



# Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

## Chairman's Corner

As I am writing this on January 18th our winter seems to be unfolding much like our winter last year. There is just enough snow on the ground to make it look nice and a 45 degree temperature is predicted for today. Perhaps as you are reading this it's snowing and blowing outside.

I have gotten into my woods on 3 days this week and spent time finding trees that will never make timber. My top supply from an ash timber sale 5 or 6 years ago is dwindling and I am looking for firewood trees that are crowding trees with timber potential. My wood is open and dry which is unusual for January. It's a great time of year to see your woods without all the summer growth that impairs vision and walking. I am still working on re-establishing trails that have been let go and need work to make them passable. I made a lot of progress this year but I have a long way to go.

I cut maybe 20 cull trees this week that have improved my woodlot and will keep me supplied with seasoned firewood. I have a number of Beech to cut but I want to do that when I can apply Roundup to the perimeter of the stumps. I need to find

which months or season is best for this to be effective. I have done it with good success in October, but I think January is probably not the best time. Perhaps someone could genetically alter deer so they would prefer Beech browse over Maple and Cherry.

2012 was a great year for Chapter activities. We had some great events and we will be trying to outdo or at least match that in 2013. If you have an idea for an event we should consider please contact Dan Anderson or anyone on the steering committee. We are starting to put that schedule together this month.

Each year the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides Camping Sessions for 11-13 year old & 14-17 year old youth. Our AFC Chapter provides scholarships for two campers to attend one of these week-long sessions. It is a very fun & educational experience. If you have children or grandchildren or know of a youth who would be a good candidate for this program, have them contact me or any steering committee member to apply for a scholarship. DEC is revamping the registration process, but applications will be available soon.

—Otis Barber

## Winter-Spring 2013 Schedule of Events

**Feb 21-23**—NY Farm Show State Fairgrounds, Syracuse

**March 2**—Rural Landowner's Workshop at Pioneer Elementary School in Yorkshire, NY

**March 18**—Steering Committee Meeting at R&M Restaurant, Randolph, 12 Noon

**March 25**—Spring Newsletter Deadline email or US Mail to Editor; contact info back page

**May 11**—10am Woods Walk at Morabito's Belfast, NY Open Fire Hot Dog Roast for Lunch

**May 18**—Woods Walk at Jeff Rupp's Town of New Albion property

(Hold Those Woods Walk Dates—More Details in Next Newsletter, Sept WW TBA!)

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### Chapter Board of Directors:

- Otis Barber— Chair (716) 962-8175
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- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Membership Coordinator Vacant
- Shari Lake— Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

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## Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Land Owners Workshop

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Land Owners Workshop is a full day program involving several agencies that provide educational information and outreach to landowners. Presenters are brought in from both private and public sectors to provide participants with up-to-date information concerning woodland management, taxation, wildlife, forest safety & water quality. This year's program will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Pioneer High School in Yorkshire, NY. Pre-registration is required; cost is \$30. Limited to the first 300 people. Includes lunch, a copy of the seminar proceedings, and all handout materials. For more information please contact Dorene at 585-268-7644 ext. 10.

**Registration deadline: Friday, February 15th, 2013.**

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**Steering Committee Meetings:** March 18, June 3, October 14 (12 Noon, R&M Restaurant) and July 20 (Annual Picnic)

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**WANTED:** Home for one (1) Oneida stainless serving spoon left at the AFC picnic at the Rupp Family Forest in the Town of New Albion on July 23, 2011. Please call and reclaim if this is yours. Jeff & Diane Rupp, 7009 State Land Road, Cattaraugus, NY 14719 Phone 716-257-5652

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**WANTED:** Recipe for the delicious sausage that was served at the 2012 NYFOA AFC Picnic. If you are willing to share your recipe, please email [afcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:afcnewsletter@yahoo.com) and it will be passed on to the requesting member.

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**WILD GAME RECIPES NEEDED:** Please email your favorite Wild Game Recipe to [afcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:afcnewsletter@yahoo.com) or mail to Shari Lake, 214 Huxley ST, Jamestown, NY 14701. We would like to feature these in future newsletter editions.

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**NYFOA 2013 ANNUAL RENEWAL ENVELOPES** have been mailed to membership. If you have already renewed, please disregard this reminder. Contributions in excess of dues are normally tax deductible. If you have questions or want to share membership info with a friend please visit [www.nyfoa.org/join\\_nyfoa.php](http://www.nyfoa.org/join_nyfoa.php)

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## 2012 Christmas Party

Twenty-six people enjoyed music, food and fellowship on December 8, 2012 at the Randolph Community Building. The Christmas Party is always a fun time to socialize with those who share a love of the forest. It is such a wonderful, family-friendly event. If you shy away from attending a NYFOA function because you don't think you will know anyone that will be there, please come anyway. Steering Committee members are marvelous hosts, introducing members and guests to each other and making sure everyone has someone to visit with. Tony and Connie Pingitore and Vic and Kay Richardson brought their instruments and played Christmas Carols before lunch. A delicious meal was served with scrumptious casseroles, salads and desserts along with plenty of ham. After lunch the "White Elephant" gift exchange provided even more excitement as gifts were selected from the gift table or taken from other members. Nobody leaves hungry and you'll be so glad you joined us! I hope to see you at a future event. -Shari Lake



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## Frac Sand: It Carries the Weight of the World!

Submitted by Kim Sherwood

One cannot live in NYS without having heard of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (or fracing, as it's known in the industry). While the topic is extremely controversial, there are certainly some fascinating aspects related to it. One of those is an "unsung hero" of the process: frac sand.

Frac sand, also called "proppant", is not your typical playground sand, or for that matter the type used in common construction projects. "Frac sand is a high-purity sand with very durable and very round grains of a specific size. It is a highly specialized, crush-resistant material produced for use by the petroleum industry." Over one million pounds of frac sand may be used to stimulate, or fracture, a single well!

Naturally-occurring sources of frac sands are sandstones that have been subjected to multiple cycles of weathering and erosion, but have not been subjected to geologic forces that degrade the sand particles. The weathering and erosion removes most of the mineral grains, leaving only the relatively uniform quartz grains behind. This high-quality sand was historically mined both Wisconsin and Texas, but as demand has grown in recent years, it is now being mined from other parts of the central United States such as Iowa and Minnesota. Like fracing itself, the mining of the sand is not without controversy, due to respiratory and a variety of other concerns for workers, landowners and communities where previously unheard of quantities of sand are mined, processed, dried and shipped.

Frac sand is almost literally the "backbone" of high-volume hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. The sand and chemicals carried by the millions of gallons of water or other drilling fluid used for each horizontal well must be able to hold the induced fractures open to allow the flow of natural gas from the targeted shale formation into the wellbore. To some extent, it must also withstand the weight and pressure of thousands of feet of rock above it. Almost literally, the weight of the world is on that sand's proverbial shoulders!

Reference: "What is Frac Sand?" on geology.com (<http://geology.com/articles/frac-sand/>). Visit web site for more info.

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**Welcome New Members:** James Gould, Dunkirk; Harold Hoffman, Wellsville; Leroy & Susan Stoycon, Wellsville and John Walker, Fairport. **283 Total Membership**

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## Wood & Coal Parlor Stove Restoration Submitted by Bill & Vi Dorman, Cassadaga, NY

This project was started because I answered a classified ad in the Jamestown Post-Journal for an antique parlor stove in Feb, 2010. I called for an appointment and when I saw it, thought it had a lot of potential although it looked pretty rough.

I tore it down completely to be sure it was functional and safe and found I only had to "reverse-engineer" one small part of the circular grate. I had one made by a machine shop in Gerry, NY of stainless steel. The next stage involved getting all the decorative parts nickel-plated in Erie, PA; buying paint stripper discs for my drill driver, and locating "mica" for the door so I would be able to see the flames. I ordered this from Texas and was relatively cheap. (the nickel plating was not cheap).

I had worked on this stove now for several months a few hours at a time and when it started getting cold, the pace picked up because I still needed a chimney! Fortunately the snow held off until I fired it up just before Thanksgiving.

We really loved the finished product, but realized that a stove with this much charm and character could not exist in a basement that had over the years become very ugly. This now took the project to a whole new level involving a new door, windows, insulation, real rough cut paneling and a "tin-look" ceiling to give the room a turn of the century look. (the stove is an 1896 Germer # 16, made in Erie, PA).

We are now on the third year with wood heating (supplemental) and really enjoy the coziness this old stove provides, including making s'mores for the grandchildren. Also, it helps me stay active on my timber stand improvement projects. (I have a ½ ton of coal as a backup, but only use that when the temperature drops below zero). I am now in the process of restoring two more stoves this winter. I guess I've found yet another hobby.



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# Management of Wild Grape

By Bob Ott

The wild grape can be a blessing or a curse, depending on your forest management objectives. This native vine actually consists of several plant species in the genus *Vitis*, that produce a small, spherical, purple fruit that develops in clusters, much like domestic grapes. The wild grape can grow on a variety of soil conditions. These woody plants can take the form of high-climbing vines or trailing vines.

Grapes are important to wildlife. The fruit is a food source for songbirds, game birds, and small and large mammals. The fruit appears between July and October and can remain on the vines throughout the winter. Deer also browse the leaves. Grape vines also provide cover for wildlife. Fox squirrels and gray squirrels preferentially anchor their leaf nests in vines, and may use the vines in the construction of the skeleton of those nests. Squirrels—including red and flying squirrels—sometimes use the bark of the vines for lining their nests. In addition, some species of birds nest in grape vines and use the bark as nest material.

Wild grapes also have negative impacts on forests. Grapes can result in the loss of merchantable wood volume by reducing tree growth and quality, and by causing tree death. Vines can grow into the tops of mature trees and dominate the growing space. When this happens, the vines shade out the leaves of the trees resulting in reduced photosynthesis and decreased tree growth. Grape vines also cause bending and breaking of tree tops and limbs, and can cause uprooting. Although grapes can be beneficial to wildlife, their negative effects on tree growth can reduce habitat quality by reducing the availability of mast-producing trees such as oaks, hickories, black cherry, and apples. Sometimes several (or more) vines coalesce and overtop a number of tree canopies, forming wild grape arbors that can kill the trees and create openings in the forest canopy. The high light levels in these openings can result in the establishment of early successional vegetation. However, the high light levels may also serve to encourage the establishment of more grape vines.

Wild grapes are early successional plants that require high levels of light to become established and survive. Grape seeds require full sunlight to germinate. The seeds are spread by birds and small mammals that feed on the fruits, and seeds can fall directly from the vines. Seeds buried in the soil can remain dormant for at least 15 years, waiting for the proper conditions to germinate. Wild grapes also easily sprout from roots and cut stumps. The high light requirements of grape seedlings means that in order for the vines to reach the tree canopy, they must either grow along with the trees from the time the trees are seedlings, or the vines grow into the canopies from neighboring trees.

The above characteristics allow us to anticipate when grapes will be a management concern, and also, how to manage the vines. The high light requirements of young grape vines means they can become established when forest management activities create high light levels within a forest stand, such as after clear cutting. In areas where wild grapes are present, the number of newly germinated grape seedlings after a heavy timber harvest can exceed 100,000 per acre. Grape vines are less problematic in forest stands where trees are harvested using single tree selection or after thinning operations, because adequate shade is retained after these partial cuttings to minimize the germination of grape seedlings.

Grapes can be controlled with mechanical treatment of the vines in shaded areas. Mechanical control consists of cutting the vines within two feet of the ground. This control method is effective in areas where the forest understory will remain adequately shaded after thinning or harvest, or in areas where a high light environment will not be created for at least 5 years after vines are cut. Vines will re-sprout after they are cut, but the new sprouts will die within 3-4 years if they remain shaded. Mechanical control of vines is effective in uneven-aged forest stands that are managed using the single tree selection system, and in even-aged stands in the sapling, poletimber, and immature sawtimber stages under even-aged management. In young even-aged stands (i.e. seedling/sapling stage), grape vines should not be cut until the tree canopy is completely closed and you can walk under it. Mechanical control of vines is effective in older even-aged stands if the vines are cut at least five years prior to scheduled thinnings and pre-commercial crop tree releases. Vines can be cut before, during, or after timber harvest in uneven-aged forests if adequate understory shade is maintained.

Although mechanical control of vines is the preferred option, grapes can also be controlled by chemically treating them with an appropriate herbicide. Herbicides can be applied on cut stumps, through a basal bark spray, or by injection into the vines. Herbicides should only be required when mature stands are ready for harvest using even-aged techniques, and only when tree harvest is scheduled within 4-5 years. In these situations, even if vines are cut, the high light environment created after tree harvest will allow them to re-sprout and survive. Herbicide application will kill existing vines, but new grape seedlings that become established after harvest will need to be controlled when trees in the new forest stand are sapling-sized, as discussed previously.

**Continued on next page...**

## Management of Wild Grape Continued....

The question of how many vines to retain in a forest depends on how much area is dominated by grapes and the management objectives of the landowner. It may be desirable to attempt to eliminate vines on sites with high commercial timber value. In contrast, retention of some vines is consistent with a management objective of maintaining or enhancing wildlife habitat. At a minimum, the retention of 1-2 trees per acre with canopy-reaching vines is recommended to allow for adequate availability of vines for squirrels to build leaf nests. These trees should be dispersed across a stand to assure that they are not concentrated within the home ranges of only a few animals. A higher density of vines is needed to satisfy the needs of wildlife that feed on the grapes. One recommendation is to retain 50 vines per acre in stands where the objective is to grow trees for timber production while also managing wildlife habitat. Once again, it is best if these vines are dispersed, to assure that animals with small home ranges have access to the fruit. A single grape arbor can produce fruit for a large number of animals, and the large concentration of vines that form these arbors can be difficult to manage. Where arbors are present, the number of vines that are retained in the surrounding areas can be reduced. However, I still recommend that a few canopy-reaching vines per acre be retained to accommodate the needs of nesting squirrels, along with the food needs of smaller animals that may not be within travel distance of an arbor.

### References

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- Sanderson, H.R., C.M. Nixon, R.W. Donohoe, and L.P. Hansen. 1980. Grapevines: An important component of gray and fox squirrel habitat. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 8: 307-310.
- Smith, H.C. 1989. Wild grapevine management. In: J.G. Hutchinson (editor). *Central hardwood notes*. USDA Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station. 6.13.

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### NYSDEC Self-Issued Certificate of Origin for Transport and Possession of Untreated Firewood

In accordance with ECL Part 192.5, Firewood Restrictions to Protect Forests from Invasive Species, persons who cut and transport untreated firewood, from a NY source, for personal use must complete and possess this form, available at

[www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/selfisscert.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/selfisscert.pdf)

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## Create a Written Plan; Yes You Can!

Submitted by: Jim Prince

In so many of the things that I read and heard about regarding working (and playing) in my woods, one thing just kept popping up...a written plan. I am not a forester, I have a LOT to learn about my woodlands. I am just a guy who was lucky enough to be able to own some forestland. How was I supposed to come up with some grand plan? Heck, I would not even know what questions to ask a forester!

It turned out that I did not need to “know” a lot of what I thought I needed to know to start. I just needed to want to start. I contacted our DEC forester and asked him for help in making a plan. That was easy enough! He set up an appointment with me and came out and walked around in my woods with me. That was FUN! That is what I LIKE to do! As we walked around, we visited. He asked me questions, he took notes, he asked more questions. He listened to me and my answers. It was not a big process. It was not a formal interview. It was not “dealing with some state agency”. It was a couple of guys walking in the woods and having a conversation. IT WAS ENJOYABLE!

In a little while, an envelope arrived in the mail from my local DEC forester. Inside was a written plan! It turned out that I had a plan after all. I just did not really know it! He was able to take our walk and conversation and interpret it into a plan. My hopes and his expertise resulted in a plan that should be workable, if I carry through. Hey...he can't do everything!

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**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**FEB 21-23 NY FARM SHOW STATE  
FAIRGROUNDS, SYRACUSE**

**MARCH 2 RLO WORKSHOP YORKSHIRE**

**MARCH 18 STEERING COMMITTEE 12  
NOON R&M RESTAURANT**

**MARCH 25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**MAY 11 WOODS WALK 10 AM**

**MORABITO'S BELFAST, NY W/ LUNCH**

**HOT DOGS OVER OPEN FIRE**

**MAY 18 WOODS WALK**

**RUPP FAMILY FARM, NEW ALBION**

**JULY 20 ANNUAL PICNIC**

**SEPTEMBER WOODS WALK TBA**

**DECEMBER XMAS PARTY TBA**



**Visit NYS DEC Summer Camps on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSDECsummercamps>

**2013 DEC Summer Camp Scholarships**

Please help us help young people better understand the world around them by encouraging family and friends to apply; submit an essay and completed DEC application by February 28, 2013! Send to Otis Barber, 6399 Route 380, Sinclairville, NY 14782.

For information and applications for the 2013 Environmental Education Summer Camps at Colby, DeBruce, 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.

Visit the Camps Week page to see what weeks camp runs and what Sportsman Education classes are offered at each camp - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/2013.html>

The fee for 2013 is once again \$350 a week; scholarships are still available, but you will need to apply by 2.28.13!

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 Allegheny, 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 the AFC Chapter newsletter; the bi-monthly NYFOA statewide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at Chapter meetings, woods walks, special events and 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) or mail to Shari Lake, 214 Huxley Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

