

Southern Tier Chapter News



Spring, 2015

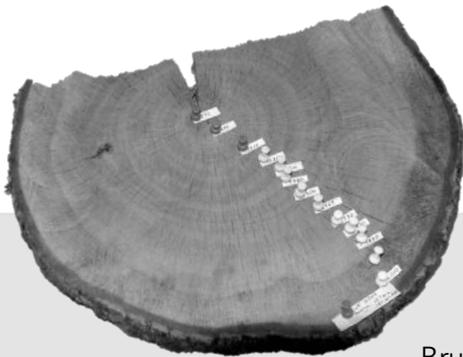


Upcoming Events

Details On Page 4

Saturday Woods Walk
May 9 IBM Glen
Endwell, NY

Saturday Symposium: The Future of
April 25 New York Forests at Risk
SUNY ESF Gateway Center
Syracuse, NY



David Williams, 2014 Chapter Service Award

David Williams was presented the 2014 Southern Tier Chapter Service Award, by Programs Co-Chair, Jerry Michael, at the recent NYFOA annual meeting. Dave richly deserves this honor! He is a Master Forest Owner volunteer, a member of the SOT Steering Committee and has served as our Chapter-Designated Member of the NYFOA Board of Directors. Most recently he organized an informative and immensely enjoyable Timber Growing Contest Workshop (see report next page).

He and his wife, Kathy, own two wood lots, 7 acres on a seasonal road in Chenango County and a 38 acre property in Otsego County that has been in Dave's family for nearly 100 years. His vision is for these properties to remain in the family, be undeveloped, harvested sustainably, and in the perfect world, remain free from invasive and undesirable competing vegetation.

We're Growing! Welcome, New Members!

Bruce Cook, Chenango Forks, NY; David Schaefer, Seaford, NY; Scott Curtis, Cooperstown, NY; Michael Doczynski, Scarsdale, NY; Steve Grekin, Windsor, NY; Vincent Maralpo, Mt Kisco, NY; Tom Matteson, Mt Vision, NY; Dan Schlafer, Bainbridge, NY; James Smith, Great Meadows, NJ; Bob & Lisa Smith, Cooperstown, NY; Anton Wagner, Cape Elizabeth, ME; Matthew Wagner, Chatham, NJ; Paul Wagner, Eastchester, NY; Katie Wagner, Stamford, CT; and Scott Williams, Binghamton, NY.



Timber Contest Workshop A Huge Success!

Fifty Members and Guests Participate

By David Williams and Dean Faklis

It was a mild but dreary morning on March 14 and steady rain was in the forecast. The birds were singing by 6:30am despite the delayed spring weather and the foot of snow still covering the ground. Like the songbirds, some 50 forest landowners with children and grandchildren in tow, were undaunted and full of anticipation. From distant regions of our state, some of these folks were already on the road headed to a church in the hamlet of East Guilford, where NYFOA bakers were busy making donuts.

The reason? Woodland owners were attending a workshop to learn how to participate in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest (NETGC) and improve the productivity and health of their trees.

By 9:00, early arrivals were greeted with the aroma and taste of fresh coffee and donuts as they met and greeted each other, some for the first time. By 10:00, the space was filled to capacity with participants from the SOT, CNY, SFL, WFL and

Capital District Chapters including numerous MFO's and NYFOA Board Members. Dean Faklis, co-founder of the NETGC, began the workshop with a presentation on all aspects of the contest including the key benefits and direct advantages to landowners and our forests. By 11:00, participants moved to a nearby woodlot owned by the Gordon Spreutels family for hands-on forest measurements, which are critical for growing valuable timber.

Two groups formed behind trailblazers with snowshoes and walked into the woods where they marked the $\frac{1}{4}$ acre plots required for the Basal Area Increment category, and tagged, measured and recorded data for all trees greater than 6" dbh. Each group included a volunteer SAF forester as a consultant to answer questions and to help with tree selection. Most trees in each plot were chosen to be on the "team" while those that were determined by the forester to be unfit will be cut from the team, literally and permanently, in the first round of timber stand improvement (TSI). TSI puts growth on the

valuable trees while providing an intermediate harvest of the lesser trees. Using annual forest measurements and deterministic TSI, the contest removes guesswork and gives purpose and understanding to the process of growing high quality saw timber.

Two additional topics were introduced to round out the fieldwork portion of the workshop. NYFOA Board Member, Ed Neuhauser, handed out basal area



Each team had a supply bucket that included a measuring stick, diameter tape, hammer, aluminum nails, tree tags, tree marking tape, clipboard with tally sheet and pen/pencil. Not shown is the shovel used to clear the snow at the base of each tree!

Top left: All you can eat soup, dogs and more! Middle: Dean Faklis's presentation in the woodlot. Right: Big burl bowl...and Oscar!

Timber Contest Workshop — Continued

angle gauges to all participants and explained how to use them to estimate stocking. All had an opportunity to practice using them. Dean and our forester volunteers, Mark Mowrey and Karl VonBerg, worked together to introduce the Board Foot Volume Increment category, including how to choose and measure the “crop trees.”

At 12:45 (still no rain!) we returned to the church for a lunch that included five soup choices, hot dogs and dessert. The event concluded with an explanation of how to enter the forest measurement data into the *Submission Form*, debriefing, question and answer time and door prizes, lots of them, provided by the Southern Tier Chapter and Baillie Lumber.

As attendees returned home, we can be sure that some great conversations ensued. That was one of the workshop's goals—to spark conversations and action in the woods. The “contest” is really about cooperation among

families and teamwork with professionals in a friendly competition where the forest and the trees are the real winners.

If you are ready to learn more about the NETGC, check out www.timbercontest.com. Also, be sure to view Peter Smallidge's February 2014 webinar entitled, *Are you Growing your Best Timber?*.

If you would like to host a workshop like this one, contact Dave, kdwillmill@gmail.com, or Dean, dfaklis@frontiernet.net.

We'd love to help out!

Dave Williams is a NYFOA Board Member. Dean Faklis is a member of the SFL chapter and co-founder of the NETGC. Photos are courtesy of Ken Semanovich and Ted Hayek.



Woodland owners, ready to participate in the contest, were awarded custom measuring sticks. L to R: David Williams, Oscar Williams (in front), Judy Appleton, Don Schlafer, Ann Nealy, Matt Nealy, Sharon Semanovich, Baily Anderson (in front), Tom Dewey, Jason Dewey, Charlie Stackhouse, John Murdock, Frank Winkler, Steve Kutney, and Jerry Michael.

Comments From The Timber Growing Contest Workshop

We really enjoyed the training session. Thank you for getting us involved in the contest. Thanks to Kathy and the crew that fed us. — Don & Judy Schlafer, SFL

What a great learning experience with lots of knowledgeable stewards of our forests. Matt & I are very excited to begin the contest! —Ann & Matt Nealy, SOT

Thanks for organizing this event! Measuring and tagging trees with experts guiding us was just plain fun for us folks of all

ages! And that delicious food and the loads of door prizes topped off the day perfectly. — Ted & Kathleen Hayek, SOT

Thank you for your efforts on the Timber Contest. It's a great idea for me to encourage others to get out and be more involved in their forest. I guess I'll have to enter so that I can show others how well it works. The day was wonderful with good folks and lots of food. The weather never would have been a factor with

everything else going so well. — John Murdock, SOT



Team effort makes measuring fast and fun.



Restore New York Woodlands Spring Events Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars now!

The Future of New York Forests at Risk — Working Toward a Comprehensive Solution

Symposium

Saturday, April 25, 2015
SUNY ESF Gateway Center
Syracuse, NY

Several forest stakeholder organizations have joined NYFOA in co-sponsoring a Symposium on the regeneration crisis facing our Northeastern hardwood forests. Participants and distinguished speakers from academia, government, and environmental organizations will discuss the science defining the problem and the consequences of inaction, as well as current and potential solutions.

NYLT and SAF continuing education credits will be awarded for participation in the Symposium.

Registration: Fee is \$15, which includes refreshments, lunch and handout materials. Register online at: www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/2015/nyfoa/

By mail, send a \$15 check, payable to SUNY Research Foundation and mail to: SUNY ESF Outreach, Attn. Terry Webb, 1 Forestry Drive, 235 Gateway Center, Syracuse, NY 13210. Include your name, affiliation and email address with the check.

Parking: Complimentary

parking is available on campus. A parking permit will be e-mailed out to all registered attendees prior to the event. Maps and directions can be found on the Registration Website.

Sponsors: The Symposium is presented by NYFOA and co-sponsored by: Audubon New York, Catskill Forest Assoc., Cornell Univ. College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Empire State Forest Products Assoc., NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NY Farm Bureau, NY Society of American Foresters, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, and The Nature Conservancy.

Schedule and speakers: visit: www.nyfoa.org/time_sensitive/rnyw_symposium_flyer.pdf

Woods Walk at IBM Glen

Saturday, May 9, 2015
9:30 AM

1200 Robinson Hill Road
Endwell, NY

Join us as we explore this historic and interesting 200-acre property. See successful and unsuccessful regeneration, old-growth oaks and hemlocks, unique monoculture stands of ash and large sassafras, beautiful waterfalls in a hemlock-lined ravine, and about every species of invasive vegetation common to the area. SOT installed a demonstration deer exclusion fence here in 2014.

Most walking trails are smooth with moderate grades. The trail to the ravine is quite steep, and is an optional part of the walk. The woods walk will end near noon, and people are welcome to stay later and enjoy additional trails on their own. Bring water. No RSVP needed, but call Jerry with questions.

Directions: Warning! Google maps may steer you wrong this time!

From west on Rt. 17, take Exit 69 (Rt. 17c Endwell). Go 1.5 miles and turn right on Hooper Road ramp. Go .7 mile to Country Club Road and turn right. Go .5 mile and turn left on Robinson Hill Road. Go 1.2 miles and pull into IBM Glen parking lot on the right.

From east on Rt. 17, take exit 68N (Endicott), cross bridge and exit right on 17c east (Main St). Go 1.6 miles and turn right on Hooper Road ramp. Follow directions above from Hooper Road.

Contact: Jerry Michael, (607) 648-2941, GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com.

More on Woods Walks:
www.nyfoa.org



Timber
Contest Workshop participants.

Name This Newsletter!

The response to my request for name ideas has been tree-mendous! We got so many that I decided to run a contest. The person who suggests the winning name gets bragging rights and a feature story in this fall's issue!

Here are the choices:

- The Seedling
- Southern Tier - Herein Trot Us
- Talk of the Woods
- Tree Talk
- The Understory
- The New Leaf
- Southern Tier Forest Stewards
- Southern Tier Forest Steward
- Southern Overstory Tribune
- Southern Tier Tree Hugger
- May the Forest Be With You
- Southern Tier Forest Booster
- Southern Tier Forest Voice
- Treelines
- Southern Tier Woodlot Insights
- _____(write in your own).

Please help us choose the best name by voting for your top 3! The steering committee will decide on any tied votes. We'll announce the winning name with our next issue. Deadline for voting is August 1st.

Email your choices to me at: k_hayek@mac.com or leave a voicemail at: 607-865-7201.

Thanks!

Kathleen



Yep! It's me behind that tree!

Steve Speaks...



Volunteer organizations need energized individuals with fresh ideas to implement the changing needs of the organization. The NYFOA state organization and the local chapters have been blessed by having members who are willing to share their talents. I'm pleased to announce some changes to the Southern Tier Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association.

Many thanks to Jerry Michael for his 20+ years of service keeping us informed as our newsletter editor! He is turning over this task to Kathleen Hayek. She and her husband, Ted, have property near Walton, NY. Lucky for us, Kathleen has had experience writing newsletters. The Village Printer, located in Oneonta, NY, will handle printing and mailing. The mailing part of the newsletter is a welcome change to the process.

I encourage any member who wishes to share their experiences with respect to forestry or land ownership to please submit your viewpoint article to Kathleen. Her email address is k_hayek@mac.com.

Ken and Sharon Semanovich have agreed to be Co-Vice Chairs of the SOT chapter. They have property near Walton, NY. They

A Message From Our Chapter Chair

have been very active as members of the Steering Committee. They had a business in New Jersey and have decided to move to Broome County to enjoy their retirement. Ken and Sharon can be reached at aait@stny.rr.com.

Arthur Wagner has been elected as an At-large director to the State Board. He lives in New York City and has property located in Broome County. He was most recently featured in the January/February issue of The New York Forest Owner magazine. Art is enrolled in 480a and is also interested in wildlife management on his property. He can be reached at awagbx@aol.com.

Dave Williams has just received the Chapter Service Award at our recent yearly meeting. He is a Master Forest Owner Volunteer, a member of the steering committee and has served as our chapter-designated member of the NYFOA Board of Directors. He recently planned and organized a Timber Growing Contest Workshop. David richly deserves the SOT Chapter Service Award for 2014. You can reach Dave via email at: kdwillmill@gmail.com.

All members are welcome to our steering committee meetings. We are interested in your ideas for programs. If you want to attend please email me at: Stephen_Kutney@yahoo.com.

I wish you all a pleasant spring and summer!

Steve

About Us



The Southern Tier Chapter News is published for its chapter members of NYFOA, three times a year in early spring, fall, and winter. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private

woodland resources in New York State by promoting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Southern Tier Chapter was founded in 1985 and encompasses Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego counties.

For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit www.nyfoa.org, or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$45 and includes:

subscriptions to this newsletter: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

Southern Tier Chapter Steering Committee

Chair	Steve Kutney	607-862-9152 stephen_kutney@yahoo.com
Co- Vice Chairs	Ken & Sharon Semanovich	607-204-0101 aa@stny.rr.com
Treasurer	Larry Lepak	607-786-5892 llepak@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Program Co Chairs	Kevin Mathers	kjm8@cornell.edu
	Jerry Michael	607-648-2941 GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com
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Members At Large	Gerry Kachmor, Les Lovelass & Gary Sergio	

NY Forest Owners Association Southern Tier Chapter

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