

## Growing Big Timber: Free Help!

by Dean Faklis

Watching trees grow is exciting! You have to be patient, of course, but with the discovery of high-tech inspection tools (tape measure and clipboard), you can see your crop trees expand right before your eyes. So if you want to grow big high-quality trees and you have the spirit of adventure, there is FREE assistance available to WFL members.



Getting Ready to Enter the Timber-Growing Contest

In 2013, to help provide a fun environment for forest owners to grow nice timber, we started the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. It's a friendly competition with an even playing field where people work together to learn, grow sawlogs and focus on forest regeneration. There is a website which contains more information on the contest at [www.timbercontest.com](http://www.timbercontest.com). There are several participants from WFL already involved and they are now submitting their results for the first year.

Some WFL members have heard about the timber contest by reading recent articles in NYFOA's Forest Owner magazine and have contacted me about the benefits and the work involved. The rules are pretty easy to understand but I have found that a telephone call or a visit really helps the forest owner hit the ground running. The first year requires a bit more

time than subsequent years because the trees need to be identified and the sample plots created. Getting a personalized explanation on how it is all done makes it easier to get active and helps eliminate the guesswork.

Growing quality timber is fun and profitable but it takes physical effort and knowledge. Having a way to measure your progress in the woodlot is vital to your decision making process. Fortunately, the Northeast Timber Growing Contest provides a fun environment for understanding your forest and gauging timber growth on your trees. Please visit the timber contest website and review the information to see if you want to participate. Feel free to contact me ([dfaklis@frontiernet.net](mailto:dfaklis@frontiernet.net)) for tips on how to get started. It's all free and it's a great way to get the entire family engaged outdoors in the family forest.



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