



# Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Dick Brennan

Hopefully by the time you read this there will be additional signs of Spring. I spotted a robin on 3/9 and the day lilies near my roadside mailbox are starting to show themselves.

The AFC Steering Committee has been busy planning activities for 2020. Two woods walks are scheduled for May and June (see Mark Your Calendars section) and 2 more are in the works for late summer or fall. Woods walks continue to be one of our most popular activities. We also had a display table at the annual Rural Landowner Workshop on 3/7/2020 held at Pioneer Central School in Yorkshire, NY. Displays provide information to woodlot owners and the general public about the importance of our forests and the role of their proper management. There is also information available on how to request a visit from a Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer to assist with developing objectives for your woodlot. As usual displays are also being planned for the 2020 Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County Fairs. This year **Volunteers** to coordinate our 2 county fair activities are in **urgent need**. Our current coordinators, Tony Pingitore and Jeff Rupp are "retiring" after years of excellent work. After several requests in the last year we are still in search of new members to take over. I believe an answer may be that 2 or 3 people share responsibilities with "phone call away" assistance from Tony, Jeff, or others to insure no one is beginning "cold" without support. Dates this year: Chautauqua 7/20-7/26 and Cattaraugus 8/2-8/9. Please contact me or any Steering Committee member if you are interested. We will be able to fill you in on the responsibilities and personalize what it's all about. We are looking to the April 13<sup>th</sup> SC meeting to meet this need. County fairs are an important link to the community. It would be a loss to AFC and NYFOA if we no longer had a presence at the fairs.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ( CLCPA), which became law in 2019, is very involved and I believe will be getting increased attention. We received the OK to include an article from the Niagara Frontier Chapter's Spring Newsletter which begins to address what it means to forest owners and NYFOA. I think you'll find the article informative.

Advice/suggestions requested. Attendance at our Annual Meeting/Summer Picnic has been sparse in the last couple of years. The SC is looking at the possibility of different dates (not just July) and alternatives to a picnic ( like before a woods walk or another activity). Although there is no perfect solution we'd like to consider something different this year to see if that would increase attendance. The Annual Meeting is where Steering Committee officers are elected so it's important that we have a good turnout. Your ideas and thoughts are welcome and appreciated.

Please do everything to stay healthy during this unique time.

Dick Brennan (dpatrickbrennan@hotmail.com)

Dick Brennan, AFC Chairman

**Because of the current COVID-19 Restrictions, our future events are listed as TBA. Details will follow once new updates are available.**

## Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

April 13      Steering Committee Meeting (12:00)    TBA  
 TBA            Jerry LaPorte—Westfield  
 TBA            Ted First Forest—Sinclairville

## Chapter Board of Directors:

Dick Brennan— Chair	(716) 699-4125
Greg Michalak—Vice-Chair	(716) 789-5721
Fran Michalak—Secretary	(716) 789-5721
Tony Pingitore— Treasurer	(716) 962-4041
Dick Patton—NYFOA Rep.	(716) 761-6333
Tom Deacon —Steering Committee	(716) 358-3529
Vic Richardson.—Steering Committee	(716) 913-6380
Mark Rivard —Steering Committee	(716) 913-6380
Dan Anderson—Steering Committee	(716) 640-5549
Jim Barber—Planning Coord./ SC	(716) 962-9027
Mike Jabot—Newsletter/PR	(716) 673-3639

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## **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act - what does it mean for NYFOA?**

Submitted by Mark Gallo NFC Chapter

On June 20, 2019 NY State passed one of the most progressive bills regarding environmental standards and goals for energy production. The bill will involve the DEC, a Climate Justice Working Group, a Climate Action Council, an Environmental Justice Advisory Group, and a Climate Justice Working Group, which together with other stakeholders will work to create a way for the state to limit its greenhouse emissions and reduce our fossil fuel use. Of note, they have set the goal of having 70 percent of electricity generated by load serving entities be from renewable resources by 2030. The legislation also requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050. These goals are, to put it mildly, a tall order.

How does forestry fit into all of this? One way is thanks to something known as carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration is the long-term removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and subsequent storage as organic carbon. This can be accomplished by trees, in the forms of aboveground biomass and roots as well as long-lived forest products, such as lumber. As forest owners control a large amount of land in this state, and this land contains trees, we have a very big, although neglected role in helping the state meet its goals. It is incumbent for us, as a group, to remind the groups and committees and councils above of our value as important stakeholders in this complicated equation.

What could/should we be doing as NYFOA members? Proper care of our land will go a long way towards sequestration. Carry out timber stand improvement, which will involve the removal of shorter-lived smaller species of flora to free up resources for longer-lived trees. Educate others about the value of trees in fighting climate change. Recognize that there may be numerous solutions out there, and some may be controversial, such as the placement of solar or wind farms.

Get involved, let your legislators know the facts of the importance of forests in meeting the state's goals. Consider submitting your name for one of the groups mentioned above so that

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## **SAVE THE DATE!!!! Wood's Walk—Jerry LaPorte's Farm**

The Woods Walk will be at Jerry LaPorte's Farm, 7405 Martin Wright Rd, Westfield NY. The farm is on the south side of the road.

Topics of interest include:

- ⇒ habitat improvement on a stream
- ⇒ clearcut reforestation project on an old growth conifer planting
- ⇒ seven year old larch planting
- ⇒ recent timber harvest on mature hardwood forest and the regeneration results after the harvest

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## **AFC Steering Committee April 13 (12:00)**

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### **SAVE THE DATE!!!! Wood's Walk—Ted First Forest**

The Woods Walk will be at Ted First's Forest in the Town of Ellery.

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests will be leading the tour with Troy Firth, its President and their Executive Director Annie Maloney leading the tour.

During our walk we will be focusing on:

- ⇒ What is The Foundation For Sustainable Forests? Where and how do we operate? How did we come to own First Forest?
- ⇒ Developing uneven-aged forests using 'worst first' harvests and small group selection openings.
- ⇒ Building forest resilience by improving tree vigor, establishing age diversity and species diversity, and developing an understory filled with native, desirable plants.
- ⇒ The mechanics of horse logging, the advantages and disadvantages.

The First Forest Woods Walk is on the town line between Stockton and Ellery the road name is Fenner Rd which runs between Rt 380 and Co Rd 52. The property is on the Stockton/Ellery town line. We have a red pipe gate at the entrance to the property. There's a neighbor's house more or less across the road and that address is 5513 Fenner Road Sinclairville. We will drive down the woods road, to the log landing at the bottom of the hill. We will also have some event signs that we'll use to help direct traffic from nearby intersections.

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### **Christmas Party 2019**

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Twenty six people traveled to the Randolph Community Center for our annual AFC Christmas party on December 21. Great conversation and food was enjoyed by all!

Mike Zagata, from our state office, presented us with a brief update on ideas and trends at the state level. Thank you. Mike!

Fran Michalak did her usual great job running the Christmas gift exchange. Thank you Fran, this is always a big hit!!

Thank you to all who attended, and were part of this event. It is always a lot of fun!

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### **Interesting Article on Glyphosate**

From University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

<https://tinyurl.com/rgwkyyt>

Mike Jabot, Editor  
291 Chestnut St.  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
Phone 716-673-3639  
Email: jabot@fredonia.edu

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### April 13

Steering Committee Meeting (12:00)

### Woods Walk

Jerry LaPorte Farm Westfield (TBA)

### Woods Walk

Ted First Forest Sinclairville (TBA)

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## Welcome New Members!!!

Jim Brady	Olean NY
Paul Fruehauf	Cassadaga NY
Robert Halbohm	Bemus NY
Pamela & Dean Morningstar	Sugar Grove PA
Richard Rivers	Ellicottville NY

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### Stumpage Price Report

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/sprwinter20.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sprwinter20.pdf)

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.**

*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.*