

Northeast Timber Growing Contest

2014 Contest Results

Dean Faklis and Peter Smallidge

We're proud to present the 2014 summary and results for the Northeast Timber Growing Contest. 2014 marks the end of the first full growing season and the first set of adjudicated results. Here is a list of contest participants during the first season:

Edwards Family Forest

Kurt Edwards, Kristie Edwards, Erin O'Neill (Forester) (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)

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)

Here is a list of contest participants that took their first set of measurements in 2014, getting ready for 2015 and beyond:

Blough Family Forest

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

Stackhouse Family Forest

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

There were three races in 2014; Hardwood – Board Foot Volume, Hardwood – Basal Area Increment, and Conifer – Basal Area Increment. The Hardwood – BA category received entries from all five 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 June and July 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 2014 Northeast Timber Contest results, with high score in **bold**:

Hardwood – BA

Team Smallidge	0.0613
Piestrak Forest Lands	0.0457
Team Springwater	0.0412
Edwards Family Forest	0.0379
Dale Schaefer	0.0124

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume

Edwards Family Forest	0.0731
Team Springwater	0.0716

Conifer – BA

Team Springwater	0.0312
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Again, 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
Dale Schaefer	68.50
Piestrak Forest Lands	69.33
Team Springwater	70.00

Conifer Site Index

Team Springwater	67.23
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The entry from Team Smallidge had the lowest site index yet they won the category because they perform excellent timber stand improvement (TSI). Get those chainsaws out and find a good use for your less productive trees!

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

	sq. ft.	% Growth
Team Smallidge	2.7	3.40
Piestrak Forest Lands	2.5	3.17
Team Springwater	3.7	2.88
Edwards Family Forest	1.4	2.30
Dale Schaefer	1.1	0.85

Piestrak Forest Lands, in cooperation with their forester, Bruce Robinson, is growing very well but will need to remove its slow growing trees if it is to challenge Team Smallidge. We can be sure that the Smallidge's won't sit still over the winter, and Josh Piestrak and team can win this one in 2015!

The table above also indicates that the Schaefer forest needs a thinning as it is growing at less than 1%. Dale will need to find a use for some of his suppressed oaks that are way too nice for firewood. Dale needs a bandsaw mill and solar kiln!

Hardwood – Board Foot Volume – Growth on 20 Trees	bd. ft.	% Growth
Team Springwater	271	5.01
Edwards Family Forest	101	4.43

While Team Springwater put on more percent growth, the Edwards Family Forest won the category because they are producing excellent amounts of wood using less productive soil. The Edward's and their forester, Erin O'Neill, are practicing good management!

Conifer – BA – Growth (average sq.ft. per acre)	sq. ft.	% Growth
Team Springwater	4.4	2.10

Team Springwater's plots are way overstocked! Dean needs to listen to forester Brice June, and get to work this winter with some serious TSI or a challenger will take this category from them.

Lesson from 2014: Through careful forest measurements, identify your “loser” trees and put them to immediate use as building materials, furniture, and firewood! Let the winners get all the light, water and nutrients.

Stackhouse and Blough will be quite competitive in 2015 in the basal area category. They have great soils and fine chainsaw skills!

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. There is plenty of time remaining to enter your forest for 2015.

It takes only four (4) hours per year to grow BIG trees and lots of help is available. There is a free contest workshop on March 14, 2015 hosted by the Southern Tier Chapter. Email Dave Williams for registration details, kdwillmill at gmail dot com. The workshop will teach tips and tricks to get you started.

Any questions or if anyone needs help measuring trees, send us a note: dfaklis at frontiernet dot net. Also, check out the timber contest website at www.timbercontest.com.

Thanks and Congratulations to All!