



NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

This is my first article for our newsletter and I would like to begin by thanking all of you for the support to our Chapter and the vast array of events that have been hosted by our membership. Last year was the kick-off of the Restore New York Woodlands initiative, "RNYW", and this has continued to be a central theme of this year's activities, particularly with the numerous woods walks.

The summer was equally busy at the NYFOA/MFO booths we had at the three County Fairs, Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus. The number of persons who visited our respective program booths did vary this year, and that means we need to re-evaluate the resources we are committing to the Fairs. The Cattaraugus County Fair generated 14 requests for MFO, (Master Forest Owner volunteers), consultations and/or visits. This is by far the largest number of persons to sign up since we started the Fair booths. This provides

me with an opportunity to transition to a significant change in this program.

Effective this year, 5 Extension Directors will become "regional" directors for the MFO program, which will continue under the direction of Peter Smallidge. Brett Chedzoy, has been identified as the Regional Director for the Southern Tier, a total of 11 counties. This will include Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. This new organizational approach is currently being implemented. Stay tuned.

As the Fall season is almost upon us, please participate and enjoy the remainder of events scheduled. We will work diligently to come up with a program for 2016 that is as varied and well attended as it has been 2015.

Thanks,
Bob Wood
Chairman
NYFOA-AFC

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

October 12

Steering Committee Meeting (1:15—Randolph Free Library)

December 5

Steering Committee Meeting & Christmas Holiday Party, Randolph Community Center



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- Bill Dorman— Secretary (716) 640-4305
- Tony Pingitore— Treasurer (716) 962-4041
- Dick Patton—NYFOA Rep. (716) 761-6333
- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 640-5549
- Mike Jabot – Newsletter Editor (716) 673-3639

Always work for the long-term health of your forest...

and other lessons from Bruce Robinson Submitted by Kim Sherwood

On August 15th, AFC was privileged to tour of a ~95-acre woodlot owned by Bruce Robinson and managed by him and his son, Bruce. Bruce (the Dad) has been a professional forester for over 45 years. This woodswalk featured access, management objectives, regeneration 'triggers' and the legacy of family-owned forests.

The parcel is in Chautauqua County, near Ross Mills. The Robinsons have owned it for over 25 years. However, access was difficult until five years ago when Bruce had the road into it built to his specs as part of a gas well negotiation. Given the wet, clay soils and the expense of hauling gravel in, Bruce developed a technique whereby after right-of-way (ROW) trees were harvested, a linear trench was constructed parallel to the planned road. Stumps and topsoil that were excavated after the ROW was cleared were placed in the bottom of the trench. The more gravelly / stony subsoil removed from the trench was dumped into the roadway. Surface soil was used to cover that material in the trench, which was graded and seeded. The road travelway, now consisting of stonier material from the trench included native surfacing. Gravel was not necessary. By using this sub-soil inversion, stump burial method, the road was built for less than a quarter the cost of a conventional log haul woods road.

Bruce touched on several common woodswalk themes: species preference and stocking; timber stand improvement (TSI); invasive species control and the usual scarcity of time and money. He highlighted his view of the forest as an ecosystem rather than only focusing on certain trees as a cash crop. He explained the use of the soil, water, understory shrubs and different tree canopy levels by amphibians, bird and wildlife species. He encourages landowners to include these considerations in their objectives whenever possible. Bruce noted that he sees some value in many of the species that are often considered undesirable, such as American beech and Striped maple. While he does not suggest stand conversion for these species, neither does he think it's necessary to eliminate them entirely from the forest.

In general, Bruce is an advocate of frequent harvests (~ every ten years), removing no more than one-third of the merchantable timber, and taking the worst first. His objective is always to leave the woods in better health than in the preceding entry. For example, on this property that he and his son manage, a stand of multi-stemmed maple sprouted from historic tree clearing. They are in the process of converting it to a cherry-dominated stand. However, thinning the maple stems to 90 square feet of basal area gave rise to tulip trees, which are not all that common in our area, in the understory. Well-known for his TSI work with loppers, Bruce has been releasing the best young tulip trees which are in turn creating small openings, or shade levels required for other desirable species such as cherry, red oak and sugar maple seedlings. Clearly this stand will need management beyond Bruce's lifetime, but with his son's help, they are both confident it will ultimately yield the results they envision and are working toward today.

As usual, Bruce led an insightful discussion among the 20 or so participants at the woodswalk. He truly helped us see both the forest and the trees. As an extra bonus, the Robinsons provided a nice picnic at Bruce (the Son's) house afterward. Many thanks to both Bruce's and JoAnn for a thoughtful and informative day and a really nice lunch!

The fair this year, in our building was rather quiet but successful. We maintained a full roster of workers at our display even though it was somewhat harder to get volunteers. Our raffle prize was a numbered Waterfowl Print donated by Dick Patton. The winner was member Beth Hadley of Sinclairville. We had seven people sign up for MFO visits and six new paid memberships. New member Rick Kosinski of Fredonia was the winner of a free one year membership at our drawing. The wood quiz and Skittles game were again popular.

Our display had a new look again this year, Art Sample Nursery of Ashville loaned us nine potted trees and Jim Barber potted up four varieties of ferns and using those and some moss covered logs we attempted to present a woodsy look. Art also donated a Forsythia Bush to Raffle. Thanks to all of you who helped. Tony



Save the Date!

Saturday March 6, 2016 2016 Rural Land Owners Conference—Pioneer HS

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 Maple Producer’s “Sugar Shack” again this year graciously provided a portion of their building for use as display space for NYFOA-AFC to promote our cause and activities, and to promote the Master Forest Owners program.

Our display/volunteer schedule was shortened to just 4 days this year, due to lack of volunteer participation. During the 4 days of AFC’s presence, one scale stick was sold, and one person signed up for a visit from a MFO volunteer visitor.

THANKS to Rob Chamberlain, Russ Biss, Bob Sherry, Steve Jakobi, Leroy and Susan Stoycon, Dean Wildrick, Robert Dewey, and Don Nelson for meeting and greeting fair goers to promote our cause of sustainable forest stewardship.

Cattaraugus County Fair – Little Valley – August 3-9

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

Space in the Norton Conservation building was provided by the Federated Sportsmen of Cattaraugus County again this year during Fair week. The NYFOA tabletop display, MFO program material, and many other forest-related items were available for public perusal and interest. Many print/reference/educational resources relating to NYFOA’s mission of wise, sustainable forest stewardship were available as handouts.

During the week, 1 scale stick was sold; 2 memberships were gained (each one received a free cherry rolling pin); 2 rolling pins were sold outright; 13 people signed up for MFO visits. A home-made bird feeder (eligible by chance drawing to all new paid memberships) was won by Rich and Terri Stang of Perrysburg.

THANKS to Tony Pingitore for the rolling pins he provided from his forest and workshop; and THANKS to the following NYFOA members for volunteering at the Fair: Gary Sargent, Bob & Ruth Sommers, John & Gayle Rembold, Bob Gorecki, Mark Marcus, Cindy & “Doc” Dayton, Bob Wood, Jim Taft, Dick Brennan, Andy Rupp, and Dwight Mateer.

Welcome New Members:

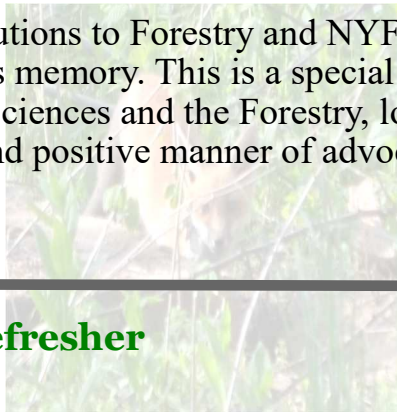
L. Dale Bingham	Franklinville NY	Rick Kosinski	Fredonia NY
Chris & Mary Dorman	Cassadaga NY	Kenneth Mantai	Fredonia NY
Don Einhouse	Silver Creek NY	Mark Rivard	Buffalo NY
Daniel Harrington	Hamburg NY	Terri & Rich Stang	Perrysburg NY
Tom & Ellene Jousma	N Tonawanda NY		

In Memory of Charlie Mowatt

Submitted by Bob Wood

As many of you know Charlie passed in June of 2015. He was well known to just about all of us in the Allegany Foothills Chapter of NYFOA and he touched many involved with woodlands across the State and most likely the Country. He was a great mentor and advocate and worked diligently to make the New York Forest Owner Association what it is today.

On behalf of Charlie's contributions to Forestry and NYFOA, our Chapter has made a donation to the NYFOA Fund in his memory. This is a special fund which has been set up with the School of Environmental Sciences and the Forestry, located in Syracuse, NY. We will all miss Charlie and his sincere and positive manner of advocating for commitment to forestry stewardship.



Master Forest Owner Refresher

Submitted by Tony Pingitore

On Friday and Saturday, September 11th and 12th, 2015, four of us from NYFOA-AFC attended the MFO refresher at the Cornell University Arnot Forest in Van Etten, New York. Otis Barber, Mike Jabot, Dick Patton and Tony Pingitore from AFC and MFO Kathy Kellogg from Franklinville, a non-NYFOA member were five of the thirty two attendees. The program was put on by Peter Smallidge, current director of the MFO program, and Gary Goff, founder and former director.

For me, it is impossible to cover two days of training in a newsletter article so I will synopsize as best I can. Friday was spent primarily on mitigating deer damage to high value tree regeneration and the effect it has on our forests. Deer browsing is the number one cause of regeneration failure in New York State, up to seventy two percent or more failure! We were also shown methods of determining the amount of deer browse in our woods.

Saturday's subject was on the restructuring of the way requests for MFO visits are logged in and distributed. As most everything else, this process will be more computerized. MFO volunteers will be matched with landowners of like interests. There are now five regional coordinators in addition to our local ones. Ours is Brett Chedzoy from the Watkins Glen area. After that briefing we went to Brett's farm and saw his use of silvopasturing (using livestock to clear unwanted vegetation from the forest). The cows eat, trample and fertilize the under story.

Both Peter and Gary strongly stated the importance of NYFOA membership and how NYFOA has the lead in dealing with deer damage and many other woodland issues.

These are 'works in progress' and as they are finalized more information will be passed on. This was a very enjoyable and informative two days, two days well spent. It was good to meet with MFOs from across the state and see how everyone is on the same page and have

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

October 12

Steering Committee Meeting
1:15 Randolph Free Library

December 5

Steering Committee Meeting
& Christmas Holiday Party
Randolph Community
Center



Please email your comments to:
jabot@fredonia.edu (Mike Jabot)

Forestry Demo Annual Picnic at Joe Baronich's.

Photos Submitted by Kim Sherwood

