

# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2023

Volume 37, Number 2

## Forestry for the Birds

### Forest Management for Wildlife

*By Colette Morabito*

We had a fabulous turnout at our General Meeting on April 4, 2023; there were over 40 people in attendance! Forester Emily Bonk and Wildlife Biologist Mike Palermo, who are both from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 8, led the presentation. They delivered a compelling and in-depth presentation for creating significant wildlife habitat. Emily focused on the different forest structures and successional age that are best suited for numerous wildlife species. Mike offered plenty of examples of native plants to encourage planting in your woodlot which greatly contributes to the myriad of species co-existing at each successional stage on your land. Acquiring new, up-to-date information on forest management practices, with wildlife at the focus, proved to be a highly regarded topic for WFL.

As you know, 70% of forested land is privately owned in New York State. Although our individual property delineations are well marked and posted, the plants and animals thriving in our woodlots have no regard for the fragmentation of the land. Therefore, the size of the habitat for a species to thrive is an important focus. Your forest management goals may be quite different from those of your neighbor. Good relationships matter in order to provide the most successful habitat for a diverse wildlife spectrum. By offering different stages of forest succession or age categories on your property, this strategy will certainly provide wildlife with the most opportunities for success. This type of management creates a diverse plant community, plenty of food for wildlife, suitable cover for protection, and better opportunities for raising their young.



Mike Palermo and Emily Bonk team up to discuss forest management for wildlife

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# WFL Annual Dinner Returns

By Nick Jensen

## SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies and Gentlemen, after a pandemic induced hiatus, WE ARE BACK!

Please save the date

**Tuesday, OCTOBER 3rd**

**6:00 — 9:00 pm**

for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA. It will be held at the St. Catherine of Siena Church, 26 Mendon-Ionia Rd. Mendon, NY 14506. Dinner will be provided by our friends at Laurier Catering. We will have a guest speaker (to be announced), door prizes, and a raffle or two. Please come on out for some food and fun with friends. We look forward to seeing you!

## About Us

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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 visit [nyfoa.org](http://nyfoa.org), or contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership for an individual or family is \$55 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. Two-year memberships are available for \$100, three-year memberships for \$150, and Lifetime memberships for \$500.

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

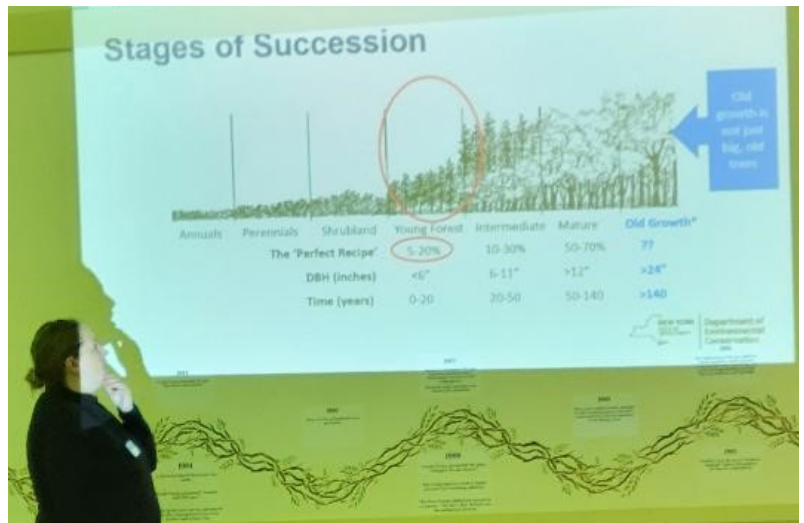
For event reminders and late-breaking news, subscribe **to our email list** by sending a blank email to [nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)

**Note:** The deadline for the Fall 2023 issue is August 15

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Plants provide both food and cover. Many examples were shared on promoting native plant species for the health and wellbeing of birds, insects, and mammals alike. Some examples include: Hazelnut, Nannyberry, Silky Dogwood, Wild grape, Blueberries, and Spicebush. There are not many native conifers in our area, and many are under threat from pests or disease. The discussion on planting native species of conifers included less common species such as Cedars, Tamarack, and Spruce. It was noted that pine plantations do not offer proper diversity in forest structure, nor the complexity of multiple species required for native wildlife. Mike was very clear when he said that Oaks are the biggest winners in the “Food for Forest Wildlife” category, due to their hard mast. Oaks are also a “host for many native lichen, fungus, and invertebrates”. Do not forget that some bats nest in tree bark cavities. Pollinators are best suited to forests when there are plenty of diverse plants such as Willow, Red Maple, and fruit trees. Again, diversity in your woodlot is best.

Many ideas were discussed in “What You Can Do” to improve your forest: for instance, feathering stand edges is an important conservation technique in managing for wildlife. Feathering simply means making the transition from forest to shrubland more gradual, which creates a more hospitable edge for local wildlife. If you have a commercial thinning, try to keep a di-



Emily explains how the landscape changes over time.

verse number of tree species in your forest. It is always preferable to not focus on cutting just one specific species. Consider keeping cavity trees and snags for wildlife. Dead wood on the ground is also important for soil health. Brush piles add habitat for many small mammals and birds. Many types of seedlings will have a better chance for success in brush piles away from nibbling deer.

Controlling invasive species was the most repeated mantra from our two experts. Regardless of the stage of your forest’s succession, it is imperative that you try to keep invasives to a minimum. If you have streams, springs, and vernal pools in and around your property, these areas should be managed for their great contributions to the life of your forest.

Lastly, the reality is that many factors can affect our work in the woods. Finances, difficult neighbors, invasive species of all sorts, not enough time or helpers to get the job done properly, too many deer, etc. However, consider what is reasonable, what activity will have the greatest impact, keep notes on your work and the date it was accomplished, and most of all, be realistic. Our personal goals for our properties are certainly varied. But even the smallest things that we accomplish will not go unnoticed by even the smallest of creatures. Keep up the good work forest owners. Just a little effort can go a very long way toward the success of your forest succession!

# Mobile Sawmills: An Interview With Sawyer Chris Benedict

*by Greg Lessord*

I first learned of Chris Benedict while asking fellow NYFOA members if they knew of or used a mobile sawmill service. David Deuel responded that he had a sawyer coming soon and I could stop over and see him in action and talk with him to which I jumped at the opportunity. That was the winter of 2017-2018. Since then Kathy and I have worked with Chris ( often with his wife Jenna helping ) on six occasions to date. Four times he brought his mills to our place and twice we trailered small volumes of logs to his family's farm.

**Greg:** *Chris, you're a school teacher by day and a sawyer almost any other time the weather permits. That's quite a variation of theme. How did you decide becoming a sawyer was in the cards? What subject(s) do you teach? How long have you been engaged in both careers?*

Yes, I teach high school biology and Earth Science. My wife and I bought an old, Victorian farmhouse. The floors were trashed, as the house had been carved up into apartments. But in houses of this vintage, there's no subfloor; they were just tongue-and-groove planks in very rough shape. When we priced our first hardwood floor at a store, my wife and I were shocked. At the same time, a contractor neighbor had a mill that he no longer had time to run. He offered to let me borrow it for a month to see if it was something I wanted to possibly buy. We said yes, of course, and the rest is history!

**Greg:** *You are set up nicely to saw at your place and also take one or the other of your sawmills on the road. What percentage of your sawing is at customer sites?*

Most of my jobs are portable jobs-people often do not have the equipment to move and load logs. Some do not have a trailer to bring logs to me either.

**Greg:** *You're located in Caledonia, NY. What is your service area? Is there a mileage radius you stay within or does the scope of the job have a bearing on travel distance?*

I will travel anywhere. I have people call occasionally from the Hudson Valley, but there are sawyers closer to them than I! I have a travel fee then mill by the hour, so the travel fee increases with distance so my fuel, time, and wear and tear are somewhat covered. I have been out west to Angola-on-the-Lake and Lewiston, and east over to the Ithaca area. Most of my jobs are Livingston, Monroe, Genesee, and Ontario counties.

**Greg:** *Chris, please describe your sawmills and their capabilities. You've had both mills out to our property.*

I have two mills: a Wood-Mizer LT28 manual mill and a Wood-Mizer LT70 hydraulic. Both load logs from ground level up onto the cutting deck.

The LT28 loads logs with an electric winch and cable. Once on the deck, logs are clamped and rotated manually, with peaveys. Boards and slabs are removed by hand. Manual toe boards can level tapered logs. It has a 25HP gas engine.

The LT70 loads logs with hydraulic loading arms. Once on the deck, logs are rotated and clamped hydraulically, using my operator joysticks. Logs are leveled hydraulically as well. A board dragback feature can deliver lumber or slabs to a table on one end of the mill. The debarker on the LT70 is ideal for logs that have rocks, mud, or ice embedded in the

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bark. It has a 55HP Yanmar diesel engine, so the LT70 is quite a bit faster than the LT28.



Chris Benedict on site at our house with the LT70 hydraulic sawmill

**Greg:** *Kathy and I have a loader tractor with log grapples and load directly onto your log deck. We both pull slabwood aside and stack for firewood. We position our two flatbed trailers near your mill and remove boards and sort and stack them. I remove the sawdust buildup. Before you arrive I've already labeled the ends of logs. At a glance you know that log is destined to become: 2x4, 2x6, 1" board, 2" board, 6x6 beam and so on. What factors decide which sawmill goes to a jobsite? What should customers know about the sawing process, what is expected of them, site setup requirements, etc.?*

The LT28 goes on jobs for people who have smaller diameter wood (they're typically making charcuterie boards or crafting materials) or jobs with relatively small and/or few logs. If logs are less than 12" diameter, I bring up the LT28 as an option when we talk. It has a lower hourly rate but is much

slower. The advantage is that I walk with the head, so I can see quality of the clamping, flaws in the logs, and am right there to adjust. Most customers either have relatively large logs or many logs, so bringing the LT70 typically ends up being faster, which means the increased hourly cost of the LT70 "washes" and the job is done much faster. That saves customers money.

In terms of what customers should know, I always talk with the customer and ask for pictures of the logs and the area where we'll be cutting. That answers a lot of questions! The mills are each about 25' long, not counting the pickup truck, so I do need room to get to the logs and to set up the machine. The area needs to be nearly flat-the mills have outriggers to support the deck during cutting and a non-level sawmill involves the head rolling to the front or the back of the machine, which is a safety issue. One of the most important things for customers to realize is that the mill takes about 10-15 minutes to set up. If the logs are scattered around the property, that time to break down the mill and move it to each individual log really adds up. If at all possible, logs should be stacked or placed like this: |||||III. Both mills load on the driver's side (as pulled by the truck), so when they're placed like this, I simply pull up to the log stack and start loading. Subsequent logs are rolled with peaveys for loading. That is only half of the planning, however. Customers also need to know where they'll be stacking and stickering their lumber for drying. Can the logs be moved near that location so you only have to stack them once? Is the base of the drying stack elevated off the ground and perfectly level so your boards don't twist during drying? Is the stack oriented so the prevailing west wind flows through the stack and doesn't hit just the end? Do you have stickers cut and ready? If you do, CUT MORE; there should be a sticker every 18" or so. Putting two stickers per layer of drying lumber is a recipe for disappointment and wavy lumber.

**Greg:** *Are there any common misconceptions about what a sawmill can and can't do?*



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1. The mills have a capacity limit, especially in terms of live edge slabs. There are two blade guide rollers that support the blade and dictate a maximum width. The LT28 can make about a 25" wide, double live edge slab if the log is perfectly straight. It's about 27" for the LT70. They can mill lumber from much larger logs: 32" for the LT28 and 36" or a little more for the LT70.
2. Sawmills cannot make perfectly clear lumber from logs with a lot of branches! Similarly, you cannot get character lumber from perfectly straight, branch-free logs.
3. You cannot make a 10x10 beam from an 8" diameter log.
4. Sawmills produce rough-cut lumber, not finished lumber. Whatever we make needs to have enough extra material built into each dimension to work off during planing, jointing, edge profiling, and sanding. If dirt or a rock knocks a tooth out of set, there can be tooth marks that need to be removed.
5. Nails travel in flocks. If you know there is a nail in a tree, there is probably more than one. Most sawyers charge a blade fee when a blade is destroyed by hitting metal.
6. These sawmills are horizontal bandsaws, not chainsaws. If you have gigantic knobs sticking off of the log, we will need to trim them down with a chainsaw first, as they prevent loading, rolling, and cutting.

**Greg:** *Let's get into the mechanics of sawing. As a sawyer how do you read a log, decide which face to open up first? That first cut will ultimately determine the best quality of boards it can yield.*

Imperfections on a log irritate me and often interfere with log handling during cutting-knobs get caught during rolling, for example. Therefore, I gravitate towards cutting off the ugliest face first. But it all depends on what the customer wants and how the log behaves during cutting. If we're making boards, I will cut off the ugliest face first, rotate 90°, cut, rotate again, cut, rotate a last time, then cut down through the stack. This puts the ugly defect(s) on the sides of the final boards. Some logs show stress during cutting, bowing up off the cutting deck or "banana-ing." If that is happening, I rotate 180° from the first cut and try to balance sapwood removal to release the tension, then sneak up on the final desired dimension by removing material equally on opposite sides. If we're grade sawing, we will flip to the desired face as we cut.

**Greg:** *I'm always amazed how you find a board I didn't know existed. I think I'm moving a slab to the firewood pile and you tell me you'll cut a 2x4 or a 1x6 or such from that. I see you as a log whisperer of sorts in that respect. Are there SOP's for sawing a log to maximize yield?*

It depends on the customer. I have a few customers that prefer to have thick offcuts so they don't have to mess with 1x4s or 1x6s from the jacket boards. Some customers can use anything I can cut out of the log. Knowing which style of cutting is desired comes from talking with the customer ahead of time and adjusting based on feedback that customer provides during cutting. That's why I prefer the customer being there to help with the cutting; adjustments can be made in a timely manner if a customer wants a different face, to cut a different thickness/width once they see what's coming off the mill, or even if they want to tip a log off the mill because it has an inner defect that makes it unusable. It's the customer's time and money, but if I can cut an extra board or three out of a jacket board that they can use, then the customer gets something from waste.

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**Greg:** *Let's talk about board quality. Cup, warp and twist are all common ailments with boards. We've seen the lumber at big box chains and lumber yards that were sawn by big commercial mills and kiln dried yet a fair number of those are nearly unusable on down to better off as firepit wood. Are there sawing methods that will minimize those issues?*

Yes-sometimes. Wood is going to move as it dries and sometimes you cannot stop it. That's why stacking with a flat base and stickering every 18" are critical. People wet wood down during steam bending, right? While the boards are green off the mill, they are wet, quite flexible, and they WILL take on the shape of the drying stack. Strapping the stack and adding a lot of weight on top are tips to maximize quality of the boards. Boards from logs with branches need special care during cutting: there should be a significant addition to the dimensions we cut, as the drying gets messy around the endgrain present in knots. Thin cuts are also more prone to deformation, as there is less material to retain dimensions. A log with sweep, multiple bends, and branches will likely become firewood, either before I cut it with the mill or after it doesn't dry very well, so cut it to firewood!

While some framing boards at the big box stores are stamped kiln-dried, the standards for construction sticks are different from the requirements for building furniture from hardwoods. Pine 2x material might be kiln-dried to 15% in a big batch kiln. If you build with 15% MC hardwood, that's not quite considered even air dried in western New York, and you are risking some major cracking in your project as the wood does its final shrinking in your house. I don't want to insult a customer's logs, but I also have to be honest about logs that I think will end up wasting the customer's money for milling.

Quartersawing is the best way to ensure flat lumber, but it is the most time-consuming sawing method, requires large, nearly perfect logs, and produces the most waste. I don't see candidates for quartersawing very often.

**Greg:** *Say you just cut an order for someone. Immediately how should they handle and store that lumber for best board results?*

Stack and sticker it as soon as possible! In the hot summer, fungal growth can begin within days, especially if the wood is wet and warm. Put stickers 18" apart-or less-and ratchet strap the pile over a vertical column of stickers. Every week or so, tighten the ratchet straps-you'll be surprised how much the stack shrinks as it loses water. If the stack is outside, cover it with metal roofing and weigh it down. Don't let rain and snow hit it, if possible. If the stack is inside, you very well may need to add fans to push air through the stack, especially if you see mold beginning to grow on the wood.

**Greg:** *Freshly felled logs (green wood) saw easy and sawblades stay sharper longer. How about logs that have sat around for awhile, maybe a year or more? What differences do you see in ease of sawing and ultimate board quality?*

It depends a lot on where they were and how they were treated. If you seal the ends of the logs, it minimizes end checking. I have seen logs that were out for a year end-checked all the way through the log, from end-to-end. If the logs were in a stack, they can often last for years with the ends sealed, though some species are very prone to bug damage in the sapwood, or blue staining. Some species, like maple, can gain fantastic spalting if not left too long. If logs have been around for awhile, they often are harder, so sawing is slower and it's dustier. I have cut logs that were years old and still produced fantastic boards. But it's an urban legend, in my opinion, that "seasoning" logs before milling is somehow ideal.

**Greg:** *Previously you mentioned log diameter capacities of the sawmills. Given not all building/ hobby projects require long*

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boards and end cuts may go to waste, what are the minimum and maximum log length capabilities of the mills?

Minimum log lengths are just under 30" long. Maximum lengths are right around 20-21'. I have cut 24' beams one time, so it can be done, but keep in mind that carrying, stacking, and drying 20' long material is tough! You're typically not saving time cutting logs to 21' long, with plans to cut the boards down to 10' lengths later, after drying.

**Greg:** *Going a step further down that road, for myself any exposed wood of furniture, cabinetry, trim and the like that has perfectly clear wood might as well be painted. I'm drawn to knots, worm holes, tap holes, stains and such. Wood that shows character, maybe tells a story. Do you have a customer base that seeks out your services just for those reasons?*

Sure! It's about 50/50: some want only character and are bored by straight grain. Others despise any knots whatsoever. It's highly dependent on taste and, sometimes, on the project the customer is doing.

**Greg:** *Lastly, I noticed some additional equipment and a heated structure that screams "kiln". What other services do you provide?*

I have a couple of solar kilns, which I use to dry my own lumber for later sale. They work very well from spring through fall. I also have a portable planing rig, which has a diesel generator, a 20" planer, and a chip sucker. I can go on-site to help customers plane through any lumber stacks that are at least air dried. We can set up anywhere outside, which is far easier than working in most people's wood shops, including my own.

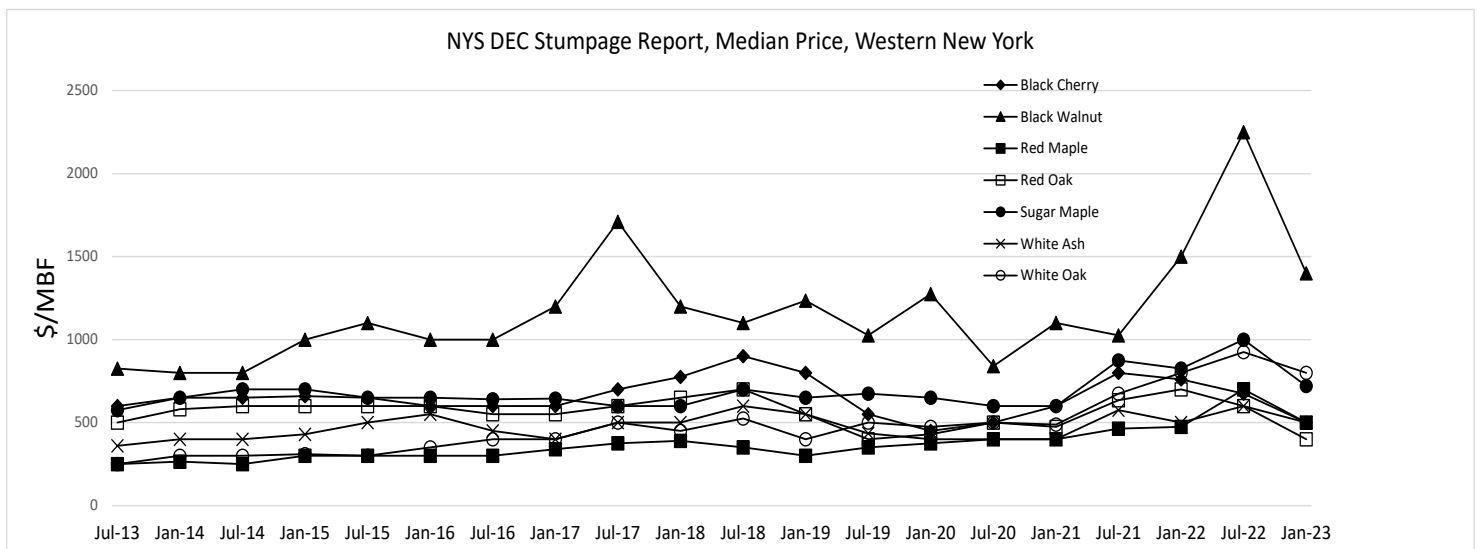
**Greg:** *Chris, thank you for your time and the wealth of knowledge you provided for our membership. And thanks to you and your wife Jenna for the great sawmilling services you've provided to Kathy and I.*

You may reach out to Chris via:

Benedict Sawmilling, LLC

Phone: 5857334377

Email: benedict\_christopher@msn.com





# See the Forest

*By David and Colette Morabito*

Our most recent General Meeting for 2023 was held Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Henrietta Public Library. It was of particular interest to our membership. Susan Hughes-Smith, a Monroe County Legislator in District 14, as well as a forest owner, provided us with an overview of the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**, also known as the NYS Climate Act/Law. It is a bold and ambitious initiative by the State to reduce emissions, establish social action and social justice, through the transition of obtaining a carbon neutral New York State. A Carbon Neutral Economy is the goal by 2050. And what you might predict is one of the most powerful resources to get us there--forest land.

The NYS Climate Law may have beneficial attributes for forest property owners in the State of New York. Our experiences have been that agricultural lands were treated differently than forested property. Our federal and state agencies, for instance the USDA and NYSDEC, have programs to assist forest owners with guidance and knowledge. However, the funding has not been treated the same as with farmers and agricultural lands.

We initially believed that the determination by the State of New York to now look at forests as an asset was a benefit rather than "a bunch of trees growing in Upstate New York". The State will now assist forest owners in their quest to manage forests for the immediate future and for future generations. With the State of New York realizing the value of forests and the enormous positive impacts for environmental carbon sequestration, it would appear we now have a voice. The presentation on Climate Law prompted a big discussion at home and made us think and analyze how profoundly the future is changing for us as wood lot/forest owners. Although Mrs. Hughes-Smith was articulate and concise in explaining the Climate Act, it made us ask ourselves so many more questions. For better or for worse, here are some of what we discussed among ourselves.

Could the real property laws, for instance 480(a) private forest programs, be amended to have less intrusive penalties. New proposed programs such as the 480(b) and 480(c) may offer new and improved incentives. These programs are an attempt to decrease the minimum number of contiguous acres of forested land that can be permitted in the program. Also, they would incentivize forest management improvements that directly increase carbon storage/sequestration as well as climate resilience. Who would regulate your management plan-private foresters or state foresters?

Another benefit for forest owners could be the State amending inheritance and succession laws so that our children and grandchildren inherit our forests without a heavy tax burden. The intergenerational transfer of property is essential to minimizing the potential fragmentation of the forests as families must sell parcels in order to pay inheritance taxes.



Susan Hughes-Smith delivers overview of the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

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Would there be additional funding through the grant programs the USDA and DEC offer to benefit the best management practices of our forests? Reforestation and Afforestation are now a high priority stewardship practice to improve woodlots and forests. The State believes these practices will improve the forest and provide jobs. Protecting and expanding forests, much like the rules and regulations surrounding wetlands, the State believes our forests will be protected and have a greater value in the Climate Law initiative.

Will there be over regulation placed on forest owners as a result of these climate regulations? Will the State of New York "order" how we conduct stewardship practices that the property owner believes is not appropriate for their forestry goals? Will recreational activities, such as hunting, be curtailed because of Second Amendment debates? Will something as simple as having a small campfire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows with your grandchildren be negatively impacted? Will we be allowed to heat our homes with wood?

Our son made a simple comment that has had an important impact on our analysis of the new Climate Act:

"Although it is beneficial to have more funding, more funding is more regulation. More regulation is more State control. More State control takes away your individual rights to manage, or not manage, your private property. With more regulation, the State could dictate to you how to limit the biodiversity of your forest. For example, cutting down all Beech trees even though Beech produces mast for the wildlife. Building a pond for biodiversity to promote a healthy forest ecosystem, may be negatively impacted by the state's regulations."

We are very much aware of the government's power in land use regulation. We commenced a lawsuit involving the property rights of our forested lands that took five years of litigation in both New York State and Federal Courts- ultimately losing at the United States Supreme Court. In the end, the State of New York has an enormous impact on how you wish to use your property.

As in the past, local governments had jurisdiction over land use, planning, and restrictions for the forests within their boundaries. However, it appears that the Climate Law will supersede local municipal zoning and real estate ordinances. This may or may not have a profound impact on our forests.

Does the wildlife have a voice in this new focus on how this plan will go forward? NYS presently has a big incentive to promote and create young forests. Young forest habitat is essential for many bird species for their success in raising their young. Creating young forests includes cutting trees down to open the canopy. We need to consider that not all wildlife lives in mature forests. How will this impact our forests, forest management, and carbon sequestration?

We can only applaud Susan for taking the time to explain clearly and accurately what the State and our lawmakers have foreseen for our future as landowners and citizens for a carbon neutral New York State and world. As she said, we will have to lose jobs to create new ones through the carbon sequestration transition. We will have to clear land to initiate emission-free energy, ie windmills and solar panels. It appears that electricity is the energy of our future. All these competing goals for a cleaner and better NYS is a challenge in which we as forest owners should have a significant voice. Being a member of NYFOA allows us many more opportunities to save and protect our lands and to establish our personal goals in the success of our properties.

## ∞ 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>

### Woodswalk at the Albers Woodlot

On Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 9:00 am we will have a woodswalk at the Carl and Susan Albers Woodlot, Wilbur Creek Road, Bath, New York.

Some of the highlights we can expect:

- a much improved skid trail system;
- results of an ongoing hemlock harvest...lots of tops;
- an emerging fern problem; and
- some crop tree release.

We will be heading into Steuben County, onto Wilbur road near Jellystone Park of the Finger Lakes. Mr. Albers has provided detailed directions, no address number is assigned to the location.

Directions: Take Exit 39 off of Route 86 (formerly 17) and head south towards Risingville on County Route 11 (Babcock Hollow Road) for approximately 2 miles. Once off the highway and again heading south you will pass Wagner Hill Road, Nash Road, and East Union Road on your right (west). Across from the Jellystone Park of the Finger Lakes is Wilbur Road (the 4th right,) turn onto it and proceed west for approximately eight tenths of a mile. The Albers woodlot is on the left (south) side of the road. High clearance vehicles can venture down the drive-

### Welcome New Members

Thomas Ayers	Pike
Kurt Charland	Victor
John Donnelly	Brockport
Brooke Finley	Naples
Ian Loy	Prattsburgh
Jeffrey & Annie Martin	Hemlock
Loren Muldowney	Cowlesville
Davies Nagel	Pittsford
Mike Odell	Seneca Falls
Woodwise Land Company LLC	Honeoye Falls

way to the flat area next to Wilbur Creek - well drained gravel. If your vehicle doesn't have good ground clearance (waterbar) please park on the left (south side) of Wilbur Road just past the driveway entrance. Our tour will require us to walk across Wilbur Creek which can be problematic if we receive a lot of rain prior to our Woods Walk, however, if so we will visit another woodlot we own farther west on Wilbur Road. Woodswalks take place rain or shine, so be prepared for either situation. The first location has an outhouse, the second does not. Bring a bag lunch if you like. It is very peaceful next to Wilbur Creek so bring your camp chairs if you wish to sit and relax. There is spotty to no cell phone coverage on Wilbur Road, but if you need additional information you can try calling Carl at (607) 346-5226.

### Garlic Braiding Class set for August

Still too early to set a date for Garlic Braiding at the farm of Michelle and Tim Scutt, Harmony Acres Garlic Farm in Mount Morris. A fun and delicious event that is proven to please. Michelle will be forthcoming with the date. It will be sent through an email blast to all our WFL membership. The summer issue of our newsletter may arrive too late for your RSVP. Please stay tuned for a more precise day in August and time. As always, RSVP's are obligatory as Michelle has work and preparations to attend to the night before the class. Please consider making the trip with us. \$25.00 is required for a 12-bulb homemade braid made by you. It is great fun; hope to see you there!

### Classifieds

**Tree Tubes for Sale** - Member(/Non-Member) price: 4' w/o stake (\$6.00/\$6.50); 4' w/ stake (\$7.00/\$7.50); 5' is special order... please call (585) 880-1799 for price quote. Proceeds benefit WFL chapter.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Space permitting, the WFL Board of Directors allows members to place free classified ads in this newsletter pertaining to good stewardship practices. However, ads presented here are not an endorsement by WFL.



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# The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Summer 2023

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Kathy Lessord and Gary Koplun wait to load logs on Chris Benedict's LT70 mill. See story starting on page 4.

## Mark Your Calendar

- Saturday, July 15—Albers nut farm woodswalk. See page 6.
- Tuesday, October 3—the WFL annual dinner returns. Details are still being finalized; see page 2 for what we know so far.

**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](mailto:nyfoa-wfl-news-subscribe@npogroups.org)