The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2019

Volume 33, Number 4

Morabito's Joint Woods Walk: Western Finger Lakes and Allegany Foothills

by Colette Morabito



All photos by the author

Mike Zagata, NYFOA Director of Organization Development, presents NYFOA information to the group as we digest and enjoy the sunshine.

aturday, September 14, a damp and buggy one at that, we had the pleasure to host 25 people to a woods walk at our beloved Allegany County property. Bruce Robinson, our forever positive thinking forester, briefly explained the present condition of our forest over coffee and light refreshments. Some 20 years ago, we purchased the property which had succumbed to several high-grading operations. However, based on the history of the land, building a road to gain access into the property, establishing a proper landing, a timber sale (the worst of the worst stems were removed), and a good market for low grade lumber, we can truly see regeneration occurring and a healthier forest appearing. Cutting was our most practical method to reverse the effects of high grading. Mr. Robinson's years of first-hand experience in forestry and through his guidance, our woods have been transformed. His clear understanding of forest succession and all the wildlife that prosper there, we can now truly

(Continued on page 5)

14th Annual Dinner Meeting

by Colette Morabito

n Wednesday, October 9 the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA had its Annual Dinner Meeting. And as we can all agree, it was another delicious success. Brad Stevenson of Laurier Catering Company provided all 87 of us with all our favorites: salmon, turkey and all the carefully crafted side dishes of which we all ate our fill. Dessert was a chocolate masterpiece as well! But we cannot proceed without also acknowledging our new Annual Meeting Coordinator, Nick Jensen. The evening proceeded without a hitch. Many thanks Nick, you are hired! Also, we have been spoiled year after year by Cathy Gardner's donation of countless gallons of apple cider that we all savor throughout the evening. She is always thoughtful and generous in this way and it does not go unnoticed.



All photos by the author

Sign-in table. Nick Jensen, standing back center, organized this great evening for us. Thanks to all those who came!

(Continued on page 3)

GAME OF LOGGING, Level 2

October 28, 2019

by Peter Muench

October 28th was possibly the most pleasant day in the month and perfect for a Level 2 GOL held in Ingleside, south of Naples. NYCAMH, (New York Center For Agricultural Medicine and Health) and WFL co-sponsored the program with the GOL trainer, Bill Lindloff.

We met on Steve Finnan's property with the trainer Bill Lindloff from Soren Erikssons Game Of Logging. Each individual broke down their saws, learned hands on maintenance, carburetor adjustments and the techniques for keeping the saws in top shape which is as safe as a saw can be.

The class moved to the woodlot to practiced spring pole cutting and techniques for felling trees. Safely cutting spring poles and direction felling of large trees provided a rating for each individual for completing the class. Photo 1 illustrates the proper technique for releasing the tension in a spring pole. The small tree will snap and sit at approximately a ninety-degree angle, with no tension when cut properly with this method.

We can't emphasize enough, the value of this training and encourage even experienced saw users to complete the two levels of training. There are other Level 1 and 2 classes around the state, and the schedules are found on the NYCAMH website at www.nycamh.org or the GOL website at www.gameoflogging.com.



photo credit Peter Muench

Participants practicing releasing the tension in a spring pole.

About Us

NYFOA Western Finger Lakes 2019/20 Board of Directors

Richard Starr, Director and Chairman

231 Farm View Dr. Macedon, NY 14502 (585) 377-4849 pockaa@aol.com

Dale Schaefer, Director and Vice Chairman

6017 County Road #37 Springwater, NY 14560 (585) 367-2849

Cathy Gardner, Director and Secretary

7400 Corby Road Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 (585) 624-7636 cathygardner10@yahoo.com

Ron Reitz, Director and Treasurer

6086 Canadice Hill Rd. Springwater, NY 14560 (585) 367-2847 rrrlpr@aol.com

David Deuel, Director

3236 Telephone Rd. Caledonia, NY 14423 (585) 226-2952 dsdeuel@gmail.com

Nick Jensen, Director and Annual Meeting Coordinator

51 E. Market Street P.O. Box 1424 Corning, NY 14830 (607) 936-3785 Ext 156 jensenn@jgua.com

Greg Lessord, Director and Chapter-Designated Representative to the State Board

449 Hubbell Rd. Spencerport, NY 14559 (585) 703-8513 buckslayergs@hotmail.com

Jim Minor, Director and WFL Newsletter Publisher

22 Bryn Mawr Road Rochester, NY 14624 (585) 247-7069 jcminor@rochester.rr.com

Colette Morabito, Director, Program Coordinator and Empire Farm Days Coordinator 1100 Main St

East Rochester, NY 14445 (585) 248-0654 colettemorabito57@gmail.com

Peter Muench, Director and Outdoor Activities Coordinator P.O. Box 473

Naples, NY 14512 (585) 736-7172 munchme.444@gmail.com

Mike Seager, Director and Electronic Communications Coordina-

P.O. Box 1281 Pittsford, NY 14534 (585) 414-6511 seager_michael@yahoo.com The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the youngsters of today. For information on becoming an NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. 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 to statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level \$50-\$99; Sponsor level \$100-\$249; Benefactor \$250-\$499; and Steward \$500 or more are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.

For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe **to our email list** by sending a blank email to nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org

Note: The deadline for our Spring 2020 issue is February 15th

The St. Catherine's of Sienna Community Center provided the perfect setting and space for all of us to enjoy an evening full of exceptional food and service, raffles and door prizes, as well as catching up with friends.



WFL Chapter President, Dick Starr. Thank you for all you do, Dick.

The business portion of the meeting called for the election of the directors. New to the WFL board is David Deuel who has a wealth of knowledge in forestry, agriculture, and maple syrup. He kindly donated his homegrown Maple Syrup to the chapter which we sold at the dinner meeting, all profits going into the WFL coffers. We are pleased to welcome David to the board and all the expertise he will bring to the position. The Board was also treated to very high quality and practical NYFOA travel mugs from our amazing WFL President, Dick Starr. He con-



Tony Ross and his ticket tumbler, used in drawings.



Dale Schaefer and Mike Seager, in background, raffling off door prizes. Thank you to all those who donated to this highly anticipated, yearly event.

tinues to lead our chapter with great care, a sense of humor, and intelligence. We are blessed to have him as our leader. The chapter thrives under his direction, although he is too humble to admit that. Thanks Dick for all you do.

The winner of the 50/50 Raffle was Jim Felice.

Colette Morabito received the Chapter Service Award. More about Colette's contributions on page 7. She will receive her plague at the spring NYFOA state meeting.

Our first ever, fund raising event for a pair of quality DryShod Boots was won by our very own member, Debbie Holtz. (see article on page 7).



Congratulations to Dick Vance. 2019 winner of Stihl Chainsaw.

(Continued on page 4)

WHITE DEER TOUR Seneca Army Depot

Romulus NY October 19, 2019 by Peter Muench

What has four legs, is white, but could just as often be brown? Well, for seventeen people who toured the Seneca Army Depot, all white, white-tailed deer herd, on October 19th, we learned and observed the answer for ourselves.

The weather was perfect for the guided bus tour of the old depot and the wildlife managed by Seneca White Deer. This non-profit, works to preserve the history of the Depot and manage the special wildlife living within the fences. The military history of the depot was discussed through the tour and an inspection of the inside of one of the 519 munitions bunkers illustrated the importance of the military uses of the base.



All photos by the author





A bona-fide resident of the Depot's Deer Haven Park.

The white deer we observed are not albinos who are sterile and have pink eyes, but rather leucistic, a natural variation of the white tail deer with brown eyes. A recessive gene for lack of pigmentation, along with normal breeding in the enclosed population, combine to produce this unique herd. We walked to a beaver dam, watched a bald eagle soaring above it's nest, and some turkeys enjoying the warm fall sun, seemingly indifferent to our group.

The Seneca White Deer website (www.senecawhitedeer.org) provides information and tour schedules. It was a very educational morning. This is a great way to enjoy an outing and experience some of the Seneca Depot and Finger Lakes History.

It's worth checking out.

(Annual Dinner, continued from page 3)

Dan Ras, Territory Manager NE for Stihl, has again donated a certificate to receive a Stihl chainsaw and safety equipment as our traditional fundraising feature at the dinner meeting. Dick Vance was the lucky winner. Congratulations to Dick. No time like the present to start your TSI.

We were glad to hear from Eileen Schaefer for an update on WFL's Firewood for Charity. The wood was donated to the Rotary Camp Onseyawa in Seneca County. Kudos to all those who volunteer. If you would like to participate, please contact Eileen to RSVP. Many hands make the work light but in the case of firewood, warmer.

There were many wonderful, donated door prizes to be appreciated. Everyone who was able to have their number picked by Mike Seager and Dale Schaefer from the lottery, took home a treasure. We are lucky to have both Mike and Dale's participation in this endeavor. This event moved quickly and there were many smiles from the winners. As always, our sincere thanks to all those who kindly contributed to the door prize portion of the evening.

Dennis Money, President of the Seneca White Deer Inc. was

our speaker for the evening. What an amazing story he had to tell. A dedicated conservationist, Dennis is doing his part to educate the public about the value of wildlife and their need for habitat. He has personally worked on projects involving Peregrine Falcons and River Otters. One of six founders of the reserve, Dennis feels the White Tail Deer project has been his most challenging yet. Located at the Seneca Army Depot, Deer Haven Park, LLC has a herd of white deer. These deer are not to be confused with an albino deer. Leucism, a partial loss of pigmentation, is often mistaken for albinism. However, the recessive white gene of this herd makes it a unique phenomenon within the confines of the Depot.

We were given the history of the land, the tremendous undertaking of the war project, and the insights as to how it was all accomplished in record time. It was simply amazing to listen to. He provided great visuals for every aspect of his presentation. The White Deer seem so magical and extraordinary. It was a real inspiration to hear his point of view of the land, the extensive conservation practices, and the future plans for these curious creatures.

Peter Muench, who is our Outdoor Activities Coordinator, set up a visit to the Depot for WFL members on Saturday, October 19. Please see his article on above. observe our forest transforming into a viable ecosystem. Birds have returned, the deer have plenty to eat without destroying all the regeneration, and Bruce taught us some hands-on skills to release the best seedlings to regenerate the forest—equipped simply with some hand clippers.

It was decided that following our timber sale, we simply remove the logs and keep the tops on the ground. This enabled the seed source a place from which to sprout away from browsing deer. Protected seedlings have an opportunity to grow above the browse line. Releasing your best seedlings to regenerate the forest is a far easier task than a timber sale which requires heavy equipment for the removal of forked trees and low-value stems. Thus, working with a forest at its youngest possible age is by far, a much simpler task and can make all the difference. This is where your hand clippers come in. As you walk through your woods, find those seedlings that are of a species and value to your forest goals. Look closely at the sapling and what surrounds it. Are the other plants around it being browsed? Is there one dominate species? What opportunity can I give this seedling, using the existing plants as cover? And, look closely at the sapling itself, the individual you want to release. Is it forked? Is it a species that will compliment the plant diversity of your forest stand? Is it unique? Will it become a future food source to the forest creatures? Bruce easily and with such confidence topped off Beech saplings at chest height preventing them from dominating a small oak sapling. He snipped branches and twigs from this tender oak sapling that might eventually cause the sapling to fork. This simple action will allow the sapling to have a single leader as it reaches toward the sun and forest canopy.

Anyone can accomplish this task. Although it does help to



Bruce Robinson explains the intricacies of managing high-graded wood lots.



Mr. Robinson explaining how to release saplings with hand clippers.

have some knowledge of tree species! I have absolutely no desire or confidence in wielding a chainsaw. However, hand clippers and loppers I can manage. I am actively participating in the Thinning (mechanical) activities of our wood lot. But I am also releasing the trees I want to assist. Releasing is targeted thinning. You need to assess all the information around you. Be diligent in observing the biology that surrounds you in your woods. I continually repeat the forest mantra: "Am I considering the whole forest with every action I take?" Fortunately, it does not require years of education. A few hours in the woods with Bruce is all you need. He assures us that the results of simply using hand clippers will most certainly be seen in time. Amen to that

My husband and I recently celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. Me, always the practical soul, bought us "Him and Her" hand clippers following our woods walk. We never leave the cabin without them. A pocket guide of Northeastern Tree Species is in my other pocket!

As Bruce so eloquently stated (also known as a Bruce-ism):

"You need as much time to correct a situation in your woods as you took the time to create it."

Our thanks to each of you who came from near and far to share the day in our woods and around the campfire eating lunch together. The sun was a welcome surprise for lunch and visiting. Bruce is always a pleasure to learn from and an inspiration. He has certainly made all the difference in our understanding and appreciation of all things forestry. Maybe someday he will even write a book!



photo credit: Greg Lessord

View overlooking the escarpment from the State Board meeting site.

What's New at the State Level

by Greg Lessord

Saturday, September 28, 2019

As the WFL chapter representative to the state board I typically travel to Syracuse several times a year usually meeting at ESF or the Onandaga Co.unty CCE office.

Starting this year in an effort to become more closely connected to and relate on a more personal level with the general membership, the state board has now adopted a policy to conduct one meeting per year in conjunction with a chapter sponsored event.

For the inaugural event, chair Jason Post and secretary Laura Pissari of the Capital District chapter graciously offered to host it. On Saturday, September 28th we met at John Boyd Thacher State Park not far from Albany from 10:00 am til 3:00 pm for morning coffee and light lunch surrounded by their featured presentation "Managing Your Woodlot For Wildlife".

The state board conducted its meeting immediately following.

The cast of professionals included:

Dr. Scott Stoleson, Research Wildlife Biologist with Forest Service's Northern Research Station, Pa. who presented "The Kindest Cut: Early Successional Patches as Critical Habitat for Songbirds and Other Wildlife".

Dr. Walt Carson, Associate Professor of Biology, Pittsburgh University who presented "White-tailed Deer Impacts on Forest Regeneration and Will There be Another Northern Hardwood Forest".

Andy Weik, Wildlife Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society and Woodcock Society, NYS who presented "Forest Management for Woodcock and Grouse and Young Forest Initiative".

All their presentations were fascinating and very informative. If you have the opportunity to attend one of these at a function near you it will be well worth your time.

The CDC event also included a chainsaw raffle, silent auction

and a door prize. Attendance required a \$25.00 registration fee but was well worth it and helped pay for use of the park's beautiful visitor center meeting room for the day which sits atop a 100's of feet tall escarpment with endless views of the valley below.

The state board has requested the WFL chapter host the fall meeting for 2020. Our board will be working on the details after the 1st of the new year. Stay tuned for future updates.

A large portion of the state meeting revolved around the hot button issue garnering much attention these days which is the size and placement of solar and wind farms. Namely their potential to affect 1000's of acres of prime farm land and forest land for better or worse. For one member's thoughts on solar arrays be sure to read David Deuel's article in the Summer 2019 issue of our newsletter titled "Saving our farmland... and forests!!". The intent of the board is to try and formulate a formal NYFOA position statement understanding that the views, needs and desires of our membership are diverse and one size may not fit all.

If you have thoughts, ideas, concerns or questions please feel free to contact your state representatives. Your feedback will go a long ways to help draft the best position statement possible to help educate and guide our membership with their needs.

The board's contact information is on the inside cover of each issue of the Forest Owner magazine or on the website. (nyfoa.org)

And lastly a new line of NYFOA hats, shirts and tote bags were showcased and for sale at the event. As of this writing, Blair was working on the website link to order merchandise online. Hopefully by the time this has gone to print it will be up and running.

DEC Stumpage Price Reports:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5259.html

2019 Chapter Service Award Recipient: Colette G. Morabito

The Board of Directors for the Western Finger Lakes Chapter is pleased to announce that Colette G. Morabito has been awarded this year's Chapter Service Award. This honor is given to a chapter member who has volunteered for the benefit of not only NYFOA but for outreach to forest owners in Western New York. Colette has been a member of NYFOA since 1998 after she and her husband purchased a woodlot in Mendon, NY. Mark Gooding, Senior Forester for the NYS DEC, guided the Morabitos to join NYFOA for educational, social, and proper forestry related stewardship management.



Colette Morabito

In 2009, Colette attended and received certification as a Master Forest Owner Volunteer through Cornell Cooperative/Cornell University. Recently, she has just completed her Master Naturalist Program training at the Arnot Forest--again through Cornell Cooperative/Cornell University. Like the MFO program, the Master Naturalist is a science-based training program to assist volunteers in educating others about natural resources, participating in conservation management projects, and continuing education. Colette and her husband David are also the State Representatives on behalf of NYFOA for the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Council. This Council makes recommendations to the NYS Commissioners and Governor addressing critical invasive species issues that affect the citizens of New York involving water, soil, air, agriculture and forest ecosystems.

As a Board Member of WFL, Colette writes articles for the newsletter; is the coordinator for the chapter's outreach at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls; is the General Meeting Coordinator to bring in speakers for our educational seminars, and has hosted numerous woods walks at their family forest retreat in Allegany County.

DRYSHOD Boot Raffle Winner!

by Greg Lessord

And the winner is DEBBIE HOLTZ! Congratulations!

At the WFL annual dinner meeting October 9th we picked a young lady named Madi from the crowd who had a very honest looking face and she picked the winning ticket from Tony Ross' now famous ticket tumbler.



photo credit: Colette Morabito

DryShod Raffle Organizer Greg Lessord with winner Debbie Holtz

A HUGE thank you to DRYSHOD USA and its founder Jim Donahue who have shown great support to NYFOA. When you're ready for boots- tall boots, small boots, big boots, warm boots, work boots, hunting boots- please give DRYSHOD USA a try.

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. One hundred percent of the proceeds goes directly to the WFL chapter bank account so we can continue to provide all our members with the great services you have come to expect and rely on

Colette has always believed that joining NYFOA was the catalyst to learn proper forestry management for a woodlot. It does not matter why one wishes to own a woodlot—recreation, investment, timber management, hunting, or just connecting with nature. NYFOA will give the guidance and support for whatever objectives a forest owner may have. Colette enjoys being a member of this organization and volunteering with so many wonderful people. We wish to thank Colette for all her service to WFL.

Welcome New Members

Linda Auble	Hemlock	NY
Lisa Gustavson	Rochester	NY
George & Allison Laws	Montpose	NY
Gretchen Lee	Park City	UT
Loius Romano	Churchville	NY
Mark Schenkel	Pittsford	NY
Daniel Tresohlavy	Rochester	NY

Please note, this issue (as well as previous issues) of the *Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner* are also available on-line (with all photos in color) in the WFL section of the NYFOA web site, www.nyfoa.org.

Also note that other chapters' newsletters are also available for reading in their chapter's sections on the NYFOA web site.

○ Upcoming Events ○

Note: For possible updates to these meetings and to learn about events in neighboring chapters and across the state go to our NYFOA website's EVENTS section at

https://www.nyfoa.org/events

WFL Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 is the future date of our next Western Finger Lakes Board of Directors Meeting. All NYFOA members are welcome. The pre-meeting meal begins at 6:15 p.m. with our WFL Chapter meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Please join us at the American Hotel located at the stop light in Lima, NY. No RSVP needed, just come!

New York State Farm Show

The New York Farm Show 2020 is scheduled for **February 27-29** at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. There is plenty of free parking and shuttle buses running each day, all day, through the extensive parking areas. Be sure to visit the NYFOA exhibits and booth. Master Forest Owner Volunteers are available to speak with as well. NYFOA has an extensive calendar of speakers to choose from throughout the three days. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Farm Show website at: www.newyorkfarmshow.com/en/home.html. For a complete list of the 3 days of forestry seminars, please visit the NYFOA web site at https://www.nyfoa.org/events/statewide-events/2020-nys-farm-show

March General Meeting - Bats

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Location: United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471

We have the pleasure to be hosting Lynn A. Braband, from the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program of Cornell University. Mr. Bradand is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. He will be discussing the survey of bat species which occur in New York State, including their habitat requirements, and how to attract bats. The history and status of white-nose syndrome will be presented as well. He will also explain how best to respond to a bat in the house! Bats, the only mammals naturally capable of flight, pollinators, and major consumers of insects and pests. Come and hear about their countless benefits to our communities and ecosystem. Please join us as we get up to date information on these forest friends and disavow their unfavorable reputation for malevolence. Hope to see you there. As always, light refreshments will be available

May General Meeting – Landowner Liability Protection

Date and Time: To Be Determined (See our upcoming Spring newsletter ca. Mid-March or the Events section of NYFOA,org).

Location: United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471

Please join Board Member Nick Jensen as he leads a discussion on the important topic of Landowner Liability Protection. Have you ever wondered if you and your loved ones are adequately protected in the litigious society we live in? Owning land poses its own set of risks and the rules can vary depending on what State your property is in. We want to make sure that our passion for the land does not inadvertently place our other assets at risk in the event of a lawsuit. Questions to be discussed:

Do I have to post my property? What are the rules about posting?

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(Upcoming Events, Continued from page 8)

- Do I have to put warning signs on my tree stands?
- Do I have the correct insurance coverage?
- Is my property titled properly?
- What if I have guests use the property for recreational purposes?
- Do the rules change if I charge fees to use the property?
- What happens if someone gets hurt on my property? Will it change depending on if that person is a guest, trespasser, contractor, or logger?

This session will be followed by an opportunity for Questions and Answers to this important landowner topic, as well as light refreshments for all.

Questions: 1-800-836-3566

Classifieds

Wanted: Woodlot and Related Activity Photos. We're building a small collection of photos for publicity and similar NYFOA purposes. If you have photos from woodswalks, woodlot activities, NYFOA activities, etc. and are willing to share, please e-mail them to Jim Minor, jcminor@rochester.rr.com.

Tree Tubes for Sale - Member(/Non-Member) price: 4' (\$5.00/\$5.50); 4' w/ stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 5' (\$5.50/\$6.00); 5' w/ stake (\$6.50/\$7.00). Proceeds benefit WFL chapter. (585) 367-2847.

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: Space permitting, the WFL Board of Directors allows members to place free classified ads in this newsletter



Wait! Instead of recycling this issue of the Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner, why not pass it on to a friend/neighbor to give them a hint at what they're missing by not being a member of NYFOA.

Join and/or Give

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests. Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of The New York Forest Owner, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings. Note: For Gift Memberships, list the recipient's information (must not have been a NYFOA member for 3 years) directly below. () I/We ownacres of woodland. () I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives: Name:Address:	Regular Annual Dues: () Student \$15 (Please provide copy of student ID) () Individual/Family \$45 () 1 Year Gift Membership \$25 Giftor's (NYFOA member) name Multi-Year Dues: () 2-yr \$80 () 3-yr \$120 Additional Contribution: () Supporter \$1-\$49 () Contributor \$50-\$99 () Sponsor \$100-\$249 () Benefactor \$250-\$499 () Steward \$500 or more () Subscription to Northern Woodlands \$15 (4 issues) NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and as such your contribution my be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
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The Western Finger Lakes **Forest Owner**



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Winter 2019

Mark Your Calendar



Presenter Dennis Money (left) and WFL dinner meeting guests discussing Deer Haven Park at our 14th Annual Dinner Meeting. Full story starting on page 1.

- **Tuesday, January 14, 2020** WFL Board of Directors Meeting
- February 27-29, 2929 New York State Farm Show
- **Tuesday, March 10, 2020** March General Meeting Bats
- **Date TBD** May General Meeting Landowner Liability Protection

* See inside for details

Note: For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe to our email list by sending a blank email to-

nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org