



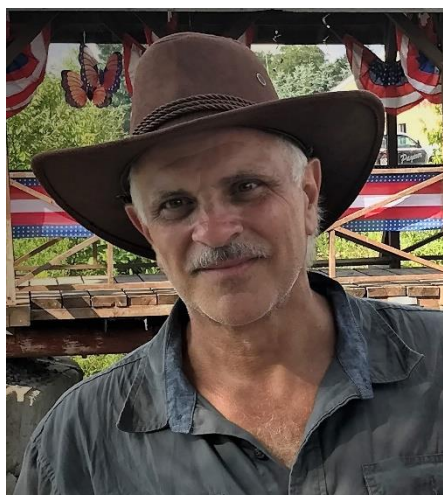
# CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 28, Issue 3

JULY 2018

## A Message From the Chairman...

*Jason Post*



Last year, I ended my April 2017 Chairman message with the question, “Is allowing the exportation of a raw material, such as our logs, hurting our industry by taking the saw mill production away from U.S. mills, or is it helping, by keeping log prices in balance?”

In my message this year, in the April 2018 Newsletter, I mentioned how China had cracked down on the laws of fumigation and debarking of logs going into their country. This had caused a halt in the shipment of logs to China, as there are limited fumigation facilities, and most log exporters do not have debarkers.

According to Joe, about 90% of the logs destined for China, have now been re-routed to Canada or U.S. mills. Log yards needed to move their logs, in order to keep cash flow going, to prevent the logs from staining/cracking/splitting in the heat, and to buy some time until they figure out how to work with the Chinese enforcement. This scenario answered my question of last year. Once these logs were re-routed to Canada and U.S. mills, their inventory of logs, of course, increased dramatically. This, of course, caused a price reduction...supply and demand. Once the log decks are full, prices drop...and they are! Each week, for 10 weeks, new lower prices were sent out. With high log inventories at the mills, lumber production will go up, and with an abundance of lumber produced, lumber prices will drop. Once the sawmill log inventory was satisfied, they stopped buying logs altogether, shutting off loggers completely. All of this is a negative for the wood products industry. On top of this, once the logs had stopped moving to China, some log yards closed their doors. Some stopped buying logs temporarily, while others simply scaled back to wait and see. (More negatives.) So...the answer to the question seems to be...log exports are healthy for this industry!

**Come Visit Us At Our Log Yard Tour on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12pm**

Details to Follow.

**Welcome New Members:** Rich Covell of Saratoga, John Koehler of Jewett, Rob VanEtten and Ben VanEtten of Ravena!

## A Note From the Secretary...



*Laura Pisarri*

The “opt-out”, for people who would rather **not** receive the hard copy in the mail, is still available. This will help cut some of the printing and mailing costs, as well as help those who wish to de-clutter. Every Newsletter is posted on NYFOA’s website, which is now a beautiful **color version**, and can be printed, if desired. If you wish to “opt out”, please send me an e-mail letting me know, and I will remove you from the Newsletter “snail-mail” list. Otherwise, you will continue to receive a black and white version, until further notice. I am also considering a Newsletter **e-mail** list. Let me know your preference.

**Please Remember:** Jason and I have consolidated our e-mails by creating a new e-mail address, which is accessible to the both of us. Our old e-mail addresses will no longer be valid, so be sure to replace them with this one...

[jason.laura.nyfoa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.laura.nyfoa@gmail.com)

## Heiberg Memorial Award



**Marilyn Wyman** received the Heiberg Memorial Award, for outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State, at NYFOA’s Annual Meeting on April 21, 2018. Pictured from left to right is Laura Pisarri, NYFOA Capital District Chapter Secretary, Jason Post, NYFOA Capital District Chapter Chairman, Marilyn Wyman, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties and Peter Smallidge, Cornell Cooperative Extension Senior Extension Associate and State Extension Forester.



## NYFOA 2018 Chapter Service Award

Submitted by Laura Pisarri

After a 35 year career in DEC, **Dick Gibbs** was recruited into NYFOA by everyone's mentor, Mike Greason. When Mike became Dick (and his wife) Shari's Forester for their 130 acre farm, with 70 acres of woodlot in Rensselaer County, Dick took on an active role in NYFOA- CDC. With Mike's untimely passing, Dick became Chairman of the CDC Steering Committee, where he contributed a series of creative columns about his experiences as an amateur naturalist in our Chapter Newsletter, a contribution he continues today.

Dick has hosted many Woods Walks, and has been an advocate for small woodlot owners to be able to learn about forest management practices. He is active as an MFO volunteer, has lectured to the local Boy Scouts on Forest Management, and represents NYFOA at the Schaghticoke Fair. For a number of years, he has been an especially active participant in Forestry Awareness Day at the State Legislature. Every year, Dick and Shari hold a NYFOA Maple Syrup Tour at their neighbor's sap house, which uses sap collected from Dick's own sugar bush. Dick introduced our Chapter to the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA), a land conservation group in Rensselaer County. RPA has co-sponsored many of our events, such as Maple Syrup Tours, GOL, and Woods Walks at their Community Forest.

Last, but not least, Dick was instrumental in bringing the Game of Logging to the CDC, and has hosted GOL classes in his own woodlot, thereby spreading chainsaw safety training to a wide range of land owners, as well as several organizations, such as Grafton Lakes State Park and the RPA.

Dick is certainly deserving of this award, and is way overdue to be recognized for his contributions to our Chapter.



Dick was unable to be at the Annual Meeting in Syracuse, so Jason and I presented his Award to him at our July Committee Meeting.

## Empathy in the Woodlot By Dick Gibbs

For sure, “Empathy” is not the first thing that comes to mind when I think about my woodlot. For me, empathy is an internal state of anticipating, projecting, and understanding the feelings and perceptions of another, usually as an internal conversation I have with myself. However, it also can be an urge or inner voice, as a prelude to taking some new action of relationship, joining, with another into some exploration of friendship or conversation that neither of us thought of. Unstated my empathic instincts become a vicarious participation with another’s life, even the life of the forest itself.

Considering the wide range of occur at our farm, and the diversity the woods, I start to re-think and common mental state for those in not. Folks snow shoeing, riders on sugar bush for maple sap on Papa’s nature walks, friends celebration, ecologists observing helping guide how we care for the baling the hay, and of course, our ashes at the cemetery atop of the each and all engender waves of like our Thanksgiving in the Woods, our small stand of tall Hemlocks, engaging in a festival that implicitly celebrates the experience of being in the woods together, is all about empathy, when thought of as relationship building.



people and their activities that of people that go, for a time, into conclude that indeed “empathy” is the woods, whether they know it or MTBs, the Skinners working the production, me taking the grandkids being bonded in a wedding wildlife and plants, our forester forest, our farmer cutting and family and loved ones scattering hill to memorialize those now gone, empathetic associations. Big events with over 150 people down under

The woodlot does not care if we invest it with our personal relationships. But I believe that the web of relationships that has grown, including the forest and plants and animals, is all part of the fabric of why it feels special to spend time there, alone or in groups. Self-serving empathetic relationships are key unspoken reasons we open our land and woods to others. The lingering memory from one-on-one walks in the setting sun, or a time when a friend needs a quiet time to talk about life’s joys and changes... Do the trees know? A NYFOA woods walk where everyone does the same walk, but each shares a different “experience”, according to what they brought to the time we are in the woodlot, echoes long-term on the evolution of the forest, as I learn more from NYFOA members. In every case, the empathetic link among individuals and the forest, commonly unspoken, forms the real experience of being in the woods.

Through all of these experiences, I started to re-think and understand, that while I have my own relationship with my woodlot, every time I go to the woods with another person, I am at that time, empathetically joining, even just a little bit, with another. Nothing new here, we all do this many times a day with family and strangers alike—we open and close our empathetic window as situations change.

I am starting to see the woodlot as a situational setting, where I receive benefit from just being in the woods with a different person. The woodlot changes every time I go there, according to who I am with and what we are doing together at that moment. No, the trees did not materially change at all—they are always silently there, but the forest woodlot is an inviting place for new interpersonal experiences, too. For some it might be the location of a first kiss, for others, the meditation on a life passed, a life well-lived. Or it might be as simple as sharing a cookie during a pause on a snow shoe hike, and looking up at the giant hemlocks. The forest and farm is a tablet where I write my life’s story with whomever I am with that day. My empathetic wish for all humankind, is that all have some opportunity to be tuned into the trees in their lives, and share that connection with friends. I know my grandkids love the times we share being in the woods, strolling hand in hand with no words, just the rustling leaves. Empathy in action..



Jason and I had a very productive day at the Ag-Fest, held on the VanEtten Farm, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not only was the weather perfect, but we got to meet Rob VanEtten's 92 year old Mother and her 4 month old Great-Grandson. Four generations of the VanEtten Farm family! Such a hardworking, genuinely nice family. Below is a photo of this wonderful family and the dedicated staff, who make it all possible each year.

**The VanEttens:**



Pictured above: Vice President-Alma Flegyl, President-Billy Burns, Secretary-Virginia Palmer, Treasurer-Rob VanEtten and his wife Shelly.



Lee, Rob, Pauline, Chuck, Ben and baby Ben.

Thank you to our ever faithful volunteers:  
Jason, Laura, Phil, Bob and Gerry.

**Look For Us At These Events :**

Altamont Fair 8/14-8/19

Schaghticoke Fair 8/29-9/3



Special shout out to Ron Bernhard, for stopping by,  
and dunking our Chairman! ☺

**Saratoga Woodworkers Show** was held on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Many folks stopped by our booth, to chat with our informative volunteers (Jason Post, Laura Pisarri, Phil Walton, and Bob Sheedy) on various forestry subjects of interest. Chairman Jason Post charmed another visitor into joining NYFOA, and gifted him with a copy of Josh VanBrackle's book, Backyard Woodland. Laura gave away quite a few of her handmade wooden NYFOA magnets, to all who signed up to receive our Event Emails.



Volunteers: Phil Walton, Laura Pisarri and Jason Post

Jason welcomes new member, Rich Covell.

## Tree Farm Woods Walk

Saturday, September 22, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cropseyville, N.Y.

Interested in woodlot management and tree farming on the Rensselaer Plateau? Join the New York Forest Owners Association on Saturday September 22, 2018, for a walk through an 80 acre Tree Farm. NYFOA member Carl Wiedemann will lead a tour of his woodlot. He'll discuss current challenges for woodlot owners, the State Forest Tax Law, the Tree Farm Program, and he will try to answer all your questions. Access to the Tree Farm is by a dirt road 1/3rd mile through the woods starting at 99 Old Road, Cropseyville in Rensselaer County. High clearance and/or all-wheel drive vehicle is desirable. This outing is free and open to the public.

The walk will start at 1:00 p.m. but those who bring a brown bag lunch and a folding chair, can enjoy an informal picnic in the woods, starting at noon.

Note: The woods-walk will be cancelled if the weather does not cooperate (i.e. rain). If you pre-register you will be contacted, if it is cancelled. Otherwise, call if the weather is questionable. You can register by calling Carl at 518-707-6350.

**The Steering Committee** is an informal group of chapter members, who gather every three months, to further NYFOA's mission of encouraging sound forest management practices. The Steering Committee plans woodswalks, workshops, and exhibits, at local events, such as county fairs. If you would like to participate, please join us. All are welcome. Join us at our next meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Menands. Bring a non-alcoholic beverage, we are having PIZZA!

**Steering Committee Chapter Officers:**

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**Laura Pisarri, Secretary/Newsletter Editor**  
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Dave Schmidt  
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It is with great sorrow, that we inform you all, that our dear Committee Member, and past Chairman, Jim Bulich passed away on May 15th, after a long illness. Jim was a dedicated member and a true outdoorsman. His gentleness and stewardship will be fondly remembered, and he will be sorely missed.

NYFOA'S loss, is Heaven's gain.

Join **Chuck Reilly**, as he shares his experiences with us **on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10am -12pm** or so, for a **NYFOA Woods Walk, at the Rielly Log Cabin & Tree Farm**. The property is 10 miles south of Middleburgh a few miles from Max Shaul State Park. The 125 acre property overlooking the Schoharie Valley, was purchased in 1980. The log cabin was started in 1987. For almost 20 years firewood was cut and sold from the property. There have been two loggings. Over 3 miles of logging roads and ATV trails crisscross the property, providing excellent hiking opportunities. Roughly 10,000 Christmas trees were planted in the late 80's and 90's. Growing them was a commercial venture that failed due to disease, drought, deer predation and the high cost of insurance. About 6 years ago the property was placed under a Conservation Easement. This ensures that the property will forever remain intact, and limits any additional building. Past activities such as logging, farming, raising Christmas trees and selling firewood are permitted under the Conservation Easement. NYS provides a generous yearly tax rebate. Most of the land is steep and forested. The east-west property line is 4800 feet long ending in ledges overlooking the adjacent valley. The event is **free** and open to the public. **Contact Phil at 518-424- 9087** for additional details and directions.

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP Helps Support Sustainable Forestry**

Forests cover more than 60% of the state providing important benefits including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, wood products, recreational opportunities, clean air, and beauty. The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests.

**NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)**