



## Chairman's Corner

Submitted by Bob Wood

Our 2018 events calendar is off to a good start. At our January Steering Committee meeting we covered a range of topics from a special fall program to changing and updating our Chapter by-laws to "Organizational Guidelines". The current plan is to share the draft "guidelines" this spring with the membership and vote on them at our annual, summer picnic meeting.

A particular item I would like to touch upon is our dwindling AFC fund balance. As of January our fund balance was around \$900 which I understand is an all-time low. One of our major revenue makers have been raffles held at the County Fairs and the RLOW, (Rural Land Owners Workshop.) And on a positive note, we netted \$353 at the RLOW, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. A big "thank you" to Dick Vail, Dan Anderson, Greg Michalak and Tony Pingitore for their marketing skills. Unfortunately, the raffle is dependent upon the special products made by a handful of dedicated members and we are at the point where we need other resources to generate some revenue. While we do not need a huge amount of money in our Treasury fund, we do want to ensure we can cover costs for pavilions, community halls and special funding assistance to ensure an opportunity for our children in our 3 County area to participate in worthy environmental programs, e.g. camps, field trips, tuition, and other fees.

I would like to share a couple of ideas. One is having a "donation box" at all our events where members and non-members can make a voluntary contribution. Another viable method would be have a method where members who wish to make a donation to the AFC in recognition or memory of a special person. Obviously, we would need to fine tune suggestions, and your thoughts and ideas are appreciated. Please share them with Tony Pingitore, our Treasurer, or me. I am looking forward to our first event of the year focusing on "Climate Change" and its relationship to our woodlands. The presentation will come from our news editor and professor at SUNY at Fredonia, Mike Jabot. Hope to see you there.

### Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming NYFOA AFC Events

April 17th (6:30PM)

Your Resilient Woodlot (Randolph Community Center)

### Chapter Board of Directors:

- Bob Wood— Chair (716) 945-4849
- Dick Brennan—Vice-Chair (716) 699-4125
- Don Huber—Secretary (402) 750-5484
- Tony Pingitore— Treasurer (716) 962-4041
- Dick Patton—NYFOA Rep. (716) 761-6333
- Jim Barber—Steering Committee (716) 962-9027
- Jeff Rupp —Steering Committee (716) 257-5652
- Vic Richardson.—Steering Committee (716) 792-9559
- Dan Anderson—Planning Coord. (716) 640-5549
- Mike Jabot—Newsletter Editor (716) 673-3639

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## Survey Results

Submitted by Don Huber

The Steering Committee would like to thank all the members who participated in our recent survey designed to help us be responsive to the needs of our members. We appreciate the positive comments about the leadership and direction of our chapter, who doesn't like compliments.

However, we also saw some needs to be addressed. We heard our members would like a place to address specific issues they have like liability, post sale clean-up, and places to find help maintaining their woods. We are looking into ways we can address these issues.

We also heard many great ideas for topics of future woodswalks, seminars and newsletter articles. We hope to address these topics quickly. We have a seminar/field day planned for September in Cassadaga where we hope to include several of your suggestions.

Thank you for your interest and participation our organization and your time completing the survey. If you have a thought or idea, please share it with a member of the Steering Committee at any time. Or better yet, come to a Steering Committee meeting and share your ideas in person.

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## Annual Christmas Party

Submitted by Dan Anderson

The annual AFC Christmas Party was held again at the Randolph Community Center on December 2. Twenty eight people attended this event, and we all had a wonderful time with great food and conversation. Our business meeting, which preceded the lunch, involved some very encouraging plans for future events. These will be discussed and finalized at the January 15th Steering Committee Meeting.

After a great lunch, Fran Michalak conducted the Christmas Exchange, which is always a lot of fun. Thank you, Fran, for being willing to organize this very popular event for yet another year!!

I thought this year we had an excellent Christmas Party with super food( a special thank you to the Barbers for the fantastic meats), good attendance, and even some new, younger people who were there. Very encouraging!!

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## Welcome New Members!!!

Russell Findlay  
Colin & Lacie Larson

*The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.*

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## How Can Global Warming Be Real When It Is So Cold Here? Submitted by Don Huber

Cold weather, like the deep freeze we experienced this past winter, are often used to deny the reality of Global Warming. I understand this argument, even though I believe the science that says Global Warming is real, because there are times when I see - 10 on the thermometer and 2 feet of snow in the drive and think, "Is the planet really warming?" The truth is the planet is warming, it just appears to our weather focused eye not to be warming at this specific place at this specific time. Global Warming, Climate Change and the Weather, to a lesser extent, are often used interchangeably but they are actually different terms used to describe different patterns happening on earth.

Global Warming describes the average temperature of the surface of the earth based on temperature readings taken at thousands of different places around the globe. These readings show that the average surface temperature of the earth has increased about 2°F in the last 50 years. A very large increase over a very short period when compared to our knowledge of the earth's temperature fluctuations over eons.

However, the average surface temperature is not rising equally all over the earth and there are a few places on the earth that are actually cooling. World wide the area from Northern Europe across Alaska and Northern Canada are warming at a higher than average rate, 2°- 3° F and small areas in the Pacific Ocean, South America and Africa are cooling slightly. In the US, the Northeast, Alaska and the Southwest are warming the most and small areas in the southeast show a slight cooling. This is climate change. Climate is the average weather experienced in a specific geographical area, climate change is the difference between the weather experienced in a specific area when viewed over long periods compared to earlier periods.

The weather is what is happening outside my window right now, 25°, cloudy and snow showers. Our climate, WNY climate, predicts that our summers are usually warm, sunnier and somewhat drier than other seasons but we have all experienced cold, rainy, cloudy weather on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. If we only experienced the weather in WNY on that day, we might think the climate of WNY is much different than it actually is.

In conclusion, the weather has been brutally cold at times this past winter but our climate is changing. WNY is experiencing bigger storms, lower lows and higher highs, getting its rain in occasional downpours rather than more frequent showers, and has a longer growing season than fifty years ago. And it can all be linked to Global Warming. Our planet and our area on it, is warming, our climate is changing and our weather is different.

As people involved in sustainable forestry and agriculture who seek to manage our properties economically and profitably we need to be aware of these changes and what they mean for our varied endeavors and property so we can mitigate its ef-



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## My Last Day in Wyoming

Submitted by Katherine Michalak

Today is my last day in Wyoming. I have had the privilege of traveling practically the whole state. From the high plains of Ft. Laramie to the rolling wooded hills of the Devils Tower area to the grand mountains of Yellowstone and the Tetons and many other places besides. However, most of my three months in the state were spent working at Ft. Laramie National Historic Site with weekend adventures to the places afore mentioned.

When I left Western New York many people gave me advice or shared their experiences in the west with me. Almost all that I heard went something like this: "You are going to love it! Once you go out there you will never want to come back east." I too had these same expectations. I dreamed of open plains, seeing for miles, and big open skies. I had visions of cowboys, ranches and a real western experience. When I arrived I got all that and more.

The plains are wide open, the sky vast, and on a cloudless night the dome of stars is magnificent. I have seen cowboys ride the prairie as I drive along the road. Church is filled with boots, wranglers, hats and button up colored shirts. Even the pastor is a former head rancher. All of my expectations were met. It was what went beyond my expectations that changed my view of the west.

When I envisioned wide open plains I forgot to add the unforgiving temperatures of the 90 plus degrees heat day after day. And 90 might not be so bad until I realized there are no trees and no creeks to cool off under or in; just mile upon mile of dry brown prairie grasses. The dryness and heat of the prairie hit me hard my first few weeks. Gallon jugs of water became my best friend and going outside from 8am to 6pm was a rare occurrence. The long sleeve shirts and cowboy hats of the ranchers make so much sense now. Protecting yourself from the sun is essential.

So the plains, I learned, are not really my style. But surely the wooded hills of the North East and the mountains of the Northwest would be much better. The people at my church even assured me that I would like the mountains much better. They were the true gem of Wyoming. This theory was soon to come to test.

My last days here, with a few friends in tow, I set off on a weeklong trip to the north west (Yellowstone and the Tetons). As I drove west visions of Maples, Oaks, soft forest floors and small wooded creeks drifted through my mind. I was driving towards some of the most renowned National Parks in the country while my heart begged me to turn east, to turn home. Don't hear me wrong, my week in Yellowstone and the Tetons was filled with beautiful views, unique sites and heart racing animal encounters but it, like the plains, seemed bleak and harsh to me. It was a prairie of another kind. This time there were trees, almost exclusively Lodgepole Pine, and they were indeed green, a very welcome color to my eyes, but there were not the forests of the east.

Homesickness, I know, can taint the mind to remember things more fondly than they might actually exist. Though this may have happened to me this summer there is one sure thing that I have learned: The forests of the east, the forests of Western New York, are something to be cherished. The lay of the Great Lakes bring us perfect summer temperatures and abundant rain and snow to keep our land lush and green even in the midst of summer. Our soft forest floors shaded by magnificent deciduous trees are inviting and warm. And fall, oh fall, one of the best in the world as those same trees explode with not just one magnificent color but many, painting one of the most magnificent portraits in all of nature. We may not have animals like bison, moose, wolves, and elk; however, I am ok with that as the threat of a whitetail charging or stalking me is little to none.

My opinion and experiences out here by no means diminish the beauty and place of the west. I have met folks who say that there is no other place they would rather live than Wyoming. I am thankful there are those who cherish the plains of the west just as I have learned to cherish the forest of the east.

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## My Last Day in Wyoming



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### Your Resilient Woodlot

Submitted by Don Huber & Mike Jabot

This program will focus on the weather changes caused by climate change and the effects of these changes on your woodlots. Some basic strategies will be discussed for mitigating these changes and adapting your woodlots to the changing climate. Ample time will be allowed for your questions, discussions of your current practices, problems and concerns.

We also look forward to hearing your suggestions for future programming that will aid you in reaching your goals in your woodlot.

This program is presented by the Allegany Foothills Chapter of The New York Forest Owners Association. The program will begin at 6:30pm on Tuesday April 17th at the Randolph Community Center. Light refreshments will be served.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**April 17th (6:30PM)**

Your Resilient Woodlot (Randolph Community Center)



Please email your comments to:  
[jabot@fredonia.edu](mailto:jabot@fredonia.edu) (Mike Jabot)

**If you know of someone who has woodland, or is interested in wood lands invite them to join NYFOA-AFC. Feel free to show them your copy of the Newsletter and/or the N.Y. Forest Owner Magazine.**