



Allegheny Foothills Chapter Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

It is trite, but true... "How the time flies when you're having fun!" This fall just evaporated with the hunting season and an unusually heavy work schedule for this time of year. Seemed like everyone wanted projects completed before year end. The archery season was fun, while the rifle season put meat in the freezer.

Now the intensity has diminished and there is time to enjoy things like sitting by the fire this very cold night listening to warnings or the impending winter storm!!! (like it's the first time this has ever happened on the "Chautauqua Ridge"??).

Snowmobilers, including myself, are looking forward to the ground freezing so that trail grooming can begin. Fortunately, for our family with four sleds, we

can go on our own trails in the woodlot and not be totally dependent on those maintained by snowmobile clubs.

Last week I started preparing for the New Year by going over my chain saws, sharpening the buzz rig and taking some chains to have them re-sharpened. This will be time well used in case we get a break in the weather where I can drop some cull trees for next fall's woodpile and a continuation of timber stand improvement.

January is the month where as an organization, we start getting serious about this year's projects such as woods-walks, educational programs and youth camp sponsorship. It starts with a steering committee meeting on January 13th. Anyone with ideas you would like to suggest, please get in touch with myself or someone on the Board of Directors.

—Bill Dorman

Mark Your Calendars—2014 NYFOA AFC Dates

March 1—Rural Landowners Workshop, Pioneer School, Yorkshire, check in begins 8:30 am

March 21—Spring 2014 Newsletter Deadline

March 31, 12 Noon—Steering Committee Meeting, R&M Restaurant, Randolph NY

May 17—Woods Walk, Allegany County Rob Chamberlain Beef & Forestry Operation, AFC Coordinator: Jeff Rupp—Details on Woods Walk will be in our Spring Newsletter

June 9, 12 Noon—Steering Committee Meeting, R&M Restaurant, Randolph NY

July 12—Rupp Family Forest (Catt. Co.) Annual Picnic & Steering Committee Meeting

County Fairs: Allegany July 14-19; Chautauqua July 21-27; Cattaraugus July 28-August 1

August 2—Woods Walk, Morabito's property; Truck Road Building for Forest Products

September 20—Woods Walk, Otis Barber **** December 6—Christmas Holiday Party

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Chapter Board of Directors:

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- Dan Anderson- Planning Coord. (716) 386-7802
- Dennis Dragich Membership Coord. (716) 359-2135
- Shari Lake– Newsletter Editor (716) 560-6458

Chautauqua County CCE Announcement

Submitted by Michael Jabot

The **Cornell Cooperative Extension** of Chautauqua County is offering a combination of the 4H Forestry and Geospatial curriculum. If you are a 4H club member and interested in Forestry or mapping, please join us! If you are interested you can contact 4H Issue Leader Emily Kidd at eck47@cornell.edu or 716-664-9502 Extension 212 or Mike Jabot (MFO) at jabot@fredonia.edu. We look forward to having you join us!

NYS DEC Summer Camp 2014 Updates From <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>

Our AFC Chapter provides scholarships for two campers to attend one of these week-long sessions. If you have children or grandchildren or know of a youth who would be a good candidate for this program, have them contact Bill Dorman at (716) 640-4305 or any steering committee member to apply for a scholarship before February 28, 2014.

Registration for the 2014 NYS DEC summer camps started on January 22nd. DEC camps uses an online registration program to register campers and communicate with families and sponsors during the year. Payment must be made online with either a credit card or echeck. Before a camper can be registered, a family account must be set up. You may set up your family account and add campers at any time during the year.

- ◆ The week-long camps will run weekly, Sunday through Saturday, from June 29 through August 16, 2014.
- ◆ Campers who are 11 may now attend camp (must be minimum age by December 1, 2014). In order to accommodate the younger campers, Youth camp is now for 11-13 years old and Teen Ecology Camp is for 14-17 years old.
- ◆ Pack Forest will have six weeks of the 14-17 year old Teen Ecology program (Weeks 1-3 and 5-7)
- ◆ Camp Rushford will have two weeks of the 14-17 year old Teen Ecology program (Weeks 4 and 5)
- ◆ Visit the new camps Sportsman Education page (www.dec.ny.gov/education/86688.html) to learn about the program at camps
- ◆ Visit the Camp Weeks page (www.dec.ny.gov/education/2013.html) to see what weeks camp runs and what Sportsman Education classes are offered at each camp
- ◆ The fee for 2014 is once again \$350 a week
- ◆ Campers may attend more than one session of camp. However, there are no overnight stays on Saturday. If a camper chooses to attend two weeks back to back, they must get picked up Saturday morning and be dropped off the next Sunday afternoon for check in. Each week at camp costs \$350; full payment for all weeks is expected at the time of registration.

Application Guidelines—Since space is so limited, interested campers are urged to register early. If there is no space for your camper, you may sign up for the waiting list and you will be contacted if a spot becomes available. All four camps, Colby, Pack Forest, DeBruce and Rushford, educate youth who are 11 to 13 years old. Pack Forest and Camp Rushford are also open to campers 14 to 17 years old during specific sessions. These older campers will participate in the DEC Teen Ecology Workshop. Campers must be minimum age by December 1, 2014 to attend camp. The cost of attending a one week session is \$350 and includes all meals and trips.

Finding a Sponsor—Parents who would like their child to be sponsored should bring the program to the attention of an organization in their area. More than 70 percent of DEC campers are sponsored by organizations and groups; however if a sponsoring group is not available, parents may pay for the child's stay at DCE camp. For more information, please call or write to:

NYSDEC Summer Camps

625 Broadway 4th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-4500

(518) 402-8014

E-mail: edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us

July 12th Summer Picnic—Rupp Family Forest, Cattaraugus County

The 2014 Annual Summer Picnic will be held at the Rupp Family Forest on July 12th. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own lunch. There is no formal program, just an informal get-together to sit around and talk or enjoy the hiking trails. Trees will be marked for an upcoming timber sale.

The Rupp Forest borders 1,000 acres NY State Forest; it is a beautiful location to enjoy as you wish. Feel free to bring a comfortable lawn chair, limited seating will be available.



Welcome New Members: Glenn & Susan McLaren, Strongsville, Ohio

277 Total Membership

The Lesson of the ‘Condo-Tree’

Submitted by Dan Anderson

There it stood, a giant sentinel guarding the path that plunges into the wooded ravine from our open meadows. This huge hickory tree was observed frequently as we walked the path into the woods. The many years had taken a severe toll, though, as only a shell of wood held its hollow trunk into the air. One branch remained alive, almost like a huge IV tube to nurture life in the rest of the tree.

It was the home to a wealth of animal life that we often could hear scurrying up through its hollow trunk. It was not at all unusual to see a little face peering out through one of the many holes; a chipmunk, a squirrel, sometimes a raccoon. This always made us smile and we affectionately named it the ‘condo-tree’.

We could see the dead top from our living room window. Increasingly it would sway precariously as storms battered it. If close enough you could hear it creak and groan. It couldn’t last much longer. We arose early in the morning, after a recent violent windstorm, looked for it, and it was gone. With a sense of sadness we trekked down the path and saw where it had finally lost the fight and fallen into the ravine.

An old saying says that if only the birds with the best voices were to sing, the world would be much poorer. If even this hollow old tree could provide homes for some many animals and often make us smile, can’t each one of us find ways to brighten our own worlds?

Alpacaville Three: I am a Proud Father

Submitted by Dan Anderson

We knew that Morning Glory, our dark colored female alpaca, was getting very large/fat. The spit test proclaimed her to be pregnant, but I had my doubts.

While installing the ‘frost hydrant’ to the barn, I heard all sorts of ruckus in the barn one October morning. I walked in to the barn to check, and there she was, a beautiful dark reddish brown cria (baby alpaca)! She weighed just 11.6 lbs—we are such proud parents.

My grand children named her ‘Zinnia-lilac’ in keeping with the floral theme of her mother, and she is thriving. Her joy of living is amazing—jumping up and kicking her feet out before running at full speed around the pasture.

I could learn a lesson from her in that she seems to somehow know that every day in life is a precious gift.

Annual Christmas Holiday Party 2013

Submitted by Dan Anderson

Twenty-one people attended the Christmas party in Randolph. We had a wonderful time socializing and enjoying the great food. Dr. Albert Brown, who grew up on a farm in Lafargeville, N.Y. (Near the Thousand Islands), related about life on the farm at a time when everything was much different than today. He commented on the fact that although those bygone days on the farm are much romanticized, life was good but not easy or simple. Everyone was very entertained by his stories. Thank you, Dr. Brown.

Although we missed the Kurtis family at the party this year, Fran Michalak did a good job on the annual gift exchange, which is always a lot of fun! It proved to be difficult to hang on to those beautiful Christmas Wreaths!! Thank you, Fran.

I heard many comments on how much they enjoyed the Christmas Party this year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success.

WNY Master Forest Owner (MFO)Refresher

Submitted by Bob Wood

At Bob Wood's, July 20, 2013

My apologies for getting this in a little late, but we had such a great turn out I wanted to ensure this got into AFC Newsletter. Despite a record breaking heat wave prior to the event and then a significant rain front coming through, our timing for the event was dry with comfortable temps. This event had been scheduled in concert with the NYFOA, AFC family picnic, which occurred that afternoon after the MFO Refresher and woods walk. We had an excellent turn out of MFOs, AFC members and three professional foresters.

Gary Goff coordinated the presentation and organization of this event. The primary focus was on the "Restore New York Woodlands" — a new and major NYFOA theme. There was significant discussion on how to implement successful "uneven-aged management" in your woodlot. A number of barriers to this effort were touched upon and included the deer population and invasive species, (primarily Beech). Of course there are other variables like the recent EAB invasion as close as the Town of Randolph, in Cattaraugus County. Eric Stawitzky, of Pioneer Forestry, (one of the professional foresters participating), commented that uneven aged management was indeed "problematic" but we have to do the best we can and keep tweaking and adjusting as our timber stands evolve and be content with some level of success, even if less than perfect. Ultimately, the question of course is, "How far from perfect can one be satisfied with?" Gary noted it takes time, effort and money to implement un-even aged silviculture and there probably is a point where one has to be realistic as to what can be achieved.

I think the central discussion point referenced above is an ongoing challenge to all of us developing and implementing our woodland management plans. It personally took me about a week to integrate this management concept and to think through what variables I had some control over and recognizing those I had no control over. An example of the latter being the massive invasion of gypsy moths in southern Cattaraugus County. Then after all the concern, the virus which they were carrying, in conjunction with an extremely wet month, killed over 98% on the spot. They never matured, the trees which were hit put out new growth and I have seen no egg masses in my woods. So sometimes, Mother Nature takes care of what us woodland owners cannot do.

Gary and I were extremely pleased with the excellent turn out and interaction among MFO, AFC members and our professional foresters: Tadd Rider, Gutchess Lumber Co. (and my consulting forester); Eric Stawitzky, Pioneer Forestry; and Gene Desposito, Danzer Forestland. Hopefully those of us who participated are now actively engaged in our woodland management plans for 2014. Gary Goff announced that he will be leaving his position with the Cornell/Arnot Forest Extension Service in 2014. It does not sound like there will be a replacement but rather having four County Extension Agents with forestry backgrounds picking up on the Coordination of the MFO program. Dick Patton and Bob Wood also announced that they would like to relinquish their roles as MFO Coordinators for AFC West and AFC East and encouraged MFOs to come forth and pick up on the regional coordinator roles.

Many thanks to all who participated! We all joined Jeff Rupp and his extended family for an excellent summer picnic— just about as perfect of a day you can get.

What is a MFO? A MFO (Master Forest Owner volunteer) is someone who has a great interest in responsible woodland stewardship and has attended a five day training session at a Cornell sponsored facility to enable them to offer advice to woodland owners on forest stewardship. The goal is to promote sustainable forestry and to help owners manage their property with their goals and interests in mind.

An on-site, no-obligation visit is absolutely free! Forest owners may contact a Master Forest Owner for information about the program and discuss opportunities for obtaining more satisfaction from one's woods. At your request, an MFO will arrange a half-day visit with you at your woodlot to get a first-hand look and discuss sources of assistance or information. MFOs are experienced and knowledgeable individuals who can put you in touch with the right people to meet your goals. The MFO can also be instrumental in helping you develop a management plan for your property. You do not have to be a NYFOA member to have a visit. For more information, contact Cattaraugus & Allegany Co. Coordinator Bob Wood at 716-945-4849 or Chautauqua Co. Coordinator Dick Patton at 716-761-6333.



MFO and AFC Members enjoying the MFO Refresher last July at Bob Wood's property

Free Programs at the NY Farm Show February 20-22, 2014—Syracuse, NY

Learn from Experts. All programs are free and open to all. Topics include: improved wildlife and bird habitat, low impact timber harvesting, pest control, changing timber markets, profit from portable sawmills, using consulting foresters, love your land/make a plan, invading feral hogs and woodlot management/income taxes.

“Learn More, Earn More” programs are presented by the New York Forest Owners Association with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with additional support from the New York Farm Bureau, Audubon New York, and others. These free programs are held in the Somerset Room on the lower level of the Arts and Home Center at the State Fairgrounds. Programs start on the hour and allow time for questions and discussion. Visitors are also invited to stop by our booth which is located in the main corridor of the Arts and Home Center. Experienced woodland owners and professional foresters are on hand to answer your questions. For more information contact Hugh Canham 315.457.4972 www.nyfoa.org

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ASSOCIATION

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EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 20-22

NY FARM SHOW

MARCH 1

RURAL LANDOWNERS WORKSHOP

MARCH 31

STEERING COMMITTEE MTG

APRIL 5

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MAY 17

WOODS WALK

JULY 12TH

SUMMER PICNIC



Snow Owl spotted in Chautauqua County—Photo submitted by Kim Sherwood

April 5 Pancake Breakfast 9 — Noon

Please join us at Fairbanks Maple, 9265 Putnam Rd, Forestville, NY, on Saturday, April 5, 2014 for a pancake breakfast & viewing maple syrup production. All-you-can-eat for \$6.50, \$3.50 for kids. Doug & Linda Fairbanks, 716-965-4208

Cornell Cooperative Extension 22nd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop Saturday, March 1, 2014. Pioneer Central School, County Line Rd, Yorkshire. **Pre-registration is required before Friday, February 14, 2014.** Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Refreshments/Exhibits in Cafeteria. Opening Session begins at 9:15 a.m. For more info visit <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccecatall/files/2014/01/22nd-Annual-Rural-Landowner-Workshop-171c61f.pdf> or do an Internet search for “Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Landowners Workshop 2014”

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! See contact info at top of this page.

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 trees. 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 bimonthly 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

