



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

One of the objectives I listed in my forest management plan was recreation. Tomorrow I "recreate" with the opening of archery season; something I have enjoyed for decades.

But to enjoy it the most, I try to get my firewood taken care of, which always starts in the spring (in competition with turkey hunting). I'm just about to the end of any real heat value in the tops left from an Ash sale of six years ago. I have identified several 'cull' trees, mostly hard maple, which I need to drop in January, weather permitting. For now, the three cords I have will probably get me through the winter as supplemental heat.

I have made some improvements to the woodlot this year, but I guess I'm better at making long lists than I am at executing them. I did have a crew help me paint the cabin, but that would have been nice to have done before the woods-walk. One trail improvement I want to make is grading a wet section with the box

scraper so it will drain better. I may have to construct another corduroy bridge.

For Chapter activities the year I enjoyed hosting the spring woods-walk, attending the picnic at the Rupp's and working the booth at the Chautauqua County Fair. With regard to the woods-walk, I got a lot of feedback from people that had been aware of the date, but had a conflict. The newspaper article seemed to generate a very high level of interest, which we may be able to capitalize on next year.

One of the challenges we have, as do most organizations, is declining membership. We have had a position of Membership Coordinator for some time, but it was vacant. Dennis Dragich has graciously accepted that responsibility and we should see some improvement in this area.

This is my first term as chairman and I look forward to working with everyone to have an active and successful year. I am open to any and all ideas that will help us accomplish our mission.

—Bill Dorman

NYFOA-AFC Annual Christmas Holiday Party

Please join us at our annual Christmas Holiday Party on December 7, 2013, at the Randolph Community Bldg on Route 394 in Randolph, NY. The time is 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat, beverages and table service will be provided. There will also be an optional White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a hand-made or low-cost gift; \$5.00 max. Tony and Connie Pingitore will again lead the musical entertainment; if you play an instrument or like to sing Christmas songs, feel free to play and/or sing along. This is an excellent facility for food, fellowship and fun with fellow NYFOA members. If you have a friend that is interested in learning more; bring them along! The buffet-style food selection is always outstanding, the music joyous and the gift exchange a lot of fun. We hope to see you there!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER, XMAS PARTY	1
ALLEGANY, CHAUT. CO. FAIR NOTES	2
PICNIC, CATT CO FAIR, ALPACAVILLE	3
NOTES FROM THE BRANCHES, GREENWOOD HILL FARM WOODS WALK	4
SPANN WOODS WALK, NEW MEMBERS, EDITORS NOTE	5
WOOD CUTTING SAFETY	6

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Allegany County Fair Notes—July 15-20, Angelica

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

The Sugar Shack again this year played host to NYFOA-AFC's traveling display at the fairgrounds. Jim Makowski is in charge of the "shack". Jim, Craig Austin (both NYFOA members), and other helpers active with the Maple Producers Association, are always on hand to watch over our display.

Newcomers to our "display volunteer" roster this year were Peter Finlay of Alfred and Joseph Snyder (age 14) of Alfred Station. Joseph is one of a large farm family who are also maple producers.

Our sincere thanks to Peter and Joseph, and to our other volunteers—Rob Chamberlain, Bob Sherry, Al Yanda, Don Nelson, Ellsworth Swift, Russ Biss, Jacob Colwell and Dick Patton for donating your time to promote forest stewardship.

Questions, concerns or suggestions regarding our outreach are always welcome. Phone #s of all steering committee members are on the front page of our Chapter Newsletter. We are always glad to hear from you.

One final note—I would be glad (delighted?) to have someone who lives nearer to Angelica than I take ahold of this fair detail in Allegany County. Perhaps one of you Allegany Co. NYFOA members would be willing to get a grip locally at the "Shack," during annual Fair week.

THANKS, again, to all who helped!

Chautauqua County Fair Notes—July 22-28, Dunkirk Submitted by Tony Pingitore

The Fair this year turned out to be our best ever in regards to income from our raffle. Gross receipts were \$261.00: \$241.00 from the raffle, and \$20.00 in Doyle Stick Sales. Our hearty thanks go to donors: Dick and Carol Patton, for the Dremel and carving sets; Lakewood TSC for the bar Oil; and Valley Motor Sports for the String Trimmer Kit.

Dennis Dragich did a great job of lining up workers for every shift. We hope having multiple people working many of the shifts allowed members to get to know one another. My thanks to Jim Prince for providing tables for the booth and workers' passes, and for his patience with me.

We tried a new look this year; a horseshoe shape with one front table for the raffle choices. After a few adjustments to the layout, almost everyone seemed pleased. It is still a work in progress and will evolve as we work in ideas for next year. Please submit comments and ideas for future consideration. Some suggestions already aired: A NYFOA-AFC banner, signage advertising our purpose, attention getting lights, more shifts for Sunday.

The Skittle Game was a hit with the kids. We gave away over five dozen tops, whistles, napkin rings, and wooden mushrooms. I hope the parents whose kids chose the whistles don't hate me! I talked to someone who heard one in the Maytum Theater. While the kids were playing skittles, most of the parents bought raffle tickets. The game was a co-production of Vic Richardson, Bill Dorman and mine. Bill did a fine job of writing game rules and a score sheet, but I think they were not followed diligently. Sorry Bill. If we use it again next year, we could use help making prizes for the game. The kids really liked the tops, even though they have no batteries or electronics. Two tots sat right down on the floor and started spinning their tops.

The winner of the walking stick and rolling pins was Susan Hertlein, a conservation teacher at Fredonia BOCES. Nelson Fuller, from Orchard Park, won the Bar Oil and Trimmer Kit. The Dremel winner was drawn at the Cattaraugus County Fair; see Jeff's article for that winner's name.

Please voice your likes and dislikes so we can make adjustments for next year. We again borrowed a camouflage cover from our trapper friends and one from Bill Dorman. Do we want to buy more? Thanks to Jim Prince for finding us four tables and we had one from Bill. Two eight footers and three six footers did the job nicely.

We fielded a lot of questions and signed-up eight MFO visits, an increase in interested people stopping by. If you didn't have the opportunity to spend time with us at the fair this year, please consider helping next year. Hope to see you then.

AFC Summer Picnic, Rupp Family Forest

Submitted by Dan Anderson

About 25 people greatly enjoyed the fellowship and food at the AFC Summer Picnic. Diane and Jeff Rupp were again wonderful hosts to hold the picnic at their country home and forest land in Cattaraugus, N.Y. Thanks, Diane and Jeff!!

As the picnic was combined with the MFO Refresher, which was held at the Bob Woods home and woodland outside of Salamanca, N.Y., no outside presentations were scheduled this year. Eric Stawitzky and Kim Sherwood discussed some current environmental issues, which were both very informative and more than a little unnerving.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's picnic a success!

Cattaraugus County Fair Notes—July 29-Aug 4, Little Valley

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

The Norton Conservation Building on the fairgrounds at Little Valley provided space again this year for our NYFOA and MFO outreach, thanks to the Catt. Co. Sportsmen's Federation.

Dick Patton donated a Dremel tool kit and a woodcarving tool kit as raffle items for fundraising. Tickets were sold at both the Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County Fairs for those items. Tony Pingitore and Dan Anderson again donated a custom walking stick for the raffle. Two cherry rolling pins were provided by Tony for the raffle. Tony also loaned us his homemade Skittles game, which attracted many youngsters (and a few others) to our display area.

137 raffle tickets were sold; one membership was renewed, and five forest owners signed up for MFO visits to their woods. Raffle winners were Stan Bishop of Salamanca, Mark Alianello of Cattaraugus, Joyce McNamara of Mosher Hollow and Karen Farnham of Little Valley.

THANKS to all the NYFOA members who volunteered for duty—Jim Prince, Ken Kuczka, Mark Marcus, Dick Brennan (2 shifts), Bob Wood, Jim Taft, Gary Sargent (2 shifts), John & Gayle Rembold, Don Girod and newcomers Doc & Cindy Dayton and Art Beck.

Questions, comments & suggestions (of any kind) are always welcome! Thanks to all who support NYFOA-AFC!

Alpacaville Two—I just know that some of you were so impressed with Alpaca in the Woods, that you are considering the purchase of some. Besides, you can make the fur into wonderful hats, scarfs, gloves, and socks. But you have questions like 'don't they spit,' and 'how do you increase the number in the heard.'

Alpaca do spit, although it is usually at each other. I have been hit with spit when one spit at another, and it ducked.

If you intend to increase your heard, it is a necessity that you know how to tell when a female alpaca is pregnant. You introduce a male into your female herd, and he proceeds to sniff each one of them. If she is receptive, she lays down. If not, and she is probably already pregnant, she turns around and spits at his face. He backs off in a hurry! Some of our members indicated that they had observed similar behavior in their wives. I am not going to go there.

Good luck with your alpaca adventure. Remember, if all else fails you can eat them.

-Dan Anderson



Enjoying a game of Skittles at the Cattaraugus County Fair!

Notes from the Branches

Submitted by Jeff Rupp

Art Beck is rooted on one of the wooded hillsides near Ellicottville. When I called (seeking volunteers for NYFOA's display at the Fair), the tone of his voice gave me an instant clue to his passion for the forest. He said Yes, he would be glad to volunteer. At the fairgrounds I had a chance to meet Art and visit with him for some time. His passion for the forest is surpassed only by his zest for life.

Mr. Beck recalls with clarity planting 5,000 conifer seedlings with his younger brother and father, at the age of ten. After medical training in Buffalo he moved to Portville, where his 3 children went to school. After practicing dermatology in the Olean area for 44 years, he is enjoying retirement—skiing, gardening, working in the woods.

Art moved to Ellicottville in 1981; built 4 homes over the years, and has lived at his present home since 1991. Two thirds of his 88 acres is hardwood forest.. He joined the Tree Farm system, is a NYFOA member, and makes use of professional consultants in managing his forest.

Mr. Beck is active in his forest—clearing/mowing trails, cutting firewood, fishing in the pond, provides deer and turkey hunting opportunities for friends, provides room and board for guests/friends, swims, hikes, snowshoes, x-country skis, and ENJOYS!

Art is 82 years young, and has twice been disabled with a broken neck. He has not allowed disability to define him, however, as he personifies the essence of life. I would be poorer had I not met him.

Greenwood Hill Farm AFC Woods Walk

Submitted by Colette Morabito

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, Dana and Jim Kruser provided 25 or more participants to an information packed day while enjoying a gorgeous fall backdrop in Andover, NY. We were all treated to delicious homemade refreshments as Bruce Robinson, forester extraordinaire, led us in a discussion of the Krusers Nonprofit Organization with 501c(3) status farm, a privately owned, family run, public park. A unique concept incorporating their 125 acres, 60 of which are forested. The program, held in the heart of their farm compound, awarded us an opportunity to hear all the details of the Krusers goals and work plan for their wood lot. Their desire is to maintain a farm that supports diverse wildlife habitat, organic agriculture, and saw timber, to name a few.

Mr. Robinson described their three different forest sites. The property is recovering from abandoned agriculture and oil exploitation. In the first site, this young forest contains typical Pioneer species (black cherry, sugar and red maple were the dominate species). He explained why and how the trees crowd each other and branch out to receive more energy from the sun, and the cause and affect of forked trees. This site was thinned by 1/3 in order to release certain individual trees. No one specific species was targeted and size was not the main focus. The second site incorporates a Sugar Bush Maple stand with two active oil wells. This site also sustained a thinning in which 16,000 board feet were sold. The timber sale was professionally logged with horse-drawn equipment. The third site is a red oak forest regeneration project. Deer are always a lively topic of conversation when it comes to the influence they can impede on a woodlot. During our discussion Mr. Robinson also taught us countless fine nuances of individual trees. For instance, how the soil influences which trees will prosper, forest and forest floor density, how to identify the age of a forest stand based on the variety of trees, their size and physical attributes (or lack thereof). Birds, of particular delight to Bruce, were often interjected into the conversation as particular plants & trees would invoke their presence and importance to the woodlot.

Immediately after lunch we all headed out for a truly enjoyable walk through the Kruser's woods, either escorted on foot or tractor drawn trailer. The warm fall day was another treat. We all came away with plenty of new information, real examples from our discussions and an equal amount of new questions! However, we can all agree with Bruce in that we need to participate in the life of our forests. That every tree is an individual. We are working toward sustainable forests. Mr. Robinson pointed out that you cannot make a mistake unless you do nothing at all. A woodlot is not a park. Debris invites wildlife. The forest floor should be dense and not "neat". Try to grow the very best tree on the site. Always ask this question before you cut down a tree, "What do I want to accomplish in my woodlot?"

The conversation did take several lively twists and turns away from the topic of trees as the group agreed that offering your wife a chainsaw, tractor, pressure canner or some such item as an anniversary or birthday gift is not recommended! All the ladies present agreed, whole heartedly! Thanks again to the Krusers for a fine day in their impressive woodlot!

Spann AFC Woods Walk

Submitted by Kim Sherwood

Saturday, September 14th couldn't have been a better day for a woods-walk featuring food plots and forestry management! Amid cool but sunny skies on one of our first crisp fall days, about 18 NYFOA members descended on Dave Spann's woodland property in the Town of Westfield, Chautauqua County. Dave acquired the property four years ago in a unique way—trading a portion of his property to the Town of Westfield. The town secured 1,925 feet of public access on Chautauqua Creek, and 1,800 feet of shoreline on Lake Erie for the public in exchange for a 50-acre parcel up in the hills. The Town had owned the forested piece for decades but had little interest in the parcel and applied minimal to no forest management on it for several years. This unique arrangement resulted in a “win-win” for all involved. Dave had a place to showcase several of the principles he uses in his part-time business, Land Management Services, while the Town could provide residents and visitors alike with a place to hunt for beach glass, collect driftwood, or simply take in a Lake Erie sunset, and where anglers can test their mettle against Chautauqua Creek steelhead trout.

With a management objective to maximize timber production and quality as well as develop wildlife habitats from his newly-acquired property, Dave opted to remove a portion of his 20-acre Norway spruce plantation with a series of strip cuts intended to both regenerate sun-tolerant species while at the same time allowing sunshine to flood the newly created openings. In four years, he's converted a stagnant understory to a more vibrant condition with cherry and maple regeneration and greatly enhanced habitats by providing woody browse and creating security cover on the property. Dave estimates that these enhancements have tripled the resident deer population on his 50 acres. Within the same timeframe, Dave put a lot of resources into some serious food plots for wildlife. He started by hiring huge equipment to remove all of the stumps and woody debris from 2 acres in the center of his property. He then prepared the soil and planted a tempting mix of clovers and a variety of brassicas (turnip, radish, kale, etc.). Dave's graveled road into the property and several on-site drainage improvements were constructed concurrently with his food plots to ensure runoff will not adversely affect the creek nearby.

Dave has implemented a variety of forestry practices on the remaining 30 acres of his hardwood stand. However, most critical was to reduce stocking by removing some of the low quality and less vigorous trees to give the remaining stand light for improved growth. Dave stated that he thinks it's important to promote the higher quality individual trees regardless of species, and provide them with optimal conditions for continued growth. He knows that by carefully selecting and felling the lesser trees, he can create a more diverse and vigorous residual stand. As important, constant light to the forest floor will continue to provide necessary food and cover for wildlife and regenerate desired hardwood species.

Dave earned his Associate's Degree in Forestry at the Ranger School in Wanakena, NY and a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries & Aquaculture at Cobleskill. Dave was employed by an environmental consulting company out of college before his current position as the District Field Manager of the Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District, where he's worked for the past 15 years. He routinely helps private landowners with agricultural improvements, pond design and construction, sediment and erosion control projects as well as assisting municipalities with a variety of challenging issues.

Dave had stated that—“I have had the privilege to work under the guidance of local forester and NYFOA member Bruce Robinson for many years” and for the past 12 years, has owned and operated Land Management Services, offering natural resource consulting services to landowners throughout the region.

This woods walk allowed us to see a variety of practices conducted to meet landowner objectives of increasing timber quality and diversity, while also providing greatly enhanced deer and turkey habitat. Dave isn't likely to sit still for too long. We know things will look very different next time we visit, but if you weren't able to go on this woods walk, be sure to join us the next time!

Welcome New Members: Michael Buil, Franklinville; Shirley & Richard Harding, Angelica; Tom & Julie Logan, Sherman & Annette Pyszczynski, Cheektowaga, NY **285 Total Membership**

Editor's Note: Thank you, Colette, Jeff, Tony, Dan, Kim & Bill for sharing your writings with us. **Readers:** Please feel free to submit a paragraph or two about your favorite tree, animal or bird. Stories about fishing, hunting & other woodland adventures are welcome! Email afcnewsletter@yahoo.com or send to 214 Huxley Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

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EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 7

CHRISTMAS PARTY
RANDOLPH

10:30-2:30

JANUARY 13, 2014

STEERING COMMITTEE

R&M RESTAURANT

RANDOLPH

12 NOON



Spann AFC Woods Walk on a beautiful September day!

Wood Cutting Safety

By Tony Pingitore

Getting into wood cutting season (for some of us it never ends) just a few safety reminders. Recently I had some reminders why Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be mandatory and why lessons I learned at Game of Logging (GOL) should be strictly followed. First, I was cutting pole-sized maple; I did not do what GOL teaches, that is waiting a while before going under neighboring trees after dropping one. Luckily, I had my hard hat on and got beamed by a small limb coming down from on high. Loud noise on the helmet, a little shocking, and without the helmet, could have been serious. Then, while cutting up firewood trees that the National Grid guys left buried under three feet of slash I was grateful to GOL training that says you don't make a move with a running chainsaw without engaging the chain brake. My balance and dexterity is not what it used to be, a lot of tripping and stumbling in all the slash. Without the chain brake and chaps it would be an invitation to disaster. So, when out cutting, no matter how big or small a job, PPE and adherence to GOL training rules is essential. Always start the saw with helmet, hearing protection, face guard and/or goggles and chaps on. Don't use a 'drop-start', always use a knee lock, and make sure the chain brake is on and bar cover off. I use wire mesh goggles that don't steam up and give good visibility. Seriously consider GOL training!

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

