



## Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

# Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

## Summer Happenings

*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart!*

*- Helen Keller !*

### ***Farewell - Chris Zimmer!***

In the past issue, we welcomed Chris Zimmer back after being gone on a detail for 4 months. Shortly after his return he was offered and accepted the job (District Ranger) that he was detailed into! So, now we say farewell once again - our loss is truly Hoosier National Forest's gain!

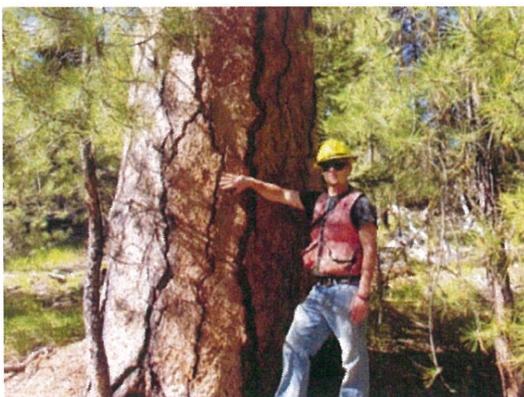
### ***Welcome Will Brendecke!***

I am pleased to welcome Will Brendecke to the Forest. Will is going to be with us for a 120 day detail, as we work on filling the Vice Zimmer position. Will hails from Oregon, where he's been working as a

Forester on the Malheur National Forest. Will has a number of degrees - A.S Biological Science; B.S. Zoology and M.S. Forestry. He should be on the Forest the last week of June.

### ***Specialists Visit***

On a bi-annual basis the specialists (botanist, hydrologist, archaeologist, etc) that cover both the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests, make a special trip to the Forest to review past and future projects. These trips provide an opportunity to review how projects were implemented and areas that could be improved. It also gives everyone the chance to bounce ideas around, hear eachothers concerns and find solutions to potential issues. These trips are always exciting, fast paced, and there never seems enough time to cover everything.



## *Americorp Crew*

We had the pleasure of hosting an Americorp crew for a week early this June. They worked on a couple of projects on the Forest for us. One that folks will greatly enjoy; if you like blueberries; was reclaiming the blueberry patch next to the Blueberry Patch Campground. The crew cut the competing vegetation around the plants to provide better growing conditions for the high and low bush blueberry plants. They also opened the vista at the trail shelter located along the Finger Lakes Trail (North Country Trail). We hope to enlist an even larger crew next year to do some trail work for the Forest.



## *Cemetery Restoration*

An annual project took place on the Forest in early May this year, cemetery cleanup. Volunteers from the Backbone Ridge History Group, South Seneca 7<sup>th</sup> Graders and Forest personnel worked on cleaning up the Jones Cemetery (located in Peterson Pasture) and the Bond Cemetery (located in Cronk Pasture). Volunteers cleared brush, cleaned headstones and even fixed and erected broken stones. Stones in the Jones cemetery date back to the early 1800's. The same crew were at it again the following

day working on the Clawson cemetery. This was a special day, as a 9' tall stone (once buried) was found and erected once again. This work is a very rewarding project to participate in, as by cleaning these cemeteries and keeping them maintained we are essentially honoring those people who walked the land before us. Many of the people buried in these cemeteries were some of the first settlers on the land that subsequently became the Finger Lakes National Forest.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the cemetery cleanup projects here on the Forest, please call or email Mary Burton at 607-546-4470 or [mcburton@fs.fed.us](mailto:mcburton@fs.fed.us)



Jones Before



Jones After

## *Wildlife*

Monitoring efforts for stream and riparian restoration work will begin this summer. This is work that will be done via staff from Hobart & William Smith Colleges and University of Missouri in conjunction with a grant administered by the National Wild Turkey Federation. Survey work and restoration will occur on both private and national forest land.

Management activities will include bank stabilization, reconnections to floodplains, planting native vegetation, fencing riparian areas to exclude cattle, repair leaking cattle ponds, invasive species removal, man-made trash removal, and addition of coarse woody debris. This work is planned to run through 2015.

Portions of the forest will be assessed for wetland creation/restoration projects this summer. Wetland specialist Tom Biebighauser, from the Daniel Boone National Forest, will be assisting forest staff on the planning and design process.

A good portion of the landscape that exists on the forest has likely been drained due to agricultural purposes, thus eliminating many of the wetlands that once camouflaged the land. Specific sites and descriptions of projects are still to be determined. There will be more to come on this in future months as a strategy gets developed.

Routine maintenance will again take place on some of our pastures and wildlife grasslands in order to accommodate for

grassland dependent species, many of which are regionally sensitive.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the wildlife program here on the Forest, please call or email Paul Widowski at 607-546-4470 or [pwidowski@fs.fed.us](mailto:pwidowski@fs.fed.us)

### *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby*

It was a beautiful sunny day on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Potomac Pond, a fine day for a fishing derby. Children started arriving at about 8:00 a.m. ready to catch that big fish. They were after that 24 inch Rainbow Trout. For Jack Mott his wish came true. There were also prizes awarded for most fish caught and first fish caught. Alexander Rappleye Niess took away two prizes, one for the first fish caught and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest fish 13 inches. After the children were done fishing they proceeded over to the pavilion for hot dogs and snacks. The prizes awarded ranged from a bicycle to outdoor games and nature oriented items. Over 97 children participated in the derby. There are many children that come to the derby year after year. They have been coming since they were very young and after reaching the age limit of 12 do still come back and volunteer their time at the Fishing Derby. It is a great way to celebrate National Fishing Week.



## *Range*

We should have titled this section – “Cows Are Out - - Literally.” It’s been a very busy season so far with cattle headed to the Forest Pastures, mainly because as soon as 40+ head were put on, they found their way out thru an open “hunter gate.”

Subsequently the chase ensued – lasting close to 4 weeks. All are safely behind barbed wire now – so folks are breathing a sigh of relief and things are slowly getting back to normal. Kudos to Mark Welch, Hector Cooperative Grazing Association Manager for all of the work he did to keep track of and round up these ‘rogue’ cattle. For those familiar with the Forest, a group of cattle escaped from a pasture north of Chicken Coop Road and were finally caught down along Satterly Hill, a good 6 miles as the crow flies.



As in years past, more work will occur in the pastures such as, fence repairs and construction throughout the grazing season. New fencing is scheduled to be constructed in Woodard Pasture and new fencing gates installed in Hawes Pasture. Additional cattle pond work is also scheduled for this season.

We will again be broadcast spraying over 90 acres of pasture/grasslands this summer, in an attempt to control invasive Knapweed and Thistle.

## *Timber*

Firewood Permits are available for purchase. The 2 cord minimum still applies for \$20.00, or you may purchase up to 10 cords for \$10.00 per cord. Only dead and down timber may be removed. Your permit is good until December 30, 2012. Make sure you have your permit in possession and you are properly recording each load of firewood. To avoid the spread of non-native and invasive insects that might be living in your firewood, do not transport your firewood outside the local area. Schuyler County has been quarantined by the State of NY. Wood cut within Schuyler County cannot be transported out of the county.

## *Trails*

We appreciate the reports of trails conditions from our users, and we try to respond as quickly as possible to reports of downed trees and other hazards.

This summer, the annual Finger Lakes Fifties Trail Run will be held Saturday, June 30. The registration is full, with 250 runners planning to participate. Volunteers from the club are working hard to prepare the trails they will use.

There are plans to install more ride-through gates on some of the horse trails this summer.

We are very grateful for the work that is done by the trail volunteers on the Forest. There has been a lot of trail clearing, blazing and other improvements already

this spring. As always, please report any concerns or information about trees down, etc. to the District Office.

## **Camping**

All the campgrounds are open and have been busy during the warm spring weather. While Blueberry Patch is first come, first serve, Potomac Campground is available by reservation only, pre-paying through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Backbone Horse Camp is for horse users only through Columbus Day weekend.

As always, the National Forest is open to camping, unless posted closed. You can camp pretty much anywhere using no-trace techniques if you prefer that over a campground. Please remember that you cannot camp in pastures when livestock are present!

### ***From the Ranger...***

*"Life isn't a matter of milestones but of moments" – Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy*

I love this quote; so many times we get focused on just "getting thru" something. Finish that task and move on to the next, as there is always something that needs to get done. In taking some time to reflect, it's not the milestone of "getting thru" that is really important, but those moments where each of us had a chance to make a difference to someone else, essentially help make a memory. I'm happy to say we are doing just that, not only for ourselves but others as well, here on the Forest!

The Finger Lakes National Forest Staff helped create incredible memories for over 90 kids during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Fishing Derby; we worked alongside volunteers in honoring our past thru cemetery clean up, and we have touched the lives of many folks travelling to the Finger Lakes region for the first time and inquiring as to what they need to see.

We got to share a laugh or two – took a while to get there with the rogue cattle, but we eventually did. We bid a fond farewell to a fellow employee moving on who has been a mainstay on this Forest for over 12 years, and we will be welcoming a new face in a few short weeks.

I encourage you all to take a minute and reflect on the moments you have had over the last few months. How many memories did you help create – and what are you going to do to continue making them. You never know who you just might touch!

Enjoy - Jodie

## **Upcoming Events Schedule**

July 25-28<sup>th</sup> - - Hector Fair

August 25<sup>th</sup> - - Trumansburg Parade

**September 29<sup>th</sup> - - Annual Forest Field Days @ Potomac Ponds**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Just For Fun! Just For Kids!!

Please unscramble the words below and check to see if you are ready to go camping!!

- 1. ARIDITKISTF \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. ARWTE \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. TNTE \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. PUYGABSR \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. FODO \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. HMTACES \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. HHFTGLISAL \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. IAROD \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. ENSALGIEGPB \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. AISITEDARNHNZ \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. ASPM \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. EMAGS \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### KEY: Just For Fun! Just For Kids!!

Please unscramble the words below and check to see if you are ready to go camping!!

- 1. FIRSTAIDKIT \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. WATER \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. TENT \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. BUGSPRAY \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. FOOD \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. MATCHES \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. FLASHLIGHT \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. RADIO \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. SLEEPINGBAG \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. HANDSANITIZER \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. MAPS \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. GAMES \_\_\_\_\_

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<http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-scramble/word-scramble.php> 6/18/2012