



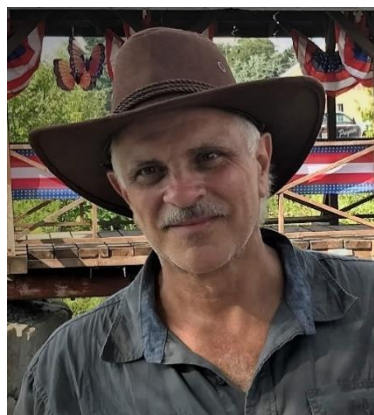
CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 28, Issue 4

October 2018

A Message from the Chairman...

Jason Post



The 2nd quarter of 2018 has been very exciting, in my opinion, given the turmoil of the tariff threats to and from China, China's slowing economy, Canadian and US sawmills overflowing with logs, and weekly negative log price adjustments. All of these conditions have wreaked havoc on our industry and prices, for standing timber. It certainly has kept everyone on their toes, by constantly thinking and changing plans to divert losses.

Then comes the rain and heat of summer, creating extreme mud conditions, and unbearable working conditions, which severely reduced log production. Even now, with the summer heat wave ending, the rain and mud conditions continue to keep production to a minimum.

However, given the summer slowdown and market instability, timing of log production reduction couldn't be better. The demand for logs is still there, and getting better. According to Joe, other Asian countries and Europe, have picked up the slack, due to China's turmoil. I expect you will see log and lumber prices stabilize, and actually increase a bit this winter. However, if the rain persists much longer, there will not be any logs or lumber to offer the buyers. Then, the excitement turns to gloom. Maybe, then, it will be best to look forward to the fall foliage, hunting season, winter, and the Holidays.



A Note From the Secretary...

Laura Pisarri

By now, all Chapter Chairs should have received their **NYFOA tablecloth and carry case**. I'm so happy to have achieved this for all of you! All I ask, is that you send me a photo of your display with the new tablecloth in use. ...Maybe even a "before" photo. I'd like to feature them in our next Newsletter, as well as submit them for possible publication in The New York Forest Owner magazine. I can't wait to see how awesome each of your displays look!

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" of the "snail-mail" version, please send me an e-mail letting me know. Otherwise, you will continue to receive a black and white version, until further notice. **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

Annual Picnic and Silent Auction



Many members enjoyed the Boston Market chicken, and the vast array of delicious homemade recipes from our ladies and gents. It was a beautiful day, the weather cooperated, and the view was breathtaking, as usual.

Before our meal, we shared a silent moment, while Laura read scripture verse, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, in memory of our dearly departed member, Jim Bulich. He will be truly missed by all.

Our 1st Silent Auction was a big hit! Members enjoyed bidding on a variety of donated items, such as: homemade Maple Syrup, mushrooms, household items, coolers, plants, wine, books, a B&B certificate, and MORE. We raised over \$350! This will go towards the revamping of our events display.



Laura watches the bids add up!



Happy bidders!

Thank you to all of our eager bidders, and a special shout out to top bidder, Claudia Dollerd, who was the winning bidder on 8 items! Claudia received a free item for her generosity.



Claudia Dollerd...bidding away!

Gas Up

Ron Bernhard and Carl Wiedeman spent a hot Father's Day, unselfishly manning our NYFOA display, at the 51st Annual Gas-Up Festival, outside Gallupville, in Schoharie County. The event was well attended, and many were interested in hearing them share our NYFOA message. Eight people signed up to receive our email blast on future events. Good work, men!

Our new tent was successful in attracting attention, while providing much needed protection from the grueling sun. The event organizers liked our setup, and extended us an invitation for next year. We were welcomed to set up on any, or all, of the four day event.

The homemade ice cream, driven by a gas operated churner, was worth the heat!



County Fair Season is Over By Phil Walton

Chapter members made a good showing at the Altamont and Schaghticoke Fairs. In Altamont, we were joined by helpful staff from DEC Land and Forests and CCE Capital – Mohawk PRISM. At Schaghticoke, the NY Christmas Tree Growers Association was in the adjacent booth. Altogether, we were able to answer many questions from the fair goers about forests, how to get started managing them, what is attacking them, and how to grow a healthy



holiday tree. We stumped (sorry for the pun) many with the ever-popular tree quiz, and signed several people to Master Forest Owner visits. Many folks, especially little ones, walked away with smiles when given a tree seedling to plant. We give our thanks to member Bob Sheedy for arranging the seedling donation from the Saratoga Tree Nursery.

Our presence at fairs is an important part of educating the public in the value of healthy productive woodlands, and spreading the word about who NYFOA is. Won't **YOU** volunteer next year? (The bonus for your volunteering is Maple Cotton Candy for \$3, gourmet ice cream cones, and Bourbon Barrel Honey, just a few steps away from our booth! ...And **FREE** admission too!)

Thanks to volunteers: Hans Kappel, Jeff Kehoe, Ron Pedersen, Dave Schmidt, Bob Sheedy, and Valerie and Phil Walton.



Grafton Tree Farm Woods Walk by Carl Wiedemann

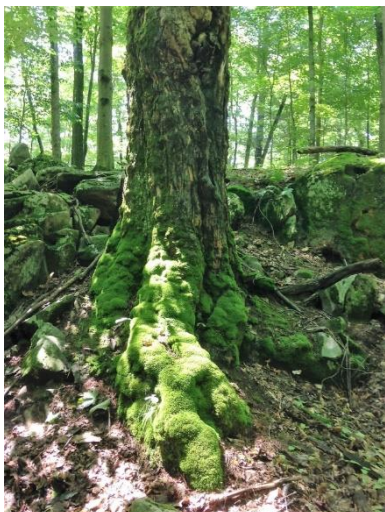
On Saturday afternoon, September 22nd, the Grafton Tree Farm was open for anyone brave enough to find their way 1/3rd mile down a narrow, stony right-of-way through the woods before arriving at the Wiedemann Tree Farm. A small group found their way. The access is not user friendly, but the Tree Farm is scenic. Carl and Laura have owned this woodlot since 1980. The property, which has no road frontage, was purchased in 1980. Since then it's been used for hunting, hiking, making maple syrup, picking blackberries, gathering firewood, and enjoying wildlife and nature. It's also generated income from timber sales. The Wiedemann's joined the Tree Farm program and the New York Forest Owners Association when they bought the property. The woodlot is currently enrolled under the state forest tax law.



We hiked through the woods, up and down slopes, and between the rocks from one end of the 80 acre property to the other. Along the way we visited stands of hardwoods (mostly red oak), and mixed wood (hemlock and hardwoods) before reaching the beaver pond (protected wetland) and the protected stream which form the northern boundary. Carol McDonald gathered a good variety of mushrooms along the way. Some were edible, many were not, and some were poisonous. Any volunteers?



The woodlot has been harvested three times since 1980 - for firewood, pulpwood, and saw logs. Yet, there are more large trees and greater timber volume today, than 38 years ago - in spite of all the cutting. It also has a diversity of species, good wildlife habitat for deer and turkeys, and an abundance of mushrooms! How is this possible? Our best guess is that trees are a renewable resource – when carefully managed.



A Delightful Day in the Woods!

NYFOA had a successful, and very interesting woods walk, hosted by members Chuck and Melinda Reilly, on their beautiful Schoharie Valley property, on Saturday September 29th. The weather cooperated with sunny skies...a respite from the recent rain. We were invited into their log cabin, where Chuck gave an overview of the conservation easement they have on the property...a topic of significant interest. The group asked questions about the process for getting that designation, and the cost to set it up. Chuck explained that a landowner can be quite specific about future activities allowed on the property, trading ownership of development rights for property tax reductions.



The group of 22 people hit the trails, and we saw the fruits of TSI work done on the property, when it was under 480a. That patch of woods has some nice straight stemmed trees for a harvest in the future. Two logging jobs held some years ago, created a network of trails, useful for year around recreation and ongoing personal firewood harvesting. We could see a caring landowner's attention to detail, in the ditching and water bars, which were installed to minimize the erosion on the steep trail sections.

After fording a rain swollen stream, a few at a time on an ATV, we visited the fields planted in Christmas trees, a commercial venture abandoned because of disease (spruce gall and needle cast), and deer damage. Despite the challenges, the tops of smaller conifers still adorn the homes of friends during the holiday season, and the plantation serves as good cover for wildlife. These are not the "hoped for" benefits when planted, but, but worthwhile just the same.

At the end of the walk, we ate our brown bag lunch, while enjoying the view from the cabin's front porch, midst the company of fellow woodlot owners. We were treated to great hospitality with Melinda's oatmeal raisin cookies, apple walnut squares and other snacks. It was a great day to be in the woods! Thank you, Chuck and Melinda, for inviting us to your woods.



NYFOA LHC Chris Prentis and NY Tree Farm held an educational Woods Walk in Patterson, NY on September 22, for a group of approximately 17 people. Professionals from NYS DEC, National Turkey Federation, Westchester Land and Trust, consulting Foresters, and the Audubon Society, were among the panel available to educate, and answer the many questions landowners in Southern NY had for them. All enjoyed the informative session, as well as the handouts, brochures, snacks and drinks, provided by the LHC of NYFOA.

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 woods walks, 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 January 8th at 6pm at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Menands. Bring a non-alcoholic beverage, we are having PIZZA!

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Welcome New Member Randy Taylor of Freehold!

Own land? Wonder about your options? Please join NYFOA LHC, Watershed Agricultural Council, and CCE of Orange County on November 8, 2018 from 1-3:30pm for a Woods Forum, at the CCE of Orange County Education Center & 4-H Park, 300 Finchville Turnpike, Otisville, NY. Register online at <https://orangecountyccewoodsforum.evenbrite.com>

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.

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