



CNY Chapter NYFOA

May 2016

*COVERING CAYUGA,
HERKIMER, MADISON,
ONEIDA, ONONDAGA
& OSWEGO COUNTIES*

- **Ralph Meyer, Chair**
315-264-1087
meyerralf@yahoo.com
- **Rich Taber, Vice Chair,**
315-380-6776
richtaber@aol.com
- **Sandy Babcock, Treasurer**
315-662-7707
aplstone@dreamscape.com
- **Peter Cann, Secretary,**
315-687-3812
plcann@twcny.rr.com
- **Bruce Revette, Chapter
Designated Board Member,**
315-852-9670 or
315-447-2741
revettbm@morrisville.edu
- **Rich Pancoe, Alternate
Chapter Designated Board
Member, (315) 691-9101**
rpancoe@twcny.rr.com
- **Dan Zimmerman, Forester**
315-404-7069,
danielzimmerman57@yahoo.com
- **Randi Starmer, Newsletter**
315-637-5213
randi.starmer@gmail.com

May 21 - WOODS WALK starting at 10 am with lunch provided at Steve and Ann Kinne's woodlot in the Town of Eaton, 3 miles south of Nelson

Steve was looking for a piece of land that they could both afford and he could spend time working on in retirement. He eventually found this 19-acre unmanaged, overgrown, Buckthorn- and Multiflora Rose-infested woodlot in farm country south of Morrisville. But he could see real potential for development given the variety of microhabitats (dense underbrush, mid-successional woods, a poorly drained wet area, a meadow, scattered old apple trees, a hedgerow, an agricultural field, and a mature stand of hemlock-maple-ash). After purchase, Steve applied for and got an NRCS EQIP Habitat grant to develop about 10 acres into early successional habitat to support certain declining bird species (e.g. Golden-Winged Warbler). He also enlisted the assistance/support of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to develop the somewhat unique vernal "pond" area. In addition to clearing much of the understory and brush this past fall, the lot underwent a heavy density cut in March of about 6.4 acres (harvesting a large number of saw log quality Ash trees that were in declining health). A selective harvest in the more mature wooded areas made a logging operation economically feasible. Seeding for erosion control (due to ground disruption by logging) has been accomplished with final remediation to be done in the summer when then the soil has dried. Planting of several hundred trees and shrubs is now underway. Come see what such a project has entailed, future plans in the making, and what this kind of radical change to the landscape looks like (yes, a bit scary!). Then, we'll plan a re-visit in 2-3 years to see the resulting changes and what kind of wildlife is being attracted to the new habitat!

Directions: Take Route 20 to Morrisville. At the light in the center of town turn south on Eaton Rd. Proceed about 2 miles and take a right at the curve onto Eagleville Rd. After about ½ mile, take another right (across from the big barn) onto Leach Rd. Go up the hill (unpaved road), down past the dairy farm on your right, make the 90-degree bend to the left, and we will be the first woodlot on the right just beyond the hayfield. Park on the right side of the road and **please be careful not to drive into the ditch!**
Questions: Feel free to contact Steve by email at 2hike@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 315-882-3684

Details of the following events will be in August newsletter

August 21 - Annual CNY-NYFOA picnic and woods walk at Starmer's in Pompey

October 8 - Woods Walk at Mike Burton's in Brandingham (North of Boonville)

December 2 - Annual Christmas party at Babcock's in Cazenovia

Recent Events - The statewide NYFOA meeting had some interesting speakers:

Peter Smallidge referred to the "green lie" that even if a surrounding ecosystem looks green it does mean that it is healthy or regenerating. The best remedial management, whether mechanical or chemical, and selective or broadcast, will depend on many factors including at least: owner objectives, limitation(s) on use of herbicides, how long for control to last, option or need for multiple treatments, consequences of soil disturbance, proximity to water table, spatial pattern of control, equipment available.

Brett Butler from the US Forest Service discussed forest ownership in NY and pointed out that there are approximately 635,000 properties of 1 plus acre wooded lots in family ownership with average size of 17 acres. Among those are approximately 197,000 family owned properties that are 10 acres or more (average=47 acres). Since most of the owners are older married couples, there are around 400,000 joint owners. Since women tend to outlive men, decisions on the future of these forests often ultimately rest with women, implying that we should be more attentive to that. Among many other interesting insights, he also said that nearly all "forest owners" in the U.S. when asked to describe their property respond that they have "woods" or "woodland" --- rather than using the term "forest" at all.

The take-away message for me is that if we want to grow NYFOA, maybe we should speak more to people, (especially women) about their WOODS and how NYFOA can help them learn how to keep them healthy.

Katherine Yard spoke of the Young Forest Initiative program of the NYS DEC - and talked about the 113 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) in NY and how there is a concerted effort to promote "young forest" components in many of them since young forests are crucial to many species. Soon there will be at least 1 demonstration WMA in each NY county displaying "young forest" management to the public.

Tom Pavlesich of the Watershed Ag Council (for NY City) spoke of a new web site (MyWoodlot) that is loaded with useful information for woodland owners throughout New York. Check it out at the link below. The web developers make frequent updates & really want input from landowners to make this an increasingly valuable resource. One can also sign up for their e-newsletter or participate in forums.

Check out these web sites for more information on the above subjects and more

www.engaginglandowners.org = Sustaining Family Forests Initiative (Yale Forestry & US Forest Service)

www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos = US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis- National Woodland Survey

www.youngforest.org = The Young Forest Project (a multiparty initiative)

www.mywoodlot.com = initiated by the Watershed Agricultural Council

www.plt.org = Project Learning Tree site from American Forest Foundation

www.TimberContest.com = will bring you to the Cornell blog site where you can learn how to participate in this fun contest for the whole family and grow some even bigger trees!

Interested in becoming part of New York's invasive species early detection network? Register for an upcoming NYS DEC sponsored iMapInvasives free training session in in May or June

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/1446cee>

*******ALSO at the Annual Meeting, our own CNY member & Vice Chair Rich Taber*****
was given the Statewide Outstanding Service Award**

******* Congratulations Rick! *******

A Forester's Granddaughter

Dedicated to Lillianna A. Zimmerman of Westmoreland, NY.

Lillianna, won't you come with me into the great forest? I have so much to share with you! I have many friends in the forest that I have told about you and they await your arrival. Come with grandfather won't you? Let's explore together and find the secrets of the great forest as only we can!

Let's enter the plant kingdom first, as a team! In this kingdom are the organisms that much of life on earth depends on through a process called photosynthesis. Some of my best friends reside here and are some of the most important elements of the great forest – the trees! Trees can be deciduous or coniferous. With some exceptions, the deciduous trees lose their leaves or “foliage” in autumn, and the conifers retain their foliage throughout dormancy in winter.

I told my deciduous friends the Sugar Maple, Red Maple, White Ash, Black Cherry, Red Oak, and White Oak that you were coming! They were astounded that you would take time to visit them. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) wanted you to know of its' sweet syrup for your pancakes and also of its' high price as timber! Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) wants you to know how it is increasing in number. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) is very concerned with being present for you as you get older because an invasive species, called emerald ash borer, threatens its existence. The Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) loved to hear of your visit and wants you to know of its importance to wildlife, furniture, and good timber value. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), like the Ash, is now threatened by disease (oak wilt) and it and the White Oak (*Quercus alba*) are thrilled to meet you, and want you to know of their importance to wildlife and lumber production.

Lilly, did I tell you of the conifers? My favorites are Eastern White Pine, Eastern Hemlock, and Red Pine. The majestic White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) has long been admired for its commanding presence at maturity, and great lumber volume, and hopes to see you often in the great forest. Eastern Hemlock, one of the longest living of the trees in this area hopes you will take refuge in its' shade on hot summer days! Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), which was often planted in rows during the Great Depression, are awaiting some of your innermost secrets – yes they are! If you listen on a quiet day with a gentle wind you can hear them; whispering, yes, whispering secrets all day long!

Lillianna, will you meet my friends in the animal kingdom? There are too many to list here, but they want you to know how much fun you and they can have together in the great forest! The majestic White Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus*

virginianus) that grandfather admires and chases so much, the Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*), so agile and strong, and the Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) can all be both simple and very complex in their ways. Perhaps the most cunning is the Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), the woods alarm clock, and hoarder. Lastly, the Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) is easily the king of the woods and maybe the most vocal.

The interdependence and interaction of living things with themselves, each other, and their environment is of great importance within the great forest! The pathway of the sun's energy through this complex web of living organisms can be called the foundation of the ecosystem. It can be as simple as a food chain and as complicated as a food web. Symbiosis, biodiversity, habitat, niche, and succession are a few of the important words that help to describe what happens in the ecosystem.

Foresters must understand all this and much more. They use surveying to measure and map the forest and need an extensive knowledge of geology and soils, and forest products. Also, understanding real estate and business are important to a Forester as are people skills, statistics and let's not forget logging/harvesting best practices and road construction together with erosion control. That is a lot to know!

People play a fundamental part in the great forest. The college professors who have taught many a Forester, the landowner (like grandpa) who practices good stewardship, the mill personnel and businesses that make a product out of the raw resources of the forest, and the logging professional who puts his health and life on the line every day all are important to forest management.

Oh granddaughter, let's take our time here, in the great forest. Time stands still here. Yes, it does! There is an omnipresence here, can you sense it? A presence of incredible intelligence, an architect of all that we see, hear, and smell. To be here in many ways imparts an understanding of life's grand meaning and a heightened understanding of the creator's purpose.

I am so glad that you are with me on this journey Thirty-eight years I have walked the great forest, in the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, Central New York, and the Southern tier. I have had no one to share the many lessons I have learned – until now! I also realize that together, granddaughter, we can learn many new things. For the reasons found here, the name "great forest" is most appropriate, don't you agree? I have loved the great forest for as long as I can remember, but, now I have a new love. Of course ... it is you!

LATE breaking news..Members Guy & Kathie Garnsey will have their annual "Garden Railroad" open house from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on May 29, and a picnic to follow. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Guy & Kathie Garnsey, 3648 Black Street, Scipio Center, NY 13147, 315-345-3210 cell, or email ggarnsey@beardsley.com);

If you enjoy outdoor model railroads....this will be a rare treat...

And speaking of the Garnseys, our Chairman, Ralph Meyer had this to say..

Central New York Chapter of NYFOA is proud to present this year's Chapter Award to Guy and Kathie Garnsey from Scipio Center, NY.

Joining NYFOA in March 2004, the Garnseys have participated in woods walks, attended NYFOA seminars, and attended chapter Christmas parties at the Babcock's.

August 2015 Guy and Kathie hosted our chapter Woods Walk and Summer Picnic. The experience left us all spellbound. Garnseys manage their woods as we all dream of and shared it with our 30 members. Truly earning our chapter award.

Kathie and Guy had us start our walk at Brookside Lumber Company, owned by Bill Millier and wife Kathy Thode.

The mill is closed on weekends however Bill and Kathy had the mill in full operation of our Log-to-Lumber Tour. We received explanations at every operation from the employees or Dan DeLuca the company forester and log buyer. It was obvious the pride that was taken by each operator in their role at the mill. Then we visited the Garnseys' woods. The Walk was lead by Dan DeLuca with Bill Millier and Kathy Thode also answering questions. Dan explained Guy and Kathie's management plan, from timber stand improvement to harvest.

Dan and Guy mark for harvest and improvement 2,000 to 4,000 board foot of timber each year. Trees for winter harvest were marked and explained why chosen. Bill Millier from Brookside Lumber also walked with us answering questions on how a certain tree may saw and grade out.

Every woods has something unique, Garnseys' was no exception. Standing within a Sugar Maple stand is one (the only one in the woods) Black Maple, 18" DBH and 2 straight logs to the crown. Each winter Dan DeLuca cuts the marked trees and bucks them into logs. Guy skids them to the road side landing, Brookside picks them up and saws them in to lumber. Guy then barter for credit and lumber that he may be looking for. Could be anything from Walnut to Poplar.

Guy then trailers the lumber home to his indoor and outdoor drying areas which we toured. Guy's wood working shop is indoors, heated, lighted, with central vacuum system and not missing a machine or tool. He then explained how everything works.

What does Guy build? - expanded the shop, special wall protectors in Kathie's indoor horse riding arena, and fine furniture as we saw in their home. Then we enjoyed the largest, most intricate outdoor train layout anyone has ever seen. Towns, mountains, bridges, roads all built by Guy. Within the train layout and was a beautifully built gazebo where we enjoyed our summer picnic. Each member brought a dish to pass with Kathie and Guy providing hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks. Ending a perfect day of friendship with Bill, Kathy and Dan from Brookside Lumber, Kathie and Guy, all showing us what can be done with our own woods.

Reading Corner...

Woodland owners probably already introduce their children and grandchildren to the wonders of nature, but you may still find that Richard Louv, who wrote "Last Child in the Woods : Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder" and the "Nature Deficit Principle" to great acclaim, has a new book "Vitamin N" that is full of ideas for helping children connect with nature, including their own .

The 2nd edition of "The Woods in Your Backyard....Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home" was recently released. This could be a good introduction, especially for new small woodlot owners...or maybe to give to the next generation of long-time owners.

http://palspublishing.cals.cornell.edu/nra_order.taf?_function=detail&pr_booknum=nraes-184



CNY-NYFOA
c/o Randi Starmer
7022 Bush Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

Upcoming CNY-NYFOA event dates - May 21, Aug. 21, Oct.8, Dec. 2

If you have news, articles, or photos of general interest to share, please send them to Ralph (meyerralf@yahoo.com) or Randi (randi.starmer@gmail.com)

If you are receiving this newsletter in print in the mail, please remember to send your \$5.00 print subscription for 2016 to Sandy Babcock, 3174 Thompson Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035

Please welcome new members
Chuck Parker, Tim & Rose O'Neill, Peter Iannotta
Joan Costello, Rolland Dodges