



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

As I begin writing this, it is 5 degrees F. on the 5th day of Spring. Not that I am complaining because that does little good. (It was either Mark Twain or Charles Dudley Warner that said "everyone complains about the weather, but does little about it")

So I just enjoy the heat from the woodstove and the fact that I did cut enough wood last fall to get me through with a little surplus.

My father many times said "there is nothing so bad that some good cannot come out of it". This may be proven by a first-hand example if the invasive species of the hemlock wooly adelgid gets slowed down by the extreme cold weather we have had.

In spite of the cold and deep snow, I have been able to drop some cull trees and cut them up for this coming fall. The snowmobile and a sled made it possible. For safety, I had to really pay attention to my escape path to avoid tripping in the snow, especially if I broke through.

One advantage of dropping them on snow is less chain sharpening since the log stays up away from the ground. I still managed to hit one rock that was hidden.

For our programs this spring, the first is working to increase our membership by arranging a visit to Fairbank's Maple, a member of the New York State Maple Producers Association. (1968 Shaw Rd., Forestville, NY). It would be nice to see us get a few new members and hopefully this kind of activity will produce some positive results. This will be on April 5th at 10:00am for breakfast, socializing and seeing the operation. Note, this will be the weekend following the two weeks set aside as Maple Weekends.

Lastly, I was flattered by the opportunity to tell the story of my woodlot in the Forest Owner magazine. After several e-mails and photo submissions, I was pleased with the results. A by-product of doing this is that you have a chance to reflect on just 'how' and 'how well' you manage and steward your forest resources. (Now I have a few more ideas!).

-Bill Dorman

Mark Your Calendars—2014 NYFOA AFC Dates

May 17—Woods Walk, Allegany County Rob Chamberlain Forestry Operation, AFC Coordinator: Jeff Rupp—Details on Woods Walk will be in our Spring Newsletter

June 9, 12 Noon—Steering Committee Meeting, R&M Restaurant, Randolph NY

July 12—Rupp Family Forest (Catt. Co.) Annual Picnic & Steering Committee Meeting

County Fairs: Allegany July 14-19; Chautauqua July 21-27; Cattaraugus July 28-August 3

August 2—Woods Walk, Morabito's property; Truck Road Building for Forest Products

September 20—Woods Walk, Otis Barber

December 6—Christmas Holiday Party

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- Catherine Heath– Newsletter Editor (716)785-0675

July 12th Summer Picnic-Rupp Family Forest, Cattaraugus County

The 2014 Annual Summer Picnic will be held at the Rupp Family Forest on July 12th. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own lunch. There is no formal program, just an informal get-together to sit around and talk or enjoy the hiking trails. Trees will be marked for an upcoming timber sale.

The Rupp Forest borders 1,000 acres NY State Forest; it is a beautiful location to enjoy as you wish. Feel free to bring a comfortable lawn chair, limited seating will be available.

From NYS Route 353 (South of Cattaraugus Village) take Gowin Gulf Road up 1-1/4 miles. Bear left at the fork; come up another 1/4 mile—7009 is on your left, West side of the road. Drive in; lots of parking space is available. Drinks will be provided, but bring your own lunch picnic-style. Stay as long as you wish.



Through the lens...

Submitted by Kim Sherwood

For the last couple years, I have been dabbling in photography after taking a break from it for about 20 years. It allows me not only to snap an interesting picture, but also to see the world in a way that I can't when I'm thinking about a half-dozen other things. Such was the case visiting Dunkirk Harbor a few times over the last several weeks.

I first went to the Harbor to try to photograph a bald eagle, having read reports that several of them were there. Almost as soon as I arrived, an immature eagle flew overhead and I got a pretty decent picture. A few seconds later the eagle was long-gone. My attention turned to the hundreds of ducks that were gathered, and I noticed what looked to be thousands of gulls on the ice and flying around, looking for food. The consistently below-average cold weather had resulted in the majority of Lake Erie being frozen, but the warm water discharge from the power plant left a small portion of open water.

That was it for the eagles that day, but I went back a few times over the next three weeks. The first couple of visits, I was "focused" on taking pictures but the next few times I went, I saw the open water area shrinking and the competition for food increasing among the ducks and the gulls. Several weeks of well-below average temperatures was clearly taking its toll on many of the birds and waterfowl. I read that the iced-over area of Lake Erie hadn't been covered this extensively since 1977. Hundreds of partially-eaten fish carcasses littered the ice shelf that had formed along the shore and the gulls were hungrily working them over. I started to see dead ducks as well, at first just a few, then more and more in the next couple weeks. What started as a trip to shoot a few eagle pictures turned into witnessing the reality of "survival of the fittest". Even with my natural resource background, it was tough to see Red-breasted Mergansers, for example, working and working, trying in vain to get a beakful of flesh from a dead, frozen fish (hundreds of which were stacked up along every crook and cranny of ice).

After a few times of shooting pictures for an hour or two in 10-15-degree weather at the Harbor, I was glad to be able to warm up in the car and return to my propane-fired boiler at home. While the cold, snow and wind whipped at the windows, I could work on my pictures that night, and work comfortably from home the next day. My photography at Dunkirk came at a time when I had been asked to give a few presentations about high-volume hydraulic fracturing. As you know this is a highly-controversial topic, but the combination of these events really made me think about the reality of living in the Northeast and questions related to how we heat our homes.

I have been intrigued by talks by Mr. Roy Butler of Four Winds Renewable Energy, LLC, who has presented at the last two Rural Landowner Workshops. More and more I think 'small energy' (personal wind or solar) is something that I want to explore for my home. In the meantime, however, whether you heat with wood, coal, natural gas, nuclear or hydro-power, there are always tradeoffs to be considered, but there can be no doubt we have a definite advantage over wildlife in that regard!

As winter finally fades, I look forward to taking pictures in warmer weather. Here's hoping the worst is behind us and spring is not nearly so wild and woolly.

Gary R. Goff Receives Award

Submitted by Bob Wood

Gary R. Goff, Senior Extension Associate in Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources, was honored by the AFC and MFOs, AFC East and West, with our area's first "Silviculture Leadership Award" on March 1, 2014 at the Rural Land Owner's Conference. Gary, as many know, was the initiator and coordinator of NYS's Master Forest Owner volunteer program for over two decades. Since 1991, nearly 400 MFO volunteers have visited more than 3,000 private forest owners who collectively own about 190,000 acres of woodlands. Over 75% of NYS woodlands are privately owned; hence the emphasis on silviculture education.

Gary has been a strong advocate of forest stewardship. He has coordinated the training of volunteers, (certified Master Forest Owners), to visit and advise woodland owners on managing their properties wisely. It is estimated at least 30+ persons have participated in the MFO program from our three county area in the past two decades. We have been equally fortunate to host a significant number of regional WNY annual refresher courses for certified MFOs.

The mission of the MFO program is challenging. It is with gratitude and a warm note of thanks that the Allegany Foothill NYFOA Chapter and MFOs presented a special plaque to Gary for outstanding leadership and education



in forestry and woodland management, which has benefitted those woodland owners in our three counties of New York State.

My Favorite Tree

Submitted by John Rembold

It is November: The leaves of my favorite tree have gone to golden yellow. Very soon they will form a blanket upon the first snow of the season. A soft, delicate, blanket that is soon blown away by the gusts of early winter.

In the early spring, these leaves will appear as a misty light green upon the branchlets of the trees. In late spring, they darken up and become the soft, gracefully drooping, coat of my favorite tree.

Ah! You guessed it; the Larch.

The Larch that most of us in NYS know is the Japanese Larch—*Larix Leptolepis*. In the 1940's and 1950's these trees were given out by the State Nursery to land owners for planting on abandoned farm land in order to reforest these lands. Rows upon rows were planted and they formed great clumps of green on the hillsides. You can still watch them change color thru the seasons; light to dark green to yellow to golden yellow, and then to bare naked.

And are they ever tall; up to 125' tall and 24" dbh. They're very straight, like telephone poles and they are self-pruning as well. If you lie on your back and look up through them, you can think of being in a cathedral.

The trees on the outer edge of the stand will have branches that are 20' long and when a breeze sets them in motion they seem to be like angel's wings pulling you in toward a comfort zone.

The wood is an orange/yellow, with straight grain and pronounced rings so you can imagine all of their seasons. The ring count on the stumps help me keep track of my age, as I planted a lot of these when I was 10 to 12 years old. The wood takes a while to dry out for use as fire wood and it is full of sap which can cause problems in the stoves. They are not rot resistant, as some may want to think. But, HEY, you can't have everything!



"Pushing off" Photo by Kim Sherwood

July 6-12 will be Invasive Species Awareness Week for all of NYS. Visit www.NYinvasives.org for additional information.

Big Problems from Tiny Invaders—7 minute video of interest to woodland owners on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

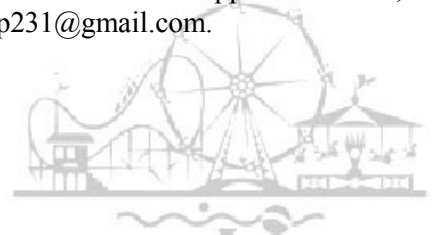
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyXaDe5GZIE&feature=youtu.be>

2014 County Fairs

Working a shift or two at the NYFOA displays at the fair is a very enjoyable and informative way to spend part of a day. You get to meet with and discuss with people from all over about everything relating to the woods. It is also a great opportunity to get new members and promote good forest stewardship. If we can get two or more people per shift to sign up, it would be most helpful.

To sign up to be part of the Allegany or Cattaraugus County Fairs please contact Jeff Rupp at 257-5652, or for the Chautauqua County Fair contact Tony Pingitore at 962-4041 or email tonyfp231@gmail.com.

- ⇒ Allegany County Fair July 14 to July 19
- ⇒ Chautauqua County Fair July 21 to July 27
- ⇒ Cattaraugus County Fair July 28 to August 3



For any woodworkers or crafters that would like to showcase your handy works made from wood from your own or other local woods, contact Jeff or Tony as noted above. You could just have it on display, or put it up for raffle towards our camp fund. Donations of hand made prizes for the kids Table Skittles game are also welcome.

If you have any suggestions for recruiting new members or improving our Fair booth display, please submit your comments to Jeff, Tony, or any of our officers.

May 17 Woods Walk Details

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

On May 17th from 9:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. there will be a woods walk at the Chamberlin Forest. Forester Tom Frair, author of a forest management plan for the property will lead the walk from 9-12. Following a bring-your-own lunch, participants are welcome to tour the forest on their own, visit and enjoy a little spring in the Genesee River Valley.

The Forest of approximately 300 acres, lies adjacent to Allegany Co. Rd. 43 in the Town of Angelica.

Directions are: **Exit 30 from I-86, take State Rte. 19 North;**

Take 1st R @ Co. Rd. 16; cross the river;

Go R on Old State Rd. approx. 1 mile;

Take R on Co. Rd. 43 (Camp Road) approx. 1/2 mile;

Park on W side of Co. Rd. 43– across the road from the 911 sign 6702.

Rob Chamberlain tells how his passion for the “forest” has grown over the years:

In 1914 my great-grandfather purchased 200 acres... the biggest part of the forest on the family farm. From 1914 to 1988 the farm was an active dairy farm started with a herd brought up from Caneadea. The forest land received little management, - thought of as acreage to pay taxes on.

In 70's, I attended our, BOCES for heavy equipment and conservation. This class introduced forest management basics. That planted a seed that grew into my current passion for the outdoors, specifically forest management. Running a 30 head dairy operation for 10 years did not leave time for working in the woods.

In Spring, help of Dad and friends, we made maple syrup. I wanted to cultivate a 3 or 4 acre south-facing bank into sugarbush. With my farm tractor and a Farmi Winch I removed ash, cherry, hickory, etc. I sold the dairy herd in 1988 and returned to college to complete my BT degree in Ag. Engineering. I did seasonal environmental work for a construction company. During layoff, November-March, I had time to work in the woods. After 2 years with a 50 HP tractor and Farmi Winch I graduated to a 1966 John Deere 440 skidder. I found a market for most of the low grade culls. Hardwood went for firewood; aspen, bass and cottonwood for pulpwood. Lo-grade saw logs went to Amish mills for pallet wood.

My part-time forest work evolved into a fulltime career cutting timber. I now have 3 skidders, a dozer, trucks and a feller-buncher; and do contract work for a large sawmill and smaller jobs for myself. My favorite job is cultivating my...forest. As I walk through my woods now, I can easily see the fruits of my 30 years of labor. I am gratified. God willing, in another 30 years I will have forestland anyone would be proud to own.

Blackberries

Submitted by Otis Barber



As most of you already are aware, there was an incredible crop of Blackberries in our area this past year. I was able to pick enough for several pies and put them in the freezer. Of course my wife had to eat a few fresh each time I picked. She has a philosophy that fruit is designed to be eaten fresh. I think it is meant to be in pies. I made a Blackberry pie the other day and was reminiscing about growing up on our dairy farm. In August my mom would push us to get the milking done early enough to walk to the edge of the woods where there were brush piles from land being cleared for crops. This was where we found a bounty of long thimble size berries.

We took pans or small pails to pick in and a milk pail to dump the berries into from our containers. It was heartbreaking to trip on the brush or fall and spill berries so we tried to empty our containers often to avoid this tragic loss. We returned home just before dark either sweating from wearing heavy clothes to avoid scratches or scratched and bleeding because we refused to be overheated. We always had some crushed up berries in a glass with milk and sugar before bed and if we reached the berry gathering goal my mom had set for us she would make a pie for us the next day and let us kids each have a half of a large pie. We had a lot of people around in those days so there was never any call for a small pie. I don't think my half pie ever lasted 24 hours even though my brother and I always tried to be the last to have some left.

You can't buy berries that equal the wild ones. I think they make the seediest pie there is other than elderberries, but Blackberry pie is my favorite and I think I will get as much satisfaction and enjoyment from those blackberry pies as I will get from a timber harvest.



August 2 Woods Walk, Morabito's

Submitted by Dave and Colette Morabito

On Saturday, August 2, 2014, we are proud to sponsor both the AFC and WFL Chapters to a "different" kind of woods walk which will be held at the Morabito Camp located in Belfast, Allegany County. There will be coffee/tea, juice and pastries from 8:30 to 9:30. Thereafter, we will commence our tour of a recently built logging/truck road under the tutelage of Bruce Robinson, Forester extraordinaire. The woods walk would feature truck road building for hauling forest products. We will be discussing wildlife features associated with this type of construction such as vernal ponds, water management, and vegetation enhancement at costs significantly less than generally constructed truck roads. The methods recommended by Bruce Robinson can solve those perennially impossible situations on existing roads and skid trails. The walk will take place rain or shine. Comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, cameras, and lots of questions are all necessities for attendance! Please be our guest immediately following the woods walk to lunch over an open fire of hot dogs, s'mores and drinks. RSVP: 585-248-0654 or cmobi2@rochester.rr.com to let us know how many will be in your group. Thank you.

Location: The Morabito property is located at 6067 White Creek Road/County Road 17, Belfast. It is very easy to get there by taking Exit 29 off of the Southern Tier Expressway/Route 86, go North for about 5 miles; property is on left hand side.

September 20 Woods Walk—Otis Barber

Submitted by Otis Barber

On September 20, 2014 Otis Barber will host a Woods Walk on The Barber Family Woodlot from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, with a light lunch to follow for those who may be interested in further discussion. DEC Forester Jeff Brockelbank will be present to discuss Timber Stand Improvement, Beech Control, etc. The Woodlot is located at 6399 Rte 380, Sinclairville, N.Y. More details to follow in the next NYFOA issue. Please contact Otis Barber@ (716)962-8175 for further information.

Readers: Please feel free to submit a paragraph or two about your favorite tree, animal or bird. Stories about fishing, hunting & other woodland adventures are welcome! Email submissions to ctp11@hotmail.com

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ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 17

WOODS WALK

JUNE 9TH

STEERING COMMITTEE

JULY 12TH

SUMMER PICNIC

AUGUST 2

WOODS WALK MORABITO

SEPTEMBER 20

WOODS WALK BARBER



“Hangin’ with the flock” and “Outta here”: Images by Kim Sherwood



Welcome New Members: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Jamestown; Jim Fitzgerald, Arkwright **Total Membership: 284**

Farewell Thoughts

By Shari Lake

After three years as Editor of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter, due to scheduling conflicts I have turned the position over to Catherine Heath. It has been my pleasure to collect, prepare and arrange materials for each issue, and I've enjoyed every event I've attended. The AFC Chapter is a great organization that works hard to schedule a variety of woodland activities throughout the year. If you've never been to a Woods Walk; I highly encourage you to attend one this year. These events are well planned and a great opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. Perhaps you own a woodlot that would be a good location for a future event. Please reach out to the Steering Committee with your suggestions for future activities. If you attend an event, please give your feedback. If you bring a camera; please share your photos. I'm really looking forward to warmer weather, buds on the trees, wildflowers in the woods, and walking the trails to enjoy all that nature has to offer. Have a great Spring!

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 trees. 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 bimonthly 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

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or mail to ctp11@hotmail.com (Catherine Heath)



