



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

As I reflect back on this year's Chapter activities, I am impressed with the 3 special events/ speakers we sponsored: Brian Bullard in April, Dan Anderson, woodland tour at Long Point State Park and most recently, Betsy Burgeson who gave a great presentation on our woodlands and "invasive species". That being said, I think we were somewhat disappointed in attendance for the last two events---but weather may have been a factor as well as other commitments members had made.

2017 presents the challenges referenced above and we will do our best to build on our events and member participation. We have a great steering committee which has provided excellent leadership to the Allegheny Foothills Chapter for almost 2 decades. That being said, we need to put forth a special effort to get our younger members joining us and providing their vision for the Chapter and State-wide organization. I also want to personally thank

those newer members who have contributed to our events program this year.

Having touched on our own Chapter challenges, I also mention that the MFO, (Forestry Extension Agency @ Cornell), has made some significant changes in the past 2 years. While we all appreciate that "change" and "organization evolution" need to take place, our Chapter wants to continue to monitor this re-organization process and is particularly interested that Persons requesting a MFO visit are contacted on a timely basis. If you have concerns pertaining to this or other matters, please contact me via phone/email or Dick Patton, our Chapter representative who serves on the NY-FOA State-wide Board.

Please consider participating in our Chapter's Holiday Party. You can find the details in this newsletter.

My best to you and your families.

Bob Wood, AFC, Chairman

Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

- December 17th (10:00am—2:00pm)** Holiday Party—Randolph Community Center
- January 16th (12:00)** Steering Committee Mtg. (R&M Restaurant—Randolph) [TENTATIVE]
- February 23-25** Farm Show - NYS Fairgrounds (Syracuse)
- March 4** Rural Land Owners Conference—Pioneer HS—Yorkshire

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- 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
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Cattaraugus County Fair Update

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

August 1st ushered in an unusually warm and dry week for the County Fair at Little Valley. The Norton “Conservation” Building was again home to the NYFOA and MFO outreach efforts, where space was shared with the Trapper’s Association, Trout Unlimited, the Wild Turkey Federation, S.C.O.P.E., the Cattaraugus County Federated Sportsmen personnel, and several species of live fish from both Chautauqua Lake and DEC’s Randolph Hatchery.

Thanks to our Chautauqua County “heavy lifters” we had four (4) nice donated prizes for the raffle, which were offered at both the Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County Fairs.

Our volunteers who worked at the NYFOA area sold \$170.00 worth of raffle tickets and several Biltmore tree/log scale sticks. In addition, 11 forest owners signed up for visits by Cornell’s MFO volunteer program.

On Sunday August 7th, four winning tickets were drawn:

- ⇒ Marlene Lotempio and Dwight Mateer – both from Erie County
- ⇒ Jason Langworthy from Cattaraugus County
- ⇒ Greg Cole for Chautauqua County

NYFOA-AFC **THANKS** all those who stopped and visited with our volunteers, and appreciates the support provided through our raffle, and interest shown in the MFO program.

Our volunteers at the Fair this year included John & Gayle Rembold, Dale Bigham, Bob Wood, Dick Brennan, Mark Marcus, Gary Sargent, Bob & Chris Gorecki, Dina Bistany, Fran Michalak, Cindy & Doc Dayton, Tony Schabloski, Ron Race, and Dwight Mateer.

THANKS to you all for promoting the mission of NYFOA!



The butternut trees in New York are among the endangered species of trees of NYS. The butternut trees in eastern and central New York are falling victim to the Butternut Canker, a fungal disease. It is thought to have its origin outside of the U. S., another invasive disease?

So far, Western New York has been free of the disease. The NYS Saratoga Springs Nursery is buying tree seeds (nuts) and planting butternuts, along with many other tree species for sale to the public as nursery stock. We currently have seven or eight trees in our yard that are prolific nut producers. Since these trees have been found to be free of the canker we are eager to have trees propagated from this source.

As a fund raiser, for the last several years the Stockton Panthers, a local 4 H club has been collecting nuts from our trees and transporting them to Little Valley from where they are then shipped to Saratoga Springs. This effort is spearheaded by Chris and Mary Dorman, long time 4 H leaders and NYFOA-AFC members. So far this year they have collected twenty two bushels on their way to reach a quota of thirty bushels.

Besides making money to fund their project, the kids have fun nut picking and at the same time learning about their environment and the importance of saving our trees.



Welcome New Members!!!

Betsy Burgeson
Douglas Fairbanks
Jim Houck
Lynn Zakowicz

Our AFC Summer Picnic at Long Point on Chautauqua Lake was met with a three hour downpour, but nobody complained because we so need the rain. Over twenty people braved the weather to attend the event, including some people that are not members. We are encouraged by this, even though the weather probably limited the attendance.

I (Dan Anderson) led an abbreviated hike into some of the gorgeous forested areas of the park. We measured a red oak with a 150 inch circumference. This area contains many very large trees.

We concluded that although these trees are very large, this probably doesn't qualify as a true 'old growth' area. Some old growth species such as sugar maple and beech are rarely found here. Also, the mounded appearance of the ground in a true old growth forest wasn't evident, as the ground was quite smooth (suggesting agricultural operations at some time).

After the hike we retired to the pavilion to enjoy a delicious lunch and great conversation. I think that everyone had a good time



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.

On Saturday, July 9 we had the pleasure of hosting a woods walk at our Belfast property. The theme of the day was access into your property, encouraging wildlife habitat in the process, regeneration, and forest succession, all in direct relation to a non-commercial logging operation. Bruce Robinson, our Forester and Consultant, as well as a man of great wisdom and knowledge-is our most valuable resource for the proper management of our woodlot. He maintains that the forest's continued health, growth, as well as its sustainability, should be influenced by what you see growing in each particular stand or lack thereof. Releasing the best trees based on the forest's age and health should be the motivator rather than generalizations that are made in text books and industry standards. With highly skilled and experienced foresters, who have spent their careers caring and nurturing forests as well as the creatures that reside there, is key to the success of your woodlot and for the generations that follow.

A lovely sunny morning greeted the 30+ attendees as we set out onto our access road into the woodlot. A two-year thinning/releasing project has been on-going. Many, many hundreds of the worst stems have been removed along with some choice saw logs as well. Access to your timber crop is essential for cost efficacy. However, there are many "road blocks" to reaching the timber. Road building and running water were two subjects we focused on with particular concentration. Streams, seasonal run off and/or wetlands can undoubtedly be a major difficulty accessing your property on many levels. Thus, there was an in depth conversation on how to build an access road with minimal cost. The proper use and the reliability of road fabric was discussed and direct observations were made along our access road. Working with water so that it is allowed to move freely, can assist in the creation of vernal pools and/or small ponds that complement the wildlife in the area. If you can offer water sources to the immediate area, the flora and fauna will come. Thus the water run-off and drainage from the road surface can be recaptured to create habitats to meet any number of goals for your timber stand improvement (TSI) objectives.

"To clear cut or not to clear cut" that was the big question of the day and considerable care and thought was discussed in regard to this type of management. From the conversations that we all shared throughout the day, the consensus is we all have a deep respect for our woods and a desire to do what is best for our woodlots as a whole. Each forest stand is unique and is at a different level of succession based on its history, soil, slope, etc. Regardless of the past practices, every plant, bush or tree has grown there based on the previous TSI that was chosen. There is always a choice of moving forward in succession or backward based on what is removed, how much is removed, and what your objectives are with both. In conclusion, clear cutting was determined to set you back to a place you may not have anticipated. It is not always evident that you will recreate what you want but rather what Mother Nature decides is most viable for the next 20 years! Working with what nature has decided to cultivate can assist you in gaining a successful succession plan. Honorable, thoughtful, and careful management of your forest invites the possibility of meeting your desired goals regardless of the current stage of development in which you find your present day woodlot.

A gracious thanks is extended to all the folks who came from near and far to experience our woodlot expertly guided by Bruce. Although the area is suffering from a severe dry spell, we all managed to get soaked and muddy by a major cloud burst. Hot dogs expertly cooked on the stove and s'mores perfected in the microwave proved to satisfy our bellies. Bruce continued to feed our minds and inspire our personal, woodlot goals with continued conversation and laughter.

Get ready for some fun while doing some good! NYFOA's Membership Committee has rekindled the tradition of having a silent auction coincident with NYFOA's annual meeting in the springtime. The auction's beneficiaries for 2017 are being selected from worthy forestry-related organizations and events. The rotund list includes several youth programs, scholarships, internships and conservation programs. Choosing will be difficult, but we have our best minds on it and you will certainly be pleased! Stay tuned to www.nyfoa.org and Facebook for details.



Frequently asked questions about the NYFOA Silent Auction

How does it work?

Kind and generous members donate items and services and kindred members buy them. All of the proceeds go to the auction's beneficiaries. There is no "auctioneer." The donations are made available for inspection both in person at the annual meeting and online. Prospective buyers place bids either online or in person. The highest bidder is the winner! Payments go directly to NYFOA.

What can I do to help?

That's an easy one! You can make a donation and make a purchase. We're trying to raise \$5,000 this year to benefit people that care deeply about woodlands.

What kinds of items and services are welcome?

It's important to have a nice selection of donations across a range of prices. Some members will like to spend \$25 and some might like to spend \$1,000 to help the beneficiaries. Here are some examples, but please don't let this be limiting:

1. Member offers to give a Timberframing Workshop. Participants learn history, materials, tools, techniques. ~20 people, \$50 each, \$1,000 value. What kind of fun workshop could you provide?
2. Member offers handcrafted items from their studio or workshop. Wood, glass, metal, paintings, sculptures, etc. \$25-\$500 value. We love creativity!
3. Member donates portable sawmilling services. Perhaps another member will donate time to cut and gather logs from your woodlot for the sawyer.
4. Member offers their cottage or condominium to another member for a weekend stay. \$200-\$500.

When would you like to have the donations in hand?

Sooner rather than later! The online portion of the auction will likely start in February and we'll want to have the items before then. We'll collect them as soon as you can provide them!

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Limitations certainly apply so please check with your accountant beforehand.

I really like the idea and have more questions, who can help me?

Me! dfaklis@frontiernet.net... or feel free to use the auction email address: auction@nyfoa.org.

I have a few hours to spare over the winter, does the Auction Team need any help?

Silent auctions are FUN and they really bring the membership together to help advance the mission. The Auction Team needs a bit of help before/after the auction and at the auction to help the bidders. If you can help, please let us know. The "jobs" are easy and you'll likely meet some new friends.

Please join us by making a donation ASAP and by making a purchase. If you'd like to make a donation but are not sure what to give, send me a note including your price range. I have some ready-to-go ideas! Thanks!

Tree Mortality Seminar

Submitted by Dan Anderson

We held our second public informational meeting in Randolph on September 10th, with fifteen people attending. We were pleased to have Betsy Burgeson as our presenter. Betsy is currently the Chief Groundskeeper for Chautauqua Institution, and has previously worked at the Cornell Cooperative in Jamestown, and as a teacher at Panama Central School. She also works with the Master Gardener Program.

In a very informative program, Betsy discussed some reasons for tree mortality in the Northeast, and some possible remedies going forward. We all appreciated being given some hope for the future of our forests as so many programs conclude while leaving you depressed at the bleak situation. Thank you, Betsy, for an excellent presentation. We all left with enhanced knowledge and increased optimism.



Jeff Rupp & Rupp Family Forest Highlighted in Agribusiness Tour

Submitted by Bob Wood

AFC Board Member Jeff Rupp helped lead the 2016 Cattaraugus County Agricultural Business Tour on September 13th.

Jeff shared his knowledge and passion of the county's natural resources to more than 25 county and agency officials, including legislators and members of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and Department of Economic Development and Planning and Tourism.

The tour surveyed agribusiness across Cattaraugus County from the hilltop forests near Cattaraugus to a dairy service business in Conewango Valley to a sheep farm in Randolph and the nearby farm market and ice cream stand.

By far the highlight was Jeff sharing the Rupp Family Forest to the group. Jeff highlighted the role that sustainable forestry and forest management can play in developing this incredibly important resource for the county.

SAVE THE DATE! December 17th Holiday Party

Submitted by Tony Pingitore

We will be having our Holiday Party December 17, 10:00 till 2:00 at the Randolph Community Building, 72 Main Street, Randolph, NY.

Meat, Drinks and table service will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. There will be a unique and fun gift exchange, anyone who wants to participate bring a wrapped gift in the \$5 to \$10 range, White elephant gifts are acceptable, homemade gifts have been popular. There will be a door prize drawing. Bring the kids, your family and your neighbors.

**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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January 16 (12:00) [TENTATIVE]

Steering Committee Mtg. (R&M Restaurant—Randolph)

February 23-25

Farm Show - NYS Fairgrounds (Syracuse)

March 4

Rural Land Owners Conference - Yorkshire



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.

