



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS



Greetings, I hope everyone has remained healthy. Since our Summer Newsletter the AFC chapter has gradually increased our activities. A successful woods walk was held in mid September (see details in this issue) and careful plans, taking into account COVID -19 restrictions, are being made for the Christmas holiday party and our annual meeting. As with all our activities NYFOA policy now requires participants to sign an Assumption of Risk form.

Looking forward, a woods walk has already been scheduled for May 2021 and we are anticipating more to be planned in spring.

In a recent announcement from Cornell, which has oversight of the program, the hold on Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer activities has been lifted. Visits requested by landowners for a MFO visit can now be scheduled. The scheduling will be initiated by Brett Chedzoy, regional director for our area. Additional protocols have been initiated for the health and safety of both landowners and volunteers. Active MFOs should have received this new, detailed information from Peter Smallidge in early October.

This Newsletter is sent to all AFC members via US mail and email. Additional information, between newsletters, is typically sent out only via email. Please update your email address with our newsletter editor, Mike Jabot (jabot@fredonia.edu), so that you will receive the most current information especially about new information or re-scheduling.

Wishing you a pleasant Thanksgiving,

Dick Brennan (dpatrickbrennan@hotmail.com)
Dick Brennan, AFC Chairman

Because of the current COVID-19 Restrictions, we ask that masks are worn and that social distancing is practiced at all of our events.

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

December 5	Annual Meeting	10:15
December 5	Christmas Party	10:30 - 2:00

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Woods Walk—Jerry LaPorte’s Farm

Submitted by Jim Barber

On 9-12 -20 a woods walk was held at Jerry LaPorte’s property in Westfield , NY. After all COVID requirements were discussed and met about 35 people set out on a nice morning for a very informative hike.

Jerry showed us a stream bank/access trail which he had improved with tree and shrub plantings using 5 foot tubes. He mentioned a lots of work with expense but with good results. Next we saw some larch planting which were only 7 years old but had Extremely good growth. Also in that area were several planted saw-tooth oaks that were 15 to 20 feet tall but had been devastated by bears trying to harvest the acorns!

Jerry’s forester Bruce Robinson explained the evolution of wood lands from abandoned farm land. First golden-rod to thornbrush and aspen to softwoods and then hardwoods.

Jerry also mentioned the importance of good access roads as the woods is much easier to work and enjoy with usable roads.

Bruce explained that every section of your woods can be different and managed accordingly.

One of the highlights of the walk was the view from the top of the hill in his woods. A spectacular view of Lake Erie and the grape belt was observed.

This was a great walk on a great day and was enjoyed by all! Thank you Jerry



Annual Meeting—December 5th 10:15-10:30

Submitted by Dick Brennan

This year the annual meeting will be held at the Randolph Community Center just before the Annual Christmas Holiday Party. The agenda will be brief:

- Presentation of the Slate of Officers by the nominations committee for a vote
- Selection of a date for the next Steering Committee meeting (to include format and time)

Christmas Party—December 5th 10:30 - 2:00

Submitted by Dick Brennan

This annual event will be held at the Randolph Community Center, Randolph NY. This has always been a favorite activity of members.

This year some changes in the format are planned to accommodate COVID-19 precautions. These include fewer people per table and use of masks when 6 ft distance can’t be maintained. Participants will be asked to bring their own lunch (not to be shared) along with table setting and beverage.

Please bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange (if you plan to participate); homemade items are valued but not required.

A brief business meeting (annual meeting) will be held before the party at 10:15am.

Trees Under Stress

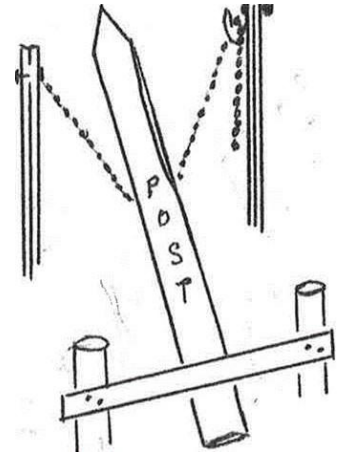
Submitted by Vic Richardson

Thank you, all 29 guests who attended my woods walk, on May 18th 2019. I have a question for you: When you look at these pictures, (2 sugar maples - one with a dead crown (A) & one with 1/2 of the foliage turning color (B)), which you may have seen when you were here, I ask: Is this the result of poor management practices?

The answer that I believe to be correct is: "YES", let me explain.

Tree (A)

Without thinking, when I sharpened posts, I threw the trimmed wedges at the base of the dead crowned tree as it sat in a hollow spot. Even after 5 or 10 years, I wondered why that tree was dying. "Duh - - -"! The wood scraps have been removed, but I don't know if that is enough to save the tree.

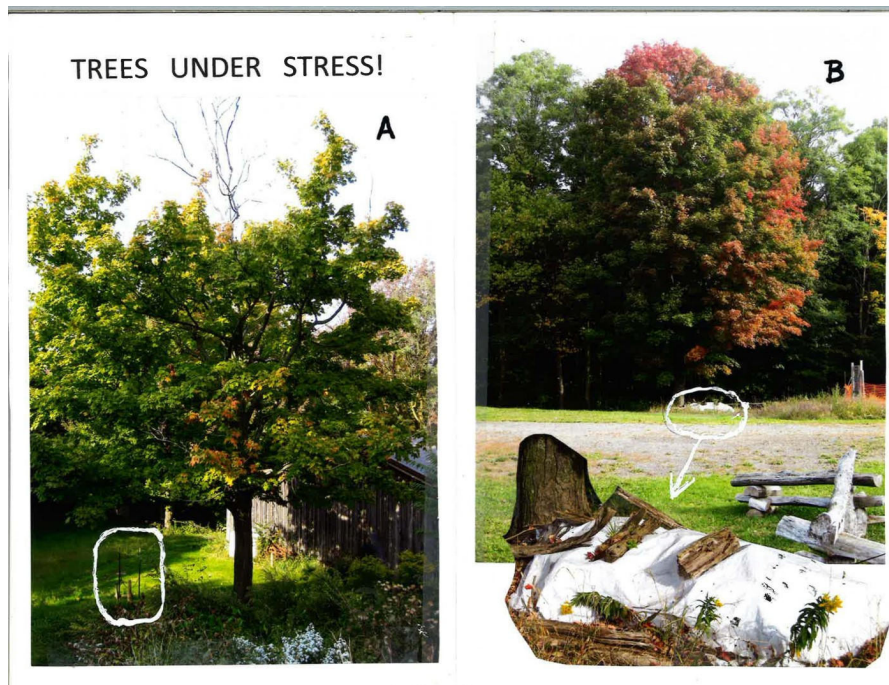


The circled post sharpening jig works well for me. Two cuts, a 1/4 turn, then 2 more cuts, done! The chain sling holds the post tight. Just remember to store cut wedges away from tree trunks. See sketch for post sharpening sling construction. Tree (B)

Notice the blow-up (circled) photo, showing a lumber load-cover tarp I used protecting campfire wood.

It appears to me that the partial color change is stress related due to roots covered by a wood pile.

Sometimes I need an awakening to my neglected management practices, and so close to the house too .



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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 5 10:15
Annual Meeting
Randolph Community Center

December 5 10:30 - 2:00
Christmas Party
Randolph Community Center

Welcome New Members!!!

Don Lewis

Churchville NY

Stumpage Price Report

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/stumpagesummer20.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.