



Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

After reading the recent article in the September 28, 2017 Buffalo News on Beech management, by T. J. Pignataro, it reminded me while we have our platters full of threats to our woodlands, e.g. EAB and deer management, that Beech ranks near the top as a hindrance in restoring our woodlands for the valued species. One of the positive aspects of Beech management is there are some proven methodologies for effective control of this specie. I have spent close to 2 decades addressing this challenge and wanted to share with our fellow AFC members my experience in the Beech abatement battle.

I have a significant number of older Beech which are dying because of the Beech bark disease. I have also observed that Beech is prolific in putting out "Beech sprouts" so thick you need a machete to get through them. I did a lot of reading and discussed with other woodland owners and our forestry experts. The accepted control protocol appears to be glyphosate, popularly known as "Round Up," as the herbicide of choice. The first challenge was to locate/purchase a large amount. Local stores sold diluted amounts in 10 to 16 oz.in spray containers with relatively low concentrates of glyphosate. I was able to go on line and purchase 1 or 2 gallon quantities that had high concentrates of glyphosate. (You can locate this at stores like Tractor Supply Company.) I remember my neighbor who had 70 acres of similar woodlot composure asked what results I was getting. He saw the results and asked me to order 12 gallons plus for him and began spraying the Beech sprouts with good results. Unfortunately, this did not include the bigger trees, as the foliage was too high to reach and while spraying the leaves got effective results, it was labor intensive, and required significant amounts of the herbicide which means higher costs. Hence, I tried some different strategies. *Continued on p. 3*

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

December 2nd (11:30)

Annual Christmas Party (Randolph Community Center)

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Cattaraugus County Fair

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

The Fair at Little Valley opened this year on July 31st. Our Chapter again was allowed space in the Norton “Conservation” building near the front gate entrance to the Fairgrounds off Rte. 353. This building, while relatively small, also housed promotional efforts by SCOPE, the NYS Trappers Association, Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, The Cattaraugus County Sportsmen’s Federation and three fish tanks of both trout and freshwater fish.

The Norton building is owned and maintained by the Cattaraugus County Sportsmen’s Federation. We are thankful that they allow us to be their guests for Fair week.

Five items (3 hand crafted wood pieces and 2 others) were offered at our raffle this year. Thanks go to Sluga’s Saw Shop in Elkdale, and to CJ Logging in Little Valley for donating raffle items; and to Tony Pingitore and Dan Anderson for contributing handcrafted stuff from the woods.

256 raffle tickets were sold (at the Chautauqua County and Cattaraugus County Fairs), resulting in \$232.00 for AFC’s Youth Outreach Fund. Winning tickets were drawn Sunday afternoon, August 6th. The five winning ticket holders were from Clarence Center, Niagara Falls, Great Valley, Allegany and Randolph. Two Biltmore sticks were sold at Little Valley.

Three visitors signed up for Woods Walks sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Master Forest Owners (MFO) Program.

Our Chapter is grateful for the donations of TIME by our members who volunteered to promote NYFOA’s mission of responsible, sustainable forest stewardship during Fair Week – John & Gayle Rembold, Harley Davis, Bob & Chris Gorecki, Dale & Joan Bigham, Dick Brennan, Bob Wood, Don & Beth Huber, Jim Taft, Doc & Cindy Dayton, Gary Sargent, Ken Kuczka, Thomas Deacon, and Dwight Mateer. THANKS TO YOU ALL!!

Gayle Rembold graciously added a women’s touch of organizational skill to our display this year as she helped both set up and pack away or display stuff. THANKS Gayle!

Annual Christmas Party—December 2nd

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Our annual AFC Christmas Party will be held at the Randolph Community Center on Saturday, December 2, at 11:30. We will hold a short business meeting before eating at noon.

Please bring a dish to pass, and a gift for the gift exchange if you want to participate (homemade items are always the most coveted, but aren’t necessary). AFC will supply everything else.

We hope to see you there as this is always a lot of fun and a great way to start the Holiday Season!!

Welcome New Members!!!

Cassadaga Valley Central School c/o Cheryl Burns
Mayda Flip Lo Guidice
Jim Lockwood
Thomas Pavers
Van Buren Point Association

Chautauqua County Fair

Submitted by Tony Pingitore

Our display at the fair this year was in a new location but the same building, the Conservation Building. We were in the corner by the fish tanks and the Midway. Most of our workers and attendees thought it was a better location than before and it offered more space along with more flexibility for set-up options. Many thanks to Jim Prince for making that space available to us and to Fran Michalak for the basic design and Dick Vail for the implementation of her design. Also, many thanks to all those who manned our display this year, again we had full coverage from noon until nine everyday of the fair.

We made one hundred twenty five dollars on the raffle; we had several people sign up for MFO visits and gained two new members. Many questions from attendees were answered and there were many woods related conversations.

We remain open for any new ideas to keep our display lively and fresh. If anyone comes up with an idea for an attraction that would get young people involved it would be certainly welcome. The skittles game was a hit again but some kids were reluctant to play until they realized it was free. Next year, we will have to advertise that fact. Dick Vail's "pick-a-number" was popular but we should have had more emphasis on it than we did. Next year it would be nice if we had more members make simple gifts as prizes for give-a-ways for skittle prizes, pick-a-number prizes and more substantial home crafts for raffle prizes. Handmade wood crafts are a big hit with raffle ticket buyers. Please don't hesitate to help out.

Chairman's Corner (con't)

My next approach was to target large trees, over 6-8 inches in diameter dbh. I used the chain saw to put some small notches in the tree trunk below the dbh line and then sprayed concentrated herbicide in them. (While the double girdling method certainly works, it is also labor intensive, and trying to go around the whole tree two times, which is rarely on level ground using a chain saw is fraught with safety issues.) So the procedure worked fairly well with probably about a 70% mortality rate. This method needed fine tuning. I then began using a cordless drill with a 1 and ¼ diameter bit. I drilled holes around the tree, below the dbh level and usually all sides. This worked better, but still limited the amount of spray that would stay in the drilled holes. Then the thought hit me about drilling into the large tap root structure, which was above ground level. This worked great in terms of the herbicide treatment. I found using this method and doing 4 to 8 holes, with larger trees, was efficient and the mortality rate jumped to 95%. One word of advisement, use a larger cordless drill. You find the extra torque useful and you do not have to bend over as far. I was still using the 50% concentrate, which I then diluted to 25% for my herbicide spray bottles. I also noted this last technique killed the sprouts and/or prevented them from sprouting. Another efficiency of using the cordless drill, is that Beech bark is probably this thinnest around, and just drilling in a quarter to 3/8th of an inch drill bit works fine. This will penetrate the phloem and hit the vascular cambium.

So what about the saplings? I have found using a pair of hand loppers and my 3" ratchet loppers in spots where the Beech was the thickest. This took some time but also prevented me from cutting down valued specie saplings. Hence, I am not an advocate of taking the chain saw and just whipping it back and forth. This may be quicker, but you will not be able to see that black cherry or oak that was in the bunch of Beech sprouts. This also provides some nice quiet time and a chance to look at the woodland more closely. Another suggestion, for those my age, (Sr. citizens), is to prune/cut off at dbh level. You will save your back from leaning over, and spraying the herbicide at the dbh level is just as effective as a ground level cut.

I have been working at this for fifteen years and would say without hesitation that I have done away with 60 to 70% of the Beech. Some final thoughts on my multi-year project of Beech removal. Killing the tree with glyphosate allows the tree to fall off in sections as opposed to one large fall which would be more likely to damage other valued seedlings it falls on. Also, concentrate on the areas where you feel you can make a difference such as reducing the competition for the valued tree seedlings. I have heard from professional foresters that there is a one percent survival rate for Beech. So if you have a nice Beech showing no signs of the Beech bark disease, I would leave these trees alone and see what happens. One last comment: I usually begin this task in late April through late October. I have tried during the months of November through mid-April with about 50% kill results. I hope this experience sharing gives you some more zest to realize, "yes, you can do something to improve your woodlot". The newest glyphosate on the market works with as little as 2 hours before rainfall commences. So 6 to 7 months of the year, you can use your Beech abatement crusade on any time schedule which fits in for your day.

NYFOA Chapter Events, Programs and Educational Workshops

Submitted by Colette Morabito

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, I had the pleasure of attending a Forest Management Program organized by Daniel Zimmerman who is the Central New York (CNY) Chapter Chair. This event was well attended by both private forest owners and NYFOA members. Professionals were also in attendance as they could receive Continuing Forest Education (CFE) credits. These professionals included Foresters, members of the Society of American Forests (SAF) as well as Cornell Cooperative specialists. The varied, up-to-date information was of great interest and significance to woodlot owners. The food was also an alluring draw when registering for this workshop. The roast beef lunch or cook your own steaks, catered at the Vernon National Shooting Preserve, was beyond my expectations. A bull's eye!

Traveling to new areas of New York State on a beautiful spring day was particularly gratifying. Crisscrossing into the countryside of Oneida County was a breath-taking opportunity to take in the forested landscape before the leaves fully develop thus blocking views of churning streams, forest-floor flowers, and large nest structures high up in the trees. Presently, our family is a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter (WFL). However, our wood lot is physically located in Allegany County which is in one of the counties encompassing the Allegany Foothills Chapter (AFC). Unfortunately, we rarely reach out to attend events offered by other chapters. So, with great anticipation I travelled to Central New York to attend a CNY workshop, a good two-hour commute from home! As you may know, NYFOA is made up of 10 Chapters. With the newly updated website (and impressive new logo), it is so much easier to investigate countless new opportunities happening in all the NYFOA Chapters. Meeting forest owners from adjacent areas of the State will certainly offer resources for refining your own personal forestry goals as well as improving best practices in your woods. And who knows, you may just make a new friend over lunch consisting of fiddle heads, wild leeks and roast beef!

The speakers at the workshop discussed diverse topics with plenty of up to date information that affects forest owners. At the end of the day, we were all able to see firsthand how the forester and the owner of the Preserve worked together to decide which trees to release, impacts of deer, identification of woodland flowers, regeneration, all the while enjoying the countless bird calls that made our tour of the woods delightful. An exquisite spring day for a short, instructional walk in the woods. The weather also teased many of the Preserves' members to the shooting range that day.

Workshop topics included the abundance and distribution of moose in New York State. Although moose need aquatic plants as a staple to their diet, it appears that they also gravitate to managed forests and/or disturbed lands with strong regeneration for grazing. Woodcock and Grouse survive best in patchwork forest cover. This habitat is clearly short lived and demands consistent woodlot management. Attendees were blessed with a small bag of American Chestnuts to take home to begin our own Mother Orchard. Raptor biology and nesting was presented. Care should be taken during a timber harvest to identify and locate nests, especially during the spring breeding season, which would prevent the destruction of eggs and/or eyasses. We concluded with logger training certification up dates, tax incentive news, condition of the Hemlock forest, and a question and answer period regarding current legislation and the lumber industry in New York State.

In conclusion, I would encourage all members of NYFOA to check out and see what neighboring chapters are offering. You are sure to garner new ideas and techniques for improving personal goals in your woodlot or to expand upon your present silviculture practices. Visiting new areas of our beautiful State is a gratifying bonus and perhaps you will break bread with a new "woodland" friend.

Barber Woods Walk

Submitted by Don Huber

Patty and Otis Barber were the gracious hosts of a woods walk on May 20th 2017 at their place in Sinclairville. I had a little trouble finding it, but a phone call to the Barbers guided me into the long driveway to their beautiful home and farm. The forty or so participants were meet with fresh coffee and goodies while we gathered for the start of the walk.

After we were given an overview of the walk and Otis introduced us to Bob Jordan, his forester, we were led on a walk across a creek and up a hill to the site of their new pond which is stocked with blue gills and perch. The pond area has a great view of the adjoining farmland and distant hills. We took a brief stop there to catch our breath and talk ponds before we were led farther up the hill and shown the areas where Otis has done a great deal of work taking out invasive species like honeysuckle and striped maple. We also had a chance to view the areas where he has used cutting and stump treatment to remove the thick understory of beech that inhibited new regeneration. The amount of regeneration already occurring was surprising and encouraging.

The walk then headed downhill to the new cabin, which is now complete with walls, woodstove, furniture, and windows in a nice setting near a running creek. We took a water break and then headed back to the house for a delicious lunch.

I was struck by the amount of work that was done and to the attention to detail that Otis and family brought to the projects especially to the drainage along the new roads that were established in anticipation of a timber harvest.

Thanks to Bob Jordan for answering many questions and pointing out significant aspects of the project. Otis and Patty, thanks for a great day.

Chautauqua Institution Forestry

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Betsy Burgeson, the head steward of the Institution trees and gardens, discussed the care and nurturing of the Chautauqua Institution trees on June 3rd, with 47 people in attendance. She started the presentation with a Power Point overview of the forestry situation at the Institution, which was held at the Turner Building. We were then treated to a walking tour of the Institution grounds.

This was an exceptional event, as many people commented afterwards. Chautauqua Institution forestry presents some difficult problems to address. Many trees are of the same age class and are now nearing the end of their life expectancy. Diversity needs to be improved as too many sugar maples are present on the grounds opening the possibility of attack by an invasive such as the Asian Long Horned Beetle. Invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are causing destruction of the ash trees. Betsy demonstrated the chemical treatment of ash trees to protect them from EAB. This is a very expensive and time consuming procedure, and must be repeated every 2 to 3 years. Also, limited growing space precludes many larger species from being planted.

Thank you Betsy for this wonderful presentation. You have a real challenge in trying to turn the corner with the Institution trees. We were all impressed, however, with how much progress you have already made!! Keep up the good work, you are succeeding!

Summer Picnic and Woodswalk at the Don and Beth Huber Property

Submitted by Otis Barber

On July 29th Don and Beth Huber hosted our chapter for the Summer Picnic at their property on Scott Peddler Road in Cattaraugus. It's a long and winding road that led us to the heart of their well groomed property. It becomes immediately obvious that the Hubers have developed and managed their property with the intent of sharing it with others. Nice trails, open grassy areas, beautiful ponds, a large gazebo/pavilion, fire pit and grilling area and a very nice restroom facility modeled after rest facilities in state parks made it a very comfortable place to enjoy a few hours outside. The Hubers have also established a disc golf course interspersed around their property.

"Of special interest was Don's use of permaculture and "hugel kultur" techniques to be able to grow fruits and vegetables that would not grow on previously existing soil conditions. This process uses piles of dirt covered logs to form swales which alter the landscape, increase fertility and organic matter and retain moisture to improve growing conditions. There were Beehives, a variety of vegetables, shrubs and fruit trees growing in the project area that I will always think of as Huber Culture.

The Huber woodlot is a young one, growing out of abandoned farm fields and pastures. A timber harvest is years away, but the Hubers with guidance from professionals and other NYFOA resources have done a lot to enhance that future harvest. In the meantime the Huber's have achieved their primary goal of grooming a small piece of God's creation to enjoy and to share with the world. Thanks Don and Beth for sharing it with us.

*"I go by a field where once
I cultivated a few poor crops,
It is now covered with young trees,
for the forest that belongs here
has comeback and reclaimed its own.
And I think of all the effort
I have wasted and all the time,
and how much joy I took
in that failed work and how much
it taught me, For in so failing
I learned something of my place,
something of myself, and now
I welcome back the trees"*

Wendell Berry

[Appeared in September/October issue of Maryknoll Magazine]

Scenes From Our Sumer Picnic and Woodswalk

Submitted by Shari Lake



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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 2nd (11:30)

Annual Christmas Part (Randolph Community Center)



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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.