

Fall 2019



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS



This is my first article as the AFC Chair since replacing Bob Wood who stepped down in July after serving the maximum of 4 years as chairperson, which is the limit, defined by our Operational Guidelines. Many thanks to Bob for his years of service to NYFOA and his leadership in the last four years as chair. Bob has also been very helpful in assisting me with the transition to the position. He has decided to remain on the steering committee as an ex officio member so we will benefit from his experience and sense of perspective.

This summer and early fall have been busy. We continue to have booths at the Chautauqua and Cattaraugus county fairs and we sponsored or co-sponsored 3 woods walks: Richardson's, Morabito's (co-sponsored with the WFL chapter), and Brennan's. The Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) requested to co-sponsor the Brennan walk which resulted in the inclusion of Peter Smallidge and Brett Chedzoy from Cornell as additional presenters. We also benefitted from their extensive publicity network. The result was one of our largest turnouts for a woods walk – over 60 attendees. Given that success, we have pursued additional possibilities for collaboration. I'm pleased to tell you that Dick Rivers, the Executive Director of the Cattaraugus County CCE, will sit on our steering committee as a liaison from his agency. As we learn more about each other, we should both benefit. This collaboration will be valuable as we plan future activities and hopefully enable us to reach a wider audience.

This October Jim Barber became the Co Program Coordinator. Jim will work with Dan Anderson in this same capacity. This will increase AFC's capacity to provide activities for our members and the public at large. The membership of our chapter is aging and we need to attract younger people. A menu of interesting activities should help with achieving this goal. Along this same line, woods walks continue to be one of our most popular activities. I'd encourage our members to consider sponsoring one. Regardless of the size of the woodlot, there is always something to be learned by talking to others while walking through the woods. Give it a try.

Although it's a long way off, our Annual Christmas Party is always an enjoyable time. It is not just for steering committee members. If you've never attended, give it a try. You won't regret it.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the steering committee and all the other AFC members who give of their time as volunteers to make our chapter successful.

Dick Brennan, AFC Chairman

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

- December 21 Christmas Party (10:00am - 2:00pm) Randolph Community Center
- January 20 Steering Committee meeting (12:00) R&M Restaurant in Randolph

Chapter Board of Directors:

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		Dan Anderson—Planning Coord.	(716) 640-5549
		Mike Jabot—Newsletter/PR	(716) 673-3639

Richardson's Woods Walk Summary

Submitted by Vic Richardson

May 18, 2019 was a good day for the 30+ attendees, from as far away as Texas, to take a Woods Walk at Vic & Kay Richardson's, Brocton, NY, 70 acre farm. Following a brief orientation and history, guests navigated a challenging hiking trail, exploring 15 featured points of interest.

One feature of our farm is the 1000 foot elevation change, with mountain springs and a deep gorge, which is typical of Chautauqua Ridge Properties.

My forester, Eric Stawitzsky of Pioneer Forestry, answered questions and shared "Best Management Practices" with all of us as we hiked, and Mike Zagata (NYFOA Office) also offered enlightenments.

Many Thanks to all who shared this educational experience, even making me a better steward of forest lands.

Summer Picnic

Submitted by Dan Anderson / Dick Brennan

The summer picnic was held this year at the Jamestown Audubon Center. We had 17 in attendance and had a good time together and accomplished a great deal. Thanks to everyone for stepping up, and to Bob Wood as our former Chairman and Tony Pingitore for spearheading our fair over the years. Well done!!

The following Operational Guidelines were amended:

The number of At Large member positions on the Steering Committee was increased to 4

The chairperson of the Steering Committee, after stepping down from the position, may serve on the Steering Committee as an ex officio member

The nomination committee's recommendations for a slate of officers were approved.

Chair - Dick Brennan

Vice Chair - Greg Michalak

Secretary - Fran Michalak

Treasurer - Tony Pingitore

At Large Members - Vic Richardson, Jim Barber, Tom Deacon, Mark Rivard

Program Coordinator - Dan Anderson

Newsletter/PR Coordinator - Mike Jabot

Rep. to State NYFOA - Dick Patton

Dick Patton presented Bob Wood with the AFC Service Award for 2019. Thank you Bob for your years of service to NYFOA including the last 4 years as chair of the AFC chapter. Well done.

Mike Zagata, from our central administration spoke to some needed changes moving forward. We have to become more proactive, and can't rely on a business as usual approach.

Good picnic, as we have some positive plans in place with an infusion of some new people to give us a bright future at AFC!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!! Annual Christmas Party December 21 (10:00- 2:00)

Our annual AFC Christmas Party will be held at the Randolph Community Center on Saturday, December 21, at 10:00.

We will hold a short business meeting before eating at noon.

Please bring a dish to pass, and a gift for the gift exchange if you want to participate (homemade items are always the most coveted, but aren't necessary). AFC will supply everything else.

We hope to see you there as this is always a lot of fun and a great way to start the Holiday Season!!

Chautauqua County Fair Wrap-Up

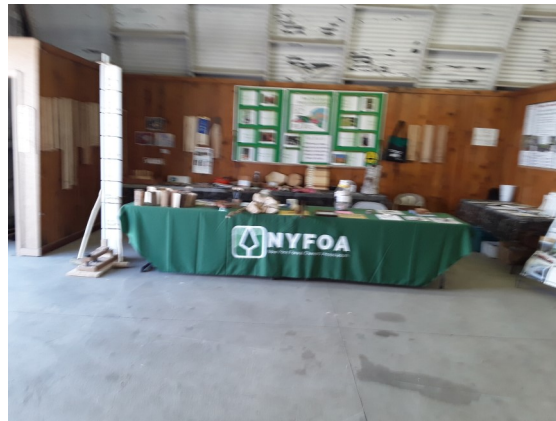
Submitted by Tony Pingitore

Another fair season has come and gone. We enjoyed success at both the Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County fairs, financially and in outreach. Meaningful discussions were held with visitors and several MFO visit requests were booked. We had a record twelve raffle prizes to give away and the proceeds were \$106.00 at Chautauqua County and \$190.00 at Cattaraugus County. We were well staffed for the duration of both fairs. Jeff and I profusely thank all the members that helped in any way, setting up, organizing and manning our displays and for donating raffle prizes. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!! We wish to thank members of the fair boards for their cooperation and help.

We had a new game at Chautauqua County, a kid's version of the old Hi Striker carnival game. It was extremely popular and the kids loved it. Unfortunately, the exuberance of the kids was grossly underestimated and the game had to be repaired or rebuilt at least three times. It was one of the few 'For Free' things kids could do at the fair.

On another note, Jeff and I are stepping down after too many years of being coordinators at the two fairs. It has been an awesome privilege to be part of the fairs and represent NYFOA – AFC. It is time for new faces, ideas and minds to take over and improve on what has been done over the years.

There is still much to be done to impart the concept of stewardship: that we are stewards of our little piece of heaven for only a short time and must leave it better than we found it when our time is up. With depressed timber prices, maybe we should try to convince our visitors of the value of real wood furniture and other products. All this is left to Jeff's and my successors.



Brennan's Woods Walk Summary

Submitted by Dick Brennan

On Saturday, September 21, a woods walk was held on the property of Dick and Gloria Brennan in the town of Ellicottville. Sixty three people attended which was one of AFC's largest turnouts for a woods walk. Included in that number were 26 non NYFOA members. The walk evolved into a joint venture between AFC NYFOA and the Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension that included Cornell Extension foresters Peter Smallidge and Brett Chedzoy. The Cattaraugus County CCE's publicity network and the presence of Cornell staff surely contributed to the large turnout.

The walk featured a recently completed Ash harvest of almost 300 logs (fortunately no EAB detected) ; a timber stand improvement (TSI) project that focused on brush abatement and cutting non marketable timber species predominantly Beech that were left on the woods floor intended to impede deer browsing; and a one acre deer exclosure fence.

Our forester, Eric Stawitzky of Pioneer Forestry, Peter Smallidge, and Brett Chedzoy addressed the group before going into the woods as well as answering questions while in the woods. Also on hand to answer questions was our logger, Dave Czesak. Discussion in the woods addressed how and why the things observed were done. It was also emphasized the importance of maintenance if a deer exclosure fence is to be successful. We are considering another woods walk in 3 - 4 years to see the impact of the exclosure as well as view how a woods looks 3 - 4 years after a harvest.

Thanks to my wife, Gloria, for the refreshments before and after the walk. Sharing food encourages sharing ideas and meeting new woodlot owners. This surely is an important part of a woods walk. Finally, it was fun. Don't be reluctant to sponsor one.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 21

Christmas Party (10:am - 2:00pm)
Randolph Community Center

January 20

Steering Committee meeting (12:00)
R&M Restaurant in Randolph

Welcome New Members!!!

Leonard Letendre	Gloucester, MA
Marjorie Page	Farnham, NY
David Parker	East Otto, NY
Marcia & Louis Zollinger	South Dayton, NY

Stumpage Price Report

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sprsummer19.pdf

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.

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.