



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman’s Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

It is that time of year again. Many of us are cooped up in our homes, awaiting for the snow to melt and the “green” to reappear. You want to get into your woodland and start doing some physical work. In the interim, there is something we refer to as “down time”. I have a suggestion for all of us. This is an excellent time of the year to update your long and short term planning for your woodland. And if you do not have a plan, this is the perfect time of year to start one.

Another term that comes to mind is “TSI – Timber Stand Improvement”. What goals have you set for yourself this year? For example, in my woodlands, I started a modest reforestation project. I wanted to increase the Red Oak population, and over a period time planted at least 500 red oak seedlings.

This event required planning ahead. I needed to access tubes and stakes to go over the hardwood seedlings and ensure good quality seedlings as well. Spring is the best time to implement this kind of project. Hence, this required me to line up resources---“fine tune my plan”, by lining up the Oak seedlings, tubes, and stakes so I could hit the ground, (literally), when those ideal planting days in mid-April to mid-May arrived. I encourage all of us to locate and dust off those “woodland” plans, get a pencil and pad and list what tools/resources you need to implement this year’s projects.

Bob Wood, AFC Chairman

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

March 21—Noon

AFC Steering Committee—R& M Restaurant, Randolph

April 16

NYFOA Annual Membership Meeting - SUNY ESF

July 9 - 9:00

Woods Walk— David and Colette Morabito ‘s Woodlot

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER	1
UPCOMING EVENTS	1
NYFOA NEEDS YOUR HELP	2
CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP	3
SAD NOTE	3
OTHER THINGS WE ARE READING	3
LOOKING FOR HELP	4
SAVE THE DATE	5
NYFOA SERVICE AWARD	5

Chapter Board of Directors:

- Bob Wood– Chair (716) 945-4849
- Jeff Rupp- Vice-Chair (716) 257-5652
- 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

NYFOA Needs Your Input

NYFOA is proposing some significant changes to their bylaws and needs your input. The proposed changes were explained in the January/February issue of *The New York Forest Owner*. Please review these and mail your ballot in to NYFOA.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NYFOA BYLAWS

NYFOA is updating its bylaws to comply with current law and to make governance of the organization more efficient. Since its founding in 1963 as a membership organization governed by its members, NYFOA has grown and changed over the years, adding office support staff and becoming a non-profit corporation in 2006, when it merged with NY Woodland Stewards (and was then governed by a board of directors). It is common for grassroots organizations to start off as a membership organization, and as they mature and hire staff, transition into an organization led by directors.

The NYS Non-Profit Revitalization Act of 2013, which took effect on July 1, 2014, removes some of the regulatory burdens imposed on the non-profit sector, while improving oversight and governance. Having reviewed NYFOA's bylaws for compliance with the new law, your Board of Directors is recommending the following changes to NYFOA's bylaws:

Amendment #1: Repeal Article III, Membership and Membership Meetings in its entirety.

Reason: To bring NYFOA's bylaws into compliance with current NYS Non-Profit Law and make governance of the organization more efficient.

Our current bylaws state that governance of the organization is vested in a Board

of Directors, but members vote to elect the board of directors and to approve any changes to the bylaws. Under current law, a quorum for an organization of NYFOA's size is 100, not 35 as stated in our current bylaws. Despite sending ballots via the *Forest Owner* to all NYFOA members, very few members vote, well below the quorum of 100 set by current law, either by mailing in their ballots or at the Annual Meeting.

Voting membership makes governance of the organization very cumbersome due to: 1) difficulty in obtaining the required quorum of 100 for voting for directors-at-large and amending bylaws; and 2) the long lead-time (~ 3 months) required for written notification in the *Forest Owner* of membership meetings and elections.

Given the very low participation rate of voting members and the difficulty in achieving the required quorum of 100 under the new law, we recommend the proposed change. Although NYFOA members will no longer have voting authority at the Annual Meeting, they will still continue to have representation on the Board of Directors via their Chapter-designated directors and will continue to enjoy the same membership benefits such as receiving the *Forest Owner* magazine and Chapter newsletters; access to all Chapter and state-level meetings, programs, woodwalks and events; and discounts on posted signs, Northern Woodlands subscriptions and other member discounts. Member and Chapter involvement in state level operations,

including the nominating process, will continue to be encouraged.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote **FOR** Amendment #1.

Amendment #2: Repeal Article VIII, Fiscal Management, Section 3. Annual Audit, which requires an audit be conducted annually.

Reason: Effective July 1, 2014 the NYS Non-Profit Revitalization Act of 2013 eliminated the audit requirement for organizations whose revenue and support is below \$500,000/year and raised the threshold requiring financial statements review to \$250,000. NYFOA's annual revenue is approximately \$100,000, well below either of these thresholds. Eliminating the audit requirement is expected to save NYFOA ~\$3000/year in accounting costs. Financial oversight is provided through independent CPA review of NYFOA's financial statements during the year, NYFOA's budget process, and filing the required Federal and NYS non-profit corporation tax returns.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote **FOR** Amendment #2.

Please VOTE using the proxy ballot below. You may view NYFOA's current bylaws on our website at <http://nyfoa.org/docs/NYFOABY-Laws2006.pdf>.

New York Forest Owners Association PROXY BALLOT – Proposed Bylaw Amendments 2016

I, the undersigned, being a Member of the New York Forest Owners Association, hereby appoint Jerry Michael, Secretary as my proxy to attend on my behalf the annual meeting of the Members to be held on April 16, 2016.

My Proxy is authorized to vote on my behalf on any matters that may come before the meeting.

Name(s) _____ Signature _____ Date _____
Address _____ City/Town _____ State _____ Zipcode _____ Chapter _____

The Board of Directors recommends you vote **FOR** the following amendments to the bylaws:

Amendment #1: Repeal Article III, Membership and Membership Meetings in its entirety.

FOR AGAINST

Amendment #2: Repeal Article VIII, Fiscal Management, Section 3. Annual Audit, which requires that an audit be conducted annually.

FOR AGAINST

It is understood that if you submit the ballot without otherwise marking it will be voted as recommended by the Board of Directors on all matters to be considered at the meeting.

Detach and Mail proxy before April 4, 2016 to: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY 14485

Christmas Party Recap

Submitted by the Tony Pingatore

The weather outside in Randolph may not have looked very much like the Christmas Season, but the spirit inside was full of Holiday Spirit at our annual AFC Christmas Party. 27 people enjoyed great food and much fellowship, and Fran Michalak did a wonderful job conducting the Christmas gift exchange. The most coveted gift turned out to be a cardboard box of fire-wood! Thank you, Fran, for a job well done. Tony Pingatore won the annual raffle, which this year was a pair of alpaca work socks. Everyone felt that it was a very successful event.

Sad Note

Submitted by the Dan Anderson

Many of you recently may have seen the notice of the passing of Marie Larson. Marie and Bud Larson were VERY active members of our AFC group until health issues precluded their involvement. Marie was our treasurer for many years, Marie and Bud were very active in the nut collection fundraiser, and they hosted a Woods-walk on their property in Centralia where we were treated to the viewing of one of the very largest black cherry trees in New York State. I often wonder if that huge black cherry is still alive and upright. Marie and Bud could be counted on to attend just about every AFC event. We need more members with that kind of long term commitment. RIP, Marie!!

Other Things We Are Reading *NYS TREE FARM NEWS & NOTES*

Update on State Choice, State Voice

Last November, after careful consideration and an evaluation of possible costs and anticipated benefits, the state Tree Farm Committee notified the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) that NYS will follow the Recognition pathway rather than continue on the Certification route going forward. The committee formalized this through establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with AFF that went into effect in January 2016. In the Northeast region, New York is one of five other states to choose recognition

The main emphasis of the Recognition Pathway is "on recognizing and sustaining relationships with woodland owners who are managing to the ATFS Standards, communicating the benefits of participating in ATFS and providing targeted and tailored outreach to unengaged woodland owners with the intent of moving them toward action and sustainable forest management."

In choosing the Recognition pathway, NYS will not be required to maintain our third-party audited status and will not be covered by ATFS's centrally held regional certificates. However, The recognition pathway will still have annual internal audits to maintain program creditability. NYS will still be eligible to receive base funding for administration and some programs from ATFS; and will also be able to apply for competitive national grant funding for additional programming as opportunities become available.

Five years ago the AFC Steering Committee decided to try to increase NYFOA's presence and influence in Allegany County by exhibiting on the Angelica fairgrounds during County Fair week. The great folks associated with the Sugar Shack and Maple Producers Association have been kind to provide a limited space for us in their building, which building is barely large enough to promote the interests of their own programs.

With 30 Allegany County members listed on NYFOA's AFC roster of members, one might think it would be easy finding volunteers to staff our display area and represent NYFOA at the County Fair during Fair Week. NOT SO! It is becoming more difficult.

This year, after making 30 calls for volunteers, I was able to get only 8 volunteers to cover 8 half days. As a result, I squeezed them into the first 4 days (Monday through Thursday), and picked up the display on Friday.

I have decided to step aside from my participation in the Alleghany County Fair, and have high hopes that someone much closer to Angelica than I (60+ miles) will take over handling NYFOA's display and recruiting volunteers to interact with visitors.

My thanks go out to all who have helped promote NYFOA-AFC and Cornell University's Master Forest Owner (MFO) program, especially those who volunteered hours of their time.

It has been my privilege to associate with so many of you from eastern AFC. ANY TAKERS or NEW IDEAS? Please call me or any Steering Committee member with your thoughts.

Welcome New Member:

Tim Muffit

Ann Arbor, MI

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.

Save the Date!

Submitted by Bob Wood

On Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m., please join the Morabitos at their woodlot at 6067 White Creek Road/County Road 17 in Belfast, NY, 14711. A light breakfast will be provided. Our woods walk will be directed by Bruce Robinson. As always, he will professionally guide us through a presentation that will focus on the unlimited uses of any woodlot, considering for example, improving poor access into a woodlot, restructuring compromised quality of high-graded forest stands and understanding biological limitations as well as potentials of forest stands. We will explore practical methods to deflate the overwhelming task of making it all work together. The walk will provide insight into road building, water management and erosion mitigation using vernal pools, tree cutting for long-term residual forest vigor. Minimal distractions to observe wildlife will be tolerated.

The woods walk will be tailored for both walkers and those welcoming assistance. Cars can easily traverse the roadway in order to enjoy the conversation and to look closely at the areas of interest that Mr. Robinson will be addressing. Speed limits will be strictly enforced! Dress for the weather. Good walking shoes will keep memories pleasant.

Please plan on staying at the conclusion of the woods walk to join us for conversation and lunch cooked over an open fire: cold drinks, hot dogs, and s'mores!

NYFOA Service Award

Submitted by the Tony Pingatore

The AFC NYFOA Chapter is proud to announce that Dick Vail has received the Service Award for 2016.

Dick joined New York Forest Owner's Association, Allegheny Foot Hills Chapter (NYFOA-AFC) in June of 2009 and ever since he has offered his help behind the scenes doing whatever is asked of him. He has helped with the set-up and tear-down of our display at the Chautauqua County fair and has helped keep the display manned throughout the duration of the fair. He eagerly engages attendees to talk about their woodlots.

Dick faithfully attends as many of our programs as he can fit into his schedule and he is an active participant at them and has helped with the logistics of the programs.

Dick selflessly helps transport fair materials to and from various fair venues and drives to take other members to workshops and NYFOA events. He has attended many Rural Land Owners Workshops, and has always brought other members to the event. He actively and eagerly helps with fund raising endeavors both at the fair and at the workshops.

Dick Vail and his wife Sara live in Lakewood, New York and have 12 acres in the town of Busti where they have a very nice Amish built log cabin and a large two story pole barn. The property is used primarily for quiet get-a-ways, target shooting and family gatherings. Dick and his wife are real assets to NYFOA-AFC.

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Mike Jabot, Editor
291 Chestnut St.
Fredonia, NY 14063
Phone 716-673-3639
Email: jabot@fredonia.edu

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 21—Noon

AFC Steering Committee—R& M
Restaurant, Randolph

April 16

NYFOA Annual Membership
Meeting - SUNY ESF

July 9—9:00

Woods Walk— David and Colette
Morabito 's Woodlot



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.

