



# Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

## Chairman's Corner

Greetings to AFC members! This is my first opportunity as Chairman of the AFC to communicate with all members. There are two messages I would like to send out. The first is to encourage all members to be active in the AFC and NYFOA. The second is to encourage new membership.

I suspect that many members join NYFOA and the AFC to receive the Forest Owner magazine and the chapter newsletter as great sources of useful information and this is where their participation ends. This is the direction that

my membership took for many years. I was always too busy or felt that I was not knowledgeable enough to take part in woods walks or other learning opportunities. Attending my first woods walk opened the door to even more learning experiences and the opportunity to meet a great group of people with hands on experience that they are more than willing to share their knowledge. I encourage all members to find the time to participate. I am confident that you will find the experience to be as valuable as I have.

New York forest land owners

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Forestry Funding Available

State Conservationist Ron Alvarado of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that New York forestland owners have until December 14, 2007 to apply for the 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners willing to implement practices to improve natural resources on privately owned agricultural land, including forestland.

Through EQIP, forestland owners can apply for financial and technical assistance to apply a variety of conservation and management practices that will improve the health and productivity

of their forests, prevent soil erosion, and protect important habitat for at-risk wildlife species.

NRCS is partnering with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Lands and Forests to deliver the EQIP Forestry Program. NYS DEC Foresters will help landowners identify the appropriate practices to address their forest management objectives, complete the ranking of their application, and advise them on the implementation of practices if they are selected for funding. Applicants **MUST** have an



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		• JoAnn Kurtis– Newsletter Editor	(716) 699-2375

## Holiday Party in Jamestown

This year's party will be held at the Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center at 3452 Turner Road, north of Jamestown, on December 15. The party will start at 10:00, and go until 2:00. AFC will furnish the meat, drinks and place settings. Participants should bring a dish to pass (please label your containers and serving utensils) and are encouraged to bring a gift for a lively gift exchange.

The tentative program is as follows: Welcome, 10:30, Business Meeting, 10:30-11:00, Entertainment by Tony and Connie Pingitore, 11:00-12:00 or until they get tired. The meal will follow the entertainment with the gift exchange scheduled to start at 1:00 and end by 2:00 pm.

The gift exchange will be open to each member or family member that brings a gift. To make it a little more fun, we will allow "trading" of gifts throughout the exchange. Please limit the gift value to \$10 or less.

In case of inclement weather, notification of a cancellation will be done via the "e-mail tree" For a call by phone, contact JoAnn at (716) 560-7214 prior



to December 12, with a name and phone number where you can be reached. As always, we hope to see many new faces at this fun event.

**Welcome New Members:** Don Dowling, Westfield; Thomas Jay Gombos, East Aurora; James H. Kinley, Olean; Gregory and Frances Michalak, Ashville; Henry Pudlak, Elma; Robert Solberg, Seaford.

## Forestry Funding Continued

approved Forest Stewardship Plan and meet EQIP eligibility in order to apply for this program.

EQIP eligibility includes having a Highly Erodible Land determination completed, having the land designated by tract and having certain forms on file with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), formerly known as the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Many forestland owners that applied for financial assistance under the former cost sharing programs (Forestry Incentive Program-FIP; Stewardship Incentive Program-SIP, or Forest Land Enhancement Program-FLEP) and had a Stewardship Plan developed should be eligible for the new program. Practices for which EQIP funding is sought must be identified in the plan.

Practices are designed to reduce soil erosion and or improve habitat for certain at-risk forest dependant bird species. These species include: Bay-

Breasted, Canada, Cerulean, Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers; Bicknell's and Wood Thrushes; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Whip-poor-will and the American Woodcock. DEC Foresters and Biologists will determine if these species will be benefited by the planned practices on each application.

EQIP contracts will be developed for 3 years with landowners implementing conservation practices in the first two years. Landowners should be aware that EQIP contracts are legally binding contracts and failure to complete the agreed to practices can lead to repayments, interest, penalties and liquidated damages.

Landowners can apply for EQIP at their local USDA-NRCS office. The program is competitive, and applications are ranked based on national and state identified resource priorities and their overall benefit to the environment.

All applications must be received by the local USDA NRCS office no later than December 14, 2007. For more information call NRCS at 716-699-2375 x 5.

## Chairman's Corner Continued

(Continued from page 1)

receive much personal satisfaction from their land ownership. In addition they provide many public benefits including contributing to clean air and clean water. The better these forest lands are sustainably managed, the more personal satisfaction and public benefit will be provided. NYFOA membership provides the tools for improved management. Thus, we will all benefit by promoting other land owners to join NYFOA. I encourage AFC members to get the word out on the benefits of NYFOA to friends, family and other land owners.

Thanks for listening and trying to be active while promoting others to become members. Please try to attend our annual Holiday Party on December 15<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to hearing from you on how we can improve our organization. Hope to see you in the woods! Thanks~ Steve Teuscher

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## Steering Committee Notes



On November 5, the following members met in Randolph to convene a steering committee meeting: Steve Teuscher (Chair), Jeff Rupp (Vice-Chair), Tony Pingitore (Treasurer), Kim Sherwood (Secretary), Dick Patton (State Rep.), JoAnn & Mark Kurtis,

Brian Bullard, Otis Barber, and Dan Anderson. The Steering Committee is made up of non-elected members, appointed by the Chapter's elected officers. The following people were appointed for the respective positions:

Program Coordinator – Brian Bullard  
Membership Coordinator – open  
Newsletter Editor – JoAnn Kurtis  
Publicity Coordinator – open  
Fund Raising Coordinator – open  
State Association Representative – Dick Patton  
Chapter Store Manager - open  
Safety Coordinator – Dick Patton

Nominating Committee – The following people were appointed (and willing to serve) as the Nominating Committee: Dick Patton, Mark Kurtis, and Jeff Rupp

## Membership Incentive

At the Annual Meeting in July, Steve Teuscher outlined a State organization sponsored incentive program at the Chapter level designed as a way to increasing membership. Chapters usually receive \$5/ non-student membership reimbursement. Under the incentive program, if Chapters increase their memberships by 10% by May 2008, they will be entitled to \$6 per non-student membership. Similarly, if they increase the number of non-student members by 20%, they will receive \$7 per non-student members.



This applies to total membership numbers, not just new members. Therefore it is important to keep current members and recruit new ones. The AFC had 254 members when this incentive program was initiated last May. A 10% increase in membership would be 279 non-student members; 305 would be a 20% increase. As of Oct. '07, we had actually lost members; at that time we had 242.

The Steering Committee discussed several ideas as to how we can retain our current members and recruit new ones. So it was decided to start a "recruitment campaign" among our current members. Interested members can compete to recruit or renew members. To compete in the campaign, have new applicants, or renewals, write your name somewhere on the membership application. The top three recruiters are eligible to win prizes such as a 1-year membership extension, T-shirt or Biltmore stick. The prizes will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in July.

If you would like to help the Chapter put easy money in the bank, encourage woodland owners, or other interested in natural resources, that you know, to join the organization. If every member asked just one more person to join, the Chapter would benefit greatly.

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A big **Thank You** goes out to everyone who participated in the nut collection, the amount of money raised for the Camp fund this year was \$414, giving the Camp fund a current balance of \$1,087.



## Woodsmen's Field Days

This summer my wife Connie and I attended the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, New York. We got there about 10:00 am on Friday, Aug 17 and stayed until 2:00 pm Sunday. Each day was packed with events to watch.

On Friday morning they held the Junior Lumberjacks contest for kids in their mid teens. They were quite exciting to watch, especially the Burling Contests (log rolling on the water). Friday afternoon they held the Game of Logging competition with professional loggers.

Saturday the Lumber Jill contests were held and Sunday, the Lumber Jack contests. There was a local connection in these two contests. Dave and Peg Engasser, two of the top competitors, with Peg taking 1<sup>st</sup> overall world title for the women and Dave finishing near the top of the pack in the men's competition, are the son- and daughter-in-law of Dorothy Engasser, who resides in Cassadaga.

Besides these contests, there were Skidding, Log Loading, Greased Pole Climbing, and several other



Logging related contests. There was a three hour long parade primarily of logging equipment. There were acres and acres of any kind of logging equipment you can imagine, from hand tools and chain saws to giant rigs. Of special interest was an array of personal, portable sawmills ranging in price from \$2800 to \$25,000. One mill, the Simplicity, is built right in Hinsdale. There were lots of bargains for any one looking to stock up on equipment.

There were also Forestry Seminars, a NYFOA/MFO display, and many other displays of Forestry related topics. A large assortment of food was available on the grounds. A record crowd of over 35,000 people attended. We would highly recommend a visit to this annual event (this was the 60<sup>th</sup>) by anyone interested in Woods related stuff.

The NYFOA/MFO people are looking for help to man their display; free admission and food might be provided for volunteers. For information on next years show, go to: [www.starinfo.com/woodsmen](http://www.starinfo.com/woodsmen), or [field-days@aol.com](mailto:field-days@aol.com) or call (315) 942-4593~ Tony Pingitore

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## Camp Applications

It's time once again for the Chapter to make available the opportunity for members' families to "Send-A-Kid-to-Camp" The Chapter will again be sponsoring two students to attend DEC Camp Rushford this summer.

To apply for this program the camper must be a New York Resident, be **sincerely** interested in an outdoor learning experience, be willing to participate in strenuous activities such as backpacking and canoeing, and **has not** gone to DEC camp before. Preference will be given to AFC members and their family members (Children, Grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews, etc..), although applications will be accepted from non-members. Applicants must be 12 to 14 years old when they attend camp. All camp sessions accept both girls and boys.

Any camper who does not respect the property and individual rights of others, fails to show an in-

terest in this environmental program, or fails to follow camp rules will be sent home.

To apply, please complete the application on the following page and a short essay, no more than 1 page, on why you would like to go to camp. Then send the essay and application to JoAnn Kurtis, c/o Seneca Trail RC&D Council, P.O. Box 756, Ellicottville, NY, 14731 **by January 20, 2008**. All entries will be evaluated by the chapter officers. The two campers that have been selected will be notified by phone by February 8, 2008.

AFC has already sent 5 students to this camp and has received positive feedback from them after their "adventure". If you know of a student that would benefit from this outdoor experience, encourage them to apply.

For more information about Camp Rushford or the Summer Camp Program, visit the NYS DEC website at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us) and use the keywords, summer camp.





**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Environmental Education Camp Application 2008  
CAMPS: Colby — DeBruce — Rushford**

C  
D  
R

**PLEASE CAREFULLY READ BOTH SIDES OF THIS APPLICATION.**

**PLEASE TYPE or PRINT.**

Camper Name	First (NO NICKNAMES PLEASE)	Last		
	No.	Street		
Home Mailing Address	City	County	State	Zip Code
	Gender: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Date	Age at Camp	
Parent/Guardian	Name		Address (if different)	
	Home ( )		Work ( )	
Telephones	Emergency Telephone (if different) ( )		Cell ( )	
	Ethnic Group  <i>This information is voluntary.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Asian or Pacific Islander:</b> Persons having origins in any of the people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and Samoa.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>African American</b> (not of Hispanic origin): Person having origins in any of the black ethnic groups.				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hispanic:</b> Person having origins in any of the Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish cultures regardless of ethnicity.				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Native American or Alaskan Native:</b> Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Caucasian</b> (not of Hispanic origin): Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East.				

**CHOOSE CAMP & WEEK**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

**FIRST TIME CAMPERS ONLY**    Colby     DeBruce     Rushford     Mark order of preference: 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_ Week 1: June 29–July 5    \_\_\_ Week 3: July 13–July 19    \_\_\_ Week 6: August 3–August 9    \_\_\_ Week 8: August 17–August 23

\_\_\_ Week 2: July 6–July 12    \_\_\_ Week 5: July 27–August 2    \_\_\_ Week 7: August 10–August 16

**RETURNEE CAMPERS ONLY**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

\_\_\_ Returnee Week 4: July 20–July 26

Previously Attended Camp: \_\_\_\_\_ Year attended: \_\_\_\_\_

**No first-time campers may attend.**

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATION**

If parent sponsored, check here.

Organization Name	Allegheny Foothills Chapter-New York Forest Owners Association		
Organization Mailing Address	c/o Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council		
Representative	Name: JoAnn Kurtis	Address: P.O. Box 756, Ellicottville, NY 14731	
Representative Phone	Home ( )	Work (716) 699-2375 ext 5	
Alternate Representative	Name: Steve Teuscher	Home ( )	Work ( )

**\$250** check or money order payable to: **DEC Camps**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 1, 2008**

**Every camper will receive a camp T-shirt; please check campers' size.**

Mail application and check/money order **according to time guidelines** to: Adult Sizes: \_\_\_ S    \_\_\_ M    \_\_\_ L    \_\_\_ XL

**NYSDEC - DEC Camps  
625 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-4500  
Attention: Patti Bolton**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Environmental Education Camp Application 2008  
CAMPS: Colby — DeBruce — Rushford**

To apply for this program the camper must be a New York Resident, be **sincerely interested** in an outdoor learning experience and willing to participate in strenuous activities such as backpacking and canoeing.

Any camper who does not respect the property and individual rights of others, fails to show an interest in this environmental program, or fails to follow camp rules, will be sent home.

**Privacy Notification:** This application asks for personal information, therefore, the Personal Privacy Protection Law requires that you be given this notice. Environmental Conservation Law – Section 3-0301 provides legal authority to collect and maintain personal information requested on this Environmental Education Camp Application. The principal purpose for this information is to enroll campers into the education program and to insure that the applicant meets the age requirement and to assure appropriate assignment of campers to facilities and programs. Failure to provide this information makes this impossible, and would require that we deny the camper the opportunity to participate in the camp program. This information will be maintained by the Camps Administrator, 625 Broadway 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4500, 518-402-8014.

**Responsibilities of the Sponsor Include:**

- Selecting interested young people.
- Preparing campers for this learning experience by giving them information concerning the environmental education focus of the program.
- Assisting in payment of camp fee with one check made out to DEC Camps.
- Arranging transportation to and from camp if necessary.

**Instructions for Applying.** *(Please read carefully before submitting)*

- Applicant must be 12 to 14 years old when they attend camp.
- All camp sessions accept both girls and boys.
- Applications may *not* be postmarked earlier than February 9, 2008. Camps are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications with an organizational sponsor will be considered starting on that date; applications with no organizational sponsor must be postmarked March 1, 2008 or later.
- Camp fee is \$250 per camper for a **one week stay. Payment must accompany this application. We cannot accept any Jane and/or John Doe applications.** We must deposit all checks immediately upon receipt. **Your canceled check does not mean that the application has been accepted.** Application review may take up to eight weeks. The fee will be returned if your choice of camp and week are unavailable.
- Sponsors are responsible for the attendance of their camper(s). Sponsors may send an alternate if the camper is unable to attend after acceptance. Alternates of a different gender will be accepted only if space is available. Call immediately to discuss options.
- Returnee week is open only to campers who **previously attended** Camp Colby, DeBruce or Rushford as first-time campers.

If you have any questions, please call 518-402-8014.

E-mail: edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us

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## Health Benefits of Christmas Trees

The environmental and economic benefits of farm-grown Christmas trees over artificial trees are now joined by another benefit—they could be good for your health. Scientist in Finland knew that compounds from Scotch pines have long been used in home remedies for rheumatism and circulation problems. So they weren't too surprised when they found that an extract from Scotch pine bark reduced inflammation in laboratory mice. Dr. Kalevi Pihlaja summed up his team's preliminary study saying "In the future, this may mean that people with arthritis may ease their pain by eating food supplements made from Christmas trees."

In Canada, an extract from the needles of pines, spruces and firs has been found to be high in shikimic acid, a chemical that may be important in fighting bird flu. Currently this chemical comes from a spice in China, but demand has caused its price to skyrocket. A Canadian company has begun processing thousands of discarded Christmas trees to provide a practical alternative for helping health specialist prepare for a possible bird flu pandemic.

*Source: Arbor Day, Nov-Dec 2006; Reprinted from Volume XVI, Issue 1, Forestry Notes*

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## Global Warming and Poison Ivy

Scientist worldwide are watching global temperatures rise, land dry out and forests catch on fire. In the Siberian taiga, Canadian Rockies, southern California and Australia, researchers are finding growing evidence that ties an upsurge in wildfire with climate change.

Another reason to fear global warming, according to researchers at the Ecosystems Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, is Poison Ivy.

As reported by a Reuter's story, when carbon dioxide levels were increased to expected mid-century amounts, poison ivy—that viney, woods-loving scourge of outdoors persons everywhere—grew more than twice as fast and emitted more of the substance that causes us to itch. Study lead author Jacqueline Mohan warns that no one is safe. "Poison Ivy is a remarkable plant. It can grow just about anywhere."

*Source: American Forestry Association, July 2006; Reprinted from Volume XV, Issue 12 Forestry Notes*

**American Forests is helping people reduce greenhouse gases by offering the *Personal Climate Change Calculator*. The calculator is an easy-to-use tool which helps to measure a persons carbon dioxide emission. After calculating their carbon footprint, users can offset their emissions by making a donation to plant trees in a forest restoration project. Each tree cost \$1 and is planted with a click of a mouse at the secure website: [www.americanforests.org/resources/cc](http://www.americanforests.org/resources/cc)**

## Enhancing Native Bee Nesting

The European honey bee receives most of the credit for crop pollination, but the number of managed honey bee hives is half of what was in the 1950's; and this number continues to decline. Native bees however, contribute significantly to crop pollination on farms near to sufficient natural bee habitat. In order to support the native bee community, it is essential to provide nesting sites in addition to floral resources.

Native bees have different nesting requirements from the more familiar honey bee, with most species generally solitary, with each female constructing and provisioning the nest by herself. About 30% of the 4,000 native bee species are solitary wood-nester that build their nests inside hollow tunnels. These tunnels often occur in the soft pithy centers of box elder, elderberry or various cane berries.



Some tunnel into soft, above-ground rotting logs and stumps. Most of the remaining 70% excavate their nest underground and need direct access to the soil surface.

The 45 species of bumble bees are social bees and construct their nests in small cavities, often in old rodent burrows or abandoned bird nests.

The easiest approach to support native bees is to look for potential nesting sites and then protect them as best as possible. Specifically: retain dead or dying trees and branches whenever it is safe and practical, protect sloped or well-drained ground sites where plants are sparse and direct soil is available, protect grassy thickets or other areas of low cover from mowing.

For more information contact the USDA National Agroforestry Center, phone 402-437-5178 to obtain a copy of Agroforestry Notes 34.

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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***Deadline for article submission for  
the next issue is February 16, 2008***

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

PLANNING MEETING,  
JANUARY 21, RANDOLPH

STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING, JANUARY 28,  
RANDOLPH

RURAL LANDOWNERS  
WORKSHOP-MARCH 8,  
2008, YORKSHIRE

## Summary of NY Timber Trespass Laws

The NYS Legislature Commission on Rural Resources has printed a summary of timber trespass laws in New York State as of 2007. It was prepared in response to requests for information about state laws to assist timber theft victims in obtaining restitution.

The goal of the summary is to increase awareness and knowledge of state statutory provisions so that they may be of use to interested parties. The summary should not be used as a sole source of information as case law may also apply to individual instances involving timber trespass.

The summary breaks down the legal language into commonly understood terms as well as citing the pertinent sections of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Environmental Conservation Law, Public Lands Law and Penal Law.

It is the intent of the Rural Resources Commission to issue new summaries of timber trespass provisions when changes are enacted into law. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the summary should contact the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 or can e-mail the Commission at [ruralres@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:ruralres@senate.state.ny.us)

*"The most permanent lessons in morals are those which come, not of book teaching, but of experience"~ Mark Twain*

## Editor's Comments

With every issue of the newsletter, I try to print the latest information on topics that might be of interest of the many members of the Chapter. I hope that this issue has something for everyone, from identifying a funding source for necessary forest habitat improvement projects to global warming and its influence on Poison Ivy. If there is something in particular that you would like to see in upcoming issues of the AFC newsletter, please drop me a line, either by mail at P.O. Box 756, Ellicottville, NY 14731 or by e-mail at [afcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:afcnewsletter@yahoo.com) and I'll do my best to include it in the next issue.

As the holiday season is just around the corner, I'd like to encourage everyone to get out into the great outdoors to improve your health by cutting a real Christmas tree. Wishing all of the members the best that this holiday season has to offer.~  
JoAnn

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 this wonderful newsletter; the bi-monthly NYFOA statewide publication, The New York Forest Owner; attendance at Chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. For more information visit [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)



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