



# Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

## Chairman's Corner

It is January. I returned from Florida on January 1st and winter arrived on January 2nd. Since my driveway is a quarter mile long I was glad the snow waited for me to get home. Driving half the length of Florida I was impressed with the amount of forested land that exists there. It is however being reduced fairly quickly by development. I did get to spend some time in a tree while there. My wife and I picked about 3 bushel of navel oranges from a tree we have inherited there. We are now back to the reality of plowing the driveway, feeding the wood stove and feeding the birds.

The AFC Christmas Party was very enjoyable. It was good to touch base with friends and meet new NYFOA members. As usual the Richardsons and Pingitores provided music to get us in the Christmas spirit. The food could not have been better. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the effort.

The steering committee is in the process of working with Program Chair-



man Dan Anderson to get events scheduled for 2012. If you have ideas or are willing to host a woodwalk or other event please contact Dan. His contact info is on the cover of this newsletter. We had a great schedule of events in 2011. Thanks to Dan and all who hosted. You cannot participate in any of these events without learning something.

Wishing all of you a Blessed New Year. Hope to meet some of you over the course of 2012.

— Otis Barber

## Poles Needed for Hop Trellises By: Cooperative Extension

New York State has a new industry that is growing rapidly; hops. Hops are grown on 18 ft high trellises. Each acre requires about 65 poles 22 ft long and 8-10 inches diameter. Approximately 2,000 poles will be needed in Spring 2012 and more in 2013. Preferred species are larch, cedar and black locust. Plantings are going in all across the state so local delivery or pick up is a plus. Anyone who might be able to supply such poles should contact Steve Miller, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Hops Specialist at 315-684-3001 ext, 127 or email [sgm6@cornell.edu](mailto:sgm6@cornell.edu).

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER	1
TRELLIS POLES NEEDED	1
HUNTING STORIES, DEC CAMP	2
STORIES, 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY	3
TREE & SHRUB SEEDLINGS SALE	3
MEMBERSHIP, EDITOR'S NOTE	4

### Chapter Board of Directors:

• Otis Barber– Chair	(716) 962-8175
• Jeff Rupp- Vice-Chair	(716) 257-5652
• Kim Sherwood– Secretary	(716) 287-3331
• Tony Pingitore– Treasurer	(716) 962-4041
• State Association Representative	Vacant
• Dan Anderson- Planning Coord.	(716) 386-7802
• Membership Coordinator	Vacant
• Shari Lake– Newsletter Editor	(716) 560-6458

On several occasions, I shared hunting stories with Tony Pingitore after church services this fall. I had some great stories to tell and with a little prodding, Tony convinced me to share this with you all. This year I experienced several firsts on our North Harmony property.

**-Mid September—**It was just after dark and I went to the backyard to pick up a few tools from a job earlier that day. As I grabbed the tools, I shined my flashlight around the perimeter of the yard. There, just into the field, I see a cat crouched and ready to pounce on a rabbit a few yards away. At first glance, I thought it was simply one of our two domestic cats. As I continued to watch the cat, I realized that it was the wrong colors to be one of our cats, and much too large. I went back to the house and called for my wife, not wanting her to miss what I was seeing. Together we returned to the yard, flashlight off, and to our great fortune, the cat was still there crouching in the tall grass staring at us. I turned the light on and we are face to face with a beautiful bobcat. No more than 30 feet separated us as we stared at one another. It had a beautiful black and brown coat with pointed, tufted ears and the signature bobbed tail. It broke its gaze, turned and slowly headed towards the back forty. My wife and I stood there still taking in what we had seen — our first bobcat in the wild. And to top it off it was on our own property! Our first-first.

**-Late October—**I was out for a morning bow hunt in a stand not far from where we had seen the bobcat. A little before 8 am I spotted a spike buck. He walked closer and stopped and stood about 25 yards to the right of my stand. Season's early and I'm not interested in such a young deer yet; however I enjoy watching him as he meanders about in front of me. As I continue to watch him, I see movement out of the corner of my eye. Coming from the same direction as the spike had come, I see a large dark critter coming towards my stand. I'm trying to identify it; however this is complicated by the fact the spike has now moved even closer to my stand and I don't want to spook him. I continue to watch the animal out of the corner of my eye. As it gets closer I see that it is a fisher—maybe three feet long and with a big bushy tail. The fisher continued towards my stand, past the spike and then disappeared off into the brush. I had heard of fisher sightings in Chautauqua County but this was my first. My second—first!

**-Early November—**This time I was out for an afternoon bow hunt. It was overcast and dry. As I walked to my stand it was like walking on cornflakes, the dry leaves made a racket under foot. As the afternoon progressed, there was not much activity around my stand and the woods were quiet. All of a sudden, a commotion broke out behind me. Due to how my stand is set up, in a hemlock with a blow-down leaning against it, I couldn't see a thing behind me. I grabbed my bow and readied myself for whatever was making the noise. I strained my eyes to try and see what is behind my stand; I was thinking a buck chasing a doe. Wrong! A chipmunk came screaming out from under my stand and across the woods floor. Right on his tail was a red fox! The made a few zigs and zags as the chase ensued. In the end it was the chipmunks' lucky day as he made it to safety in an old log pile. The fox dug at the pile for a few minutes before giving up. He then sat down as if resting and then trotted off. No deer today but I witnessed an awesome interaction between predator and prey. My third—first.

...Continued on page 3...

---

## New York State DEC 2012 Summer Camp Registration

For information and applications for the 2012 Environmental Education Summer Camps at Colby, De-Bruce, Rushford and Pack Forest, please visit DEC's website: [www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html) or call 518-402-8014. Interested parents may also sign up for DEC's camps list serve by contacting DEC in writing at DEC Camps, 2nd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4500 or online at the following Web site:

<http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/decenvironmentaledcamps> You can also visit DEC's Summer Camps on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NYS-DEC-Summer-Camps/120600701371803>

---

## Hunting Stories continued...

### -Mid November-

Opening morning of shotgun season had finally arrived and I was in one of my stands in a grove of hemlocks at the back of our 60 acres. It was about 30 degrees out and snow blanketed the ground. Nine am came and went and I had yet to see a deer. As I continued to scan the woods around me, I stared in disbelief as I once again saw the fisher. This time I got a much better look at him as he made his way towards my stand. I could see his muscular body perfectly outlined against the snow and he had a mean look on his face. When he got about 10 yards away from me, he winded me and took off through the woods. I sat there incredulous at what I had just seen. Predator or not, he was a beautiful sight to see. I turned back around just in time to see a second fisher headed east. Without hesitation it continued on its path and out of site. A pair of fishers! Another—First!

This hunting season was definitely one to remember; a year of firsts that I was able to experience on my own property and with my family. For my family and I, hunting is something we do together. We love to share our stories with each other and with those, like you, who enjoy the great outdoors. And we thank the Good Lord each and every day for these opportunities.

P.S. Small game populations on the decline. Hmmm after observing all these predators, I wonder why?

-Greg Michalak

---

## Christmas Party

By: Dan Anderson

On Saturday, December 3, our AFC family gathered at the Community Building in Randolph for our annual Christmas Party. Our numbers were down, as only 15 people attended, but that didn't diminish our enthusiasm as a great time was had by all who attended.

A short business meeting was followed by a delicious Christmas meal. The Pingitores and Richardsons provided the music for our Christmas Carol sing along. Many of our AFC members were in fine voice for this event!! Unfortunately, some people thought that the droning sound during the sing along was because a truck was left running, but that was only me singing carols.

The Christmas gift exchange was a lot of fun, but we dearly missed the Kurtis family during the exchange. A walking stock, handcrafted by Tony Pingitore, was on of the most prized gifts, although several others were extremely desirable as well. I think that Kim Sherwood selected the walking stick, if I remember correctly. Sorry, Kurtis family :).

I hope that the AFC family had a wonderfully memorable Holiday Season!

---

## Seedling Sales Now thru Mid-May

NYS DEC

The NYS Tree Nursery offers more than 50 different trees and shrubs for your needs: stream buffers, hedges, windbreaks, wildlife food and habitat, attracting pollinators, Christmas trees and more. Bare root seedlings are lightweight and easy to plant.

Numerous trees and shrubs available make great stream buffers. Storms in 2011 destroyed many stream banks. Healthy planted stream banks and floodplains slow the force of floodwaters and reduce erosion, protecting our loved ones and property.

The sale began January 3, 2012 and runs through mid-May.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html>



NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION

Shari Lake, Editor  
214 Huxley ST  
Jamestown, NY 14701-5929  
Phone: 716-560-6458 Cell  
Email: [afcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:afcnewsletter@yahoo.com)

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEB 23-25 2012 NY FARM SHOW,  
STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SYRACUSE

MARCH 19 12 NOON STEERING  
COMMITTEE MTG R&M RANDOLPH

APR 21 7 PM SLIDESHOW: FOREST  
ECOLOGY OF ALASKA, BY BOB OTT  
RANDOLPH COMM BLDG

MAY 19 10AM WOODSWALK: ZOAR  
VALLEY, VALENTINE FLATS

JULY 21 AFC SUMMER PICNIC—RUPP  
FAMILY FARM W/ MECHANIZED  
HARVEST DEMO, LOCAL MFO MTG

SEPT TBA WOODSWALK: HOME  
SAWMILL TOUR, PINGITORE FOREST

DEC 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY RANDOLPH

## Annual Maple Weekend™ 2012

Saturday and Sunday March 17/18 and March 24/25

This family event runs from **10am-4pm** each day and will be held at participating Maple Producers throughout Western New York including Sprague's Maple Farms, 1048 Rt. 305 (Portville-Obi Rd), Portville, NY 14770 (716) 933-6637.

**Sprague's Year 'Round Maple Wonderland** will be featuring live demonstrations including tapping, an Indian Village showing how Native Americans made syrup and a Rustic Sugar Shack showing how it was done by early pioneers. Wagon rides will be available both Saturday & Sunday. A gift shop features Sprague's maple products; a full service restaurant offers breakfast all day & many other selections.

For more information on this event and additional locations, please visit [www.mapleweekend.com](http://www.mapleweekend.com).



**Welcome New Members:** Shari Lake, Jamestown, NY; Garrett Sharp, Sinclairville, NY.

**Total Membership 291**

## Rural Landowner Workshop



The 20th Annual Rural Landowner Workshop will be held at Pioneer Central School, County Line Rd, York-shire, NY on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

**Registration deadline: Friday, February 17th, 2011** Cost \$30.00 per person. This includes lunch, a copy of the seminar proceedings and all handout materials. Please contact Lynn Bliven for registration form or download copy from website: <http://cceaalleganycattaraugus.org>

**Beginner Maple Producer Workshop** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Cornell Cooperative Extension, 5435A County Rd 48, Belmont, NY 14813. Mr. Stephen Childs, presenter. Fee \$10 per family. Pre-registration by Feb 13, call Lynn Bliven 585-268-7644

The *Allegheny Foothill Chapter Newsletter* is published for members of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interest of woodland owners. The Allegheny Foothills Chapter was founded in 1989 and encompasses Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding at (800) 836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscription to this wonderful newsletter; the bi-monthly NYFOA statewide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at Chapter meetings; and at statewide meetings. For more information visit [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

Please email your comments to [afcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:afcnewsletter@yahoo.com)

