



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

May was a busy month for NYFOA across the State as Chapters held events commemorating NYFOA's 50th Anniversary. I was fortunate to be able to attend 2 events; one in Allegany County and one in Chautauqua County.

David and Collette Morabito and family hosted the walk in Allegany County that was lead by Forester Bruce Robinson. It was an information filled walk and interesting to me to see the presence of lots of oak and hickory that are non-existent in my woodlot. The Morabito's have a large tract on a mountainside that was timbered fairly drastically prior to their ownership and they are in the beginning stages of timber stand improvement with Bruce's guidance.

Bill and Vi Dorman and family hosted a walk on their property the following week at the Dorman family farm in Cassadaga. Jeff Brocklebank, Senior Forester with the DEC, and several MFO's led group discussions. The farm has been in the Dorman family for several genera-

tions. The woodlot has had a pretty good degree of care over the years and Bill and his family have become active in NYFOA to acquire additional skills to carry on and improve that legacy.



Thanks to both the Morabito and Dorman families for all the work that went into organizing these events, and for lunch and your hospitality. Thanks also to all those involved in setting up these events and to those who attended.

It's June 7th as I write this and things are about as green and lush as they can get with the abundance of rain in the last couple of weeks. It's more difficult to see some things in the woods right now, but I can see lots of things that I could be doing to improve trails, control runoff and free up some trees with the best potential by eliminating whatever is in their way. Take some time to enjoy your woodlot this summer.

—Otis Barber

Summer-Fall 2013 Schedule of Events

July 20 AM—Master Forest Owner (MFO) refresher & woods walk at Bob Wood's

July 20 PM—Annual Picnic at Rupp Family Forest (7009 Stateland Road, Cattaraugus, NY), hosted by Jeff and Diane Rupp. The **Steering Committee** will also meet here.

Fair Dates—Allegany County Fair July 15—20, 2013; Chautauqua County Fair July 22-28, 2013; Cattaraugus County July 29—August 4, 2013

September 14—Woods Walk at Spann Forest, Westfield (no August 10 walk)

October 12—Deadline for Fall Newsletter Submissions (contact info last page)

October 14—Steering Committee Meeting, 12 Noon, R&M Restaurant, Randolph

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Chapter Board of Directors:

- Otis Barber— Chair (716) 962-8175
- Jeff Rupp- Vice-Chair (716) 257-5652
- Kim Sherwood— Secretary (716) 287-3331
- Tony Pingitore— Treasurer (716) 962-4041
- State Association Representatives David Marabito Jr and David Marabito Sr cmorabi2@rochester.rr.com
- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Membership Coordinator Vacant
- Shari Lake— Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

Dorman Forest Woods Walk

Submitted by Dan Anderson

On May 18 we were graciously invited to the Dorman Family Forest in Cassadaga, N.Y., as part of NYFOA's Restore New York Woodlands (RNYW) Program. We were treated to a walk through this forested property, which as been in the Dorman family for several generations. Bill Dorman presented a very interesting account of the history of the property. A DEC Forester, Jeff Brockelbank, along with four MFO Volunteers (Dick Patton, Tony Pingitore, Jeff Rupp and Dan Anderson) combined talents to make the tour interesting with a nature walk, spiced up with many personal stories. For instance, Jeff Brockelbank pointed out the edible Indian Cucumber, which we were able to sample. Enthusiasm was high, and the fifty participants had many questions and observations. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and campfire at a cabin near the back of this property. Diane Chodan, a reporter for the Dunkirk Observer, attended the event and wrote a wonderful article for the local newspapers. Our thanks to all who contributed to the great success of this event, and especially to the Dorman family for offering the use of their property.

MFO Refresher / Woods Walk July 20 at Bob Woods Forest, Kill Buck

Arrival time 9 to 9:30 AM. Woods walk will start at 9:30 and end at 11:30 AM, leaving 1/2 hour to drive to Rupp Family Forest for NYFOA AFC Chapter picnic and annual meeting.

Property characteristics: About 30 acres on side hill, borders NYS woodland to the North and Danzer woodland on the East. 77 acres owned jointly with nephew border on the West side, which was just timbered. My 30 acres had a 16 inch dimensional cut in 1995. Those results will be fairly obvious. Have used RoundUp on very large beech trees and selected pruning areas where Beech has been dominant. I also commenced with a Red Oak seedling planting program in 2000, and there are some scattered productive results which should be of interest. I also have used RoundUp to control some fern coverage—once again very selectively. Wood lot is about 3,000 feet long and 550 feet wide. Tour group will get a little taste for what the State has done (nothing), and what Danzer has done in their timber cut 2 years ago. Definitely a woodland which will benefit from any recommendations pertaining to RNYW. -Bob Wood

Directions to Bob Wood's Property

From East: Take I-86/Route 17 west to Exit 23 (Bradford/Limestone). Turn left, (N) on to Route 219. **Go about 1/2 mile to a "T" junction. Turn left (W) on to NYS Route 417. Go about 3 miles west and Windfall Road will be the first road on your right. *Turn on Windfall Road and go about 1.7 miles, first place on the right, 5650 on mail box, modified chalet. Road is only 2 miles long; a dead end road.

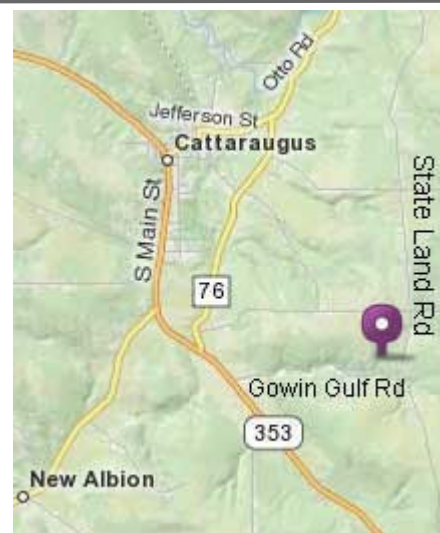
From West: Take I-86 east to Exit 23; turn right (N) on to Route 219. Then follow same directions as above (**).

From North: Take Route 219 south to Salamanca and turn right/east at the "T" intersection with NYS Route 417. Take Route 417 for about 6-7 miles past Kill Buck and look for Windfall Road on the left. Then follow same directions as indicated with the one (*) in first paragraph of directions.

Summer Picnic July 20, Rupp Family Forest

Following the Refresher meeting and Woods Walk for the MFOs at the Bob Wood forest property in Killbuck, NYFOA-AFC's annual meeting & election of officers will be held at the Rupp Family Forest at 7009 State Land Road, Cattaraugus, NY.

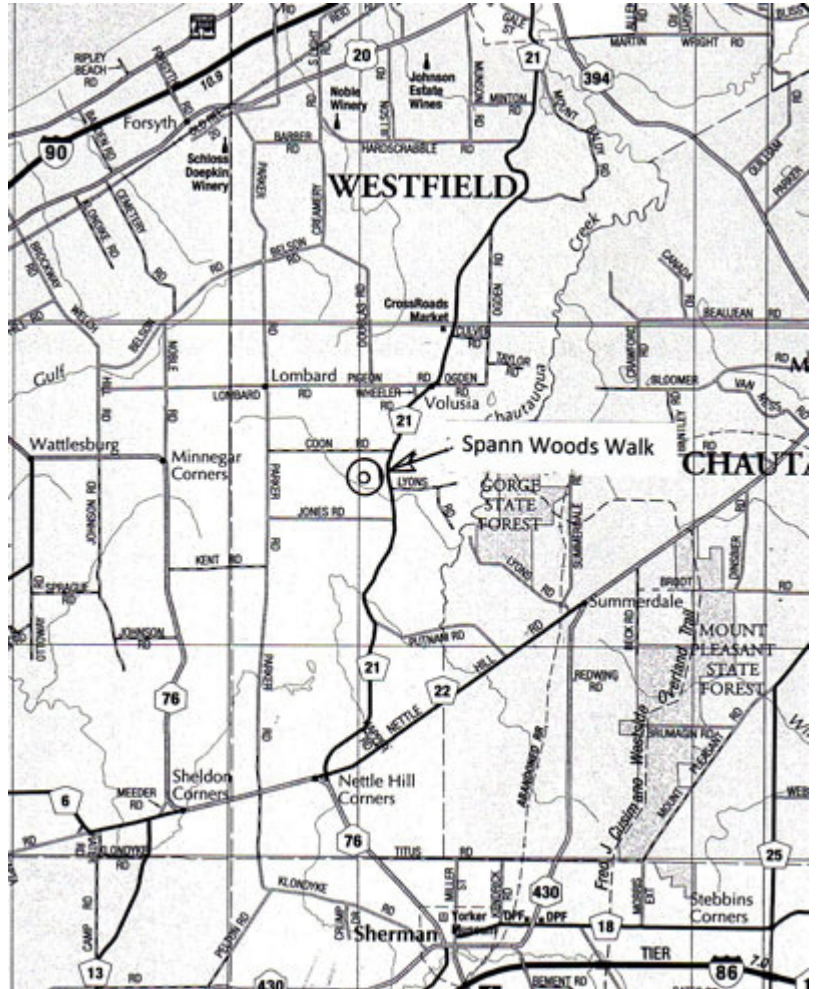
From NYS Route 353 (South of Cattaraugus Village) take Gowin Gulf Road up 1-1/4 miles. Bear left at the fork; come up another 1/4 mile—7009 is on your left, West side of the road. Drive in—lots of parking space is available. This will be a "bring your own lunch" picnic (not a dish-to-pass buffet). Drinks will be provided. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Call 257-5652 if any questions. No formal activities are planned, but stay as long as you wish. 7-8 miles of trails in woods are available for hiking—easy walking.



Spann Forest Woods Walk—Town of Westfield—September 14th

Come and join us for a Woods Walk September 14, 2013. Meet at the site between 9:30 & 10 AM and finish whenever. The property is located in the town of Westfield near the corner of County Route 21 (Westfield-Sherman Road) and Coon Road. There is a log landing on CR 21 that is very visible from the road, and will be the gathering point for the event. If you are coming from the south; take *I-86 to Sherman Exit, take State Route 76 north to CR 21, just past Coon Road on the right hand side.

David Spann, owner of Land Management Services, will host a tour of his 50 acre property that is currently being managed for timber production and hunting recreation. Dave has owned the property for three years. Prior to his ownership the property has not seen any management for over 40 years. Originally, the parcel consisted of 35 acres of hardwood timber and 15 acres of Norway Spruce plantation. The focus of the woods walk will be to show techniques implemented to enhance wildlife habitats, and maximize the growing site for timber. Aggressive techniques have been made to enhance the property to make it more productive in a very short period of time. An area on the property of low timber quality was cleared and strategically designed for whitetail deer hunting. Dave continues to balance natural habitat adjustments with wildlife food plots in creating a more productive property.



The site is easily traversable with nice logging roads throughout the property. There are no facilities available at the site.

Tony Pingitore has announced that a Table Skittles Game has been built for the kids during the County Fairs. They could use more hand made items for prizes. Please call Tony at 716-962-4041 or email him at tonyfp231@gmail.com.

Alpacaville—If you have followed the evolution of using animals in the woods to clear unwanted undergrowth, you probably remember Pete Smallidge’s “Goats in the Woods” projects. They were quite entertaining, and actually pretty successful.

The Anderson family became proud owners of four female Alpaca in late March. Alpaca are actually like 150 pound camels, originating in the Andes Mountains in South America. They imported them into the USA in the last few decades because people were eating so many of them in their native area; there was fear that they would become extinct.

So how does any of this hook together, and relate to forestry? I am here to tell you that “Alpaca in the Woods” is an amazing success! Move over Pete and the goats. They eat everything that is green and within their reach. Only skunk cabbage remains untouched, which is OK with me because they come close and breathe in my face when I come out with their dearly beloved grain mix.

Next time—if you decide to control your underbrush with alpaca, how do you know if your females are pregnant, thus increasing your herd?

-Dan Anderson

Notes from the Woods

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

Living in close proximity to the forest gives me the opportunity to get “up close and personal” with my neighbors (that is, those with roots, those with four legs and those with wings). Within 30 feet of my office window I have the privilege, daily, of witnessing the awesome beauty and mysteries of the natural, wild world of rural Cattaraugus County.

The bare, seemingly lifeless stems and boles of winter have given rise to the greenery of Red Maple, Black Cherry, Dogwood, Beech, Sugar Maple, Juneberry, Honeysuckle and Multi-flora Rose. Wildflowers carpet the ground—Yellow Goatsbeard, Lesser Stitchwort, Birdseye Speedwell, Canada Mayflower and Mouse-ear Chickweed are among my favorites. Chipmunks and squirrels scurry and romp. Birds are everywhere, day and night. The three youngsters in the Bluebird box are near fledgling; the Phoebes (warmed by the garage light fixture supporting their nest) are close behind; Chipping Sparrows and Robins (in the Hemlock shrubs) are also nearly grown; House Wrens; Mourning Doves; Tree Swallows; Cardinals—all add to the great Choir. Credit goes to my dog, Molly, for keeping feral cats, red squirrels and raccoons at bay, thereby allowing these birds a chance to grow up and become parts of the adult woodwork.

When I sit on the porch after dark, taking in the concert sounds of Spring Peepers, American Toads, Barred and Great Horned Owls, the Coyotes, foxes and others, I can watch the magical light show of fireflies. On May 29, the first night I saw a firefly, a female Promethea Moth showed up at the porch light at 10:45 PM. This large, strikingly beautiful member of the giant silk moth family has a wingspread of nearly 4 inches. I hadn't seen a Promethea since I was a kid. New life; new beauty; new mystery; WOW!

NYS DEC recently hired a new Senior Forester for Chautauqua County and Western Cattaraugus County. Jeff Brockelbank is tasked with providing assistance in the areas of forest management and stewardship planning for private landowners from Lake Erie east to Route 219.

Jeff was present at the RNYW initiative woods walk at the Dorman family farm near Casadaga on May 18, where he spent several hours with approximately 50 NYFOA members and interested others. Jeff is a graduate of ESF @ Syracuse, and brings 15 years of experience as a consultant with a large forest consulting/management firm.

My Favorite Tree

Submitted by Dan Anderson

I know from woods walks and various gatherings that a lot of our members really like their trees and forest land. But if you were asked, as I was, “what is your favorite tree species,” how would you answer?

This was easy for me—it's the white pine. I have loved this tree ever since I was young (alas-now a long time ago). I enjoy the softness of the needles and branches. As a formerly accomplished tree climber, I really appreciated this quality. I also liked the blue spruce, but climbing one was like tangling with a porcupine!

I like the pine odor, although the sticky sap can be difficult to get off of your hands. I admire the height of this tree; it often towers over everything in the woods. Research has indicated that the settlers in New York State found trees approaching 250 feet in height. Those trees are long gone, but some large specimens remain. If you have a chance to visit the Seven Lakes area in the Adirondacks, a grove of white pine have trees 145 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter.

Most of all, as I would climb these trees, I would enjoy the gentle swaying and sound of the wind in the branches. This sound still transports me back to childhood.

I was horrified when some of my favorite white pines were toppled by the wind, so I set out at ten years of age to improve the species (and hopefully become rich in the process). I had read about grafting, so I grafted white pine tops on to red oak root stocks, thus providing a more wind firm white pine. I didn't become rich, and my engineered white pines all died.

I will leave the white pine just as God designed it. It is still my favorite tree!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Dan, for sharing such a wonderful story about your favorite tree. **Readers:** please feel free to submit a paragraph or two about your favorite tree, animal or bird. Stories about fishing, hunting & other woodland adventures are welcome! Email afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or send to 214 Huxley Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

It's Fair Time Again; 2013 County Fairs

Working a shift or two at the NYFOA displays at the fair is a very enjoyable and informative way to spend part of a day. You get to meet with and discuss with people from all over about everything relating to the woods. It is also a good way to get new members and promote good forest stewardship. If we can get 2 or more people per shift to sign up it would be most helpful.

To sign up to be part of the Allegany or Cattaraugus County Fairs please contact Jeff Rupp at 257-5652, or Tony Pingitore for the Chautauqua County Fair at 962-4041 or email tonyfp231@gmail.com.

- ◆ Allegany County Fair July 15 to July 20
- ◆ Chautauqua County Fair July 22 to July 28
- ◆ Cattaraugus County Fair July 29 to August 4

Also, for any woodworkers or crafters that would like to showcase their handy works made from wood from your own or other local woods contact Jeff Rupp or Tony Pingitore as noted above. You could just have it on display, or put it up for raffle towards our camp fund. Donations of hand made prizes for the kids Table Skittles game are also welcome.

If you have any suggestions for improving our display or recruiting new members please submit your comments to Jeff, Tony, or any of our officers.



Morabito Woods Walk

Submitted by Colette Morabito

On Saturday, May 11, we were delighted to host the RNYW (Restore New York Woodlands) woods walk at our property in Belfast/Friendship. We were surprised to see approximately 50 people show up, of all ages, on a rainy morning, eager to head into the woods.

Bruce Robinson, Forester extraordinaire, was our guide for the 3 1/2 hour walk. His gentle instruction and extensive knowledge of forest management is truly remarkable. The information shared ranged from evidence of deer browsing, the results of a high grade logging operation that the property sustained, invasive plants, the releasing of desired species, regeneration problems, to the delicate balance between each tree, the soil, time, and human intervention. The ecosystem of a woodland is so rich in life, each tree representing so many unique qualities. The participants gained knowledge that can be used for their own Timber Stand Improvements (TSI), as well as improving awareness and stewardship goals for their own personal woodlots. Hopefully we will leave our woods in an improved condition for our legacy. We were able to enjoy a hot dog roast over a campfire along with s'mores before everyone headed home. A fun time for all. This summer we have commenced a project on our woodlot involving TSI. It is our goal to have another woods walk to observe how the project was conducted and the end results of the newly released, desired species.



NYFOA AFC Members & Guests enjoyed the Morabito Woods Walk; photos submitted by Otis Barber

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ASSOCIATION

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 20 AM

MFO REFRESHER

WOODSWALK

JULY 20 PM

AFC ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 14

WOODS WALK WESTFIELD

OCTOBER 14

STEERING COMMITTEE R&M

DECEMBER 7

CHRISTMAS PARTY RANDOLPH



NYFOA AFC Members and Guests enjoying discussion regarding the Woods Walk held at the Morabito property in Belfast, Allegany County.

Welcome New Members: Diane Chodan, Dunkirk; Laurel & Gary Ebert, Springville; Holly & Scott Nachbar, Springville; Dan Nalepa, Cassadaga; and Robert Sharp, Sinclairville **258 Total Membership**

Editor's Notes—Living in the city, my daily “woods walks” are 1 hour plus early morning romps with my 4-yr old Doberman Pinscher along the tree-lined streets of Jamestown and West Ellicott. The other morning, I had the opportunity to introduce myself to an AFC member that lives nearly a ‘stones-throw away’ on the other side of the wooded area behind my house, but I had never met in the 8 years I have lived here. Chance encounters of this sort are rare on a 6 am dog walk, but a blessing none-the-less. It would be such a pleasure to meet more of you; please consider coming to one or more of our upcoming events. AFC members are also needed to volunteer at the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany County Fairs; if you are interested, please contact Jeff or Tony. If you can't volunteer, just stop in and say hello; take a break and enjoy the displays. Your suggestions for future events are always welcome!
-Shari

The *Allegany Foothill Chapter Newsletter* is published for members of the Allegany Foothills Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interest of woodland owners. The Allegany Foothills Chapter was founded in 1989 and encompasses Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding at (800) 836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscription to the AFC Chapter newsletter; the bi-monthly NYFOA statewide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at Chapter meetings, woods walks, special events and statewide meetings. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or mail to Shari Lake, 214 Huxley Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

