

SPRING 2014

NFC NEWSLETTER

Niagara Frontier Chapter

New York Forest Owners Association www.nyfoa.org

Choosing forester, improving timber stands, topics on April 19

Ryan W. Cooke, owner of Legacy Woodland Services in the City of Tonawanda and a Certified Forester, will be the guest speaker at our next event at 11 a.m. April 19 at Reinstein Woods, 93 Honoring Drive, Depew.

"Ryan is a new, very knowledgeable member of our Chapter," Rita Hammond, chapter president, said.

"He will address the right forester for your needs and improving your timber stand."

Ryan grew up in North Tonawanda and he and his wife raised the family mostly in northern Wisconsin. Ryan and his wife have four children.

"We moved to Buffalo to live closer to family and start a forestry business. We are both Christian believers and are active in our local church body.

"My career as a natural resource professional has been quite diverse over the years. Having worn many hats, I find my career diversity, a cornerstone, to 'co-op' erating with many stakeholders which is a must for today's forester, especially in urban interfaces. Over the past decade I've served in the following roles:



Ryan Cooke

- * Forest Technician – Gypsy Moth Trapper, WI DOA
- * Outdoor Education Instructor, Camp Forest Springs
- * Park Ranger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- * Naturalist, NY Office of Parks and Recreation
- * Staff Forester, Consulting Firm in northern Wisconsin
- * Reg. 9 Qualified Timber Cruiser, U.S. Forest Service
- * Consulting Forester, Legacy Woodland Services

"Currently, as the owner of Legacy Woodland Services, I strive to provide sound management advice, TSI projects, commercial harvest services, and I plan writing to landowners of Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming Counties. My mission is to help restore and maintain the woodland cover over the WNY Region."

Ryan has an associate degree in forest technology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Ranger School, a bachelor's degree in Forest Ecosystem Management and Conservation from the University of Minnesota and is a member of American Foresters, Candidate Certified Forester, 2011 and has taken Wildland Firefighting courses.

An excellent choice for our event. Hope to see you there!

Light refreshments will be served.

Join Mark and Jean Gallo — and the llamas — for a woodswalk May 31

Mark and Jean Gallo own 150 acres in Ransomville/Lewiston on Route 104 and will show off their extraordinary property May 31.

They purchased two different plots in the past few years that adjoin behind two houses with road frontage. The property is in several stages of re-growth and succession as most/all of it had been farmland at one time or another. The land is on the north side of Route 104 and hence is flat former lake bottom.

The two parcels have a diverse history and show varied characteristics.

The one property contained French hybrid as well as Concord and Niagara grapes. However they were let go approximately 30 years ago, hence the only remnants are the occasional upright post and lots of wire. Further back most likely contained fruit trees, but after their demise the area filled in with ash and cot-

tonwood.

The other property most likely was pasture and it has filled up with hawthorn, buckthorn, prickly ash, wild rose, blackberry, and any other thing you can think of that has thorns. Did I mention poison ivy? I should.

The back 40 (or so) acres contain a stand of mostly hickory, white, red, and pin oak with some succession occurring with hard and soft maples.

Mark and Jean are interested in maintaining the property as mixed use with a keen eye towards environmental stewardship and woodlot improvement. To that end the first 20 acres are being used for annual gardening and planting of fruit and nut trees as well as establishing some pasture.

Many dead white oaks have been harvested and cut into boards and beams by Scott Helfer who owns a portable band saw mill. The lumber will be used to aid in the re-construction of several historic hand-hewn post-and-beam barns. They were de-constructed from other locations and brought here for re-assembly.

Mark and Jean have developed a number of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, or just walking with their dog or llamas. Yes, I said llamas.

If they cooperate we will take them on our woodswalk. We

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Good Food, Great Speaker Make Potluck Luncheon a Success

Notes from Chapter President Rita Hammond

On Feb. 22, we hosted our annual potluck luncheon. The speaker, Sharon Bachman was knowledgeable and gave us a terrific, informative talk on invasive species including insects and plant types.

We can never know too much about this topic as there is always new information and new invasives.

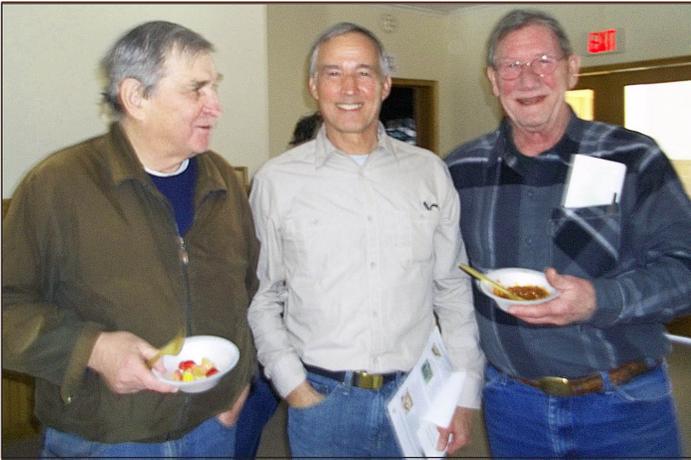
Perhaps we can invite Sharon again for an update.

At the potluck, I handed out a form that members could read and then indicate which items would be of interest to them.

The most popular topics are as follows:

1. Finding the right forester for your needs.
2. Timber stand improvement (felling, girdling, using chemicals.)
3. Threats to your forest: timber theft, climate change, pests.
4. Recreational or other uses of your property.
5. Forestry or land management items for sale or wanted.
6. Requests or offers of assistance in sharing equipment or labor.
7. Energy harvests for personal use or sale: firewood, hydropower, wind power, solar power, methane, biomass.

Other topics were included on the form, but received less interest.



GOOD TIME: Ed Janulionis, Jim DeLellis and Ken Gaines share a laugh at the potluck luncheon. A trio of hard workers!



Sharon Bachman gives information to Barbara Willis while Fred Thurnherr looks over brochures in the background.

In order to act upon No. 5, 6 and 7, we will need **some input and someone to direct, organize and come up with a list of those items to be sold or shared.**

We will also need a list of volunteers to assist others needing equipment or labor on their woodlot.

Some of you may remember when we did, indeed, help one another in our woodlots. It was a very satisfying endeavor and one we could easily begin again, but help is needed.

If you saved your Forest Owner magazine from March-April 2005, you can refer to the article about cooperative woodlot help which, incidentally was written by Barbara Tucker.

Some of the projects completed were cleaning areas of brush and trees for establishing an orchard, building and replacing timber bridges, clearing brush from the roadside, thinning trees, pruning lower branches of trees, and brush removal to maintain roadways along property lines. The "crew" worked from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the host providing lunch.

If you are interested, call me at 937-0744 or email Barbara Tucker at wgtbt@aol.com.



So the calendar says it's spring. It may not feel like it, but there are hopeful signs.

On my street in the Town of Tonawanda, the buds on the sugar maples are swelling, the robins have returned, my neighbor put away his snowblower.

Have your seed catalogs arrived? There are so many wonderful new plants this year that it's hard to choose.

We're still putting out a call for email addresses — not only saves money but give us an opportunity to quickly pass along information.

If you sent in your email address and still get the newsletter by mail, please let me know so the list can be corrected.

If you would like to be on our email list, just send an email to Barbara Tucker at wgtbt@aol.com and put NYFOA in the subject line. And be assured your email address is not shared with anyone.

One disappointment at the recent potluck luncheon was Bob White's "no-show." Bob called to say he hoped to make it but wasn't sure. I, for one was hoping to have a chat with him about the beginnings of NYFOA and the NFC Chapter. However, perhaps he — and all of you — will be at the April 19th meeting.

And don't forget: we're always looking for photos and stories for the newsletter. Email them to me, wgtbt@aol.com or mail to 849 Delaware Road, Kenmore NY 14223.

Barbara Tucker

Stumpage Price Report

This report is for the Western/Central Region, DoyleRule. Price paid to owner for standing trees.
Listing is most common price and low-high, (median) per thousand board feet. This report is latest report — Winter 2014

Species	Low Price Range	Average Price Range	High Price Range
	(Median)	(Median)	(Median)
Ash, white	50-400 (250)	150-600 (400)	250-800 (550)
Aspen	10-50 (25)	25-80 (40)	25-100 (50)
Basswood	50-150 (100)	50-250 (150)	100-375 (200)
Beech	20-150 (30)	30-100 (50)	50-200 (90)
Birch, white	NR	NR	NR
Birch, yellow	25-250 (100)	50-375 (195)	100-500 (300)
Butternut	100-250 (150)	100-380 (200)	100-420 (325)
Cherry, black	50-775 (400)	300-1000 (650)	500-1400 (870)
Elm, American	NR	100 (100)	NR
Hemlock	50-200 (30)	35-110 (50)	50-125 (100)
Hickory (spp)	50-200 (100)	50-300 (150)	100-500 (250)
Maple, hard (sugar)	50-700 (450)	435-925 (650)	535-1000 (850)
Maple, red (soft)	50-300 (150)	150-400 (265)	200-500 (400)
Oak, Chestnut	50-200 (150)	50-350 (200)	125-500 (300)
Oak, red	50-700 (400)	300-900 (580)	475-1000 (750)
Oak, white	60-300 (200)	130-400 (300)	200-750 (400)
Pine, red	45-85 (55)	50-200 (80)	70-150 (100)
Pine, white	25-100 (50)	50-120 (90)	60-200 (125)
Poplar, Tulip	50-200 (100)	50-300 (150)	100-4000 (245)
Spruce	45-135 (90)	50-185 (100)	100-240 (145)
Walnut, black	200-900 (500)	500-1200 (800)	100-1500 (1000)
Firewood	2-14 (7)	5-17 (10)	10-20 (15)

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have approximately three miles of wide, flat, easy-to-navigate trails, with shorter routes available for those who don't want to trek that far. We could also offer rides on a trailer being pulled by a tractor for the less adventurous. Scott Helfer will be available and demonstrate cutting boards and beams with his saw mill.



Walking the trails

Although we will have some seating you may want to consider bringing your own chairs. Bring a box lunch with refreshments provided. Late May can bring just about any type of weather, so be prepared for whatever Mother Nature

has to offer. Black flies and mosquitoes may also decide to join us, so be prepared for them as well.

Any questions call Mark at (716) 525-5973. All are welcome.
(A reminder note will be sent out in early May.)

Directions to Mark's, 2345 Ridge Road (Route 104) in Ransomville: The property is between Dickersonville and Ransomville roads, approximately 6 miles east of the Village of Lewiston and 13 miles west of Wright's Corners.

Mark is an associate professor of biology at Niagara University. He has been working lately on the Earth Day project at NU and has invited us to attend as Barbara Tucker, Bob Glidden and I did last year. It was exciting to see so many students and faculty interested in our display which included distributing tree seedlings, many photographs and related forest information. This year's event begins at **10 a.m. April 22.** Lunch is provided by the college. Please come and join us!

NYFOA Presents Top Awards

Bob Glidden, the NFC chapter delegate to the state NYFOA, sent an email saying that the 2014 NYFOA Outstanding Service Award went to **Gary Goff** from CCE chapter.

In addition, the 2014 Heiberg Award went to **Bruce Robinson**, Consulting Forester.

Congratulations to Gary and Bruce, each of whom deserves the honor.

Community Forestry: Modern Look at Urban Trees

Close to 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in urban areas and depends on the essential ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by urban trees and forests.

However, the distribution of urban tree cover and the benefits of urban forests vary across the United States, as do the challenges of sustaining this important resource.

As urban areas expand, the importance of the benefits that urban forests provide, as well as the challenges to their conservation and maintenance, will increase.

Forestry is traditionally associated with management of large tracts of timberland and smaller woodlots.

All of the trees within a town, village, or city make up the "community forest" and

can include street and yard trees, parks, cemeteries, school grounds, and undeveloped green spaces.

Urban and Community Forestry is the management of community forests to establish and maintain healthy trees for air and water quality benefits, energy savings, environmental health, as well as to enhance the quality of life for urban residents.

The urban and community forest also contains wildlife, waterways, built roads and structures, and people.

The environment and human actions can cause different stresses to urban trees, some of which include: restricted root-growth area, road-salt exposure, soil moisture extremes, compacted soil, reduced soil fertility, pollution, improper pruning, trenching, and damage from lawn-care equipment,

snow plows or vandalism. These stressful growing conditions can cause a decline in tree health and may eventually result in death, if not corrected in time.

By actively managing community forests, we protect these valuable resources and preserve and/or enhance the resulting benefits.

Studies show that trees improve air and water quality, reduce flooding, reduce cooling and heating energy needs, increase property values and improve the quality of life for people and wildlife around them.

Trees remove air and water pollutants, canopies shade buildings, sidewalks, streets and other structures keeping them cooler which reduces energy needs in summer and can shelter buildings from cold winds in winter months.

The positive effects trees have on human health and well-being are numerous.

Getting the Word Out on NYFOA

Excerpt from an article by Jim Minor, NYFOA President

NYFOA is active on issues of policy and legislative affairs impacting woodlot landowners.

NYFOA was a founding member of the Council of Forest Resource Organizations (CFRO), which organizes a forest awareness day in Albany each year.

"We also have representatives on the New York State Invasive Species Council," adds Minor, and a NYFOA member is serving on a recently established NRCS Forest Council. What he would like to see is a more active role by NYFOA in promoting the interests and positions of the association on behalf of its members. "We have members across the state, so we can get the attention of legislators across the state. We can have a broad grassroots presence," Minor says. "I think we can be even more proactive."

Another current NYFOA objective is attracting a new generation of landowners to the group. "To attract more younger members we have recently done things like get a presence on Facebook, and [we] make sure our website is regularly updated and current," he explains.

It's also now possible to join the association electronically through the NYFOA website, something woodlot owners of all ages in New York could benefit from doing. To learn more about the group and its activities, visit <http://www.nyfoa.org>.

Patrick White is a freelance writer based in Middlesex, Vt. Over the past 10 years, he has covered a wide range of agricultural operations around the Northeast. He is always on the lookout for interesting and unusual stories. Comment or question? Visit <http://www.farmingforumsite.com> and join in the discussions.

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