

Chapter Service Award

Each year, each chapter selects one of its members to receive the annual Chapter Service Award. Recipients are given a plaque and recognized at the NYFOA statewide annual meeting.

The 2009 Western Finger Lakes Chapter Service Award recipient is Mark Gooding.

Mark is a DEC forester who has been active in the chapter and has served on the chapter board of directors for the past eight years. He is instrumental in keeping the chapter running, bringing a much-needed perspective and a high level of professionalism to the board meetings. Mark also volunteers to organize many of the chapter events, including the recent “Forester for a Day” workshop and a variety of woodswalks.

Mark served as the editor of the chapter newsletter for a number of years, and still handles the final assembly and mailing. The WFL board is glad to take this opportunity to recognize the many contributions he has made to the chapter over the years.

Mike Seager

Enforcing the Law

Seven hardy NYFOA members braved the snow, wind and twenty degree temperature to attend the January 28th Chapter Meeting and hear Captain Michael Van Durme discuss his work at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. As Captain, Mike has a staff of 28 Environmental Conservation Officers who cover Region 8, enforcing the law in 11 counties. They are responsible for enforcing ALL of New York State’s laws: pollution, criminal, hazardous waste, hunting, fishing and more.

Mike is landowner and deer hunter—black powder, bow and shotgun—plus a member of NYFOA. His property was mostly open pasture 50 years ago and now has a diverse mix of black cherry, walnut, maple, oak, etc.

Mike began his talk by explaining different aspects of the conservation law as it pertains to hunting, fishing and logging. When harvesting trees, Mike stressed the importance of properly posting your woodlot, having a good written contract and hiring a professional forester. A professional forester will make the landowner more money and leave the property in much better condition. Since most times illegal loggers work as individuals—one man does the scouting, another does the marking, one the cutting, one the skidding, one the hauling—all different men with no written records, they are difficult to prosecute. On a large

woodlot, the thief will send each load to a different mill, sometimes all the way to southern Pennsylvania. Mike’s experience is that since the

price of saw timber has decreased, there is, currently, less timber theft in Region 8, or at least less reported thefts.

It was easy to see why Captain Van

Continued on page 5.

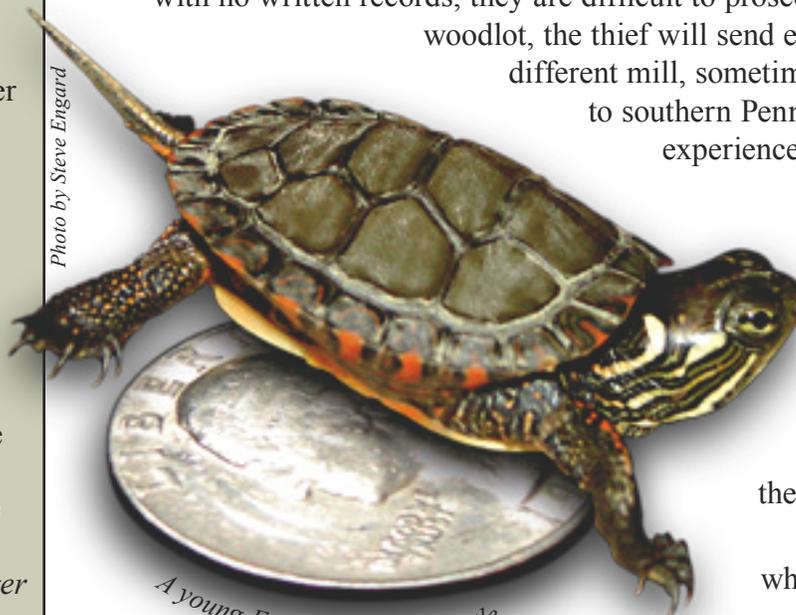


Photo by Steve Engard

A young Eastern Painted Turtle.

~ Upcoming Events ~

Ties to the Land

A facilitated workshop on succession planning. Keeping family forests and farms in the family.

Wednesday, May 13th and Wednesday, June 10th, 7:00 to 9:00PM (This is a two part seminar.)

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

Few challenges that family forestland owners, farmers, ranchers, and other land-based family businesses face are more important than the issue of passing the business and its land base on to the following generation. Many small land-owners want to preserve their family lands but don't know how to involve family members in ownership and operation of their small land-based businesses.

On the evenings of May 13th and June 10th, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, in partnership with the New York Forest Owners Association-Western Finger Lakes Chapter, will present a two-part Succession Planning facilitated workshop. Succession Planning—the human side of Estate Planning—focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family businesses and motivating families to address those challenges. This workshop is a mix of presentations and practical exercises to help families develop techniques needed to address tough issues. Topics covered will also be relevant to professionals working with landowner families.

This is a DVD-based workshop featuring presentations by Clint

Bentz (CPA, Boldt Carlisle & Smith, and Chairman, American Tree Farm System) and Mark Green (Director, Austin Family Business Program at Oregon State University), with live classroom activities conducted by facilitator Dr. Shorna Broussard Allred of Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Each family will receive a copy of the Ties to the Land workbook & companion DVD, which are designed to help families continue to improve and direct their communications at home. More information about succession planning is available on the Ties to the Land web site, www.familybusinessonline.org/resources/ttl/home.htm

For planning purposes, please register by May 1st, 2009

Workshop Fee and Registration: \$30 per person (or \$30 per couple if attending as a couple or with another member of your family). The fee includes refreshments and one copy per family of the workbook: Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage (\$45 value; additional copies will be available at the workshop or online at the web site). Participants must attend both of the sessions. To register call Diana Bryant, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, at

607-255-2115 or log onto www.human-dimensions.org and click on “workshops” tab. For more information, please contact me at kmaynard@frontiernet.net or (585)229-4102.

Keith Maynard

Welcome New Members

Alan P. Burkhart
Byron, NY

Robert Eustace
Walworth, NY

Patrick Lafler
Naples, NY

Cody Lafler
Naples, NY

Bill Lansing
Macedon, NY

Tom McCall
Fairport, NY

Walter Przybycien
Spencerport, NY

Leonard Stebbins
Spencerport, NY

Garry and Bobbi Wohlschlegel
Hemlock, NY

~ Upcoming Events ~

Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 10AM to 1PM

This will be the 7th Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow in East Springwater N.Y.



Photo by Dick Starr

Sugar Bush Hollow.

Chuck Winship and some foresters will lead a visit to a sugar maple stand that was thinned and discuss the regeneration – both good and bad – that has taken over the understory. Chuck will also present the 2009 sugar results in stands with varying densities from a cooperative study with Cornell University. DEC Forester Mark Gooding will provide an overview of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which is the new forestry cost-share program available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Other possible topics include mycorrhizal fungi tree interactions and fruit tree grafting and release. At the end of the tours we will serve pancakes for lunch with fresh syrup (donations are encouraged). We hope to see you again this year!

Directions:

- From the north or east take New York State Route 21 south through Naples, New York. Go one mile past North Cohocton, New York staying on Route 21. Turn Right on to County Route 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

- From the west, south or south east take New York State Route 21 north from Interstate 86 (Route 17) through Wayland, New York. About 6 miles past Wayland turn left onto County Road 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn Left on to Pardy Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

For more information contact Chuck Winship at (585)943 3475 or cw9@cornell.edu

Rehabilitating Cutover Stands

Wednesday, April 15th,
Noon and 7:00PM

Diameter-limit cutting is an exploitive, unsustainable logging practice that is common in New York and throughout the Northeast. If your woodlot is dominated by misshapen trees, poor species diversity, an abundance of injured stems, or trees with small crowns, it may have been a victim of diameter-limit cutting in the past.

Dr. Ralph Nyland of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will present an Internet seminar on “Rehabilitating Cutover Stands” in which he will address steps a landowner can take to help a woodlot recover from diameter limit cutting. The seminar will be offered live at both noon and 7:00PM; registration is free at www.ForestConnect.info.

This seminar is one in a monthly series. In February, Dr. Nyland introduced the practice of diameter limit cutting and its effect on woodlots. This seminar, and all the others in the series, are archived at www.ForestConnect.info and can be viewed at any time.

What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot

I finally dragged myself back into the woods to continue my timber stand improvement work a couple weeks ago. Every year my forester puts blue paint blotches on a bunch of trees for me to thin. I usually try to do quite a bit through the cool months, but the winter has not been particularly conducive to working in the woods – lots of snow and very cold, making it cumbersome to move around and hard to keep the chainsaw running.

When I did get back to the section I am thinning, I looked around and wondered, as I usually do, where all the blue-painted trees had come from. At the end of a day or a weekend of work I look around and it seems like I have made great progress, and one or two more sessions will finish the job. By the time the next session starts, it seems like there is a very long way to go and I might never finish. So that got me thinking about some guidelines I was given when I started my management project some years ago, and doing some back-of-the-envelope calculations.

My forester told me that, very roughly speaking, if I hire somebody to do the thinning they will probably do about an acre each day. He also said that a land-owner with a day job is doing well to thin 10 acres in a year. That means that a professional cutter could do in two weeks what it would take me a year to

do. Nobody would call me a ball of fire, but it sure seemed like I should be able to do better than that.

This is where the back of the envelope comes in. If a professional can cut 10 acres in 10 days, how long should it take me? First, say he can cut twice as fast as I can. That brings my time up to 20 days. And I am pretty much confined to doing TSI work on weekends, so 20 days of work really translates to 20 weekend days, or at least 10 weeks of elapsed time. But it is rare that I can get into the woods for two full days on a weekend; other things usually consume at least one day, bringing me up to 20 weeks to thin my 10 acres. Then, let's face it, I am a desk jockey, and a full eight hour day of wielding a chainsaw is pretty tiring. Most days I have had enough after four hours or so. Now I am up to 40 elapsed weeks to thin those 10 acres, and the guideline of doing 10 acres per year doesn't seem far-fetched at all. Especially when you consider that there are a number of weekends when I don't make any progress at all, whether it is because I am occupied with other things, or the weather is terrible, or I am overcome by my innate laziness.

There are a couple lessons to learn from this. The most important, I think, is that you need to be very honest with yourself about how much time and energy you have to devote to working

in your woods. If you don't have time to do the work yourself, plan to hire somebody to do it, or allow more time to get it done. Developing a work plan that requires you to spend 15 hours in the woods every weekend might seem like a good idea at the outset, but it could become a major chore after a month or a year. The biggest worry is that you will burn yourself out, and after doing too much too quickly, you switch to making no progress at all. As with so many things, moderation is the key.

Another lesson is that sometimes it is good to be an amateur. If you are a professional cutter who is getting paid by the day or by the acre, you need to get through those 10 acres in 10 days to keep bread on the table. As an amateur working for myself, the amount of thinning I do this week might make a difference when I sell timber in 10 years, but it won't determine how much I eat this month. If the weather is lousy, or the bugs are pesky, or I am just too tired to work safely, I can stop work. Especially with something as potentially dangerous as thinning trees, it makes a lot of sense to stop if anything impedes your ability to work safely. That is the real advantage of being an amateur, and when I started thinking in these terms I developed a lot of respect for the people who can make a living at this kind of work.

Mike Seager

A Hike in the Woods

The NYFOA WFL Chapter sponsors a couple of woods walks throughout the year. Some of these walks are well attended and offer a variety of interesting and very educational opportunities. I encourage all or our members to take advantage of these learning experiences.

But... if anyone missed these walks for one reason or another, I recommend an excellent alternative... a self guided tour or hike at a county park or on town and city hiking trails. Since purchasing the book *Take a Hike* by Rich and Sue Freeman, my friend Dan and I have been taking advantage of what is available in our area. We have been to places that we have never been before, some of which we never knew existed; I refer to them as Rochester and vicinity's best kept secrets. Some examples are: Irondequoit Bay Trail, Eastern Ski Trail and Devil's Bathtub in Mendon Ponds Park, Crescent Trail System in Perinton, Earth is Our Mother and Fort Hill Trail at Ganondagan State Historic Site, 1000 Acre Swamp, Tryon Park, Coyotes Den Trail in Ellison Park, Turning Point Park north and south along the Genesee River in Rochester's Charlotte area and many kayak adventures on the waterways during the summer and fall months. What an experience and a lot of fun to boot.

In the winter we donned a pair of snowshoes when the snow was too deep for hiking boots. We usually backpack some gear, food and water, and prepared to be out for 3 or 4 hours just like we were hiking the mountains in the Adirondacks. For us, and looking from our points of view, it's our way to get out in the woods and explore and exercise at the same time. We usually venture out at least once a week and we have experienced many good results as well as keeping fit. As we hike we notice a lot of different wildlife and birds, and identify many different species of trees and wildflowers all without the assistance of a forester or guide. It's just us and our trusty guide-books.

We realize hiking solo is not the same as a woods walk and the benefits derived from such, but we enjoy the perks of getting to see what public property has to offer. The city and county provide excellent hiking trails. One can gather ideas for your own property on maintaining trails, proper silviculture and using the resources that might be possible improvements for your land.

Keep a close watch in our upcoming newsletter about a walk in Highland Park and possible walk through Mount Hope Cemetery to see a variety of trees you might not find elsewhere. For your own information you might want to purchase the book *Take a Hike* or go online and find hiking trails to numerous to mention. Enjoy and have fun.

Tony Ross

Enforcing the Law

Continued from cover.

Durme is the expert the local media consult. Our small group sat around asking Mike one question after another. His answers were both thorough and interesting. Can you shoot a deer through the window of your house? (Yes, the homeowner can, as long as he's not within 500 feet of someone else's house.) Can you relocate a turtle to a pond on your property that has no turtles? (No, because all turtles are now protected by law, and because the turtles won't stay there. They return to their home pond, unless you put them in a wire cage, in your pond, for at least 16 months.) Why do turtles need protection? (There is a world-wide demand for our turtles, even snapping turtles. The Chinese will buy all the New York State turtles they can get, some for as much as \$150 each, for food, medicine and pets.) Who is allowed to fish in the pond on my property? (The owner's family, if you have a Farm Fish pond License. Others should have a fishing license.)

Captain Van Durme was an excellent, fascinating speaker with a wide knowledge of topics of interest to hunters, fishermen and landowners. If we're lucky, he'll agree to speak again, at a future meeting.

Dick Dennison

Winter 2009 Stumpage Report

Species	Western/Central Doyle Rule			New York State Stumpage Price Report Winter 2009/#74	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
Most Common Species					
Ash, White	50-300 (150)	75-350 (225)	225-600 (300)	Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet	
Cherry, Black	250-1200 (500)	495-1500 (800)	620-1800 (1000)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	50-250 (125)	125-300 (200)	200-400 (250)		
Maple, Sugar (Hard)	170-800 (400)	350-1200 (525)	400-1300 (700)		
Oak, Red	125-450 (200)	225-500 (350)	300-1000 (465)		
Pine, White	25-100* (60)	50-200 (80)	70-250* (100)		
Less Common Species					
Aspen	10-50* (20)	10-100* (50)	25-100* (50)		
Basswood	20-250 (100)	50-300 (115)	75-250 (150)		
Beech	20-80* (50)	30-110* (50)	25-150* (75)		
Birch, Yellow	50-200* (100)	50-250* (155)	75-325* (200)		
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Butternut	50-250* (100)	100-275* (200)	200-300* (275)		
Elm, American	NR	NR	NR		
Hemlock	10-80* (50)	25-115 (50)	50-140* (100)		
Hickory (spp.)	50-150* (80)	35-200 (110)	50-300 (175)		
Oak, Chestnut	50-200* (100)	125-300* (150)	100-400* (200)		
Oak, White	60-300* (150)	150-350* (250)	250-600* (325)		
Pine, Red	25-80* (45)	35-100* (65)	70-110* (80)		
Spruce (spp.)	40-75** (50)	80-100* (100)	100-200* (125)		
Tulip Poplar	25-150* (100)	50-200* (125)	75-300* (200)		
Walnut, Black	200-800* (400)	450-1000* (700)	700-2000* (1000)		
Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord					
Aspen	NR	4-20** (8)	NR		
Birch, White	NR	4-30** (5)	NR		
Hemlock	NR	4-20** -5	NR		
Mixed N. Hardwoods	5-12** (8)	2-30* (9)	5-20* (13)		
Pine	NR	3-20** (10)	NR		
Spruce/Fir	NR	NR	NR		
Firewood	5-12* (6)	8-20* (10)	10-35* (15)		

Low Price Range - reported range of the absolute lowest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Average Price Range - reported range of the average price paid for “middle quality” timber by survey respondents over the last six months.

High Price Range - reported range of the absolute highest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Median - One half of reported prices are higher and one-half are lower than this price figure.

Doyle, International ¼” and Scribner Rules - Provide an estimated volume in board feet of a given tree or stand of trees. In most cases, each rule will provide a different volume estimate when applied to identical trees. Each region of the state has a most commonly used rule, but the use of other rules in a region is possible.

NR - No Report.

* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 20 survey responses.

** All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 5 survey responses.

~ Classified Ads ~

Tree Tubes for Sale

Proceeds benefit the WFL Chapter

	Member Price	Non-Member Price
4 foot tube	\$3.80	\$4.30
4 foot tube with stake	4.25	4.75
5 foot tube	4.35	4.85
5 foot tube with stake	4.85	5.35
Contact:		
Ron Reitz, <i>WFL Treasurer</i> 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater, NY 14560 (585)367-2847 • rrrlpr@aol.com		

Volunteer Opportunity:

Secretary of the NYFOA WFL Chapter Board of Directors. Duties are to attend the 4 meetings per year, prepare and distribute a written copy of the business conducted. This is a golden chance to get involved. Please contact Chairman, Dick Starr.

Wanted:

Used wood chipper. PTO drive preferred . Contact David Deuel (585) 226-2952.

Classified ads are free to our members and available to non-members for by donation. Commercial advertising is also available. Both classified and commercial ads should pertain to forestry-related topics that are likely to be of interest to our members. For details of format and pricing contact our editor Steve Engard.

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 boys and girls 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 \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) 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.



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This panel is available for commercial advertising, for more info contact Steve Engard (contact info on page 11).