the article and also used by you has a breaking strength of 610 pounds and is widely-used by commercial nurseries and farmers for deer exclusion. Since the wire at the top of Steve’s fence was intact, damage by falling trees can be ruled out. Contacts at Cornell I discussed this with theorized that the breaks might have been caused by a bear or human vandalism. A wildlife camera set up this winter might provide some interesting footage

Thanks,

Jerry

Answer to the Mystery Photo on page 7:

Glen Iris Inn.
Lechworth State Park at the council grounds near

Yancey Woodswalk - continued from page 1

to save certain trees which have special meaning to him. As the group walked the well-developed trails, Corey pointed out blue cohosh and mayapples, plants that indicated fertile soil. Because of the fast growth rate of the regeneration and the fact that Geff allows hunting on the property, deer predation isn’t as bad here as on many stands in our area.

As many times as we go to these woodswalks, there is always something new to be learned. Corey explained that in some cases fast growth of trees such as sugar maple can cause superficial defects such as “cat faces” on the stem. On the other hand, slow growth on overstocked stands can leave trees subject to forest tent caterpillar devastation and maple borer damage. The takeaway message is clear that proper stocking using scientific measurements are necessary for optimum growth. Interestingly, Corey also pointed out that some parts of the stand were even-aged and some parts in adjoining areas managed as uneven-aged stands. It doesn’t have to be an either/or situation.

As usual, Geff and Cindy were gracious hosts providing a wonderful lunch. Our chapter thanks Geff, Cindy, Corey and crew for sharing their day with us.

Did someone say “ice cream”?



Classifieds

Tree Tubes for Sale - Member (/Non-Member)
price: 4' (\$4.50/\$5.00); 4' w/ stake (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 5' w/ stake (\$6.50/\$7.00). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

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.



New York Forest Owners Association
Post Office Box 541, Lima, NY 14485

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, NY
PERMIT NO.32

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Fall 2014

Volume 28, Number 3



photo credit - Jim Minor

Jim Minor spotted this 3-legged coyote on his property in Schuyler County last spring. Does anyone know if these are common?

Mark your Calendar

- October 21, 2014 - Signup Deadline for Annual Dinner Meeting
- October 28, 2014 -
Annual Dinner Meeting*
- January 20, 2015 - General 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