



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

This is our Spring Newsletter and oftentimes at the end of March we are still waiting for Spring to arrive. This year, however, it seems like Spring has been here for sometime. Woods have been accessible pretty much throughout the winter so hopefully some of you were able to spend a little more time than usual there. I was able to cut a few cull trees for firewood and pull out some windfalls. It is exceptionally dry for this time of year but there is still time for mud season between now and Summer.

The Maple Sugar Season came early this year and it looked questionable whether it would last very long. Reports I get are that it didn't measure up to the banner year last year but was much better than anticipated.

I was not able to attend the Land Owners Workshop in Arcade this year, but I heard that the program was very good. Be sure to check out the calendar of events in this issue and put them on your calendar. It promises to be a very interest-



ing and informative year.

I hope you will find some time to enjoy your woodlot this Spring. This is a very good time of year to find and mark trails and cleanup roadways in your woods. It's a good time to explore less familiar areas of your woods. You can see more now than you will after berry brush and other things make accessibility more difficult. I hope to see you at one of our events.

— Otis Barber

NYFOA-AFC Sponsors Envirothon

The AFC Board of Directors has again approved a \$150 donation per county for the three counties in the AFC for their Envirothons. The NYS Envirothon is a **hands-on environmental education competition** where a team of five high school students work together in hopes of winning scholarships and awards. The teams compete in five different environmental categories (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife) and a current environmental issue. Additional information can be found online at www.nysenvirothon.net

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Chapter Board of Directors:

- Otis Barber– Chair (716) 962-8175
- Jeff Rupp- Vice-Chair (716) 257-5652
- Kim Sherwood– Secretary (716) 287-3331
- Tony Pingitore– Treasurer (716) 962-4041
- State Association Representatives David Marabito Jr and David Marabito Sr cmorabi2@rochester.rr.com
- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Membership Coordinator Vacant
- Shari Lake– Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

Rural Landowners Workshop Review

By Jeff Rupp

Pioneer Central High School in Yorkshire once again this year was the site of the Rural Landowner's Workshop. On Saturday, March 3, professionals and experts from many different venues presented a wide variety of information to approximately 120 participating attendees.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension was well-represented, with Educators Gary Goff, Peter Smalidge, Kristi Sullivan and Mark Whitmore presenting in 9 of the 13 sessions. David Colligan, Esq., with the firm Watson, Bennet, Colligan and Scheckter, LLP, presented a session Oil and Gas Landowner Coalitions. Ben Machin, representing The Forest Partnership, and Pat McGlew, with The Nature Conservancy, presented a session on Third-Party Verification of sustainable forest practices. James Carrabba, specialist with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health, presented on safety issues. Eric Stawitzky, Certified Forester/Arborist and Manager of Pioneer Forestry, presented a session of current issues of interest to owners of timber relating to harvest decisions in current economic times.

A highlight of this workshop was the opening session in the auditorium where Kim Sherwood, hydrologist, brought his passion for clean water stewardship to the entire group of attendees. Mr. Sherwood, secretary of our local Allegany Foothills Chapter of NYFOA, gave an outstanding presentation on Shale Gas Recovery in New York State—a broad overview of DEC's proposed approach. Kim's presentation, loaded with well-documented information and facts, provided an unbiased look at the Shale Gas drilling issues currently before NY regulators.

Thanks to Tony Pingitore's and Dan Anderson's craftiness and artwork, AFC realized a bonus of \$274 for the Camp Fund from the raffle of a custom walking stick, a black cherry rolling pin, and 2 painted wine glasses with a bottle of grape juice.

Since **thanks** to Lynn Bliven, our local Cooperative Extension do-everything person for all she does to make the Rural Landowners Workshop a useful and relative event for rural landowners.

New York State DEC 2012 Summer Camp Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Dalton Becker and Luke Ames, who were both granted Scholarships to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 2012 Summer Camp in Rushford. Dalton and Luke are both from Stockton, NY and enjoy the outdoor life. Dalton stated in his application, "One of the main reasons I would love to go to this camp is because I really enjoy nature and being in the outdoors. I appreciate the beautiful scenery and being able to see how animals act when not being disturbed. The last reason I want to go is it could teach me things that I could later in life use for a career."



Luke's application included the following, "If I can have a chance to go to this camp I think it would help to improve my hunting, fishing, trapping and identifying trees. I could learn how to identify ages of animals and all of the different tracks. This could help me enjoy nature more and enjoy it longer without destroying it."

For information and applications for the 2012 Environmental Education Summer Camps at Colby, De-Bruce, Rushford and Pack Forest, please visit DEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html or call 518-402-8014. Interested parents may also sign up for DEC's camps list serve by contacting DEC in writing at DEC Camps, 2nd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4500 or online at the following Web site:

<http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/decenvironmentaledcamps> You can also visit DEC's Summer Camps on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NYS-DEC-Summer-Camps/120600701371803>

The Rural Landowners conference held at Pioneer Schools on March 17, 2012 brought some positive results regarding interest in the Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer program. Jeff Rupp contacted Bob Wood, our MFO coordinator for AFC-East, and provided him with the names of 7 people who requested a MFO visitation to their property. Jeff will handle 2 of the referrals as they are relatively near him, and Bob will coordinate with other MFOs to ensure the other 5 are scheduled for visits. Actually, he has begun this process and has all but one tentatively set up. While 3 referrals were from Cattaraugus County, one was from Allegany County. There were three persons who reside in Erie County, but own land in either Cattaraugus or Allegany counties. Initial discussions with these persons verified they are members of the AFC, our local chapter. I suspect this occurs not only because of the woodland locations, but our excellent yearly programs, e.g. woods walks (which many indicated they have participated in). Also, one person signed up to participate in the fall MFO certification program.

We still need to recruit some more MFOs for the Allegany County region. As interest in woodlands increases, our Allegany County MFO resources remain limited, but we have made efforts to accommodate all.

Nominations Needed for Chapter Chair 2012 Board of Directors

Nominations are currently being accepted for the position of Chair for the NYFOA-AFC Chapter. This is a 2-year position beginning in July. Please contact any Director listed on page 1 of this newsletter for additional information on the duties of this position or to submit a nomination.

NYFOA-AFC Slideshow Presentation in Randolph on April 21, 2012 7 PM

New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) Allegheny Foothills Chapter (AFC) will be hosting a slideshow presentation on the Forests of Alaska on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the Randolph Community Building. Forester Bob Ott will discuss the ecology and management of the two major forest types in Alaska, which cover about 1/3 of the total land area of the state's 365 million acres. The coastal temperate rainforest covers about 12.3 million acres of southeast and south-central Alaska. These forests exist in regions with a maritime climate characterized by large amounts of precipitation, cool summers, and mild winters. Wind is the primary natural disturbance in these forests. Alaska's temperate rainforests are comprised of large, tall trees, and as a result, forest management has historically been concentrated in them. In contrast, Alaska's boreal forest covers about 114 million acres in regions with a continental climate characterized by small amounts of precipitation, relatively warm summers, and extremely cold winters. Fire is the primary natural disturbance in these forests. Alaska's boreal forests are comprised of small-statured trees, so historically; the impacts of forest management activities have been minimal. There will be a short reception beginning at 7:00 pm with the program starting at 7:15 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend; membership information will be available for anyone interested in joining NYFOA.

Bob Ott is a forester, forest ecologist, and wildlife biologist who grew up in Gowanda, New York. Bob spent his childhood exploring the woods in and around Zoar Valley and the Cattaraugus Creek. In 1990, he moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where he lived for 17 years. Bob conducted several research projects in the temperate rainforests of the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska while he was a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He also conducted numerous research projects in the boreal forests of interior Alaska in his capacity as a Research Forester of a non-profit Native corporation. Bob was also responsible for addressing forest health concerns of state-owned and private forest lands across Alaska when he was the Forest Health Program Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. In 2008, Bob moved to Vermont, where he was a consulting forester and forest ecologist. Recently, Bob moved back to Gowanda, where he continues his consulting business by assisting private landowners manage their forest resources.

Charlie Mowatt Honored with Heiberg Award

Mike Seager, NYFOA

Sven Heiberg was a professor of forestry at Syracuse ESF and a founding father of NYFOA. Each year, NYFOA gives the Heiberg Award in his memory to somebody who has made outstanding contributions to forestry and the forests of New York State. This year's recipient of the Heiberg Award is Charlie Mowatt.

Charlie started his career as a DEC forester in 1961, working in Region 9 in the western part of the state. Over the course of his 32 year career he served as a forester and a supervisor in both Regions 8 and 9. He and his staff of up to nine foresters and technicians managed thousands of acres of state forest for multiple goals. They used commercial timber harvests to create a variety of wildlife habitat and to maintain a diverse forest composition while generating revenue for the state at the same time. Charlie and his crews also managed oil and gas extraction in state forests back in the 1970's when the first oil shocks rocked the country, allowing the underground resources to be tapped while protecting the forests and using the activity to further other goals such as improving public access to state land.

Charlie has also been active in NYFOA for many years. When I took an interest in managing my woodlot, Charlie was the first person to visit in the guise of a Master Forest Owner. I found our discussion at that time, and the many discussions we have had since, both educational and inspirational. And I am not alone in feeling that way; many people speak of Charlie as a mentor who helped them recognize and realize the benefits of active forest management. Charlie served NYFOA at both the state and chapter levels. In addition to holding many offices, he was long a fixture at the NYFOA booth at the annual Rural Landowner Workshop in Yorkshire, the largest workshop of its kind in the state.

In recognition of Charlie's many contributions to NYFOA, he received the Outstanding Service Award in 1998, and in 2006 he and his wife Marian receive the Chapter Service Award from the Allegheny Foothills Chapter.

As I was talking to Charlie to collect information for this article, he kept diverting the conversation. While I wanted to ask him about the past and what he had accomplished, he kept turning the conversation to the present and the future. He does not want to rest on the laurels of his long career. He still has an infectious enthusiasm for forestry and a great deal of passion for the future of New York's forests. That focus on the future exemplifies why Charlie was chosen to receive the 2012 Heiberg Award.



Left: Mike Seager awarding the Heiberg Award plaque to Charlie Mowatt, Feb 2012

Right: Don Adams and Shari Adams Lake



AFC's 2011 Chapter Service Award

Jim Minor, NYFOA

Congratulations to Shari Lake for being selected for AFC's 2011 Chapter Service Award. Chapters are the heart of our organization, touching our members at the local level as well as presenting a personal "face" to our organization. As the award statement, read at our annual members' meeting stated:

Shari Lake's relationship with the Allegheny Foothills Chapter (AFC) is like family—well it is family! Her Dad, Don Adams, is a long-time AFC member who has hosted two woods walks on his property in recent years. In 2009 at one of those woods walks when the Adams family also hosted our Annual Picnic, we discussed a void we had in our organization. Shari was present that day and though she wasn't a member at that time, she volunteered to assume the role of Newsletter Editor. She was uneasy about that first fall newsletter she produced, but we were thrilled! She organized information and images in an appealing and inviting way. Shari has continued to develop attractive and informative newsletters for AFC ever since. Due in large part to her efforts, we have a strong line of communication with our membership, resulting in good attendance at many of our events. We are extremely appreciative of her ongoing commitment and work on behalf of the AFC. Accordingly, we are proud to present Shari with the AFC Chapter Service Award for 2011.

High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing

By: Kim Sherwood

Everybody's talking (or yelling) about Marcellus shale! Sifting through the swirl of news stories, one is led to believe all the controversy boils down to two 'sides': jobs vs. the environment, or energy security vs. water. In the warm propane-heated comfort of home, I have reviewed two drafts of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS)—the most recent of which was released in September of 2011. I have listened objectively to many stakeholders—those who would likely be affected by high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) and horizontal drilling in New York State.

The final SGEIS and regulations will document how NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would permit natural gas development utilizing HVHF and horizontal drilling in "Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs", according to the title of the SGEIS. The Utica shale (generally deeper and thicker than the Marcellus in the AFC region) is now being heavily developed in Ohio. Utica shale is another 'low-permeability gas reservoir'. We frequently see maps of both Marcellus and Utica shale, but where are those other low-permeability gas reservoirs? Also worth noting, this generic permitting approach means that once the regulations are finalized, there will be little to no opportunity for additional public input on most proposed drilling projects from that point forward. The two considerations are important because they translate to concerns related to both space and time.

DEC is encouraging the use of well pads with 6-9 or more wells on a single pad for HVHF horizontal drilling. Fewer well pads means fewer access roads. Drilling horizontally for nearly a mile into the target formation means that surface disturbance of sensitive sites could probably be avoided to some extent. However, because there would be multiple wells on a pad, those well pads would by necessity have to be bigger, both during resource development and when in production, than what we're accustomed to in the AFC region.

The technique of injecting water, chemicals and sand (or some other 'proppant') under pressure has been used extensively in WNY. However, the scope and scale of the HVHF dwarfs any operations in the State to date. Drilling the vertical wells we're familiar with typically uses about 80,000 gallons of water per stimulation (or fracture) per well. HVHF horizontal drilling in the low-permeability gas reservoirs will require between 3,000,000 to 7,000,000 gallons of water or more, per stimulation, per well. If 4,000,000 gallons per horizontal well is a conservative estimate, that's 50 times more water per well than what's typically needed for gas wells that we're familiar with in the AFC region.

When all the water has to be trucked in, DEC estimates that about 1,100 heavy-duty, one-way truck loads would be needed per well for HVHF horizontal wells. If water is pumped and piped in, that number is reduced considerably—to about 625 heavy truck loads needed, per well. These numbers, of course, have to be multiplied by the number of wells on a pad. In either case, DEC estimates about 800 light-duty truck loads, one-way, per well. Obviously, all those trucks have to come out at some point.

I'm out of room. I haven't discussed most of the more controversial aspects, but let's get back to where I started. Who are the stakeholders when NYS DEC permits HVHF and horizontal drilling? As someone who's concerned about water resources; someone who uses propane to heat my home; someone who's travels the roads all over the State, I would say all of us are.

Ben Meadows Natural Resource Scholarships Application Deadline 6-30-12

Scholarships will be administered through the Society of American Foresters (SAF). All scholarship hopefuls must be enrolled in an SAF-accredited (or non-SAF accredited) or SAF-candidate curriculum as a junior or senior enrolled in a natural resource program working toward a bachelor of arts or sciences degree, which includes, but not limited to, agro forestry, urban forestry, environmental studies, natural resource management, natural resource recreation, wildlife management, wood science and fisheries management. Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded. For full details please visit www.benmeadows.com/scholarships/

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

Shari Lake, Editor
214 Huxley ST
Jamestown, NY 14701-5929
Phone: 716-560-6458 Cell
Email: afcnewsletter@yahoo.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

APR 21 7 PM SLIDESHOW: FOREST
ECOLOGY OF ALASKA, BY BOB OTT
RANDOLPH COMM BLDG

MAY 19 10AM WOODSWALK: ZOAR
VALLEY, VALENTINE FLATS

JUNE 4 STEERING COMMITTEE MTG
12 NOON R&M RANDOLPH

JULY 21 AFC SUMMER PICNIC—RUPP
FAMILY FARM W/ MECHANIZED
HARVEST DEMO, LOCAL MFO MTG

SEPT 22 AFC WOODSWALK: HOME
SAWMILL TOUR, PINGITORE FOREST

SEPT 22 WFL CHAPTER WOODSWALK
NEAR SWAIN

DEC 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY RANDOLPH

The **Master Forest Owners (MFO) Volunteer Program** provides private forest owners of New York State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. Over 200 experienced and highly motivated volunteers are available statewide to meet with forest owners in their woodlots to discuss forest owner objectives and how to find the assistance they need. Master Forest Owners (MFOs) have received training from Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources that complements their experience as forest owners.



All MFOs are graduates of a 4-day training program, where they learn about saw-timber and wild-life management, forest economics, and ecology. The MFOs continue to receive information updates, attend refresher

classes and maintain contact with natural resource managers from private, public, and academic organizations.

For more information on contacting or becoming a Master Forest Owner, visit the website at <http://www.cornellmfo.info>.

Welcome New Members: Jim Bagley, Hammondsport; Roger Blatt, Elma; Janet Freedline, Sinclairville; Robert Jones III, Honeoye Falls. **Total Membership: 291**

Editors Thoughts



I was very surprised at our April 19th Steering Committee meeting when Vice-Chair Jeff Rupp presented me with a plaque for the 2011 NYFOA-AFC Chapter Service Award. Our congratulations also go to AFC member Charlie Mowatt, Heiberg Award recipient (page 4). I appreciate all the support the Board of Directors gives me by providing articles for the newsletter. Article contributions from members are always welcome and add great value to our newsletter. Please feel free to share your stories, memories, forest management tips and suggestions by email to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or U.S. mail to 214 Huxley ST, Jamestown, NY 14701.

Thank you for your support!

-Shari

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.

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 the AFC Chapter 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

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com

