

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

COMING NYFOA PROGRAMS

Forest Property Taxes, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will feature two approaches to the reduction of property taxes on forested land. DEC Forester Gerry Kachmor will discuss the New York State Real Property Tax Law 480a, which provides up to an 80% reduction in property taxes for forestland committed to long-term, sustainable management for timber production. Fred Von Mechow, DEC Program Coordinator for the Rogers Environmental Education Center, will discuss Conservation Easements, which can provide deductions from ordinary income taxes as well as reductions in property taxes on committed forestland. Both speakers, plus members having experience with these programs will be available to respond to individual questions, and handout materials will be available. This meeting will be held in the auditorium at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, 840 Front Street, Binghamton. (one quarter mile north of Exit 5, Interstate 81, next to Applebees). Doors open at 6:30, meeting begins at 7:00, public is welcome.

Movie Night – “The Greatest Good”, April 22, 7:00 p.m.

Come and see this two-hour film produced for the Centennial of the U.S. Forest Service. The film covers the budding conservation movements during the period from 1864 –1910, the founding and organization of the U.S. Forest Service under its first Chief, Gifford Pinchot, and the political, social and economic forces that have shaped national forest policies and practices over the last century. The film includes historical footage of logging operations, forest fires, CCC camps, and interviews with active and retired employees of the Forest Service. Seeing this film would be a good prelude to our bus tour to Grey Towers. The film will be shown in the Lawrence Conference Room at CCE Broome County (directions above). Admission is free, but please call Kevin Mathers to reserve a seat on (607) 584-5013.

Grey Towers National Historic Site, Bus Tour, May 21

Many members have suggested this tour, so here it is! Grey Towers is the ancestral home of the Pinchott family, located in Milford, Pa., about two hours from Binghamton. Gifford Pinchott, the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and twice Governor of Pennsylvania, lived and entertained countless national and international political leaders at Grey Towers. The program will include a one-hour guided tour of the mansion and surrounding gardens, a one-hour, one-mile guided tour through the adjoining 100-acre teaching forest, and time for other optional walking tours and the gift shop.

For more information about Grey Towers, go to www.greytowers.org.

The tour bus will load at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome County at 8:30 a.m. on May 21st, and depart promptly at 8:45. The bus will return to CCE at approximately 5:00 p.m. Cost of the tour is \$30 per person, including the bus and admission fee to the mansion. You can bring your own lunch, or add \$6.50 per person for a box lunch provided by a Milford caterer. (Continued next page)

To reserve your seat(s), send a check to Chapter Treasurer Steve Kutney, 1031 King Hill Road, Endicott, NY 13760. Make the check out to: "NYFOA-SOT", and include your phone number and Email address so we can contact you if necessary. NYFOA members will have until March 16 to sign up for this tour, after which we will offer any remaining seats to the Master Gardeners and others.

Woodswalk, July 11, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We will provide more details in our Spring 2009 Newsletter, but pencil this date on your calendars now. This woodswalk will be to Ray Nolan's 150-acre property near Lisle, NY. Ray is a retired DEC expert on wildlife and wetlands, and a long-time NYFOA member. The walk will include a stand where timber stand improvement was completed eight years ago, a stand recovering from a previous higrade harvest, man-made and natural wetlands, and examples of best management practices for soil conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Other Programs

Forest Income Opportunities, Saturday, March 7, 8:30-12:30

Offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. Cost is \$15 per person. Call (607) 584-9966 to register. Many opportunities exist for forest owners to gain income from their land. This workshop will present information on timber sales, portable sawmills, firewood harvesting and processing, forest crops including mushrooms and ginseng, and leases for recreation and natural gas.

Growing Mushrooms: Farming Fungi in Forests and Logs

March 18, 2009, 6:00-8:30 pm. CCE Norwich, 99 N Broad St., Norwich

Interested in learning how to grow exotic and wild mushrooms? Come learn about mushroom log production: how to grow, what you need, species, and tips on enjoying and marketing.

This is a hand's-on workshop! Each participant will inoculate a shiitake log, and make an indoor oyster mushroom kit, both to take home!

Cost \$20, includes log and kit. Call 607-334-5841 for more information. Class size limited to 20 people, please register by March 10, 2009.

4-H Natural World Exploration Camp

April 13-17, 2009, 8:30am - 3:30pm or 5:00pm

Our world is amazing! We've selected a few of the wonders of our local world to visit and some great activities to keep you going through spring break.

On Monday our travels will include the Museum of the Earth, in Ithaca, to see dinosaurs and fossils and learn about our climate and Taughannock Falls one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rocky Mountains. Tuesday we'll caravan back to Ithaca to tour and do plant biology activities at the Boyce Thompson Institute and tour Cornell's Plantations. Wednesday and Thursday will take us to local forests for skills, games and tours. And, Friday will fly off to the Butterfly Conservancy to walk among not only butterflies, but lizards and crabs too, and then head over to the Oneonta Science Center for more fun.

Bring your own lunch, and approximately \$10 for admissions on Monday and Friday. You'll need good walking shoes, warm clothes for outdoor trips, and wear red on Friday to have butterflies land on you! Register by April 6, 2009 for any or all days.

The following workshops are offered by Chenango County BOCES and taught by Cornell Cooperative Extension staff. Call BOCES on (607) 335-1210 for course fees and registration.

Woodlot Management for Multiple Values

Whether your interests are wildlife, timber, firewood, outdoor recreation, or any combination of these, careful tending and management of your woodlot can help you get more of what you want. At this class you will hear about the many different ways that you can make your forest better. A variety of topics will be discussed, such as forest ecology, woodland inventories, wildlife management, forest management plans, the use of professional foresters, and sources of forestry information and assistance. This two-hour program will be offered on two different dates and locations.

Instructor: Rich Taber, Forestry Initiatives Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension

First time: March 24, 2009, Tuesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension building, 99 North Broad Street, Norwich.

Second time: April 23, 2009, Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Visitor Center, Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne.

Forest Invaders!

Preparing for the Big Three Invasive Insects: Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Asian Longhorn Beetle.

Our forests are at risk from imported insects, diseases, and weeds that have no native predators to keep them in check. These three insects will change the face of our forests forever; destroying all of our ash trees, knocking back our hemlock population, and potentially devastating our most common trees- sugar maple and red maple.

We'll cover what these invasive species are, where they came from, where they are now, and what forest owners and general citizens can and should do to be prepared. This two-hour program will be offered on two different dates and locations.

Instructor: Rebecca Hargrave- Horticulture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County.

First time: Cornell Cooperative Extension building, 99 North Broad Street, Norwich.
March 10, 2009. Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Second time: Visitor Center, Rogers Environmental Education center, Sherburne.
Wednesday, April 30, 2009. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Maps and GPS for landowners

Interested in learning how to make simple maps of your property or using your GPS to its fullest capacity? Join us for a hands-on primer about using your GPS and making maps to help you manage and enjoy your property. We'll create trails, mark favorite and important spots, calculate field acreages, and more.

We'll also look at what free aerial photography and mapping software is available on-line. Bring your GPS or borrow one of ours. If your GPS has a computer cable, bring that too. This class will be both outdoors and indoors, be prepared. Class size is limited to 15 people.

Instructor: Rebecca Hargrave- Horticulture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County

Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension building, 99 North Broad Street, Norwich.

May 12, 2009, Tuesday 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

SAVE US POSTAGE ! GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE ! SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO EDITOR JERRY MICHAEL AT: GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com

The New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) was founded in 1963 to promote sustainable woodland practices and improved stewardship of privately owned forestlands. NYFOA's educational mission is pursued through its bi-monthly publication "The New York Forest Owner", workshops and woods walks sponsored by its ten regional Chapters, and through partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), the DEC and numerous kindred organizations with similar objectives.

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.

Southern Tier Chapter Officers:

Daniel Price, Chair	(607) 655-1921
Dana Benjamin, Vice-Chair	dbenjamin4@stny.rr.com
Steve Kutney, Treasurer	stephen_kutney@yahoo.com
Program Co-Chairs:	
Jerry Michael	GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com
Kevin Mathers	kjm8@cornell.edu
Newsletter Editor:	
Jerry Michael	
Delegate to State Board	
Daniel Price	

NY Forest Owners Association
Southern Tier Chapter
Jerry Michael, Newsletter Editor
15 VanKuren Drive
Binghamton, NY 13901

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER
PROGRAM NOTICES