

# Northeast Timber Growing Contest

## 2016 Contest Results

Dean Faklis and Peter Smallidge

We're proud to present the 2016 summary and results for the Northeast Timber Growing Contest ([www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com)). 2016 marks the end of the third full growing season and the third set of adjudicated results. Here is a list of contest participants in 2016:

### **Del Allen**

Del Allen, Jim Bagley (Forester) (Milo, Yates, NY)

### **Blough Family Forest**

Christy, Bailey, Billie Sue and Gary Blough (Ontario, Wayne, NY)

### **Dewey Family Forest**

John and Jason Dewey (Unadilla, Otsego, NY)

### **Edwards Family Forest**

Kurt and Kristie Edwards (Mayfield, Fulton, NY)

### **Gerry Palmer**

Gerry Palmer (Guilford, Chenango, NY)

### **Piestrak Forest Lands**

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

### **Dale Schaefer**

Dale and Eileen Schaefer (Canadice, Ontario, NY)

### **Schlafer Family Forest**

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

### **Team Smallidge**

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

### **Spreutels Family Forest**

Gordon and Marie Spreutels (Guilford, Chenango, NY)

### **Team Springwater**

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

### **Stackhouse Family Forest**

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

### **Williams Family Forest**

Todd, Karen, Oscar, Finn and Sophie Williams (Barton, Tioga, NY)

**Dave Williams**

Kathryn and Dave Williams and Karl VonBerg (Forester) (Guilford, Chenango, NY)

**Winkler Tree Farm**

Frank Winkler and Ryan Trapani (Forest Educator) (Andes, Delaware, NY)

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

Anderson Family Forest, Cassadaga Valley School, Doolittle Family Forest, Sid Haring, Hayek Family Forest, Chris Howard, Kazacos Family Forest, John Murdock, Matt Neary, Ed Neuhauser, Dick Patton, Ron Pedersen, Sandra Rose, Semanovich Family Forest, Phil Walton, and Lew Ward.

The following are considering creating plots and taking measurements in 2017: Jerry Michael and Steve Kutney.

## **Welcome to the New Contestants and Future Timber Beasts!**

Eighteen of NY's 62 counties are now well represented by 31 teams! And...we have a great school team, Cassadaga Valley School, under the excellent direction of Cheryl Burns.

There were four races in 2016; Hardwood – Board Foot Volume, Conifer – Board Foot Volume, Hardwood – Basal Area Increment, and Conifer – Basal Area Increment. The Hardwood – BA category received entries from 14 teams and was the most popular category. All of the entries were normalized by the site index, which is an estimate of the height of a 50-year old tree on a particular soil type, to help create a level playing field. Sites with lower site index receive a beneficial handicap. Please visit [www.CornellForestConnect.ning.com](http://www.CornellForestConnect.ning.com) and search the blogs for “site index” to learn how to use Google Earth Pro and Web Soil Survey to determine site index and other features of the soil.

All competitors submitted their entry materials on time and in good order. The judges met during November 2016 to review the results and make the necessary computations. The rules that governed the judging process can be found at [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com).

***Congratulations to all participants!***

Here are the **2016 Northeast Timber Growing Contest Results**, with high score in **bold**:

**Hardwood – BA**

<b>Team Smallidge</b>	<b>0.0510</b>
Edwards Family Forest	0.0488
Team Springwater	0.0447
Piestrak Forest Lands	0.0429
Gerry Palmer	0.0404
Del Allen	0.0389
Dewey Family Forest	0.0362
Dave Williams	0.0354
Williams Family Forest	0.0302
Dale Schaefer	0.0284
Spreutels Family Forest	0.0251
Stackhouse Family Forest	0.0196
Blough Family Forest	0.0136
Schlafer Family Forest	0.0136

**Hardwood – Board Foot Volume**

<b>Team Springwater</b>	<b>0.0651</b>
Winkler Tree Farm	0.0538
Edwards Family Forest	0.0487
Del Allen	0.0440
Dave Williams	0.0428

**Conifer – Board Foot Volume**

<b>Winkler Tree Farm</b>	<b>0.0722</b>
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**Conifer – BA**

<b>Team Springwater</b>	<b>0.0288</b>
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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	59.22
Edwards Family Forest	60.63
Stackhouse Family Forest	65.00
Williams Family Forest	65.00
Dale Schaefer	68.50
Dave Williams	68.83
Piestrak Forest Lands	69.33
Gerry Palmer	69.33
Del Allen	69.51
Blough Family Forest	70.00
Winkler Tree Farm	70.00
Team Springwater	70.00
Dewey Family Forest	71.11
Schlafer Family Forest	71.92
Spreutels Family Forest	71.92

<b>Hardwood – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)</b>	<b>sq. ft.</b>	<b>% Growth</b>
<b>Top Five</b>		
Team Smallidge	2.5	3.02
Edwards Family Forest	1.9	2.96
Team Springwater	4.3	3.13
Piestrak Forest Lands	2.5	2.97
Gerry Palmer	2.5	2.80

<b>Conifer – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)</b>	<b>sq. ft.</b>	<b>% Growth</b>
Team Springwater	3.9	1.94

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.

For 2017, the word of the year for testers should be *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! Properly thinning out the slow growers is a key component of the contest and a key to the competitiveness within your forest. 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. Here is some more growth data for comparison:

<b>Hardwood – Board Foot Volume – Growth on 20 Trees</b>	<b>bd. ft.</b>	<b>% Growth</b>
Team Springwater	266.9	4.56
Winkler Tree Farm	195.0	3.76
Edwards Family Forest	72.6	2.95
Del Allen	141.5	3.06
Dave Williams	160.7	2.94

<b>Conifer – Board Foot Volume – Growth 20 Trees</b>	<b>bd. ft.</b>	<b>% Growth</b>
Winkler Tree Farm	187.0	5.06

Contest participants become *Timber Beasts* when they accumulate normalized scores that total at least 1.000 across all categories. Here are the current Timber Beast standings:

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

Team Springwater	0.4046
Edwards Family Forest	0.2888
Team Smallidge	0.1633
Piestrak Forest Lands	0.1455
Winkler Tree Farm	0.1260
Del Allen	0.0829
Dave Williams	0.0782
Dale Schaefer	0.0637
Gerry Palmer	0.0404
Stackhouse Family Forest	0.0399

Dewey Family Forest	0.0362
Blough Family Forest	0.0314
Williams Family Forest	0.0302
Spreutels Family Forest	0.0251
Schlafer Family Forest	0.0136

Let's work together to grow participation in the Northeast Timber Growing Contest to help spotlight the importance of growing quality timber. There is plenty of time remaining to enter *your* forest for 2017!

***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](mailto:dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Also, check out the timber contest website at: [www.TimberContest.com](http://www.TimberContest.com). ***Thanks and Congratulations to All!***