



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman’s Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

2017 is here and we are off to a productive start. Our Steering Committee kicked off its “events program” for this year. We benefitted tremendously from the presence and participation of 7 folks, who were new members, considering to become a member and long term members re-entering the main stream of the AFC. There was portion of the meeting utilized to respond to questions from the persons referenced above. In turn we learned from each of their backgrounds, woodlots and goals, and the Steering committee, in turn reviewed our mission and issues.

Another contribution from these fine folks came when we discussed the preliminary “events calendar” for the year. At least 2 of our guests/members offered woods walks on their properties. Don and Sheri Huber, not only responded to doing a wood’s walk, but to host the annual AFC summer picnic. It is always refreshing to get input from new faces, learn what their woodlot priorities are and most of all getting a chance to visit woodlots we have not seen. Hence, a special thanks to Don and Beth Huber, Jim Barber, Mark Rivard, Greg Muscato Glen McLaren and Ron Fierie, for their participation.

This reminds me to reinforce that all our meetings and events are “open” to the public. Again, thanks to every one for assisting our AFC in coming up with what looks to be an “interesting and education” Events Calendar for 2017.

Bob Wood, Chairman, AFC

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

- May 20th (9:30am) Wood’s Walk—Barber Property—Rt. 380—Chautauqua Cty
- July 29th (11:00) Annual Picnic [Details to follow]

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER	1
UPCOMING EVENTS	1
2016 AFC CHRISTMAS PARTY	2
MAY 20TH WOOD’S WALK	2
SAVE THE DATE!	2
HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!	3
NEWS FROM NYFOA STATE BOARD	4
SILENT AUCTION FOR YOUTH FORESTRY	5
THINKING BACK	6
GAME OF LOGGING DO IT!	7

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- Dick Patton—NYFOA Rep. (716) 761-6333
- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 640-5549
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2016 AFC Christmas Party

Submitted by Dan Anderson

On December 17th, twenty five people met at the Randolph Community Center for our annual AFC Christmas Party. We were very pleased to have some newer people attend this gathering. We hope that they felt welcome and included.

Great fellowship and wonderful food always are a part of the Christmas Party, and this year was no exception. We all enjoyed ourselves and felt very good about the whole event!!

Fran Michalak did a great job with the Christmas gift exchange, and Greg Michalak won a pair of alpaca socks in the Christmas raffle.

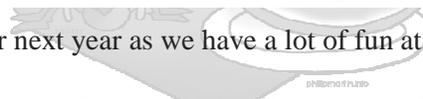


May 20th Wood's Walk—Barber Property

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Please mark this on your calendars for next year as we have a lot of fun at this gathering!!

We will meet at Otis Barber's property (Route 380 in Chautauqua County) at 9:30 for an update of an event we had at the property nearly two years ago. Otis has been very busy and has accomplished a great deal. This will be an outstanding gathering.



Save the Date!!! Annual Summer Picnic - July 29th

The Annual AFC Chapter Summer Picnic will be held on July 29th. We are being graciously hosted by Don Huber and Beth Huber at their property. The Huber's property is located at 10807 Scott Peddler Rd., Cattaraugus, NY 14719. The entrance is 500 feet west of the intersection of Scott Peddler Rd and Barker Rd on the north side of Scott Peddler. It is about 5 miles from Leon, 6 miles from Cattaraugus, 8 miles from Little Valley and 10 miles from Randolph. Watch for more details as we get closer to the date.

Rural Landowners Conference—Saturday March 4th

The 25th Annual Rural Landowners Workshop scheduled is for Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Pioneer Central School in Yorkshire. Registration starts at 8:30 and the sessions will continue through the day ending at 3:00. Lunch is included in your \$30.00 registration along with conference proceedings and all session handouts.



As with many of our members, I was content to read the magazine and newsletters and that was it. One year I was invited to the NYFOA-AFC Christmas party. That got me hooked. Ever since I have enjoyed all NYFOA has to offer.

I hope we can convince more members to get involved. I am sure that with the varied backgrounds of our members there are many with talents that would benefit the organization.

Some of the areas we could use help are:

1. **Publicity:** getting the word out to the media.
2. **Membership:** engaging friends, acquaintances, and people you meet; asking if they have woods...you will be surprised to find how many do.
3. **Hand crafts:** making items as give-a-ways or to be raffled at our events.
4. **Writing:** composing articles for the newsletter, or even the NYFOA magazine.
5. **Photography:** taking photos at our events for use in our newsletter and for the papers.
6. **Participate:** hosting and/or attending woods walks or other events.
7. **Volunteering:** joining our many members who man our display at the County Fairs and other venues.
8. **Suggest:** letting your officers know what type of events you would like to have. We have a great organization; please help it grow and prosper. We do need active participation from more members and we need to grow our membership. A stronger chapter will benefit all of us. The greater our membership the louder will be our voice in Albany.

We have already put in place some super events for 2017 with more coming. The details are always in our newsletter and on our Facebook Page. Try them; you will like them! Need more details, call me!

Your NYFOA Board is continually concerned with various committee projects, teleconferences, and face-to-face meetings which occur 3-4 times per year. Each chapter provides a member to the Board, plus there are “at-large” members. Currently three chapters are in the process of selecting their board members and one “at large” position is vacant. I am proud to serve as your representative to the Board representing the AFC Chapter.

One committee, with the help of Board members, is updating the NYFOA website. The Board feels that this is a high priority project because of the role it plays in representing current information and advocacy for forestry in New York State. I encourage you to look at the topics covered at www.nyfoa.org.

Another committee has undertaken legislative initiative asking the Governor and Legislature to earmark \$3 million for stewardship practices on private lands. This would provide cost-share funds for practices including forest regeneration, management of invasive vegetation and deer exclosure fencing. If approved, individuals would apply for these funds.

A third group is working on streamlining Forest Tax Law 480A. The current form of the law allows individual landowners with fifty or more qualifying acres help with management of that property and a considerable reduction in property taxes. It also has restrictions and some requirements that the landowner must comply with. At present there is a long time commitment of ten years for the tax advantage to be taken. NYFOA hopes to have the acreage requirement reduced, the amount of work requirements reduced and the time commitment shortened.

Forest Awareness Day will be held in Albany on Monday March 6th. This is a lobbying effort with our New York State Legislators. If you wish to go, contact me or one of the state NYFOA officers and we will arrange for an invitation for you.

In the more distant future is the Annual Meeting to be held April 8th at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry on the Syracuse University campus. There will be great speakers and pertinent forestry subjects in the morning and a board meeting following lunch.

Silent Auction for Youth Forestry is Building Steam!

Submitted by Dean Faklis

NYFOA's traditional silent auction coincides with its annual meeting on April 8, 2017. The auction's beneficiaries for 2017 have been selected from several worthy organizations that are passionate about forestry and NY's young people. The winners are.....NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team and NYFOA's Woodlands Mini Grants for Educators! There is a lot of good information on the auction and its beneficiaries at the NYFOA website. Please follow the link at NYFOA's home page, www.nyfoa.org.

The NY 4-H Forestry Team continues to post strong results but needs our help to reach more NY youth. We've structured a "one-two punch" to help 4-H. Financially, through our auction, and with our time using our newly-developed forestry workshop for beginners. I gave the workshop for the first time on October 23 to Livingston County families and the room was overstuffed with children ages 6 to well over 60! Thirty minutes of talk and sixty minutes of woodswalk, which included tree identification and tree measurements. Wow, do the kids catch on fast; it was my pleasure to be able to deliver the good news about woodlands. Oh...did I mention that we topped it all off with 30 minutes of Q&A and eating serious amounts of sweetened goodies? What Fun!

Your auction donation and purchase will help the 4-H Team and its efforts with cash (their proposal is on the auction's website). And if you're inclined and ready to see big smiling faces, your donation of your time in your community will have big impacts. The presentation and worksheets are free to you for the asking (dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Just coordinate with your Cornell Cooperative Extension and add refreshments for a complete and balanced education.

Please visit the auction website at nyfoa.org today. Download the donation form, check it over and please consider giving a generous gift. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization.

Soon, we'll be posting pictures of the donated items at the auction website for some pre-auction inspection. Some of the items will be available for bidding on-line before and after the annual meeting. Some items will only be available for bidding at the annual meeting on April 8 in Syracuse, mostly to keep shipping costs down. Meeting attendees have the added advantage of being able to bid in-person and on-line, which gives them access to all donated items.

We're trying to raise \$5,000 for these fine youth forestry programs using the auction. Cash donations directly to NYFOA earmarked for the auction are greatly appreciated too. If you have questions about the auction, please send me a note directly (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) or send a note to the auction email account, auction@nyfoa.org. If you'd like to volunteer to help implement the auction, we sure could use a few more hands so please send us a note. It's easy and many hands make light work.



I think my passion for earth care and my desire to own a piece of property were both ignited when I was about ten years old by Al Lehsten, a counselor at Camp Hickory Hill. He was the first person to teach me about camping, hunting, and the joys of being in nature. After that first year, two weeks of tent camping became a staple of my summer and outdoor activities, knowledge of the environment and earth care became staples of my life.

However, as a child, growing up in a religious family, I often struggled with the message I heard about the earth being ours to dominate, the earth needing subduing and re-creation in our image. This seemed anti-theological to my experience of nature and the earth. As I struggled with this, grew in maturity and became more familiar with the words of the creation story, I came to understand it in a much different way. I came to understand the dominion and subjection, spoken of in the creation story, to be loving care that led to a fruitfulness and filling that fed and nurtured all living things. Twenty five years ago, when I purchased the land now in my care, this understanding became the guiding principle in my management.

The results of this management plan have been interesting and surprising. Cutting roads and fields into the mostly wooded property, originally to give access to people, opened up edge and flyways that brought birds and small animals that we enjoy seeing and can provide good eating. Forest management opened additional trails for hiking as well as benefiting future wood harvests. Building a pavilion, vault toilet and fire pit made the property more people friendly. Becoming people friendly allowed me to share the kindness and love of earth care that was shared with me with others. I had no idea that this openness would develop into a group of people who come here to connect with the earth, relax, share their labor to make improvements and their friendship. Many of them now bring their children to do the same. I love seeing others enjoy this place and never grow tired of hearing people say how they feel at peace here. I think I receive more joy from this than they do.

Newer projects like an eighteen hole disc golf course are bringing new people to experience the property and expand our opportunities to share our care of the earth with others. We hope our permaculture project, called the Food Forest, will be a place where people can see sustainable agriculture in action and experience naturally grown food. When it becomes more productive we hope to have harvest days where we can share our abundance with others and perhaps do things like jam or pie making weekends. If I can become an effective keeper, the addition of bees, will increase pollination and yields while opening opportunities for new ways to interact with others. Perhaps a mead making weekend. Who knows what the future will bring.

Each of us manages our property in accord with our beliefs, experiences, goals and the limits of our time, resources and energy. There is no absolute right way to think about land or any perfect way to manage it. The important thing is that we do manage it and in the process preserve a healthier more productive earth for future generations. In the end, there can be no higher calling than to be a tiller and caretaker of the earth.

The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Game of Logging—DO IT!!

Submitted by Greg and Katherine Michalak

Ever since we joined NYFOA several years ago I've heard talk about the Game of Logging – I'm thinking to myself – maybe someday. After all, I've been in the woods and comfortably using a chainsaw for 40 plus years. I'll never admit that I know all there is to know about using a chainsaw and felling trees, but I've gotten by and done what needed to be done just fine –

One day last October – Our daughter Katherine, after spending three years in Ukraine, was back home in the US and found work with a large Maple Syrup producer in Attica, NY. One night I received a phone call from her “Hey dad would you be interested in taking the Game of Logging with me?” Before working with a chainsaw in the sugar bush, her employer requires his help to successfully complete the Game of Logging. What's a dad to say? Before long we signed up and paid for the course. When signing up we were told that the course was one day, 7:30 am till 4:30 pm, you will need to bring your own safety equipment; helmet, eye protection, gloves, chaps and steel toed shoes if you have them and a lunch. You are also required to bring your own chainsaw. And by the way, dress appropriately, the class is held outside all day regardless of the weather. We were lucky enough that a course was being offered locally in Conewango Valley.

Someday was here – It was a Tuesday, the last week of October and it was cold - mid twenties with a slight breeze that bit. Katherine and I were up early, had breakfast and headed out with plenty of time to get to Conewango Valley from Stow. Not sure what I was getting into; It didn't really matter, I'm smiling 'cause I get to spend the entire day in the woods with my daughter, life is good. Driving down RT86, headed for the Kennedy exit – Katherine yells “DEER.” Well it was already too late – This is not good, I'm thinking we paid good money for a class we were not going to make and worse I have to deal with a damaged truck. We both got out to inspect the damage – to our surprise not bad, bent bumper, broken grill, no other visible damage other than the dead six point buck laying in the median. We reported the accident and were on our way once again. After all that, we still arrived on time.

We were met by Mr. Bill Lindloff, our instructor for the day, along with 11 other candidates, most of whom were seasoned loggers looking for recertification which can be required by some logging contracts. Then there was Katherine, I and another young man from Springville. I'm not intimidated by these burly guys in their well worn logging gear.

The first few hours were spent at the tail gate of Mr. Lindloff's pickup – First he went over safety equipment and saw handling, and then he spent time explaining the types of saws, saw chains and sharpening methods. Did I mention that it was cold –?

Mid morning we headed to the woods. It felt great to get moving. Once in the woods, Mr. Lindloff demonstrated the proper plunge cutting techniques for felling a tree and again went over saw safety. We learned how to evaluate a tree for directional felling and how to identify potential hazards before cutting a tree: dead branches, overhead snags, neighboring trees. We spent time discussing the proper notching and hinge sizes relative to the size of the tree you are felling, how to determine directional felling techniques and how to plan for safe escape routes. Done properly, the plunge cut gives the logger greater control over the tree he is about to fell.

After Mr. Lindloff's lesson and demonstration, we all had a chance to practice our notches, hinges, plunge cuts and directional felling on a short butt log. We were all graded on this practice run. This is a hands-on course, every candidate is required to fell a tree and is graded on all principles that were taught including safety.

The time had come - each one of us were given a tree, a big tree and it was up to each one of us to evaluate the tree, identify the hazards, identify the specific location we planned to drop the tree, explain our escape routes then execute the proper notch, hinge and back cut. Mr. Lindloff was right there with us – maybe even giving advice when we looked a little stumped. Pun intended. He graded us as we worked – when done, Bill discussed our strong points as well as providing constructive criticism that we could take home and practice on.

After a while we all forgot about the cold – and were encouraging and cheering each other on as each one took their turn felling a tree. Those worn loggers – what a great bunch – we all had fun.

In the end we all received certificates for successfully completing the Game of Logging Chainsaw Training Level -1. Mr. Lindloff is a top notch instructor, with a canny sense of humor and most likely the most knowledgeable woodsman you will ever encounter.

The day was well spent, it was a real eye opener. I now realize how much I don't know – There was lot of information to take-in in one day, but with practice I hope to rid myself of the old bad habits and work towards working smarter and safer with the information gathered during the Game of Logging.

The course is open to men, women and children old enough to handle a chainsaw.

My only regret - I didn't take this course years ago – don't wait DO IT!

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

May 20th (9:30am)

Wood's Walk—Barber Property—Rt. 380—Chautauqua Cty

July 29th (11:00)

Annual Picnic [Details to follow]



Please email your comments to:
jabot@fredonia.edu (Mike Jabot)

If you know of someone who has woodland, or is interested in wood lands invite them to join NYFOA-AFC. Feel free to show them your copy of the Newsletter and/or the N.Y. Forest Owner Magazine.

