



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Bill Dorman

January is the month when the steering committee meets to work out the details for this year's projects such as woods-walks, educational programs and youth camp sponsorship. At the recent steering committee meeting we reworked the list of important dates and deadlines, some of which are in this newsletter. Once again I believe we have a good program schedule, especially with the woods-walks. We have been blessed with more offers from members to visit their properties than we can manage in one year, but that is a good thing. We strive as a committee to select diverse topics each year.

I know I am repeating part of last year's January Chairman's Corner, but last week I started preparing for this year again by going over my chain saws, sharpening the buzz rig and getting some chains re-sharpened. (Only one was beyond re-

pair...it must have been that 40 year old metal spout in that maple that the chain saw discovered.) This type of planning on a personal level is also important in case I get a break in the weather to drop some cull trees for next fall's woodpile and more timber stand improvement. I believe it was the infamous Henry Ford that said there should be 8 hours of planning for every hour of actual, physical work. I'm not there yet, but really like the planning part. I look forward to getting behind the chainsaw in a little while.

Enjoy the rest of the beautiful winter and make it a point of putting NYFOA activities on your calendar.

-Bill Dorman

Mark Your Calendars—2015 NYFOA AFC Dates

February 26-28– Syracuse State Fairgrounds, NY Farm Show

March 7– Yorkshire, NY Rural Owners Landowners Workshop

March 14– Growing Big Timber Contest/Workshop

March 21- SUNY ESF Syracuse, State NYFOA Board Meeting

March 21- Newsletter info to Editor

March 30- Randolph Free Library, Steering Committee Meeting 1:15

May 9– Cattaraugus County, Rembold's Woodswalk

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2014 Christmas Party

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Eighteen people enjoyed the annual Christmas Party in Randolph on December 6. The food and conversation were wonderful as evidenced by the fact that people stayed and were not in a hurry to leave. Fran Michalak did very well in overseeing the Christmas Raffle. Lots of smiles and laughter accompanied this part of the program. Well done, Fran! I was even lucky enough to win one of Tony Pingitore's ingenious boot removal devices (boot jack), which has been put to good use.



The gift that I brought, incidentally, was a suet feeder filled with alpaca (What else?) fur. The winner opened the package and sat there with a VERY puzzled look. Ok- what is this? Actually, in the spring it is hung up outside for the birds to use as nesting material. Always the skeptical Swede, I put one out last year and was surprised to see how fast the fur disappears.

I would encourage people to plan on attending this very enjoyable event next year.

Life at Alpacaville

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Several people have asked about our tiny alpaca herd. Here is the update. We have learned a lot in the last year! We will have no more cria (baby alpaca) born in the fall. It is very difficult to get them through our tough winters! All four of our alpaca moms were bred in the spring, meaning that with an eleven and one half month gestation period, birth will be in early May.

We name our alpaca in a theme for each animal;

BMW mom is a car theme and we plan to name

her next baby Cooper (Maybe Prius), Spice Lady mom will give birth to little Ginger (Or maybe Pepper,

depending on the color), Mom to a and lastly, spring to was a mu-



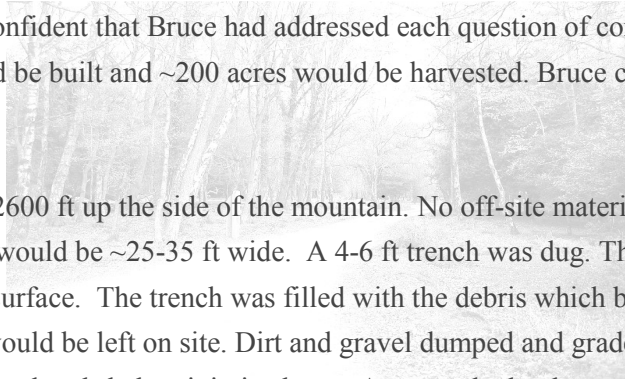
depending on the Morning Glory flower like Rose, Bruna Cappelli gave birth last what I thought sic theme Cria.



On Saturday, August 2, 2014, the Morabito Family hosted a "different sort" of woods walk at our camp in Belfast, New York. Delighted to have over 35 participants, we observed and discussed the opportunities of building a logging road in a woodlot. Our knowledgeable and witty Consulting Forester, Bruce Robinson, receiver of the 2014 Heiberg Award, began his engaging tutorial on the topic of building a sustainable logging road.

Originally in 1997 our Forest Management Plan was prepared for us by State Forester Paul Kretser with recreational use the foundation of our woodlot stewardship. Wanting to change our focus to timber stand improvement, but having limited access to do so, we had to ask, "How best to achieve access?"

Utilizing Bruce's expertise, he explained in harvesting trees for timber stand improvement, road access is a must- the shorter the distance woodlot materials are moved, the more profitable, so a landing was suggested, enabling logging trucks to load and turn. Our concerns turned to: aesthetics of our woodlot, impact on wildlife, underground water source pipes, debris, run-off and cost. Confident that Bruce had addressed each question of concern, contracts were drawn and a logger was secured. A road would be built and ~200 acres would be harvested. Bruce conducted the sale and would supervise operations.



Plastic tape marked a path ~2600 ft up the side of the mountain. No off-site materials except Culverts and Road Fabric would be used. The road would be ~25-35 ft wide. A 4-6 ft trench was dug. The subsoil, consisting of gravel, clay and shale became road surface. The trench was filled with the debris which becomes filler upon settling and upon completion no debris would be left on site. Dirt and gravel dumped and graded created the road and prevented runoff. The use of on-site gravel and shale minimized cost. A stream had to be managed with proper drainage and sedimentation control. A water line crosses underground, across the roadway was needed to retain the integrity of the water supply to our camp. Runoff was managed by placement of a mesh fabric (Road Fabric) under 2-4 ft of gravel. It is a suitable substance to use as a sub-grade. The fabric is used for dirt roads as a base stabilizer, and to prevent rutting and erosion, increasing road longevity. Temporary landings were established up the road, as the number of trees increased. Some tree tops were left lying, some utilized for firewood. At the top, a landing was created for trucks to come and remove the bulk of the logs.

Breathtaking sunlight now streamed in. Disorientation occurred as our perceptions of the base of the trails we knew changed. The majority of the work was done through the summer. Skidders dragged logs to the landing, transforming trails into paths which were knee-high thick with mud and impossible to traverse. Disturbing the surface layer of the now sunlit forest floor enables diverse plant life to flourish. Young trees were some concern as they are more susceptible

(Sustainable Road Building pictured to the left p.2 & p.4 compliments of Collette Morbita)

(cont'd on p. 4)

Renewable Heat Incentive: an initiative that provides financial assistance to anyone installing or upgrading wood burning system (s). For information on eligibility and participation, anyone can visit "Renewableheatny" @ <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/>. For information on Econoburn, Mark can be reached at: Econoburn Boilers 2 Central Ave. Brocton, NY 14716 866-818-5162 www.econoburn.com

Sustainable Road Building cont'd

Submitted by Collete Morbita

to damage in the summer when their cambium is soft and jelly like. However, Bruce reminded us, each tree has to be dealt with on an individual basis. Trees damaged in the course of logging operation will become "bumper" trees for future sales. As Bruce so conscientiously stated ". . . with every improvement comes a compromise."

Water issues need to be addressed due to settling but, we now have a large area to utilize as a work space and to be seeded to prevent erosion, which also doubles as a wildlife observation area. There are signs wildlife now utilize the road. Some of the prettiest areas have now been discovered. Our new road is a pathway to the heart of our forest. It is an artery to the life of our property and our legacy.

Orchestrating the "worst first" harvest, Bruce marked hundreds of trees with the least timber value--the goal was to remove the lowest quality trees. Our biggest financial investment was removing timber that had the least value. By harvesting fewer trees more frequently we now obtain a more productive woodlot, truly becoming partners with our forest.



Growing Big Trees Workshop Timber Workshop

Want BIG and TALL Trees? Join our workshop on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Timber is a strategic material and in New York, timber production is primarily in the hands of 700,000 private landowners. For many forest owners, an important objective is to grow high-quality timber, which can then be harvested sustainably and used in the forest products industry. Our soils and environment are capable, but in order to achieve the timber objective successfully, the best trees need help. This means.... forestland owners *must* take action to address the "weeds in the garden." The workshop is free but registration is required. Please consider bringing children. Kids of all ages love friendly competition. Register by sending an email to Dave at kdwillmill@gmail.com.

Meet at the United Presbyterian Church of East Guilford a bit before 10 am for coffee prior to the presentation. Bring some inside shoes in addition to your outside attire. Rain, snow or shine, but call Dave at 607 563 3156 if fierce blizzard conditions exist! The United Presbyterian Church of East Guilford is at the corner of County Route 35 and NYS Route 8 (about 4 miles north of the Sidney exit on interstate 88). Look for the flashing caution light and turn right. The church is on the corner. The Church's address is 2699 County Rd. 35, Mt. Upton, NY.

A Woodswalk will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 on John & Gayle Rembold's in Cattaraugus, NY. The farm is located at 6666 Sweeney Hill Rd.

John states, "This is an old farm that was last farmed in the 1920s. Our family has used it as a vacation property since 1942, and Gayle and I have lived here since 1992.

In the 40s and 50s spruce, larch and Scotch pine were planted on 30 acres, the fields were used by neighbors and 30+ acres were left as hardwood forest. A lot of old tree mortality and new growth has occurred in the past 70 years without any management. A harvest of cherry in 1995 opened our eyes and led us to our present plan of action. Logging trails became access roads and a harvest of larch in 2009 created more trails and open space. In 2012 a thinning harvest of cherry, ash and maple was conducted opening up more of the floor and giving us access to previously unappreciated areas.

We can now walk the entire property on trails; we have vernal pools, (ferns and honeysuckle too!).

Open fields are mowed to provide shelter for birds and wildlife. We still have some plantation areas of spruce and larch, and hope to do some food plot seeding.

We will have water, grassy slopes to enjoy your bag lunch, porta potty if you bring one."

For more information or to contact John & Gayle regarding this walk please call 716-938-6161.

Directions from Little Valley: Proceed north on rte 353 towards Cattaraugus, go past fair grounds and turn left onto Cty. Rte. 5. Continue on Cty Rd 5 (approx 2.5 mi) to the first right hand road which is Sweeney Hill Rd. Take Sweeney Hill Rd for .7 mi. to our house on the right side of the road.

"DO NOT FOLLOW GPS OR GOOGLE MAPS!!"

Saturday, March 7th Cornell University Cooperative Extension 23rd ANNUAL RURAL LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

The CUCE Annual Rural Landowner Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 7th at the Pioneer Central School, County Line Rd Yorkshire, NY. Cost is \$30.00. Reg. Deadline 2/10/15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Refreshments/Exhibits in Cafeteria.

Topics include; Invasive Species - What Landowners Need to Know About Invasive Species and How to Manage Them Andrea Locke, WNY PRISM Coordinator, An introduction to the ecology of northeastern forests - Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Tech Tools for Land Stewardship - Michael Jabot, Ph.D. Professor, Science Education US Partner - GLOBE Program Director, Institute for Research in Science Teaching State University of New York at Fredonia, Forest Mushroom Cultivation - Don Gasiewicz, Owner/Operator Toad Song Mushrooms, CCE Wyoming County, How to Tell if Your Woods are Affected by Deer: A Visual Assessment Tool - Kristi Sullivan, Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources, Thinning practices to improve forest growth and tree vigor. Presented by Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Your Woodland as Wildlife Habitat and a Source of Biodiversity Kristi Sullivan, Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources, Safe Chainsaw Handling and Felling Techniques: James Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, Food Plot Preparation and Forage Selection - Aaron Santangelo, Community Educator CCE Allegany County, Are You Growing Your Best Timber? Peter Smallidge, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Respiratory Protection to Reduce Pesticide Exposures: James Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, "Organics-Back to The Future" Creative Food Plotting for Deer Hunters: David VanEarden High School Biology Teacher, USDA/NRCS Conservation Farm Bill Program Opportunities: Shanna Shaw, NRCS Area Biologist, Learn to Bird Join Buffalo Audubon Naturalist Tntom Kerr.

From the North: Take the 400 Expressway to Rte. 16 South to Yorkshire. Turn left on Rte. 39 then right onto County Line Road. Pioneer Central School is 1/4 mile on the right. **From the South:** Take the Southern Tier Expressway 86 (formerly 17) to Rte. 16, travel north to Yorkshire. Turn right onto Rte. 39 then right onto County Line Road. Pioneer Central School is 1/4 mile on the right. **From the East:** Take Exit 8 on Interstate 390 to Rte. 20A. Travel West to Rte. 39 and turn left to Yorkshire. Turn left onto County Line Road. Pioneer Central School is 1/4 mile on the right.

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

February 26-28

NY Farm Show

March 7

Rural Owners Landowners Workshop

March 14

Growing Big Timber Contest/Workshop

March 21

State NYFOA Board Meeting

March 30

Steering Committee Meeting

May 9

Rembolds Woodswalk

Welcome New Members: Debra Beck, Vi & Millard Brown, Joanne & Jay Cockel, Saymme & Robb Gowanlocke, Robert Johnson, Blake Mayo, Richelle Sharp, Sue & Brian Strauss, Pat Wheeler,

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or mail to ctp11@hotmail.com (Catherine Heath)

NY FARM SHOW, February 26-28, 2015 State Fairgrounds

Got Trees? Get More from Your Woodlot Learn More, Earn More! Free programs at the NY FARM SHOW February 26-28, 2015 State Fairgrounds - Syracuse, New York.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26 Creating & Enhancing Natural Areas on Small Properties Kristi Sullivan, Cornell University, Dep't of Natural Resources, Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements Michael Fournier, US Dep't of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Making Maple Syrup for Fun and Profit Stephen Childs, Cornell Maple Program, Owning a Family Woodlot: Lessons Learned Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schuyler Co. NY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 Beware of Insects and Diseases that Threaten Your Woods Kim Adams, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, How Woodlots Grow and Change Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University, Controlling Weed Trees in Your Woodlot Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University, Federal Aid for Woodlot

Improvements Michael Fournier, US Dep't of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ever Changing Timber Markets Impact Woodlot Worth. Tom Gerow, Wagner Lumber Co. Owego NY and David Preznya, Baillie Lumber Co. Boonville NY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, Consulting Foresters add Health and Value to Your Woodlot Arthur Brooks, Consulting Forester, Central Square, NY, Personal Experiences With Two Legacy Options: Conservation Easements, and Retaining Rights After Property Transfer David Gaskell and Ronald Pedersen, Forest landowners, members of NYFOA, Quality Deer Management in your Woodlot John Rybinski, Central New York QDMA President, Having a Timber Sale? Do it Right the First Time Andrew Metz, Consulting Forester, Tully NY, Woodlot Management and Income Taxes Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry