



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

It's March 23rd as I write this and many times at this time of year I am distracted by Spring weather that would cause me to want to be outside enjoying signs of the season. Instead, I am going to have to go outside and plow the fresh 10 plus inches of snow from our quarter-mile driveway. I was hopeful that snow removal might be over for this winter, but Saint Patrick did it again.

There is always a lot to look forward to this time of year. A lot of work comes with Spring but it is work that I look forward to. If only there were enough hours and enough energy to get it all done. I hope to identify and open some more old roadways in my woodlot to make some areas more accessible that up until now I have only walked through.

There are some great opportunities in May to see what is going on in other members woodlots. The Morabitos will host a joint event for the Allegheny Foothills and the Western Finger Lakes Chapters on May 11th. The William Dorman family will host at their farm outside of Cassadaga on May 18th. This is

all part of NYFOA's RNYW (Restore New York Woodlots) initiative. The details can be found inside this newsletter. With an event at each end of our sprawling Chapter, hopefully you can attend one, if not both, events.

It's that time of year again when our Chapter is looking for youth interested in attending DEC camp. We offer 2 or 3 full scholarships to interested individuals. See the application information in this newsletter. Send a copy of your Camp Application and a Statement (less than a page but at least a paragraph) about your interests and how you might benefit from this Camp experience to: Otis Barber, 6399 Route 380, Sinclairville, NY 14782. I will go over these with Steering Committee Members and scholarships will be awarded. If you have questions please contact me or any Steering Committee member-most are listed with contact information on the front page of this newsletter.

Enjoy Spring and remember to mark your calendars with this year's events. I hope to see you at some of them.

—Otis Barber

Spring-Summer 2013 Schedule of Events

May 11—10am Woods Walk at Morabito's Belfast, NY. Open Fire Hot Dog Roast for Lunch See map on page 5.

May 18—9 am Woods Walk at William Dorman's Cassadaga property. Bring bag lunch if you wish, drinks will be provided. See map on page 5.

July 20—Annual Picnic combined with Master Forest Owner (MFO) refresher; Jeff and Diane Rupp (7009 Stateland Road, Cattaraugus, NY) will host the event again this year. Programming is yet to be developed.

August 10—Woods Walk—hold the date; location and details to be announced

Fair Dates—Allegheny County Fair July 15—20, 2013; Chautauqua County Fair July 22-28, 2013; Cattaraugus County Fair July 29—August 4, 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, EVENTS	1
DEC CAMP, CO. FAIR PLANS, RLOW	2
WILDLIFE TREE RETENTION	3
WILDLIFE TREE RETENTION CONT.	4
OTT ARTICLE REFERENCES, WOODS WALK DETAILS & DIRECTIONS	5
NEW MEMBERS, EDITOR NOTE	6

Chapter Board of Directors:

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- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Membership Coordinator Vacant
- Shari Lake— Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

DEC Launches Online Registration System for Summer Camps

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is launching a new online registration system for its summer environmental education camps for the 2013 season. Online registration opened March 25, 2013. For additional information please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/89803.html>

Steering Committee Meetings: June 3, October 14 (12 Noon, R&M Restaurant) and July 20 (at Annual Picnic)

County Fairs

Submitted by Tony Pingitore

It is Fair planning time! To add a little interest, I hope to have some giveaways for kids and/or people who do the wood quiz or other activities we may have. I have made some small spinning tops, wooden mushrooms, and small rolling pins. We must have some wood workers or crafters that would be willing to help by making some of these (see picture at right). It doesn't take long to knock out a dozen or two tops or whatever else you can think of that would be appropriate. Wood cookie coasters might be an object to make, anything simple made from material from your woods or gardens. If you would like to help, email me at tonyfp231@gmail.com or call me at 716-962-4041. There is a website that has a number of things to turn on your lathe:

http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php Many would be suitable to make for the fair. These plans are on-line and free! Please consider helping out; I can supply wood if you need it. Any recommendations for activities to attract people to our display will be welcome!

Last year, besides our usual Walking Stick raffle we had wood cutting accessories donated by some of our local equipment dealers. If you are familiar with any shop selling the kind of things that might be of interest, please contact them to see if they would be willing to donate an object. Last year's donors were the Power Shop, Monte's and Cassadaga Edge and Engine. To keep it fair, it would be good if we try other places this year. All proceeds go towards our camp fund to send kids to a NYS Conservation Camp.



Wooden mushrooms, spinning tops and small rolling pins made by Tony Pingitore

Rural Land Owners Workshop (RLOW)

Submitted by Tony Pingitore

On March 2, the annual Rural Land Owner's Workshop was held at Pioneer Central School in Yorkshire, New York. There was the usual bevy of sessions to attend on many topics pertinent to land owners. If you missed this year, I would highly recommend attending next year; it also includes a keynote speaker. This year Bob Ott, a NYFOA-AFC member, gave a talk on the Ecology and Management of Alaska's Forests. It was an excellent opening presentation.

As usual, NYFOA-AFC had a raffle of hand crafted items; a painted walking stick, two hand-painted wine glasses, a kitchen set of a turned nut bowl, two rolling pins and a set of handmade, hand-painted napkin rings. The painting was done by Dan Anderson. All the wood work was from our own wood lot. We made a record amount of \$304.00 on the raffle. All proceeds went into the Camp Fund.

Northern hardwood forests in New York and other eastern states provide habitat for several hundred species of wildlife. It is impractical to manage forests for timber production, while also managing for the specific habitat requirements of each wildlife species. It is possible, however, to manage for groups of wildlife species with similar habitat needs. Two broad groups of wildlife that are impacted by forest management are those that: (1) require standing dead trees and/or trees with decay, and (2) those that are dependent, at least in part, on mast-producing trees that produce nuts or soft fruit. For the purposes of this discussion, both of these types of trees are referred to as wildlife trees.

Snags and cavity trees

Snags and cavity trees are important wildlife habitat features. Snags are simply standing dead trees, which often have decay present, and which may or may not have a cavity. Snags can be classified as being either hard or soft. A hard snag has a solid exterior, with either a solid or decayed center. A soft snag is substantially decayed throughout its cross-section. Cavity trees have a hole which was created through the decay process, or which was excavated by an animal in a decayed portion of the tree. Cavity trees can be live or dead. Both soft and hard snags can have cavities, but cavities in hard snags are considered more valuable because they persist for longer periods of time before collapsing.

Cavity trees provide nest, den and roost sites to a variety of animals, including songbirds, woodpeckers, owls, and both small and large mammals. Cavity trees also provide feeding opportunities, shelter from adverse weather, and protection from predators. Maple, elm, oak and hickory make excellent cavity trees because they reach large sizes, decay slowly and produce hard, upright, long-lived snags. Beech also makes good cavity trees because it is prone to decay. Trees with softer wood, such as aspen and birch, decay quickly and make excellent soft snags that can become cavity trees much faster than trees with more dense wood. These soft snags harbor a myriad of insects that serve as food for many songbird and woodpecker species. Snags without cavities are also important because they provide feeding opportunities (especially soft snags), external nest sites, and open perches used by birds such as flycatchers and birds of prey.

In general, larger cavity trees can harbor more wildlife species than smaller cavity trees. Small diameter cavity trees can only provide habitat to small species of birds and mammals, such as the black-capped chickadee and the white-footed mouse. Large diameter cavity trees, however, can provide habitat to larger birds and mammals such as pileated woodpeckers, screech owls, raccoons, and black bears, as well as to smaller species of wildlife.

In undisturbed forests, a sufficient number of snags and cavity trees are usually present to provide habitat to a good population of cavity and snag users. Sometimes, however, forest management activities can substantially reduce the number of cavity trees and snags. These trees are defective from the standpoint of providing useable lumber, so they often are culled during harvest, not retained during intermediate stand treatments such as thinning, and are typically the first ones to be harvested for firewood use. Therefore, it is recommended that some snag and cavity trees be retained during forest management activities if maintenance of wildlife habitat is a landowner objective.

In order to manage for cavity trees and snags, both the current and future supply of these trees should be identified prior to the harvest or thinning of a forest stand. Existing snags and cavity trees, both live and dead, can be readily located. These trees will supply the current needs of wildlife that are dependent upon dead and decayed trees. Over time, however, these trees will collapse and become downed dead wood on the forest floor—which is also important, and a topic for a future article. Therefore, future cavity trees and snags, called wildlife recruitment trees, should also be identified for retention. Good recruitment trees will be those which exhibit symptoms that they are prone to decay, such as the presence of fungus conks, old wounds and scars, broken tops, rotting branch stubs, and large, dead branches. Legacy trees, such as fence line trees and pasture trees, make good wildlife recruitment trees. These trees are a biological legacy from past land use, and are older and larger than the surrounding trees. As a result, the likelihood of internal decay in these trees is greater, and their large branches make good perches and nest sites while the trees are alive, as well as after they are dead.

Retention guidelines for snags and cavity trees vary, but are in general agreement. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommends retaining a minimum of three actively used live den trees per acre. In addition, NRCS recommends retaining one snag per acre with a diameter breast height (DBH) >20 inches, four snags per acre between 10 and 20 inches DBH, and two snags per acre between 6 and 10 inches DBH. Audubon Vermont recommends retaining at least six snags per acre, with at least one snag with a DBH >18 inches, and three snags with a DBH >12

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Wildlife Tree Retention Guidelines Continued...

inches. In addition, retain from 1 to 4 smaller diameter hard snags per acre, plus as many soft snags as possible while observing human safety concerns. The limited retention guidelines that are available for wildlife recruitment trees recommend that at least one to three wildlife recruitment trees per acre be retained.

Mast trees

Mast is the fruit or nut of a plant. Nuts are classified as hard mast and include acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts and beech nuts. Fleshy fruit is classified as soft mast and includes black cherries, dogwood berries, apples, wild grapes, elderberries and blackberries. Mast is an important dietary component of numerous bird and mammal species. In northern hardwood forests, the most important mast-producing tree species are hickory, oak, American beech, black cherry, American basswood, and eastern hop-hornbeam (also called ironwood). However, many species of wildlife also depend on seeds from other tree species, such as maples, ashes, and pines. Many mast-producing tree species are harvested for their valuable wood. As a result, forest management activities can sometimes reduce the availability of mast for wildlife.

Retention of mast-producing trees at the time of timber harvest will help maintain the value of a forest stand for mast-dependent wildlife species until the newly regenerated forest reaches an age where its trees begin to produce mast. If regeneration cuts are administered on small areas, mast production in the surrounding forest stands may be adequate if trees in those stands are old enough to produce mast.

Large trees produce more mast than small trees, and tree crowns that are fully exposed to direct sunlight produce more mast than shaded tree crowns. Therefore, if mast trees are to be retained during harvest, select larger diameter (>10-12 inches) trees with vigorous dominant or co-dominant crowns for retention. During tree thinning, release co-dominant and smaller tree crowns on at least three sides. It is recommended that a minimum of 2-3 mast-producing trees per acre be retained. Consider retaining both soft mast-producing and hard mast-producing tree species, because not all wildlife species can utilize hard mast (e.g. small songbirds). Also consider retaining legacy trees because they are often good mast producers because of their large crown volumes.

When selecting beech trees, choose those that have smooth bark, without evidence of beech bark disease. If disease-free beech trees are not found, choose those with the healthiest crowns that appear to be successful in walling off the disease. Also retain beech trees with bear claw marks, which are indicative of trees that are good nut producers.

Along with retaining beech trees, consideration should be given to retaining oak and hickory trees because of the potential of beech bark disease to cause a drastic reduction in the availability of beech nuts. If oaks are retained, trees from both the red oak group (e.g. northern red oak, black oak) and the white oak group (e.g. white oak, burr oak, chestnut oak) should be represented. This will better assure that a total failure of oak mast does not occur, because acorns on trees in the red oak group mature in two years, whereas acorns on trees in the white oak group mature in one year.

Mast producing trees and shrubs that grow in the forest understory are also important to wildlife, and include apple, hawthorn, dogwood, elderberry and junberry. Mast production of these plants can be enhanced through thinning the forest overstory. In addition, try to minimize harvest impacts on understory mast producers.

If mast-producing trees and shrubs are to be planted, consider planting a variety of species, with some that produce mast during the summer months, and other species that produce mast during the autumn months. Be careful to select native plant species and avoid known invasive plant species.

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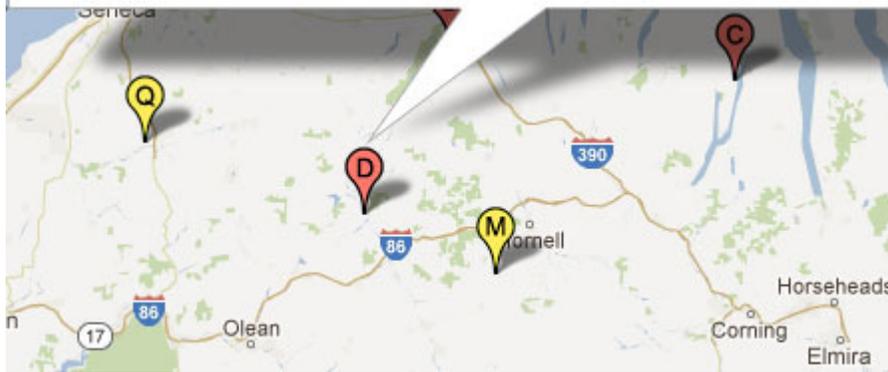
Wildlife Tree Retention Guidelines

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May 11 Woods Walk @ Morabito's—May 18 at Dorman's

David Morabito Sr.
6067 White Creek Road
Belfast, NY 14711
Date: 5/11/2013
Start Time: 10:00 AM
Comments: Please join us for a light lunch of hot dogs cooked over an open fire. Plenty of seating for whatever weather Mother Nature might offer. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate boots for hiking.



The Morabito property is located at 6067 White Creek Road/County Road 17 in the Town of Belfast. It is very easy to get there by taking Exit 29 off of the Southern Tier Expressway/Route 86, go north for about 5 miles; property is on the left hand side.

Bruce Robinson will be leading the walk, which should be a great educational opportunity to learn what should be done prior to a thinning/commercial thinning.

An open fire hot dog roast is planned for lunch after walk.

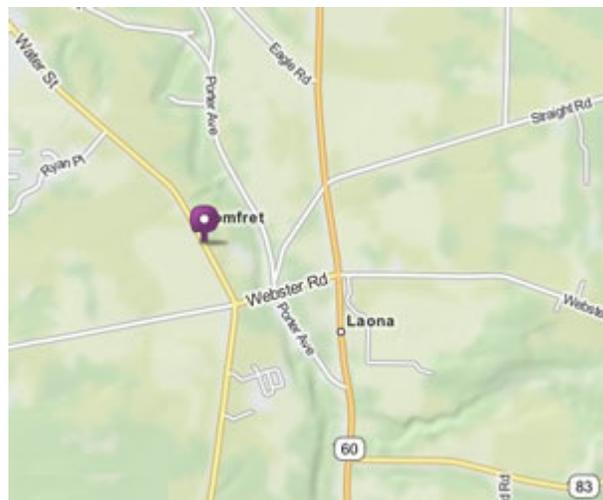
Directions to Dorman woods walk can be obtained at mapquest.com or call Bill at (716)640-4305



Dorman Woods Walk 8283 Shumla Rd Cassadaga NY 14718

5/18/13 Arrival 8:30—9 am Park cars, Sign-In, Coffee & Doughnuts Please call Bill at **640-4305** so he can plan for refreshments & guides.

Begin Walk 9:00 am—Assemble at front of woods; welcome, objectives, history of and objectives for the stand. Walks will proceed West toward Rte. 60, est. 1/2 mile. Minimum one MFO expert per group. Roadways/trails go by or near cabin and are open or marked. Drink & restroom about midpoint (optional). Roadways end of at property line, approx. 100 yards from Rte 60. Meet at Cabin around 11:30-12:00—Additional group questions on what was seen and/or input from MFOs on their impressions (positive or negative). Return to parking area. No lunch will be provided; those who wish to stay for lunch should bring their own, drinks will be provided. Families please provide adult supervision for your children. **Free admission.**



**NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 11 WOODS WALK 10 AM

**MORABITO'S BELFAST, NY W/
HOT DOGS OVER OPEN FIRE**

MAY 18 WOODS WALK 9 AM

DORMAN PROPERTY (BAG LUNCH)

8283 SHUMLA RD CASSADAGA

**JULY 20 COMBINED EVENT—
ANNUAL PICNIC/MFO REFRESHER**

RUPP FAMILY FARM

**AUGUST 10 WOODS WALK
LOCATION & DETAILS TBA**

**DECEMBER 7 XMAS PARTY
RANDOLPH COMMUNITY BLDG**



AFC Members enjoying a guided woods walk at the Rupp Family Farm, 2012 Summer Picnic.

Visit NYS DEC Summer Camps on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSDECsummercamps>

Welcome New Members: Michael Buil, Franklinville; Shirley & Richard Harding, Angelica; Annette Pyszczynski, Cheektowaga; Larry Rater, Sherman

225 Total Membership

Editor's Notes

In our last newsletter, Jim Prince submitted an article about his experience creating a written plan for his woods. I recently discovered a Web site by American Forest Foundation that offers resources to woodland owners.

“Get More Out of the Land You Love—My Land Plan can help you explore and discover how to manage your woodlands. Easy to use tools guide you to map your land, set goals, keep a journal and connect with woodland owners and foresters” Visit this link: <http://mylandplan.org/> and click “Get Started”

Until next time, enjoy the great outdoors!

The *Allegheny Foothill Chapter Newsletter* is published for members of the Allegheny 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 Allegheny 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, woods walks, special events and statewide meetings. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org

Please email your comments to afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or mail to Shari Lake, 214 Huxley Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

