



Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Spring Happenings

*If you do not sow in the spring you will
not reap in the autumn!*



Firewood Permits Still Popular

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. The annual permit is good until December 30, 2013.

Make sure you have your permit in your 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.

Camping

Blueberry Patch Campground will reopen May 18th. Tenting and RVs up to 23 feet will be available for \$10.00 a day.

Backbone Horse Camp will become "Horse User Only" on Friday, May 24th thru Columbus Holiday weekend.

Potomac Group Campground is available by reservation only, pre-paying through www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Both Blueberry Patch and Potomac campgrounds had improvements done this past fall that included fire rings, a group grill, benches and picnic tables.

As always, the National Forest is open to camping, unless posted closed. Any pastures with livestock present are closed to camping. You can camp using no-trace techniques if you prefer that over a developed campground.

Progress with Butternuts

In early February, Regional Geneticist Paul Berrang came to the Forest to collect twigs (called scion) from Butternut trees that had been identified with little or no Butternut Canker present. The scions must be collected while the tree is dormant.

The scions were grafted onto Black Walnut root stock and grown as a first step to possibly identifying strains that could be resistant to the canker disease.



Paul Berrang preparing a sling shot to get ropes into the top of a Butternut tree and cut out a branch to then cut scion from.

In cooperation with private landowners, we have been able to find trees that will represent a broader genetic diversity for re-introducing Butternut in the future.



Forestry Technician Rebecca Wright (left) with private landowner John Wertis in Trumansburg.

The butternut work is planned as an ongoing, multiyear project. If you think you have trees on your property you'd like to include, we would be interested to hear from you!

We are happy to report (as seen in the photo below) that the scion grafts appear to be working!



Future plans are to plant some of these grafted seedlings in the newly planned seed orchard that will be located on the Forest.

Trails

We have seen better winter conditions for skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling but there were several weekends with good conditions for winter fun.

The normal winter wind events usually drop trees across trails in some areas. As soon as conditions warrant many of our volunteers will be out scouting the trails and cleaning up downed trees. Don't hesitate to call our office and report downed trees or other trail conditions.

Finger Lakes Trail: A short relocation of the Finger Lakes Trail is planned for this summer. The new segment takes hikers off an existing section of the Interloken Trail that is also used by horse riders. Volunteers from the Cayuga Trail Club will be doing the work. This is in compliance to both the Finger Lakes NF Land and Resource Management Plan and criteria for the Finger Lakes Trail ("North Country Trail") to be a "footpath" only.

Range

Preparations for the 2013 grazing season are under way. Cows start heading out for their summer pasture after May 15th.

A number of plans are in the works, from mowing and broad cast herbicide spraying to fence maintenance and removal. There is never a dull moment on the pastures in the summer.

Wildlife Happenings

Wetland Creation: The wetland work that we precluded to in an earlier edition has begun to evolve into something more tangible. The project summary is currently out for public scoping (as of this report), in hopes that the public will provide us with some useful feedback that we can use to help shape this project.

These small, seasonal wetlands that are proposed will benefit not only wildlife, but may also benefit adjacent landowners. Wetlands similar to these have been known to act as “modern storm water drainage ponds” which can help minimize the potential for flooding. We hope to start implementation on this project sometime this August.

Grassland Habitat: Our wildlife staff is also in the planning process of restoring a grassland habitat in order to benefit the Henslow’s sparrow. This sparrow is suffering from population decline throughout its range, primarily due to loss of habitat. We are proposing to remove hedgerows (more like rows of trees) from a ***Finger Lakes National Forest Happenings!!***

pasture, that when restored will provide ideal nesting habitat for the Henslow’s sparrow along with many other grassland dependent species.

Henslow’s, along with a few other grassland bird species, prefer large contiguous open acres of grassland habitat for nesting during the spring and summer months. This pasture is located in an area that has several other large openlands that have attracted rare grassland birds in the past. There will be more to come on this project in the next few months.

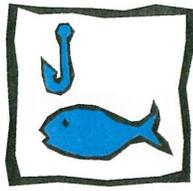
We hope to have this project out for public scoping sometime this May.

As always...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

From the Ranger...

Seems like the Spring Forest Happenings is always a bit smaller than our Summer, Fall and Winter – don’t take that as we aren’t doing anything, in fact Spring is all about prepping for the upcoming field season.

And what a busy year this is going to be with a lot of great things happening on the ground – too many to get into with the little room I have left. Don’t worry, you’ll learn more in the next installment - - hopefully we’ll have a new employee announcement as well. As always, if you ever want to learn more about what’s happening on the Forest stop on in or give us a call. – Jodie



CALLING ALL KIDS.....

The Finger Lakes National Forest presents the 18th ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY

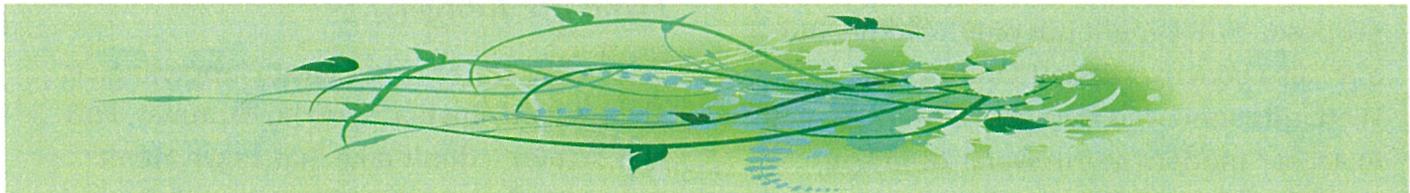
WHEN: Saturday, May 11th 0900–12:00

WHERE: Potomac Pond, Potomac Road, Hector, NY

Kids ages 2–12 are eligible. Prizes! Food! Fun!

Pre-registration required.

Call now! 607-546-4470



Finger Lakes National Forest
5218 State Route 414
Hector, NY 14841 (607) 546-4470
607 546-4470



JUST FOR KIDS - - JUST FOR FUN!

Raining Cloud Craft



What you'll need:

- Tissue paper (various shades of blue)
- Contact paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cotton balls
- Construction paper
- Thin cardboard (we cut apart a cereal box for ours)
- Googly eyes
- String or yarn
- Tape
- Hole punch

How to make your Water Rainbow:

- Cut a big cloud shape out of thin cardboard.
- Use a hole punch to punch three holes in the bottom of the cloud.
- Cut three pieces of string and tie a piece of string to each hole. The raindrops will hang down from these strings and it's easier to do this step now than when it's covered with cotton balls.
- Cover the cardboard with white glue and stick on the cotton balls until the whole surface is covered.
- Cut a red smile out of construction paper and glue it and two large googly eyes to the cloud. Set it aside to dry.
- Cut out three large tear drop shapes out of thin cardboard and remove interior portion (see photo above).
- Trace the template onto black construction paper. Make three raindrops.
- Cut a piece of contact paper that is bigger than the raindrop. Peel off the back and stick the template to it.
- Cut the tissue paper into small squares (approx. 1"x1").
- Use the tissue paper to fill in the raindrop. It will stick right to the contact paper. Overlap the squares as you go and it's ok if the tissue paper goes outside of the construction paper template line.
- Cut a second piece of contact paper, peel the back off and carefully stick it on top of the first, covering the tissue paper filled raindrop.
- Cut out the raindrop.
- Repeat for all the raindrops.
- Tape the raindrops to the strings hanging off the cloud.
- Hang your finished craft in the window.