



Chairman’s Corner

Submitted by Dick Brennan

Greetings, I hope you are enjoying the Fall weather. We have held 3 enjoyable woods walks during the spring and summer woods walk "season" and are very grateful to the hosts/presenters for their willingness to share their time with us. In addition, our booth at the Cattaraugus County Fair was well attended and the message of sustainable forestry and responsible stewardship of woodlands was professionally promoted.

Unfortunately, the NYFOA, Audubon Society, NY Tree Farm joint woods walk scheduled for October was postponed. Although this shortened the 2021 schedule of woods walks, it is rescheduled for Spring 2022. Details will be available in the Spring 2022 newsletter. We are looking forward to it.

I'm pleased to announce that we have filled the 3 vacancies on our AFC Steering Committee. Dick Rivers, Executive Director, Cornell Coop Extension of Cattaraugus County was the first to join us followed by Otis Barber, a former Chairperson of the AFC Steering Committee and a resident of Chautauqua County, who we welcome back. Finally, Tadd Rider, a forester employed by Gutchess Lumber and a forest owner in Cattaraugus County, was also added to the committee. Each of these new members brings valuable personal and professional experience that will be an asset to the Steering Committee as we carry out the responsibility for planning and implementing future activities. If you know these individuals from contacts in your community, please share with them any thoughts/suggestions you may have for future activities. New ideas are always welcome.

We are adding some new features to this addition and hope you enjoy them. Feel free to share your thoughts.

Our last activity for this year will not be held until December 4th (preceded by a brief Steering Committee meeting). It's our annual Holiday/Christmas party held at the Randolph Community Center. It is a fun social event and is open to all NYFOA members not just Steering Committee. Hope to see you there.

Regards, Dick Brennan, AFC Chairperson (dpatrickbrennan@hotmail.com)

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

- December 4 Steering Committee (9:30-10:00 Randolph Community Center
- December 4 NYFOA Christmas Party (10:00-2:00) Randolph Community Center

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Chapter Steering Committee:

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
Dan Anderson	(716) 640-5549
Otis Barber	(716) 962-8175
Tom Deacon	(716) 358-3529
Tadd Rider	(716) 378-4160
Dick Rivers	(716) 699.2377
Bob Wood	(716) 945-4849
Mike Jabot—Newsletter/PR	(716) 673-3639

Woods Walk—Gayle & John Rembold

Submitted by Dick Brennan

On Saturday, July 17, despite the rain, 14 people braved the elements to attend a very informative woods walk. Included in the group were Eric Stawitzky (Pioneer Forestry) and Jeff Brocklebank (DEC forester).

Host John Rembold began by emphasizing the benefit of road building in forest management.

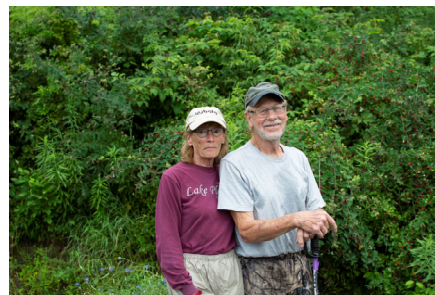
Areas were then viewed that highlighted the results of chemical control efforts to limit forest floor invasive vegetation. The goal being regeneration of new growth hardwood seedlings. Mentioned was the role EQUIP funding played in making this strategy affordable. Observation and discussion focused on the challenge deer browsing presents to this strategy. The need for deer hunting was encouraged.

Also highlighted were areas of timber stand improvement (TSI) activity, where less desirable trees were felled in order to provide more desirable tree species improved access to sunlight in the canopy. It was apparent that healthy, future saw logs were thriving as a result.

Participants also had the opportunity to observe areas where nothing was done and compare the difference.

Attendees benefited from the presence of 2 foresters which provided an opportunity for professional level responses during questions and discussion.

Thanks to John and Gayle Rembold for providing this opportunity and for being gracious hosts.



Woods Walk—McCarty Hill State Forest

Submitted by Dick Brennan, Fran Michalak & Bob Wood

On Saturday August 14 2021 10 people attended a woods walk hosted by DEC forester, Dan Shaffer. Dan gave some background on how the land was acquired over the past 75 plus years and the important role state foresters play in implementing management strategies.

Maps were posted highlighting unique features of the property including DEC's GIS Environmental Resource Mapper Site where you could explore before returning for another visit. Dan also challenged us to compare two areas and how management impacts diversity of tree and shrub growth. In one area there was a noticeable diversity of tree species including American Chestnut, Black Cherry, Maple, Red Oak, White Pine, and Sassafras. Even a rare orchid was also identified.

Overall ,there was a productive exchange of information between and among participants. A very well organized event was presented .



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FAIR – 2021

Submitted by Dick Brennan

The Fair opened August 1st in Little Valley. The AFC booth, as usual, was located in the Norton Conservation building. We are grateful to the Cattaraugus County Sportsmen's Federation for sharing their space with us. It was estimated that approximately 1,100 people passed through the building during the week.

Our booth had a wide variety of display items, information brochures, and donated raffle items. The raffle included some hand made items: 2 wood trivets (Jeff Rupp), cheese board and rolling pins (Tony Pingitore), a beer sampler tray (Bob Rembold). Two books on forestry (Bob Wood) and an Audubon book (Tony Pingitore) were also donated. The Cooperative Feed Dealers in Conklin, NY. donated a pair of DryShod boots. These items produced a very successful raffle.

No cost brochures on invasive insects/vegetation, NYFOA membership, and MFO visits were available and distributed. A display of finished/labeled boards representing 12 native species received many favorable comments.

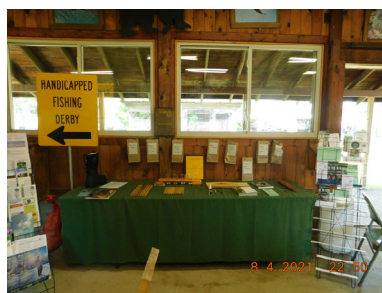
All this could not have been done without the time and energy of the following volunteers.

Set up/Take down: Fran & Greg Michalak, Jeff Rupp, Dick Patton, Gayle Rembold, Dick Brennan, and Dick Vail for storage of the display material during the year.

Booth volunteers: Marsha & Butch Zollinger, Bob & Christine Gorecki, John & Gayle Rembold, Bob Rembold, Dick & Gloria Brennan, John & Shelley Jones, Harley Davis, Jeff Rupp, Bob Wood, Cindy & Dick Dayton, Tom Deacon, and Dwight Mateer.

Coverage of 2 booth times per day for 7 days were all filled thanks to the tireless effort of Gayle Rembold in recruiting volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers!

The Chautauqua County Fair was not held in 2021.



Member Profile—Fran & Greg Michalak

Greetings –

Did you know that our Allegheny Foothills Chapter of NYFOA has approximately 160 members (+ or -)?

Ever wonder who they are? Is it a neighbor, a friend, a friend of a friend, an acquaintance, or someone out of your circle of contacts? During our last Steering committee meeting we thought it would be great for our membership to get to know our fellow members.



So here it is, someone has to start the ball rolling and that's where Fran and I agreed to step in. I, Greg Michalak, and my lovely wife Fran own property on the Morley Rd in the Town of North Harmony (Chautauqua Co.). Currently we both hold positions within our chapter; I the position of Vice Chair and Fran is our Secretary.

Our involvement with NYFOA began sometime around 15 yrs ago when a friend from church asked us about joining, (for about the 10th time). Tony P. can be persuasive. Just like most of us, our lives are busy, with work, school, kids, kids sporting events and more. The last thing we want is one more thing to do. Well in hind sight I wish we would have gotten involved sooner. This organization has so much to offer for everyone, from timber stand management practices, great woods walk experiences to the New York Forest Owners magazine which is full of invaluable information related to the outdoors whether you own 1000 acres or a 1 acre lot. But, first and foremost, our #1 asset is the people, so many willing to share their experiences and expertise with you and do it without any expectations in return.

We bought our property in 1994, the property was about 1/3 open, 1/3 brush and 1/3 wooded. No management practices had taken place and we had a monoculture of nothing but large same age trees and lots of multiflora rose. In 1998 under the supervision of a local forester we had a cull timber sale with visions of putting together and executing a land management plan. Well guess what? That never happened because of all the reasons listed above. Our two daughters were both very active in school and both were 3 sport athletes thru high school. Then off to college and again involved in sports and that meant more time and farther travels. Land management was on the back burner but always on our mind. Fast forward, today we are almost back to square one, with one exception; because of our involvement in NYFOA we are so much more informed and aware of what our needs are and the directions we would like to go. One thing that has stood out in our involvement is, it's never too late to get started and that everyone's expectations for their property are different. For my family it's all about the recreation, hunting, hiking and wildlife. At the same time, whatever we can do to improve timber quality and create a diverse environment to promote bird and wildlife populations will be pursued as we again work with foresters to make sure that diversity is here for many years.

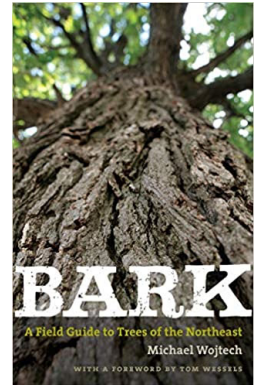
So think about it, and think of becoming more active in the Chapter activities, once you take that first step as Fran and I did 15 years ago I 'm sure you won't be disappointed. On top of that you will gain new friends with like interests. Feel free to reach out to Fran and I with any questions 716 -789- 5721.

Let us profile you in one of our next news letter – getting to know each other will not only strengthen our organization, it may even begin that new friendship.

RESOURCE & REFERENCE TOOLS

Submitted by Bob Wood

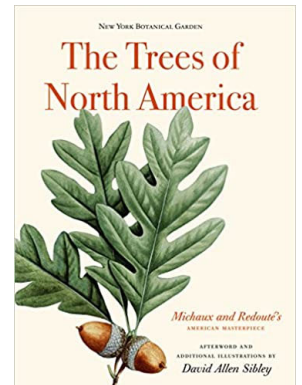
Bark by Michael Wojtech, copywrite 2011. This book looks at trees in the North east, (New England and up-state NY) and provides excellent photos of the bark of each tree at 3 stages: young, mature, and "senior" status. The book is professionally and academically well done and a valuable asset for tree identification when you consider that deciduous trees are with leaves only 5 out of our 12 months. The book retails for \$29.95. I picked up my copy from Amazon and at a lower price. I would just add that I wrote a note to the author sharing with him how awesome and useful his "reference" book is.**



Some of you probably seek your reference needs via a search engine and would note that it is free for the most part. Despite my frequent use of google and others,

I enjoy having that hard-text in hand. I have over 40+ reference books on trees alone---it is short of a passion of mine. "BARK, A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast" is a one of a kind and a specialized guide.

This reference book is literally "hot off the press by the **Audubon Society** and just short of 600 pages and well done. It includes pictures of the specific tree," with a copywrite of early 2021, and was one of AFC's raffle prizes at the Cattaraugus Fair. "Trees of North America" is authored by the flowers/fruit/seeds, ranges of where it grows and uses of the tree. Photos are of excellent quality and a former librarian told me to always check the book jacket for where it was published and she was pleased to tell me this passed muster as it was published and printed in the USA, by Alfred Knopf, at a suggested retail price of \$39.95. Okay, so why purchase something that covers all the trees across the country---well I am sure most of you have or will travel to other parts of the country and may have questions about the flora/trees in Florida, California and Oregon.



This book is very comprehensive and is 7 by 9.25 inches, so it will pack easily. It also will serve as a very nice reference book on your coffee table alerting all who visit that you are a fan of trees. Just another comment. While I have referenced a book which is new this year, you can check out the used book market. I have picked up many good reference books at bargain prices and very good condition.

NYFOA Christmas Party—(10:00—2:00) December 4th Randolph Community Center

Our annual AFC event will be held at the Randolph Community Center, Randolph, NY. This has always been a favorite activity of members. We are staying with the format that we made last year to accommodate COVID -19 precautions and enable the party to still be held.

Please bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange (if you desire to participate); homemade items are valued but aren't necessary. In addition, you will need to bring your own lunch, table setting, and beverage.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 4 Steering Committee 9:30-10:00
December 4 Christmas Party 10:00-2:00

Welcome New Members!!!

Don Brady

Orchard Park, NY

Stumpage Price Report

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/stumpagewinter21.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.