

Diverse Temperate Forests of the Finger Lakes

Akiva Silver

I first met Akiva on a Finger Lakes Land Trust tree walk on a cold, rainy spring day. Given the weather, I figured there'd be few other participants and lots of opportunities to ask geeky tree questions. To my surprise, over 50 people showed up! And I didn't ask a single question because I was so spellbound by his incredible tree knowledge and passion. And I've never seen so many people standing around shivering together with huge smiles on their faces, rapt attention and sparkles in their eyes.

Akiva Silver studied primitive skills and wilderness survival for several years at such places as Tom Brown's Tracker School, Hawk Circle Wilderness Education Center, and several wild areas around the world. Akiva has worked for Primitive Pursuits in Ithaca, educating children about the natural world. He has also worked for a tree service, a native plant nursery, and as a landscaper. Akiva currently owns and operates Twisted Tree Farm in Spencer, NY which includes a young chestnut orchard, and a nursery dedicated to growing ecologically beneficial plants for people and wildlife. Connected to the Finger Lakes region his whole life, Akiva grew up visiting his grandfather's house on Canandaigua lake and attending Camp Seneca Lake in the summertime.