

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Your SOT Chapter Steering Committee is pleased to announce a full schedule of programming for the Fall and early Winter season:

September 11, "LET'S BUILD A DEER FENCE"

NYFOA is providing a \$250 grant to Chapters to fund construction of small demonstration deer enclosure fences in woodlands open to the public. As a part of NYFOA's "Restore New York Woodlands" initiative, these projects will show the positive impact on forest regeneration when deer populations are controlled.

Our fence will be constructed along a walking trail at the IBM Glen forest property in Endwell, near Endicott, which is owned and managed by the Waterman Conservation Education Center. It will be a five-foot high fence, enclosing an area of approximately 1,000 square feet which has some existing browsed red oak regeneration. We will be cutting a few small trees and eliminating some interfering vegetation prior to erecting the fence.

If you can join us for this project, call Jerry Michael on (607) 648-2941 so we will know how many helpers to plan on and can discuss tools needed, etc. We will assemble in the parking lot for the IBM Glen at 9:00 a.m. Dress appropriately for work in the woods and don't forget the usual measures to discourage ticks. The IBM Glen property is located at 1250 Robinson Hill Road in Endwell, NY 13760. Look for the sign for the parking lot on the right.

October 11, WOODSWALK, DEMONSTRATIONS, and a FREE PICNIC LUNCH !

A woods walk will be held on Saturday Oct. 11, beginning at 9 a.m. on the property of Gary Sergio and Claudia Jenkins in the Town of Unadilla, Otsego County. Their wood lot has been marked and prepared for a commercial log sale by consulting forester Karl VonBerg, who will be present at the walk to answer questions and provide insights. In 1999 a pre-commercial thinning was completed on a 10 acre portion of this woodlot by owner Gary, utilizing Federal funds from the "Forestry Incentive Program" (FIP). This operation included clear cutting of two 1/2 acre areas to create "Wildlife Openings." Participants are going to have a unique opportunity to see the results of the thinning and the regeneration occurring in these areas after 15 years, as well as seeing and hearing about the commercial log sale process.

There will be two interesting demonstrations at the conclusion of the woodswalk:

First, a representative from "Small Woodlot Tools, LLC" will demonstrate the use of a 3 Point Hitch Log Skidder Attachment for small to medium-size tractors. This and other equipment available from the firm can be seen on their website at <http://www.smallwoodlottools.com/>

Secondly, Dave Williams will discuss and demonstrate grade sawing techniques with his Wood-Mizer Super Hydraulic sawmill. We will select a low value hardwood log that came from a tree marked as a cull for the current harvest and seek to maximize the yield of high grade lumber from it. The intent is to show how thin kerf sawmills and attention to sawing for quality can result in added value. Dave will be happy to discuss other aspects of milling, air drying or any other questions that might arise.

Hot Dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be available during the demonstrations.

Driving directions from Sidney: Take NYS rte. 8 north to Rockdale. Turn right just past the Rockdale Hotel (it's the only right in Rockdale), drive 1/2 mile to 4 way intersection and, cautiously, proceed **straight** through intersection. From this intersection drive 3/4 mile and turn Left onto Fisk Hill Rd... Drive 2 miles and look for **NYFOA** sign on right. Drive between Evergreens into field. GPS users enter: 518 Fisk Hill Rd., Unadilla, NY 13849 Look for sign.

Please call Gary at (607) 563-7713 for more information or to tell him you're coming so he can plan for the food. On the day of the event, call 607-435-4340.

November 12 Meeting, "HUNTING LEASES"

Time to meet indoors for a presentation by Tom Dziekan of the Hunting Lease Network. Tom will talk about the benefits of having a hunting lease on your land and how the Hunting Lease Network manages their hunting leases to promote safe hunting and responsible land management. He will explain how the rates are set and be able to give some examples of properties that are already leased. Tom will take questions from the group, and he will be available afterwards to talk to landowners individually about whether or not leasing would be a good fit for their land.

Light refreshments will be available and there will be time for discussion of any items of interest to attendees. The public is welcome, so bring a neighbor.

This meeting will be held in the auditorium at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Front Street, Binghamton. Doors open at 6:30 and the program starts at 7:00.

January 22, 2015, ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

This is early notice for the ever-popular Pot Luck Dinner. It will be held in the CCE Auditorium in Binghamton, and the program will probably be screening the historic film "From Stump to Ship" which documents the adventures of logging in the Maine woods a century ago. More details in our Winter Newsletter, but mark your calendars now !

Welcome New Members:

Charles Baker, Vestal; Earl & Shirley Gates, Cincinnatus; Ted & Kathy Hayek, Walton; Joe Pullman, Truxton; & Steve Ross, Vestal. Hope to see you at a future event !

A Great Turnout for May 10th Woodswalk

Thirty six people showed up for our “Restore New York Woodlands” woodswalk at Jerry Michael’s tree farm in Whitney Point. Participants were able to observe how successful regeneration had been accomplished in various stands with combinations of hardwood seedling planting, plastic tree-tube shelters, deer exclosure fencing and the use of natural barriers to deer.

Participants included several members from the Sierra Club, Naturalists Club, Waterman Conservation Education Center, and others. Since early-succession forests are prerequisite habitat for many species of birds and animals, these folks share our interest in sustainable forestry and left with a better understanding of the measured necessary to achieve it.

Message from the Chapter Chair

I worked in the computer industry for 33 years. Like many of you I do not claim to be an expert with a chain saw. Nor do I claim to have the level of fitness required to handle a large chain saw safely. I have two chain saws. One is a Husqvarna 335XPT which is a top handled trim saw. The other is a Stihl 034 that I use much less frequently. The 034 is much more powerful. It’s the saw that I select when I want to cut down a large tree for firewood. It’s the reason that I attended the Game of Logging class. I will not use it without wearing chaps. When I’m finished using it I can’t move at night. I just want to take a nap. It’s not that heavy compared to some saws but it’s demanding for me.

I have not contracted for TSI work in many years. I find that it’s difficult to find a person who will do TSI so I do it myself and take my time. The Husqvarna trim saw is my choice for TSI work. I feel that a trim saw is safer because the operator is closer to the saw. I always wear a helmet with a face shield. Several times I’ve had a branch fall on me from above. This work is not without danger.

I used to have a forester mark the trees. I recommend that approach initially. When tree identification skills get better you can start by marking the trees that need eliminating. When you actually cut or girdle the trees you can reevaluate your choices. The best time to do TSI is from late July through winter to prevent re-sprouting. When girdling, I make two cuts around each tree with a few inches between each cut.

I like the idea of girdling the trees because I want unimpeded access through my woodlot when I am finished with the job. I have also been experimenting with the use of basal bark herbicide for TSI and have found it to be very effective with smooth-bark trees like beech. The technique also saves fuel and wear and tear on your chainsaw and your back.

If you question the need for TSI then I suggest that you get a copy of the prices paid for logs brought to any mill. The difference in prices paid for pallet grade logs compared to prime plus or veneer logs is substantial. Be safe,

Steve

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

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MEETINGS & PROGRAMS**