



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

Our long hot summer seems to be waning. Cooler weather will make working in the woodlot more pleasant. My goal for many years has been to have all my firewood in by October 17th. I picked this date because there was a year in the 1970's when snow came on that date and stayed until spring, so I consider anytime I can get to the woods after that a bonus.

As I have met forest owners and read articles by them and about them in our newsletters I am always amazed at the diversity of interests and goals they have regarding their woodlots. Some are encouraging beech population to feed wildlife while many others are trying to control the beech population to accommodate more valuable timber species. Some are fencing deer out to promote regeneration. Some consider Hemlock a weed tree. I value Hemlock on my property because I have a low population of them. I like to see them and our family has made good use of them over the years in building projects. The positive effect of all this diversity is the balance that it creates.

The woods walk at the Kurtis property on September 24th promises to be a very interesting event. I hope many of you will be



able to attend. I will be at a NYFOA Board meeting and Capital District Event that weekend so I will not be able to join you. This is a reminder that the AFC Chapter needs a volunteer to fill a vacant seat on the State Board. If you are interested, please contact me or any member of the steering committee.

-Otis Barber

Holiday Party

Nine-tenths of wisdom consists of being wise in time.

-Theodore Roosevelt

Come join the fun on December 3 for our annual NYFOA Holiday Christmas Party. It will be at the Randolph Community Center where we've had it the last three years. The festivities will begin at 10:30 am and are expected to last until 2:30 pm. As we have done in past years, we will have a 'White Elephant' gift exchange (value <\$5 suggested), and will have local entertainment. The Chapter will be providing the meat, place settings and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass and utensils labeled.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, HOLIDAY PARTY	1
SEPTEMBER 24 RUSHFORD WOODS WALK	2
SUMMER PICNIC, ALLEGANY CO. FAIR	2
CHAUTAQUA & CATTARAUGUS CO FAIR	3
MEMBERSHIP, NUTS, UPCOMING EVENTS	4

Chapter Board of Directors:

- Otis Barber– Chair (716) 962-8175
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- Kim Sherwood– Secretary (716) 287-3331
- Tony Pingitore– Treasurer (716) 962-4041
- State Association Rep Vacant
- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Membership Coordinator Vacant
- Shari Lake– Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

Sept 24 Woods Walk—Kurtis Property, Rushford

September 24th 2011 woods walk 10 am to ? At **9707 West Branch Road, Rushford, NY**. Signs will be posted at the entrance off West Branch Road which is about two miles west of the village of Rushford. Then signs will guide you along a one-lane, good gravel road to parking by the picnic area. If you are coming from the west; take Route 98N from Franklinville to Farmersville, then Bush Hill Road east from Farmersville (Harwood Lake area) about four and a half miles.

JoAnn and Mark Kurtis will host the tour of the newly combined properties of The Frost Pocket and Puckerbrush Farm. The latter is the Tree Farm they have owned for just over twenty years. Recently they expanded by adding the adjoining property which their friend operated using Minimal Cutting management. The focus of this woods walk will be to show differences between areas where “Do Nothing” was the chosen option and areas where various projects were undertaken to promote growth of timber or understory / habitat conditions.

Punctuality is NOT necessary. A casual, one hour, easy walk is planned which could be repeated through the day. Other project areas are also available by request for viewing, for those more willing to “hike”. Facilities are primitive. We have a small camp trailer that contains the necessary. Ample clean water will be provided. Please bring a bag lunch. For more information visit http://www.nyfoa.org/member_profiles/kurtis.php

AFC Chapter Summer Picnic & MFO Refresher

By Dan Anderson

About 35 people attended the combined AFC Summer Picnic and MFO Refresher held at Diane and Jeff Rupp’s Family Farm near Cattaraugus on Saturday, July 23. We had a wonderful time, and many thanks to the Rupp family for hosting this event.

Presentations were made by Gary Goff (head of the MFO Program), Chris Enser (DEC Service Forester for Allegany and Cattaraugus County), Deb Naybor (Chautauqua Lake Watershed Conservancy), Kim Sherwood (watersheds and forests), and Dr. Pete Smallidge (Director of Cornell University’s Arnot Forest, presenting a woodland demonstration of use of a four wheeler). Additional information was presented by Keith Carrow (DEC Forester for Chauquauqua County), Lynn Bliven (CCE head for Cattaraugus and Allegany County), and Jeff Rupp (landowner and MFO).

Otis Barber, Chairman of the AFC Chapter of NYFOA, conducted our annual summer business meeting, followed by a wonderful time of fellowship and great food at the noon picnic. I personally was thrilled as there was an abundance of sumptuous desserts!! The AFC officers have graciously agreed to serve in their positions another year; Otis Barber-Chairman, Jeff Rupp-Vice Chairman, Tony Pingitore-Treasurer, and Kim Sherwood-Secretary. We have an upcoming event on September 24, hosted by JoAnn and Mark Kurtis and we will have a Steering Committee meeting in the early fall. Thanks to all involved for providing such an informative and enjoyable event.

Allegany County Fair 2011

By Jeff Rupp

For the first time in recent memory, NYFOA’s AFC Chapter offered a visible presence at the Allegany County Fair in Angelica July 18-23. Lynn Bliven, CCE team coordinator put us in touch with Jim Makowski, a retired dairy farmer who for many years has been in charge of the “Sugar Shack” at the fairgrounds. Jim graciously offered us space in the “shack” where our tabletop display, wood ID sample quiz and other related items were put in view of fair-goers. The “Sugar Shack” has been the base of operations at the fairgrounds for Allegany County’s maple producers for many years. It is also the source of all sorts of maple products, including maple cotton candy and maple soft ice cream.

Our thanks to all those who volunteered to man NYFOA’s display—Ellsworth Swift, Norbert Heim, Paul Yox, Dick Patton, Mark Lewis, Robert Sherry, Al Yanda, Russ Bliss, Don Nelson, Rob Perkins and Jacob Colwell. Five persons / families signed up as new NYFOA members. I detect a healthy passion for forest stewardship and a hunger for knowledge about sustainable forest management by our Allegany County members and forest owners. If any one has questions, concerns or suggestions regarding our mission/outreach and/or presence at the fair, we would be glad to hear from you. Contact information is on the front page of our newsletter. Again, many thanks to all volunteers!

Chautauqua County Fair 2011

By Tony Pingitore

At the close of the Chautauqua County Fair on July 31 we had taken in \$205 comprised of: \$127 from the raffle, \$30 for paid membership and \$48 on sales of scale sticks and magazines. We signed up 4 MFO visits and talked to several potential members and possible MFO Trainees. We answered, or tried to answer, many questions. We had very interesting talks with many people. At times, the pace was slow but there was enough interaction to make the time go quickly. There was a good breeze through the building most of the time to keep it quite comfortable, sometimes too much of a breeze, so much that the items on the table were in danger of blowing away.

It is curious to see how many different views there are of different aspects of forestry. Several people are sure they have seen many Emerald Ash Borers and even Sirex Wood Wasp larvae. Anyone who didn't get a chance to man the display missed an opportunity to share and interchange information. There is a lot to be learned from some of the visitors; some are very entertaining.

I would like to thank all those who helped: Gale and Alice Sauer, Otis Barber, my Granddaughter Maggie, Vic and Kay Richardson, Kim Sherwood, Dick Vail who also helped wrap-up on Sunday, John Fessenden, Dan Anderson, Dick Patton, Bill Stock and my wife Connie who also helped set up our display and changed my layout to make it more attractive. The winners of the raffle were Dean Nickerson and Jim O'Dell, both of Cassadaga. Dean opted for the wine glasses and Jim got the walking stick for which he is grateful. Many thanks to Jeff Rupp who brought the display from the Allegheny County Fair in Angelica and picked it up again Sunday to take to Little Valley for the Cattaraugus County Fair.

For next year, please consider helping out. Having two or more people at the display is very helpful both for the volunteers and the visitors. Often if one doesn't have answers, the other might and if there are several visitors it is much easier to serve them if there is more than one volunteer. If you worked at the display or were a visitor please offer any suggestions you might have for next year. Think also about helping to coordinate the activity. As our family matures, both previous and next generations, it gets harder to allocate as much time as I would like to spend on this event. Also, for any crafters and woodworkers, consider offering goodies for the raffle, handouts or for display. You can contact me by emailing tonyfp231@yahoo.com.

Cattaraugus County Fair 2011

By Jeff Rupp

August 1st saw the opening day of the Cattaraugus County Fair, where NYFOA's Allegheny Foothills Chapter again found space in the Norton Conservation Building to display NYFOA, MFO and other related material. Thanks to the Cattaraugus County Sportsmen's Federation, which is in charge of the Norton Conservation building, space is allocated to the Trappers Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, NYS DEC and to NYFOA.

Tony Pingitore and Dan Anderson again provided a hand-painted custom walking stick and painted wine glasses with a bottle of sparkling grape juice for us to raffle off. Thanks Tony & Dan!

Two new NYFOA memberships were signed up during the Fair. Seventy-nine raffle tickets were sold, as well as a few Doyle Rule scale sticks, "The Place You Call Home" magazines, and NYFOA member signs. At least two forest owners signed up for MFO visits.

Our sincere **thanks** to all those who volunteered time tending the "NYFOA store:" Dick Brennan (2 shifts), Ken Kuczka, Mark Marcus, Gayle Rembold, Larry Eddy, Gary Sargent (2 shifts), Bob Wood, Terry Kennedy, Jim Prince, Nick Parker and Bob Gorecki. First prize in the raffle drawing went to Hermann Weber of Attica; second prize was won by Kristy Graves of Fulton.

We are always looking for new ideas, comments or suggestions on ways to improve our display and our outreach to the public, potential NYFOA members and anyone interested in the message of responsible forest stewardship. Please feel free to share any ideas with Steering Committee members anytime; we would like to hear from you! Phone numbers are always on the front of the newsletter. Again, thanks to all who helped out at the Fair.

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September 24th 2011 Woods Walk—9707 West Branch Road, Rushford, NY Signs will be posted at the entrance off West Branch Road; about two miles west of the village of Rushford. Then signs will guide you along a one-lane, good gravel road to parking by the picnic area. If you are coming from the west; take Route 98N from Franklinville to Farmersville, then Bush Hill Road east from Farmersville (Harwood Lake area) about four and a half miles. 10 am to ?



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 24

WOODSWALK
KURTIS PROPERTY
IN RUSHFORD

OCT 3 STEERING
COMMITTEE MTG

DEC 3 CHRISTMAS
PARTY RANDOLPH

Getting an idea should be like sitting down on a pin; it should make you jump up and do something.

-E.L. Simpson

Welcome New Members: Craig Austin, Friendship; Robert T. Chamberlain, Belfast; Dennis Dragich, Bemus Point; Joseph & Cindy Dushaw, Portville; Sam Hendee, Hornell; David Hinderer, Panama; Ken & Melissa Kuczka, Perrysburg; Steven Lehnen, Fredonia; Charles Lindell, Hamburg; James Malowski, Fillmore; Richard Pingitore, Allegany. **294 Total Membership**

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.

Nuts Tony Pingitore has graciously spearheaded our nut collection fundraiser for the last several years, but he needs to pass the baton. If anyone would be interested in taking the torch from Tony, it could be an economic boost for our AFC NYFOA Chapter. This year's price for nuts is still \$3.00/bu walnuts, \$6.00/bu butternuts. There is a 150 bushel limit for walnuts. Tony's email address is tonyfp231@yahoo.com, or you can call him at 716-962-4041.

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 statewide meetings. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org



We are still in need of an individual to represent the AFC on the State Board of Directors for NYFOA. If you are interested please contact Otis Barber for additional info.

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com