

Northeast Timber Growing Contest

2015 Contest Results

Dean Faklis and Peter Smallidge

The contest is growing! Pardon the pun.... but 2015 saw a big increase in participation! We're proud to present the 2015 summary and results for the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. 2015 marks the end of the second full growing season and the second set of adjudicated results. Here is a list of contest participants in 2015:

Blough Family Forest

Christy and Gary Blough (Ontario, Wayne County, NY)

Edwards Family Forest

Kurt and Kristie Edwards (Mayfield, Fulton County, NY)

Piestrak Forest Lands

Josh Piestrak, Jeff Piestrak, Ed Piestrak, Bruce Robinson (Forester) (Lindley, Steuben County, NY)

Dale Schaefer

Dale Schaefer (Canadice, Ontario County, NY)

Stackhouse Family Forest

Sarah and Charles Stackhouse (Bluff Point, Yates County, NY)

Team Smallidge

Kelly, Nathalie, Adelaide, and Peter Smallidge (Crown Point, Essex County, NY)

Team Springwater

Julie Faklis, Brice June (Forester), Dean Faklis (Springwater, Livingston County, NY)

As you will recall, Dave Williams and the Southern Tier Chapter held a fantastic Timber Contest Workshop in March 2015. There was a big crowd of enthusiastic contesters in attendance. Here is a list of contest participants that took their first set of measurements in 2015, getting ready for 2016 and beyond:

Welcome to the New Contestants and Future Timber Beasts!

Oscar Williams

Oscar Williams (Age 10) (Barton, Tioga County, NY)

Del Allen

Del Allen, Jim Bagley (Forester) (Penn Yan, Yates County, NY)

Schlafer Family Forest

Don and Judy Schlafer (Hector, Schuyler County, NY)

Winkler Family Forest

Frank and Vickie Winkler (Andes, Delaware County, NY)

Spreutels Family Forest

Gordon and Marie Spreutels (Guilford, Chenango County, NY)

Dewey Family Forest

John and Jason Dewey (Unadilla, Otsego County, NY)

Dave Williams

Dave Williams (Guilford, Chenango County, NY)

The following contestants are on target to begin forest measurements 2016:

Jerry Palmer

Jerry Palmer (Guilford, Chenango County, NY)

Anderson Family Forest

Emily and Clay Anderson (Guilford, Chenango County, NY)

John Murdock

John Murdock (Harpersfield, Delaware County, NY)

Semanovich Family Forest

Ken and Sharon Semanovich (Walton, Delaware County, NY)

Twelve of NY's 62 counties are now well represented by 18 teams. Special THANKS! To Dave Williams and the entire NYFOA Southern Tier Family for taking action!

There were three races in 2015; Hardwood – Board Foot Volume, Hardwood – Basal Area Increment, and Conifer – Basal Area Increment. The Hardwood – BA category received entries from six teams and was the most popular category. All the entries were normalized by site index to help create a level playing field. Sites with lower site index receive a beneficial handicap.

All competitors submitted their entry materials on time and in good order. The judges met during November to review the results and make the necessary computations. The rules that governed the judging process can be found at www.timbercontest.com.

Congratulations to all participants!

Here are the **2015 Northeast Timber Contest Results**, with high score in **bold**:

Hardwood – BA

Piestrak Forest Lands	0.0569
Team Springwater	0.0389
Edwards Family Forest	0.0370
Dale Schaefer	0.0229
Stackhouse Family Forest	0.0203
Blough Family Forest	0.0178

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume

Team Springwater	0.0575
Edwards Family Forest	0.0433

Conifer – BA

Team Springwater	0.0256
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Josh Piestrak and his team dominated the Hardwood BA category this year with a commanding lead over nearly tied Springwater and Edwards. Schaefer's results improved this year because Dale removed several poor-quality red maples from his southern plot. That wood is stacked neatly next to his wood furnace! Stackhouse and Blough now have a firm baseline on growth with a full growing season now complete. Their plots are overstocked and will benefit greatly from Charlie's and Gary's chainsaws! Edwards and Springwater changed positions this year in Hardwood Board Foot Volume and there is ton of new competition in this category coming online from the new competitors. Springwater needs a competitor in Conifer BA because they are getting cocky! Team Smallidge will submit an entry in 2016, which will indicate an average annual growth rate over the last two years.



Young Amani Gullo and Dr. Greg Gullo (right) assisted with measurements at the Stackhouse Forest.

All results were normalized by site index, so they are a bit difficult to compare using the typical units for board feet and basal area. To give a better understanding, here is some background on the raw data:

Hardwood Site Index

Team Smallidge	55.44
Edwards Family Forest	60.63
Stackhouse Family Forest	65.00
Dale Schaefer	68.50
Piestrak Forest Lands	69.33
Blough Family Forest	70.00
Team Springwater	70.00

Conifer Site Index

Team Springwater	67.23
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Hardwood – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)

	sq. ft.	% Growth
Piestrak Forest Lands	3.2	3.95
Team Springwater	3.6	2.73
Edwards Family Forest	1.4	2.24
Dale Schaefer	2.3	1.57
Stackhouse Family Forest	2.1	1.32
Blough Family Forest	2.3	1.25

Please note that growth of just one square foot of basal area is like adding a fresh new 14” diameter tree to your woodlot! With proper silviculture, you can choose what this “new tree” is....wood on high quality sugar maple sawlogs or red maple firewood! The contest framework helps you put the growth on your best trees and use your lower quality material for projects or heat. Let the winning trees get all the light, water and nutrients.

Notice that Piestrak Forest Lands, in cooperation with their forester, Bruce Robinson, is growing very well at nearly 4% growth. If the other teams want to challenge Josh, they'll need to mark some slow growers and take to their woods to do some thinning. The available growth will then be placed on the best growing trees and there will be fewer trees in the sample plots. This causes the *percent growth* to shoot up!

Think about creative ways to use the cull material or let it lay on the forest floor for wildlife. The Piestrak Family and Team Smallidge create building materials. Team Springwater uses some of the material for the Springwater Wood Bank, which helps those in need with free emergency firewood. Properly thinning out the slow growers is a key component of the contest and a key to the competitiveness within your forest. Here is some more raw data:

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume – Growth on 20 Trees

	bd. ft.	% Growth
Team Springwater	230	4.03
Edwards Family Forest	63	2.63

Conifer – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)

	sq. ft.	% Growth
Team Springwater	3.6	1.72

Team Springwater's conifer plots are still way overstocked! Some thinning has occurred but not nearly enough. When trees are culled from the plots, their place is kept in the tally sheets, but their data is omitted in the computations. This way, the amount of timber harvested from the plots can be tracked over time but the culled trees do not contribute to the annual contest scores.

Timber Beast Scores (Sum of all team scores across all categories)

Team Smallidge	0.0613
Edwards Family Forest	0.1913
Stackhouse Family Forest	0.0203
Blough Family Forest	0.0178
Dale Schaefer	0.0353
Piestrak Forest Lands	0.1026
Team Springwater	0.2660



Youngsters Oscar Williams and Baily Anderson help the elders understand the real purpose behind the Timber Contest at the Southern Tier chapter's contest workshop on March 14, 2015.

Please spread the word to your forest-loving friends. Let's work together to grow participation in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest to help spotlight the importance of growing quality timber. Your grandiloquent contest committee men will also be working diligently to entice and ensnare new contestants in NY and other states. There is plenty of time remaining to enter *your* forest for 2016!

It takes only four (4) hours per year to begin to grow high quality timber and lots of help is available. If your forestry organization is interested in holding a contest workshop, there are free workshop materials available. The workshop will teach tips and tricks to get you started.

Any questions or if anyone needs help measuring trees, email: dfaklis@frontiernet.net. Also, check out the timber contest website at: www.timbercontest.com. ***Thanks and Congratulations to All!***