The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

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People and Trees; Partners In Time

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 30, NO. 6 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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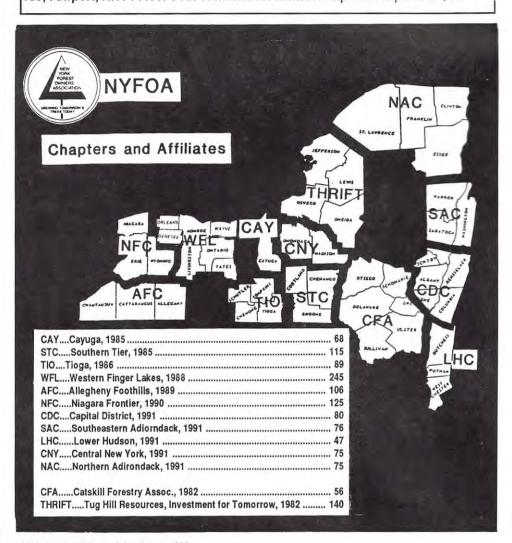
The beginning of New York's 60 year old Red Pine plantations.
From Moon Library Archives, ESF SUNY

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore, Alan Kniight, Mary McCarty Norm Richards and Dave Taber.

Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: R. Fox, R.D. #3, Box 88, Moravia, New York 13118. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission for

Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is \$15.



With membership as of October 1, 1992.

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President's Message

have two significant happenings to report to you.

First, congratulations to Dick Fox, our newly appointed editor! Dick has been serving as acting editor for several issues and prior to that as Chair of the Editorial Committee for two years. Consequently he is well equipped to take on the editor's job. Even as Chair of the Editorial Committee he was tireless in his efforts to improve the magazine, working to provide most of the material that went into it.

The Editorial Committee under the leadership of Betty Densmore were unanimous in their selection of Dick and plan to give him strong support as he continues his quest to make the Forest Owner a premier magazine for our members.

Secondly, congratulations to Charlie Mowatt and Betty Densmore for initiating the idea and bringing to reality a Workshop for newsletter editors and for chapter/affiliate leaders. This first-ever gathering was held in late August at Cornell's Arnot Forest. Thirty six attended representing nine of our chapters and our two affiliates.

There was a stimulating afternoon session on newsletters with input from a number of those who have had experience in producing these for our members. The emphasis was on how to improve the content and appearance of the newsletters, which are sent out by the affiliates and by most of the chapters.

The evening session was a fun talk by Gib Merrill reported on elsewhere in this issue by Mary.

The following morning was devoted to a give-and-take session on chapter and affiliate management led off by a thought provoking talk by John Marchant on leadership. Everyone contributed ideas and experiences which in total added up to a wealth of knowledge for running a chapter or affiliate.

Special thanks go to Marian Mowatt and the five volunteers from AFC and NAC who fed us four fine meals. Their work in the kitchen was way beyond the call of duty and enabled the rest of us to concentrate on thinking of ideas and sharing them to improve NYFOA.

The enthusiasm and esprit de corps generated by the workshop bodes well for the future of NYFOA.



Workshop Attendees (above)

Charlie Mowatt and Betty Densmore (right)

Photos by Bill and Clara Minerd



HONOR ROLL

The Three-for-One (\$3 for each member recruited) Membership Incentive Campaign is underway and for the first month. September, the results are encouraging. Here they are:

Michael Birmingham. CDC	1	Joe Messina CDC	1
Tom Ellison, CNY	1	Billy Morris, WFL	1
Harry Howe, NAC	2	Robert Nagle NFC	1
Eugene McCardle LHC	1	Steven Warne, SAC	1
John Marchant, WFL	2		

Eleven new members plus another five from the Woodland Steward and unnamed sources!

In addition, in August before the Campaign began the following recruited new members. Sorry about that timing!

Mr and Mrs Edwin Atwood. Jr. WFL
Ron Cadieux, SAC
Stephen Eaton, AFC
Roy Emerling, NFC
Daryl Jenks,
John Marchant, WFL
Billy Morris/Sue Kiester. WFL

2 (Gifts)
1
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Thanks to all for carrying the message to our fellow forest owners. Remember the Three-for-One Campaign continues until the end of 1992.

Stuart McCarty, Membership Chair

FUN IN THE FOREST

By Mary McCarty

A highlight of the Leadership Workshop at Arnot Forest was the enthusiastic presentation Saturday evening by Professor Gib Merrill. One of his present activities involves hosting a TV series for young people on the out-of-doors, entitled "Oh My".

Professor Merrill mentioned early in his presentation that he takes groups of youngsters to the woods for most of the day to teach and interest them in what can be found and observed. One of our group of thirty quipped "Oh My!" -- youngsters in the woods for the day? Keep them interested?

Well - he did keep us most interested as we learned about a fine use for bracken to keep away the gnats even if the fern wasn't a perfect 6 5/8" hat size. On to the mnemonic MAD CAP HORSE, and the fine former usefulness of horn beam. Oxen could be yoked with horn beam when our ancestors didn't have a blacksmith to create the yoke. Sharpen and burn the end of



Gib Merrill with Bracken fern hat.

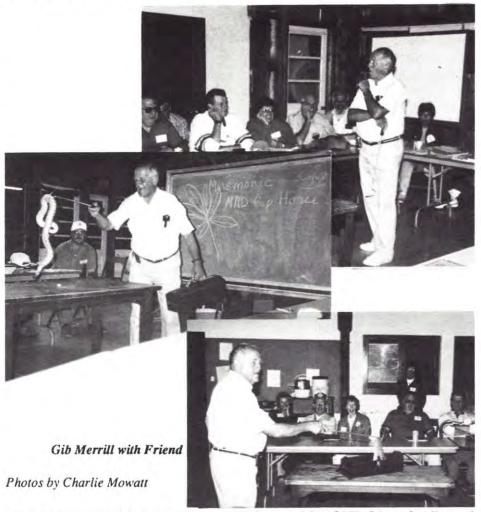
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a horn beam and the stick could serve many uses such as a crowbar. Also, among the innovative learning techniques were proper binocular adjustments and a fun reverse binocular game plus a lens substitute.

The noisy red tool box caught our attention. A large western rattlesnake was in there, and then OUT of there, for all to see! Some of us were on edge. We learned so much in such a short time. Thank You, Gib Merrill. It was a pleasure to meet you and Susie and to catch the spirit of the enthusiasm you exude. We were lucky indeed and appreciate your inspirational presentation.

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THE WILD SIDE OF HERBS

By Betty Densmore

As you walk through your fields and forest do you ever realize that under your feet and around you are the ingredients for powerful cures, magical potions, fragrant potpourris, culinary delights and richly vivid dyes? That shamans, medicine men, Druids, witches, apothecaries and colonial housewives would have gathered baskets of treasured herbs that you pass by? It wasn't until my tiny herb garden exploded into a yard full of domesticated varieties that I began to realize how many occur in the wild.

Herbs are said to be "useful plants", not a very satisfactory definition. Perhaps, plants valued for their medicinal, savory or aromatic qualities is better. Dozens of plants that are officially recognized as herbs occur in New York State. One of the remarkable things about them is how many are aliens introduced by Colonist. Consider the ubiquitous chicory, comfrey, coltsfoot, mints, catnip, mullein, mustard, tansy, yarrow and even burdock...all were introduced to North America.

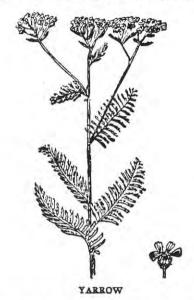
Native herbs were necessities which have long been harvested by farmers and gatherers for family use and as cash crops. Boneset was widely used by Confederate troops for controlling malaria and fevers. Joe Pye Weed (named after an Indian doctor) made a tonic. Ginseng is used by the Chinese for many cures but especially to prolong sexual potency into the golden years. (It works to judge from their population figures). Bee balm, also called Oswego Tea and bergamot, makes a soothing tea and is also used in potpourri. False hellebore, one of Spring's earliest plants, and often mistaken for skunk cabbage, is used for heart trouble. It has an action similar to digitalis, but is said to be more powerful. Its roots yield a potent insecticide.

Many of the alien herbs are credited with healing powers as well. Foxglove is the source of digitalis. Comfrey is used for poultices, elecampane for colds, valerian as a sedative and on and on.

Angelica is a splendid plant. With its huge leaves and thick stalks it seems almost tropical. It grows lush and big and smells delicious when cut. I find a place in my garden for it every year and a friend comes to dig the root to use in making Drambuie (a typical NYFOA member!). Coltsfoot is that lovely yellow blossom that is one of spring's first flowers and one

that brightens many a woodsroad. Catnip seems to be around every cellar hole in Western New York. If you can't find it, your cat can!

Herbs are surrounded by myths and legends. Caraway is used in love potions, the root of catnip, when chewed, is said to make the most gentle person fierce and quarrelsome, yarrow is reputed to have conjuring powers. Sew an ounce of yarrow in a square of flannel, put it under your pillow and during the night your true love is supposed to appear in a dream. Garlic appears in many religious rites; the ancient



Egyptians invoked its name in taking oaths, Homeric legend has garlic saving Ulysses from the fate of companions who were changed into pigs by Circe. During the great plague in Europe a house in which garlic was stored recorded no losses to the Black Death very possibly it kept everything and everybody away! Legend says: "When Satan stepped out from the Garden of Eden after the fall, Garlic sprang up from the spot where he placed his left foot, and onion from that where his right foot touched."

Love potions and visions aside, herbs have practical uses to those of us who spend time in the forest. I always crush some pennyroyal or tansy leaves between my palms and wipe my hands on my face, arms and hair before going to the woods during black fly and deer fly season. This works as well as commercial insect repellents and I haven't exposed myself to N-diethyl-toluamide or Hexanediol (whatever THEY are!).

Bee balm makes lovely tea, is a fine cut flower and delicious to have around with



its citrusy odor. It also makes a handsome dried flower. Chicory has long been a coffee additive and sometime substitute. Tansy is used in making Chartreuse liqueur and wild mustard in pickling. The uses of herbs are many.

If you ever chance upon valerian in bloom you'll be overwhelmed by its lovely perfume. Know that the roots produce an excellent sedative. Bedstraw produces a dye, though its primary use was to stuff mattresses long ago. Every ditch seems loaded with fragrant bedstraw in the summer. Goldenrod with its 80 varieties is useful as a dye plant. Even if you are not in need of sedatives, or mattress stuffing, and don't like Chartreuse it seems that a nodding acquaintance with the most common herbs that grow on your property is worthwhile. You can dazzle your city friends with some of the wonderful legends as well as introduce children to the delights of fragrant mints, catnip, and others. Besides, it just might fit into some Machiavellian scheme of yours to be able to identify poisonous Nightshades, monkshood and other deadly plants!

I have dealt with only a few of the most common herbs that grow on or near my property. Peterson's FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS lists dozens of others as occurring in New York State. I keep hoping to happen upon two of my personal favorites: Wood-Betony and Sweet Cicely. One of the great pluses of Allegheny Foothills Chapter woodswalks is that foresters and knowledgeable members often point out rare or interesting plants. As my knowledge of what I'm seeing increases so does my enjoyment of the wild side of herbs

herbs.

Betty is a NYFOA Director and chairs the editorial committee.

RED PINE PLANTATIONS IN NEW YORK: The End Of An Era

By Robert Demeree

Red pine, Pinus resinosa, was one of the most popular tree species for field planting in the earlier days of the conservation movement in New York. In the 1920s people became aware of serious environmental problems in this country. Soil was eroding from poorly managed farm land in astounding quantities and our streams and rivers were badly polluted. So badly that the Chicago River, for example, caught on fire and burned for a considerable period of time. The dust bowl etched forever in our memories the evils of over-cropping and over-grazing.

Across the country, action was taken. The Soil Conservation Service was formed to assist farmers with better methods of erosion prevention. The Extension Service was created to help also, and a whole host of other organizations sprang up: the 4H, Future Farmers of America and many others.

New York entered the fray with great vigor. During this period, some New York farmers, those with farms on poor soils, were having a hard time. Most of New York's forests had been cleared off for agriculture in the 1890's, but as farming moved west and the fertile unforested soils of the Midwest and West were discovered, farming became much more competitive.

The New York Legislature, recognizing that these poorer farms at higher elevations were contributing greatly to soil erosion, passed the Hewitt Amendment and began buying these "hill farms" to help stop the erosion and "protect the watershed". Some one half million acres were bought in the thirties and now form the bulk of New York's State Forests.

What to do with this newly acquired land? Why, plant it to trees, of course. All across the land, tree planting was loudly proclaimed to be one of the best cures for erosion. New York was no exception. State tree nurseries were started and seedlings were grown by the millions and given away or sold at a very small price.

Enter red pine, a native species whose range is confined to the Northeast and the Lake States. It generally grows on sandy soils but will grow on a variety of sites. It was easy to grow in the nurseries and easy to out plant in the field, but best of all, it

survived and grew rapidly. The tree is straight and well formed and quickly became one of the favorites for planting on the newly acquired State lands and on private land as well. Of course, other species were planted: white pine, Scotch pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, and larch were some of the common choices. Some were great disappointments. Scotch pine, so common and so successful in Europe, grew rapidly, but exhibited very poor form, being quite twisted and crooked. Apparently, seed for this country was gathered from short, poorly formed trees as the cones were easily reached. In the Southern Tier, white pine, the "lord of the northern forest", quickly fell prey to the white pine weevil. This small insect lays its eggs in the terminal shoot and the newly hatched larvae eat the woody material of the shoot, killing it and forcing one of the side branches to take over as the new leader. After 3 or 4 years of weevil attack, the tree was hopelessly deformed and became known as "cabbage pine". Large plantations of white pine became havens for the weevil and, for the most part, the trees were rendered worthless. Plantings for spruce and larch met with better success, and while nice stands of these trees remain today, they were not planted as extensively as red pine. Hardwood plantings were tried, but it soon became evident that the sites were too depleted from past agriculture to grow these more demanding species. Also, most hardwoods are the favorite food for deer and rabbits.

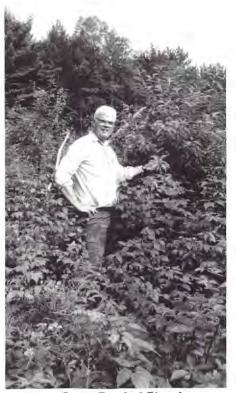
No matter, red pine was there in increasing numbers, successful, straight, attractive, and presumably useful. A review of the Conservation Department's annual reports shows that State tree nurseries pro-

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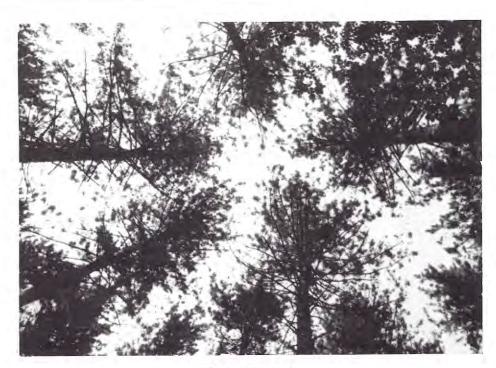
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.....Just a Bowl of Cherries

duced some 620 million trees from 1900 to 1941 with the incredible number of 72 million being distributed in 1936. Records indicate that about 40 percent of the production was red pine. This means that about a quarter of a billion red pine were planted in New York. By far the vast majority of them were planted in the thirties. At the planting rate of about one thousand trees per acre, two hundred and fifty thousand acres of red pine were planted. While about half the trees shipped went to private owners, the largest and most successful red pine plantations were on State Forests in the southern tier.

So now the stage was set. During the war years of the forties, forestry took a back seat and only maintenance and protection occurred. After the war, crews were hired by the Department and more land was bought and more trees planted. All during the fifties, the trees thrived and grew but some problems were starting to surface. Red pine is what is known as a "pioneer species". It is the first tree to reseed, along with aspen and pin cherry, after a disaster such as fire or blowdown,



Stagnation?

and as with most pioneer species, it exhibits very rapid early growth. The planted trees were no exception and grew very quickly during their early years. How could this be bad? Well, it wasn't too bad. After 20 years, the trees were about 30 feet tall and some were 5 to 6 inches in diameter. The trees had, almost without exception, been planted at a 6 feet by 6 feet spacing and were beginning to crowd each other. At age 20 to 30, the trees grew and began to lose their lower branches due to "side pressure". As the crowns closed, light could no longer reach down to the lower branches and they began to die. With no light reaching the forest floor, all other vegetation began to die and the stands became "parklike".

Now the problems were becoming evident. As the trees grew and the lower limbs died, the amount of "live crown" decreased. As the amount of green needle surface was reduced, growth slowed. It soon became clear, that to maintain growth, the stands would have to be thinned. Unfortunately, in most of the areas of the State, there were no markets for small diameter red pine. Some of the northeastern counties could sell the pine as pulpwood to the big mills in the area, but most places could not. This meant that thinning would be a cost to the landowner. A certain percentage of the trees would have to be removed to allow the remainder room to grow. Many landowners, including the State, did thinning, but many did not. Most who did, did not cover much of their acreage. Many methods were tried; cutting, of course, girdling, which did not work because the trees were

root grafted and the ungirdled trees "fed" the girdled ones, and a wide variety of chemical treatments. Remember, in the fifties and sixties, chainsaws weighed 70 to 80 pounds and did not cut nearly as well as they do now. Probably the most prevalent method was that of axe frilling and injection of a chemical, generally Sodium Arsenite, a deadly poison, which is no longer allowed on the market. So, while many acres were thinned, many more were not. After about 35 years, a condition that became known as "stagnation" became prevalent in many unthinned stands. They were so crowded that diameter growth was reduced to a pittance, sometimes as low as 30 rings to the inch. Surprisingly, height growth remained quite good with trees in even badly stagnated stands, adding a foot or more in height every year. This growth pattern resulted in nice tall, straight trees.

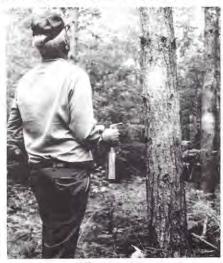
Another problem was coming to the forefront. Hunters and wildlife managers were beginning to look askance at the large expanses of parklike stands devoid of food or cover for birds and animals. The phrase, "game desert" was quickly coined and set foresters and wildlife biologists against each other for a long time.

If that wasn't enough, as the stands grew to be 40 to 50 years old, a new phenomenon appeared. Pockets and small areas of some stands began to decline and die. Some of the areas were not so small. A rush of field investigations confirmed the worst; the trees on shallow clay soils, prevalent in the Southern Tier, were running out of rooting room and could no longer grow. The phrase "wetfoot" became common and gave for-

esters something else to worry about. It became evident that as the stands became older and the trees became bigger and needed more rooting room, the wetfoot condition would move to better and better soils and mortality might become significant.

Through all of this, the trees grew. It is surprising that such a large monoculture did not attract more insect and disease problems. Aside from minor attacks from a tip moth which deformed some trees and a small amount of mortality from Fomes annosus and a brief scare and some mortality from Scleroderris canker, red pine has remained surprisingly healthy and vigorous. In the seventies, some stands were approaching sawtimber size and began to attract attention from forest industry. Some trees were harvested and sawed into lumber. Unfortunately, red pine lumber leaves a lot to be desired as the rapid juvenile growth pattern causes it to warp and twist badly. But good old American ingenuity surfaced once again as several enterprising entrepreneurs discovered that if the logs were sawed square and the hearts were "boxed", the wood was useful as posts, decking material and landscape ties. During the seventies and eighties, mills were set up to utilize red pine exclusively in large quantities. Many companies and individuals bought red pine, due to it's straightness and uniformity, for the construction of log cabins which had become quite popular. Some of the best stems were sold as telephone poles in Canada.

Owners of red pine were quick to take advantage of these markets, particularly the State. Sales of red pine from State Forests started as a trickle in the seventies and mushroomed to the present day level of several hundred thousand trees annually. What form are these sales tak-



Time To Go

ing? Actually, they take many forms. Some are traditional thinnings that remove a portion of the trees and leave a good stand of trees for future growth. Some are mixed stands and generally the red pine is removed to allow the other more long lived species to continue their growth. However, in many instances, the stands show symptoms of decline due to poor soil conditions. stagnation, or both, and the forester making the sale decides to liquidate the stand. Liquidating the stand is a nice way of saying clearcut, and that is what happens. This brings us back to the title, "End of an Era". In the Southern Tier, when red pine is clearcut, it does not regenerate itself. In almost all cases, a wealth of native hardwood species had by now established themselves in the understory and immediately after the cut begin to grow vigorously, so vigorously that attempts to replant pine are thwarted. This is as pretty much planned. The early foresters knew that the old agricultural fields were too depleted to immediately grow native hardwoods and planted the less site demanding conifers. After 60 years of needle, twig and branch deposition on the forest floor, a thick mat of organic matter formed. Fertility was returned to the site and now the native species could prosper. This is known as the "nurse crop" theory and in this case, it is working.

How long will it take to remove all the red pine and the "era" to be truly ended? Estimates range from 20 to 30 years, depending on stand condition and markets, but the end is in sight. Many may think that the demise of such a grand tree a bad thing. However, many more do not. Remember

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Two year old hardwood regeneration after Red Pine clearcut.

the dismay of the wildlifers. They are very pleased with the clearcuts that provide ample food and shelter for many species. Consider the value of the tree. The stumpage price has never risen much above \$50 per thousand board feet. The hardwoods that are replacing it are much more valuable.

Red pine will never be totally eliminated in New York. It is still being planted in a small way. There is a native presence and some natural regeneration. Some stands will be preserved for study. But as the days of the large, unbroken red pine forests are ending, we can say that it's tenure was most surely positive. It saved the soil, produced untold quantities of useful fiber, provided grand vistas, and set the stage for the return of a healthy, native forest. Red pine will long and fondly be remembered in New York.

BobDemeree, a pastDirector of NYFOA, is Assistant Regional Forester at the Cortland office for the 9 county NYS DEC Region 7.

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Alien Pine Beetle May Cause Quarantine

The most destructive pine beetle in Europe has found a home in the United States. The beetle, commonly known as the Pine Shoot Beetle, scientifically labeled *Tomicus piniperda*, is from the Scolytid family. It has been identified in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. It's home range is Asia and Europe.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has drafted a quarantine plan to restrict or prohibit the movement of materials that may carry the beetle out of infested counties. Restricted material would include Christmas trees, nursery shrubs and products containing bark of pines, spruce, larch and fir. Lumber and logs with bark attached would be included.

The beetle is 3-5mm long with reddish-brown to black wing coverings. It lays eggs at the base of trees under the bark. Larvae eat the cambium thereby partially girdling the tree. After four instars the adult emerges from under the bark. Adults bore into pine shoots usually of the current year's growth and feed inside the shoot tips. Feeding deforms the tree. While Scotch Pine is the preferred host, the insect feeds on all species of pine, spruce, larch and fir. Recent observations in China found the insect attacking healthy pines. Previously the inset was understood to infest downed timber, trees weakened by fire, disease, drought windthrow or defoliation. One of the most serious outbreaks in Europe reached a peak in four years. The insect overwinters as a larvae, pupa or adult. In warmer climates such as in France, more than one generation may be produced per year. The fact that the insect spends a lot of time living under the bark makes it difficult to kill with insecticides.

Agencies from the affected states are assessing the economic impact of the proposed quarantine and preparing responses to the draft.

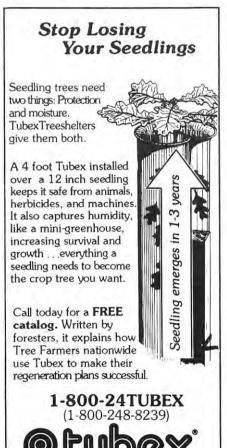
For more information contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Room 640 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyatsville, MD 20782, 301-436-8247.

SHARING

By Robert Hazelton

Animal wildlife regardless of habitat is owned by everyone; but most of the land is owned by only a few. At certain times of the year New York State and the Federal Government permit the harvest of a select species of animals as both a means of fur, fish, and game management and for an equitable consumption. The perennial problem is access and for a great many species it's that time of the year.

A method of offering controlled access to the hunting public is provided by the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Act Boards. In 1957, New York State's Legislature recognized the importance of private lands and landowners to successful fish and wildlife management by passing the Fish and Wildlife Management Act. This Act established the basis for private land and water oriented programs to help protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources, to provide hunting and fishing opportunities for the public, to improvelandowner/sportsperson relations, and to safeguard the interests and rights of landowners.



The Regional FWMA Boards are independent, grass-roots organizations consisting of representatives of landowners, sportspersons, and county legislatures from each county and appointed by each county in the state.

In seeking to solve the problems associated with granting the public hunting access, the boards developed the idea of Cooperative Hunting Agreements. These agreements provide positive benefits to both the landowners and the hunters. According to the agreements the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and landowners agree to engage in mutually beneficial habitat/wildlife management plans and the public gains access to those lands for hunting, thereby establishing a Cooperative Area. In return the Department will post a "Restricted Zone" around the areas of greatest value and concern, such as farm buildings, and provide increased law enforcement patrols. Cooperators also receive other benefits; such as, general maintenance and cleanup, free shrubs and trees, and a free subscription to the DEC's, THE CONSER-VATIONIST.

In some Cooperative Areas, a permit station is maintained and hunters must obtain a daily permit. This system provides added control by limiting the total number of persons on the area at anytime. At other Cooperatives, a seasonal permit and identification card must be obtained; and some Cooperative Areas require no permits.

These systems provide for orderly public hunting access while protecting the interests and concerns of the landowner.

One such Cooperative Area, established in 1968, is centered around King Ferry and encompassing lands in Cayuga and Tompkins Counties. This "corn country"

is visited annually by thousands of migrating Canada Geese; and the region's abundant corn fields are gleaned by the waterfowl which become tempting targets to many passing hunters. Access has been controlled by a limited number of parking areas and, then, since 1974, by a DEC operated check station. From the check station Department personnel determine the number of permits given to hunters, establish hunting regulations, provide posting, and patrol the Cooperative Area.

A 1992 survey of the landowners indicated: the management and control of the hunters was the primary reason that the landowners joined and remained members of the Cooperative. When the hunters answered respectively from the same survey, they, too, stated that the management and control of the hunters added to their enjoyment of hunting on the Cooperative Area. The Cooperative is open for the hunting of all game in season - 40% of the hunting parties hunt geese, 28% hunt pheasant, and 6% hunt for deer.

As part of the survey both groups were asked for their opinion regarding the collection and distribution of a "user/access fee". Both the landowners and hunters were in favor of the collection of a user/access fee; however, they differed in their respective suggested distributions of the monies. Many of the hunters stated their approval of such a fee was contingent upon the monies dedicated to improve wildlife habitat, especially for Ring-necked Pheasants. Most of the landowners would welcome some help with paying their taxes!

The Region 7 FWMA Board is investigating the questions of how to collect a fee and how it could best be used to benefit wildlife, landowners, and recreationists.

Bob Hazelton is the sportsperson representative for Cayuga County at the Region 7 FWMA Board.

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CHAPTER REPORTS

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Thirty plus members attended our annual picnic, held this year at David Mowatt's property in Franklinville on July 18. A terrific day of barbecue and socializing. We also awarded the AFC Award for Outstanding Service to Marian and Charlie Mowatt.

Over thirty members and guests toured parts of Cattaraugus County under the leadership of Dr. Steve Eaton, who showed us the effects of the glacier age on vegetation and the topography of our area. We visited unglaciated areas, terminal moraines and were shown lateral moraines. We ended up in an area that had been totally covered by glaciers; and looked it!

On November 7th at 10 p.m. we will meet in the Extension bldg. in Ellicottville to hear Bill Wininger talk on the feasibility of raising Hybrid Chestnuts as an orchard crop. On Dec. 12th we will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. for our annual Christmas Party. This year our hosts will be Joann and Mark Kurtis, 36 State Park Avenue, Salamanca. This is always one of our best "woodswalks".

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On July 18 Jim Cheeseman and Russ Cheney led our group on a tour of 11 different ponds for our pond building workshop. We were shown the differences, benefits, costs and pitfalls of pond building. We also toured a fish hatchery and a wetland.

On August 15th Bruce Robinson led a tour of Chestnut Ridge Park. We looked at large stands of old growth timber, American Chestnuts and found an old log 5' in diameter.

We will tour a state forest in Zoar on Vail & Unger roads for a historical view of several plantations including Black Walnut, Black Cherry and American Chestnut. We will also look at some old growth hardwood with tremendous volume per acre. this will be on Nov. 7th at 10 a.m..

David Colligan, Owner and Bruce Robinson, forester, will give us a tour of Dave's woodlot which is marked for a timber sale. This will be on Dec. 5th at 10 a.m. on Hayes Hollow Road. Bruce will explain the reasons for marking specific trees and the benefits to future harvests from this cutting.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

Thanks for your hospitality, NYFOA! We learned a few pointers about publishing newsletters and gaining membership at the Chapter Workshop you sponsored on Aug. 29 & 30 at Arnot Forest. A big benefit of this type of gathering is getting to know the members and experiences of other chapters. NAC thanks Betty Densmore, Charles Mowatt and the kitchen staff for a good show. We hope NYFOA can continue these workshops on an annual basis.

Our woodswalk through the Fernow Plantation on Sept. 5 was attended by 23 adults and several children. Don Brown and Dave Forness provided expertise covering many topics, including the planting's history, 21" Norway spruce and 24" white pine, both beneficial (edible) and destructive fungi, the white pine weevil, wildlife, timber marking techniques and plant identification. It was a superb day in a plantation that appears more like a natural wilderness, and the frosting was enjoyed last: a lake-side picnic with good companions at the Fish Creek Campsite. Thanks Don, Dave and DEC for the tour and accommodations.

(SOUTHEAST ADIRONDACK

On Aug. 22 we toured the "wildlife" tree farm of Tony Conte near the Battenkill in Washington Co., This walk was sponsored by SAC and the NYS Tree Farm Committee. Forty plus people enjoyed the woodswalk. After coffee and distributing 10 door prizes Valerie Luzadis-Auden of the Empire Forest Products Association presented Ron Cadeaux, Senior Forester, NYS DEC, an award as Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector.

Tony Conte and Ron Cadeaux guided the tour with stops to describe and discuss wildlife management practices for grouse, turkey and deer habitat. We saw old farm fields seeded for wildlife with clover mix for food and land planted with poplar nursery stock....a "popular" food for grouse. Further up we saw mature woodland with a series of small clear cuts which showed how to increase shelter and food for deer, turkey and grouse with nearby mast trees and fruit bearing shrubs. We observed how harvesting timber can enhance wild life habitat and help fi-



Valerie Luzadis-Alden of the Empire State Forest Products Association presents 1992 New York Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector Award to DEC Senior Forester Ron Cadieux.

nance the cost of ownership. Trails were laid out to avoid erosion and make management possible for recreation and woodcutting.

Lunch was enjoyed on top of the tree farm at a scenic vista of Washington County Hills.

A new experience for our chapter. Five of us helped Ron Cadeaux man a booth at the Washington County Fair. Ernie Spencer, Jane and Dave Jenks and Polly and Erwin Fullerton discussed Forest Stewardship with people who stopped at the booth.

WESTERN FINGERLAKES

The September 12 woodswalk set up by Mark Keister and the Nature Conservancy focused on the rare oak openings in Bentley woods near Victor and the unique prairie grasses that grow there. These once common grasses have been almost eradicated by the encroachment of civilization.

The WFL will host Beth and David Buckley on November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Extension building on Highland Avenue. The Buckleys will present an audio/video program "Managing for Wildlife", based on their 30 years experience managing their property for the purpose of attracting and sustaining a variety of wildlife. They will cover food plots, shrubs, nesting sites and timber stand improvement. The Buckleys are travel writers and photographers and the presentation is a visual feast as well as an interesting learning opportunity.

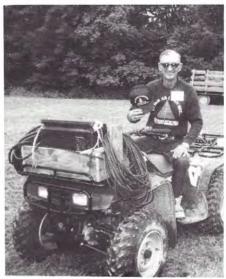
SOUTHERN TIER

On August 15 at the Molyneaux Tree Farm in Endicott, N.Y. over 100 members of NYFOA's Southern Tier Chapter and Broome County Christmas Tree Growers Association met to celebrate Richard Molyneaux's selection as 1992 New York State Tree Farmer.

Dick hosted a chicken barbecue supplemented by "Pot Luck" dishes from the attendees. The occasion doubled as a celebration of Dick's 73rd birthday, which occurred a few days earlier on August 12th. Tours of the tree farm were given to help walk off the ample food provided. Dick spent much of the day expressing thanks to all his friends and associates who have supported his Tree Farm endeavors over the years.

Attendees included State Assemblyman, Richard H. Miller; County Legislator, Katherine Greenmun,; local town officials, and the pastor and members of Dick's church; the West Endicott Baptist Church.

On Oct. 17th the STC and the Broome County Christmas Tree Growers held a joint meeting at the Webb log home model center in Sherburne. We toured fabrication shops for both manufactured tongue and groove log homes and handcrafted, custom log homes (Swedish Cope Method). The planing and precut mills were visited. We ended up viewing the various log home models existing at the site. Jim Webb hosted a hot dog roast, complete with drinks. Members brought dishes to pass.

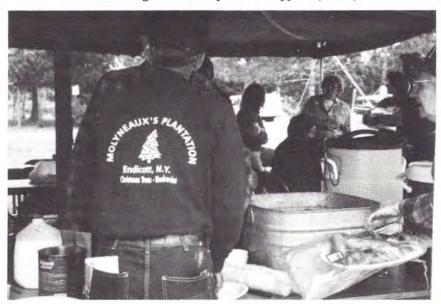


Dick Molyneaux posing with Tree Farm Equipment.



Attendees helping with the corn shucking (above).

Dick thanking individuals for their support. (below).



SIP Status

Despite the Congress recision, New York committed \$1,051,000 to forest owners across the state. A broad application of practices were approved. Many wildlife practices are being installed; trees are being planted; forests are being improved; streambanks are being stabilized; and even some habitats of endangered species are being manipulated to enhance their chance for survival. SIP is working as planned.

New York led the nation by committing more than any other state and about ten times the average. NYFOA was a key player in the success of this new program. From all predictions we've heard, the upcoming year will be funded at about the same level. I encourage you to stay in contact with your DEC service forester and be ready to compete for these dollars. These incentives should be a great help to you in improving your forest resources for yourself and generations to come.

Michael Greason, Associate Forester, NYS DEC from Newsletter Capital District Chapter.

Despite the national noise regarding ephemeral family values, little substance is offered; the following series of articles offer a meaningful whisper.

A FAMILY VALUE

By Margaret Nagle

There are few things that remain constant in one's life. In my life, though, there has been one constant that has always been there - a place that even today has a powerful presence. It has been so much a part of my family that it is hard to imagine not having some connection to this land. It is the place we have referred to through the years as "the farm," "the woods" or "the hill." But no matter how we've known it through the years, it is the one place that the family has come together. And it's that one place that, when the years have passed us all by, will still be.

My first memories of the farm are of standing in a stark field on a cold, gray, early spring day. I'm not sure I ever remember a tree planting day when the wind was not whipping in those fields. I remember buckets of ice-cold water and row upon row of seedlings being tucked in the hole made by the grubhoe. I remember Mom always reminding us that this was the same activity she did on the first day of her honeymoon. I can also recall the initial thrill of picking up those countless bundles of seedlings, and the dog-tiredness at the end of the planting sessions.

Likewise, for as long as I can remember, there was Dad's enthusiasm and love of that land that eventually infused all of us. I can't confess to understanding it in the beginning. But his commitment to the woods was always there.

There were times that it bordered on an obsession. Virtually every weekend we pilgrimaged from our home to the hill. We'd don our oldest clothes, get up at seemingly the crack of dawn and spend our weekends working in the woods, often battling deer flies or dodging little green worms dangling from the trees, and returning at suppertime to a one-room cabin. It meant leaving civilization as I knew it - the occasional school dance that I was missing, the hours on the phone with my girl-friend.

Perhaps it was when I went away from the land, that I came to recognize its importance and value. In the urban sprawl of the Washington, D.C. area, I started remembering the winding trails through the woods that I loved to walk, the great hemlock where porcupines always lived, the pond where we learned to swim right along with frogs and fish, the deer that stood in the field every evening, the wildflowers. To this day, wildflowers are among my favor-

ite things in the world. Dad once said I was like a young heifer let out to spring pasture when I spied the first violets, trillium and mayflowers of the season.

I took my first forestry course at the University of Maryland. I took it not only because I was interested in it, but to show Dad that I cared about the woods he so loved. I was first in that class. I proudly acknowledge that my brother and I were trouping through the woods with hatchets as soon as we were old enough to hold them. I can vividly describe the years that we spent girdling trees to apply the ghastly smelling purple poison. It was hard work, but when I walk through Dad's woods today I realize it was worth it.

Something More

Besides the memories of virtually growing up in those woods, I remember above all Dad's steadfast commitment to the land. I realize now that often the weekends on the hill were a form of escape from a rigorous week of work that paid our bills. But there was something more - a real vision for the future. He was an environmentalist before such an occupation was the "in" thing to be. It's because of him that

I have such a love of nature and interest in conservation that I will now pass on to my daughter.

Thave also come to realize that all of this would not have been possible without Mom. She was the one who packed and unpacked the car before and after each weekend excursion. She kept two homefires burning, and was there through the good times and bad. I admire her self-sacrifice, her devotion to Dad's dreams and her own commitment to the woods. If Dad was the driving force behind the years we gave to the woods, Mom was the glue that held it all together, made it all possible.

Today I physically remain miles away from the Cattaraugus County land, but those woods will always have a place in my heart.

Margaret Nagle is a professional journalist, currently employed by the University of Maine. She wrote this tribute for her parents, Allegheny Foothills Chapter members, Helen and Bob Nagle, on the occasion of their being awarded 1991 Cattaraugus County Woodland's Manager of the year.

Damn Loggers

By Gregg Mackey

Standing with his eight year old son, Tim, Chuck Smith looked on as the logger felled the marked trees, limbed them up, skidded them to the header and sawed them into logs. Another logger loaded the logs on his truck. Fully loaded, the huge rig grunted and groaned under the weight of the logs as it pulled onto the roadway, slowly picking up speed as it headed away.

Chuck shook his head in disgust. "Inever would have had this place built in the country if I'd known that the property across the way was going to be destroyed by damn loggers. Those beautiful trees - they're gone!" exclaimed Chuck. "Is it wrong for those men to take trees away, Dad?" asked Tim. "Of course it's wrong, Tim! Remember Earth Day? Remember how we learned that we can't live without trees? Of course it's wrong, Tim, and I'm going to do something about it!" proclaimed Chuck.

Just then, Chuck remembered a group of people who had a booth set up at the park on Earth Day - they called themselves "Saviors of the Trees."

Chuck turned away, heading for his brand new spruce framed home. He walked up his yellow pine front steps, across his fir-decked front porch, into his poplar trimmed front room with its gorgeous wide pine floor through his cherry cabineted kitchen, grabbing his checkbook off the hard maple countertop. Next, he headed up the birch staircase and down the hall to his oak wainscoted study, parking himself in his ash office chair at his walnut desk. He then tore a made-from-hemlock-pulp check from his checkbook and wrote out a hefty check to "Saviors of the Trees."

Young Tim then entered the study. Holding the check in his hand, Chuck turned to his son and said, "Tim, this check is one way we can put an end to these loggers. We can't live without trees."

From The Northern Logger, Nov. 1990, Gregg, a part-time logger, resides with his wife, Brenda who is expecting their second child (Nov. 1, 1992) in Porter Corners, NY.

A TIME TO PLANT

By Bonnie Colton

walked the yard this afternoon, stopping every few inches to pick up acorns. The neighbors have a big old oak tree which drops its bounty indiscriminately on both lawns.

Acoms have always fascinated me. Topped with tiny Scottish-looking tams, they almost beg to have faces painted on them. But I put them in a bag instead, planning to take them to the woods and help nature plant them. Our woods have no oak trees and we'd like to encourage some to grow there in the open spots.

Someone once said it takes an optimist to plant a tree. That's because trees take so long to grow up, only an optimist would expect to sit in the shade of one he'd planted or to cut it down for lumber.

Really, it takes optimism to plant any kind of seed. Even in short-term settings such as a garden the soil may not be fertile enough to yield a good crop. The rain may drown the seed or the lack of rain may shrivel it. The sun may scorch it or the lack of enough sunshine may make the soil too cool for germination.

But we plant gardens just the same. And there is plentiful reward in watching them grow. And sometimes there is disappointment when they don't survive. But we still plant them.

And we still plant trees, often rewarded by seeing them grow and thrive. We may not expect to benefit from them personally, but we want to leave the earth in better shape then we found it. There's no denying

Managed Timberland

\$550,000 (\$230 per acre). 2,392+ acres. Upstate New York, 26 miles west of Plattsburgh. Approx. timber value \$680,000 includes est. 4.8 mil. BFsawlogs (38% Sugar Maple, 27% Spruce/Fir). Good long-term forest investment opportunity.

\$260,000 (\$397 per acre). 655 acres, two parcels, 377 acres and 278 acres, each w/road frontage. 8.5 miles west of Pico Ski Area, 15 mins. from downtown Rutland, VT. Good recreation and timberland ownership opportunity

Contact owner for map and info: Thomson Timber Resources Co., P.O. Box 128, Lyme, NH 03768 that trees will help that to happen. If they are given a chance to grow to maturity.

That's a bit like bringing children into the world. We plant the "seeds" and nurture the "seedlings" until they grow strong. Sometimes a prevailing wind bends a young sapling and we tie it to stakes to help it grow straight and tall.

Just so with our teens--sometimes a prevailing fad or social aberration begins to bend them out of shape and we tie them to the stakes of family values and religious heritage and worthwhile goals and long-term perspective, hoping these stakes will straighten them out and help them grow tall and strong in character.

We plant other seeds, too. We plant seeds of friendship when we smile at folks we meet on the street, when we compliment someone for an achievement, when we show interest in someone's projects. We nurture seeds of friendship when we visit someone who is lonely, when we listen to someone who needs to talk, when we lend a helping hand or comfort someone who is hurting.

And when the winds of misunderstanding or injured feelings or differences of opinion threaten to bend and twist a growing friendship, we tie it to the stakes of forgiveness and patience and loyalty and encouragement to help it grow strong again.

And so I gather acorns, knowing some will rot and some will be eaten by squirrels and insects. But some WILL grow. And years from now others will be glad that someone had the foresight and the optimism to plant those trees.

We didn't plant a garden this year--too many other projects. But some of our neighbors did, and have shared their surplus with us. We are certainly glad they took the time to plant those seeds and we appreciated the seeds of friendship sown when they shared their lettuce, cucumbers, squash, zucchinis, tomatoes and beets.

It was years ago we planted the beginnings of our family. Our children have grown tall and strong and, like oak trees in a park, they give refuge and comfort and beauty to those around them. I turn, they have dropped their "acorns" and nurtured the growth of another generation.

"To everything there is a season And a time to every purpose under heaven..."

A time to gather acorns
From beneath the autumn oak,
A time to scatter acorns
In a clearing in the wood,
A time to watch excitedly
As new young growth appears,
A time for satisfaction

A time for raising children
With tender loving care,
A time to set protective stakes
When threat'ning winds abound
A time to loose the family bonds
And let our "young trees" free,
A time to bask in blessings
Of the "new shoots" gathered round.

When the sun and rain are good.

A time to plant a friendship seed
And nurture it along,
A time to sow a helpful deed,
To fill a heart with song.
To everything there is a timeDon't let that time slip byA tree, unplanted, never will
Reach up to touch the sky!

Bonnie serves NYFOA's affiliate THRIFT as their newsletter, HILLTALK's Editor.



1992 Professional Timber Harvester Award

By Linda Luchsinger

The New York State Timber Producers Association has promoted the interests and well being of the timber harvester since its formation in 1970. The Professional Timber Harvester Award is presented once a year to commend a timber harvester for outstanding practices in areas of; management, safety performances, condition and appearance of logging equipment and woodlot, and history in the logging industry.

This years award for PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTER of 1992 goes to Rudy Stempel, owner and operator of Rudy Stempel and Family Sawmill, in East Berne, N.Y. Rudy was nominated by Ralph A. Hotaling, Jr.

Rudy was born into a farming family where he learned to cut trees early for the annual harvest of firewood, used in the large family farmhouse. Rudy grew, and learned well, the correct ways to harvest a woods, but his wood cutting and farming was put on hold while he served in the United States Army in Korea for two years.

Rudy came back to the family farm in East Berne, after his tour of duty and married Sheila. After 2 children it was clear that a home was needed to be built to house his own family---this is where Rudy's first sawmill entered into the picture. It was a "Lane" Hand-set mill, powered by his father's farm tractor.

Rudy knew how to cut trees and work a woods, cutting selectively, so that there would always be trees for future generations, but he did not know how to saw. He went to work for a time at a sawmill located near by, where he was befriended by the sawyer, Fred St. Pierre, from Canada. Fred came to the Stempel farm in the winter of 1955, and built himself a one-room building. By the time spring arrived, Fred had not only taught Rudy how to saw, but also provided a lesson in survival. The need to succeed with his teachings completed, Fred returned to his job in the city.

As Rudy's family grew, he taught his son's Brian, Greg, and Eric how to work a woods. He taught Brian and Greg the lessons of sawing he learned from his teacher Fred, but his son Eric passed away before he had a chance to teach him. Rudy is proud of his boys Brian and Greg and says "They have learned their lessons well when it comes to harvesting trees. When visiting any of their job sites, it is hard to tell if anyone has ever cut trees on them. Logging roads are left clear and groomed, and wherever necessary, landings and areas are seeded to bring back what was there before they worked the woods."

Rudy makes sure every bit of a tree cut is utilized, nothing goes to waste. Hardwood cull logs, as well as hardwood slabs are used for heating homes--sawdust goes to the farmers in the area, for bedding their livestock--bark is used for landscapingand now, with the introduction of a chipper and hog at the sawmill site, all leftovers are chipped and sold to a company who in turn sells the chips to another company that manages the sludge generated by waste in city sewage plants. The end product is a compost that is sold for capping landfills and making turf for ball fields.

Rudy employs a total of seven full-time employees, including his own family, and a few part-time employees when the need arises. All those working for Rudy must maintain the same high quality of workmanship that he requires of himself, so that his lessons and ideals will continue on through his children, long after he stops working.

Rudy's logo, "Plant a Tree Today, For Our Future Tomorrow", appears on all his stationery. Part of the family homestead has been turned into a Tree farm where the grandchildren can learn logging from scratch, and hopefully, will carry the business on for generations to come.

Rudy still has a small hand-set mill, that is kept as a reminder of his beginnings in the world of "logging".

Stempel's Sawmill in Berne, N.Y. was the recent site of a Capital District Chapter woodswalk.

A SUCCESSION THAT NEEDS TO SUCCEED

By Peter S. Levatich

It is evening as I stand by my house at the edge of my woodland and look down into the valley. Only the smoke moves slowly from the chimney. The sky is clear yet full of color. It is very quiet and eternally peaceful.

It was not always like this. About 200 years ago the first settlerarrived and started to remove the woodland., He needed to plant a crop to live. The first name I found belongs to Moses Reed who sells to Daniel Reed in 1816. From then to 1976, when I bought, 20 owners came and went. An 8 year average ownership tenure maybe enough if you have annual crops and need to management plan. Eleazer Carter, the younger, and "Juliette, his wife" already

lived here when he received ownership from his dad in 1841. The foundation of their house is only 100 feet from mine, but a world separates us otherwise.

He and those before him cut with a hand saw, an ax and used fire. There was no gasoline, electricity, or motor power and the woman was the only home appliance. They took the forest down with an enormous labor. I am using the world's best forestry equipment to improve, with care, what I found on the land and take a hot shower at the end of the day. I have a management plan, and a large assistance from modern science technology. I do not need the forest to live.

The cycle is almost complete. But as the woodland darkens around me and mystery

creeps into the shadows, I wish I knew what will follow when I am also gone. Will anyone care to continue? And not just continue, but keep it up for 50 years at least, until the first forest crop rotation is completed? Eight year long ownership periods are too short for this. And the size of the land should not get smaller by subdivisions lest management be threatened even more. Should I commit this woodland to the 480-As process and force my successors? Should I donate the woodland to the Conservancy? Should I ask the kids, who rightly pursue their own agenda all over this country, to come back and take over? Could they do so even if they wanted to? Should I just have faith that whoever acquires the land will see value in sustained harvests, in quality, in the readily apparent beauty of a balanced forest stand and a

THE SAD FOREST

By John H. Ward

"Can you hear me?" I said aloud to myself as I stared across the pond. "Is this where you are now?" Although I was sure he could hear me. I didn't wait for a response. Suddenly a twig cracked from a branch over the pond and made a tiny splash in the water; I half smiled. My grandfather, who had passed away approximately three months earlier was somehow inexplicably present and I, standing among the tall grass on his tree farm, was quietly remembering him. I had been here so many times before; this land in the hills of New York where I had many wonderful times while growing up. I remember running and playing over every inch of ground here when I was younger. Yet it wasn't until I was older that I began to really appreciate its beauty and depth. It had become a very important place in my life. Until my grandfather's death, I never realized how special it was to me. It was as though he was part of this land. Learning to fully appreciate it was part of understanding his legacy. Looking around me, I could see how each and every detail of the land was beginning to change, how it was reacting to the loss of its friend, and caretaker.

This land of which I speak is called a tree farm because it is primarily used to grow and sell Christmas trees, as well as the growing of trees for timber and firewood. Actually, "tree farm" is really no more than a fancy name for a forest, with a half dozen fields of Christmas trees. My grandfather had purchased this 150 acre

forest over thirty years ago to farm Christmas trees. Sometime shortly after he acquired the property, he had a small area excavated, built a manmade pond, and converted a chicken coop into a cabin to be placed near the pond. It became a private retreat for our family.

This was the first time I had visited the tree farm since my grandfather's death and I knew it would be a little strange at first. It was at the time in autumn just before the leaves begin to fall, and the trees were completely full. This spot is particularly beautiful to visit in autumn because the trees turn to colors more brilliant than anyplace I know. I had been here around this time almost every year of my life, but I never remember it as beautiful as it was this particular moment. The colors were astounding: vibrant vellow, orange, and reds filled the landscape. The trees looked like soldiers marching in the funeral of their fallen commander, dressed in valiant, shining uniforms with solemn faces and rehearsed motion. I could feel my grandfather's presence everywhere. It was as though he had painted the landscapedressed the soldiers, trained them thoroughly, and now they had to learn to stand on their own.

At the same time I noticed something else. The pond, dark and glazed, had always varied in its water level, but now it was different. The water was lower than I ever remembered seeing it. Again I felt that this was the land reacting mournfully to the loss of the man who had so carefully

tended to it for all these years. There was something undeniably correct about what I was seeing.

Part of what has always made this land special to me is that there is something peaceful and constant to be observed. During this particular visit, the land had much to tell me. The shrunken, shallow pond was telling me that it was all right to stop and think, to miss someone when he's gone. The vibrant, glowing trees were reassuring me with their strength and telling me that nothing bad has happened, nothing wrong; that when the beautiful and strong pass, they remain beautiful and strong, and their elegance will be felt throughout the world they touched.

Then I remembered how my grandfather had made one last trip to see the tree farm shortly before he died. I recalled how I had hurried the day before he arrived, to mow the grass and straighten everything so that it would be perfect, and so he would always remember it as perfect.

I glanced around at the scenery again, saw the mournful pond, the decorated trees, and I felt better knowing that I wasn't alone in missing him.

John's grandfather Howard O. Ward was a frequent contributor to the NYS FOREST OWNER and awarded the NY Forest Owners Association Service Award.

"Our land is not just a tree farm; it is my father."

Nancy Ward Riggs

Succession

teeming ecosystem; in biodiversity, or in whatever the next term will be? Can anyone help me decide? Or is that not possible...?!

The light comes on in the house and I better go in to tend to the necessities of the moment. The spell is not broken, only postponed; to be taken up again on another day. There has to be an answer to all this

somewhere; a solution will need to be found. Maybe it lies in education. Perhaps in a cultural strengthening, some sort of an ethos which we ought to build in ourselves and our fellow men.

We should not give up on this.

Peter, a former Director of NYFOA, hosted a 1992 Fall Meeting Woodswalk for NYFOA.



"If I can't have Roots; then, Let me have Wings." Leo Szilard, early nuclear scientist.

Ask A Forester: The Black Locust

By Michael R. Bridgen

Black locust has a "French Connection".

Henry of Navarre, son of Anthony of Bourbon, the duke of Vendome, and Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre, was formally crowned King Henry IV of France in 1594. While struggling with the growing demands of religious tolerance at home, Henry encouraged explorations in the New World, such as those of Samuel de Champlain.

Henry IV was also interested in agriculture. Two of his herbalists, a father and son team, Jean and Vespasien Robin, introduced into France plant specimens they had collected in North America. One of the new species was black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia* L.

France began importing seedlings soon after the Robin's findings. Plantings were established across Europe. Large quantities of seed were imported into England during the early 1800's. Seedlings were established on the Great Hungarian Plain for soil stabilization at the beginning of the 19th century. Other countries currently cultivating the species include the Republic of Korea, Hungary, the former Soviet Union, Romania, France, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and China. Next to Eucalyptus, locust is probably the most widely planted broadleaf tree species in the world today.

Locust also has a "New York" connection. It has been planted throughout the state, even in the most northern counties. It does very well on Long Island and in the Hudson River Valley. A variety, Shipmast locust, was first introduced into New York around 1686. (This variety probably originated in Randolph County, West Virginia.) Farmers used it for fence posts, lumber and shipmasts. Stands of trees would be established at the birth of a child to provide a daughter's dowry or a son's initial lumber supply. Locust tree nails used in the American fleet's ships were instrumental in bringing about the British defeat on Lake Champlain during the war of 1812.

Also called yellow, white, red, green, post, or honey locust, or false acacia, it is a medium size tree. Although individual trees have been recorded over 100 feet tall, 40 to 60 feet is an average height. Black locust can be easily recognized by its leaves and thorns, or spines, on the branches. The leaves are about ten inches long. They are compound, made up of 7 to 19 oval or elliptical leaflets, each about one to two

inches long. Pairs of thorns develop at the leaf base. The thorns may remain on the stem for several years, and falling into a locust thicket can be a painful experience!

Locust flowers develop after the leaves. They form clusters of white, fragrant, perfect flowers. Honey produced from them does not crystallize.

A member of the Bean Family, locust produces seed pods. Each pod is four to eight inches long and contains four to eight seeds. Like other legumes, its roots maintain a symbiotic association with *Rhizobium* bacteria, which convert atmospheric nitrogen into an organic form available to plants. Locust trees usually "fix" more nitrogen than they use. The annual shedding of leaves, twigs and fine roots increase soil fertility wherever they are grown.

Black locust produces a heavy, or highdensity wood fiber. Chemical extractives in the wood give it both a yellow-brown appearance and resistance to insects and fungal decay. The wood is frequently used for fence posts, mine timbers, railroad ties, and stakes. In Europe, locust is cut into lumber for building construction. It burns well and is highly desired for firewood. There is growing interest to use locust in fuelwood or biomass plantations.

Although it grows best on a low acid, or near-neutral soil, locust can survive on very highly acid soils. Sites which are too exposed or which have soils too compacted for other species may successfully be planted to locust. Surface mine lands in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky are frequently planted with locust seedlings. Not only does it survive the harsh sites, it improves soil quality, allowing natural succession of other forest trees.

Ecological value, fast growth rate, and useful wood products make black locust a desirable tree. So why isn't it used more extensively in the United States? Most people who know locust often consider it ugly, deformed, maybe even grotesque. Its appearance is caused by insect damage. Here in its native country, locust is attacked by several insect pests. Locust borers are the most damaging ones. Borer larvae drill into the sapwood and heartwood, leaving openings for heart rot fungi. Trees affected by these borers will often have large, decaying openings on the main stem where it will often break. Two other damaging insect pests are the locust leaf miner and the locust twig borer. Although



Black locust has deep, verticle ridges.

less destructive than the locust borer, they can cause deformity, loss of aesthetic value and growth loss. Fortunately, these pests have not been introduced to Europe or Asia.

Proper silviculture practices can help insure good growth in a locust stand. A planting site should have a good supply of moisture, but be well-drained. Weeds and other competition must be eliminated or controlled. Phosphorus fertilization usually gives a positive response, as it does to all leguminous species. When these conditions are met, black locust may out-grow insect damage and develop into useful and physically attractive trees.

Dr. Bridgen is an assistant professor with the New York State Ranger School, the ForestTechnologyProgramforSUNYESF. He teaches dendrology, aerial photogrammetry and silviculture.

Ken Westfall

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NEW CORPS OF MASTER FOREST OWNERS CERTIFIED

New York's "Master Forest Owner/CO-VERTS Program" graduated 34 Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers from a 3day training held at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. These experienced and highly motivated forest owners are now certified as "Master Forest Owners" and are ready to assist neighbor forest owners with managing their forests. The term "COVERTS", meaning good grouse habitat, refers to a similar program funded by The Ruffed Grouse Society.

The program's goal is to have the volunteer MFO's meet with local, less experienced forest owners to encourage and motivate them to practice sound forest management principles. While at the training, the MFO's participated in classroom and field exercises on sawtimber and wildlife management, forest economics, and forest ecology. In addition, they learned how forest owner needs can be met with the assistance of public and private agencies and organizations, and the services of professional resource managers such as foresters.

Forest owners from across the state may contact a MFO, free of charge, for information about the program and/or to discuss opportunities for obtaining the most from one's woods.

A survey of 1991's class (the program's first) of 29 MFO's indicated that a minimum of 151 forest owners were visited, representing a total ownership of nearly 15,000 acres.

The NY Master Forest Owner/CO-VERTS program is sponsored by the Ruffed Grouse Society, The National Wild Turkey Federation and the NY Forest Stewardship Program with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NY Forest Owners Association. Training for this year's Master Forest Owners was conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension in conjunction with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry faculty, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) foresters, professional consulting and industry foresters, 1991 MFO's, and volunteers from the NY Forest Owners Association.

For more information about the program's benefits and a list of MFO's near you, contact either your County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office or NYS DEC Regional Office. Any questions about the program will be answered by the Program Director, Gary R. Goff, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001, (607)255-2824.



1992 Master Forest Owners

Cayuga County Lyle Aldrich RD #4, box 90 Moravia, NY 13118 (315) 497-1316

Columbia County Robert Gallow Catskill View Road Hollowville, NY 12530 (518) 851-9445

Delaware County Richard Knight RR 1, Box 184 Hancock, NY 13783 (607) 637-2441

Jack McShane 466 W. Walnut Street Long Beach, NY 11561 (516) 431-8021

Dutchess County John & Jane Geisler Milewood Road Verbank, NY 12585 (914) 677-9909

Robert Gunther P.O. Box 368 Millbrook, NY 12545 (914) 677-3400

Essex County Gerald Smith P.O. Box 44 Elizabethtown, NY 12932 (518) 873-9515

Franklin County Richard Regan 414 Grace Court Holbrook, NY 11741 (516) 585-3410

Garth Stephen RFD #1, Box 1010 Chateaugay, NY 12920 (518) 497-3351

Fulton County Walter Kaulfuss 387 Cty. Hwy. 146 Gloversville, NY 12078 (518) 661-6053

Onondaga County Thomas Ellison 2851 Estey Road Manlius, NY 13104 (315) 682-9376

Vem Hudson 252 Chatfield Road Elbridge, NY 13060 (315) 689-3314

Bill Minerd 1123 Cold Springs Rd, Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 451-3712

Robert Sykes 4786 Foster Road Elbridge, NY 13060 (315) 673-3691

Ontario County Donald & Suzanne Grosz 7100 Gulick Road Naples, NY 14512 (716) 374-5205

John Keohane 7000 Porter Road Naples, NY 14512 (716) 374-5595

Robert & Patricia Rector 160 Cty. Rd. 27 Clifton Springs, NY 14432 (315) 597-2587

Mark West 4312 Geneva Tumpike Canandaigua, NY 14424 (716) 396-0065

Oswego County Wendell Rowell 9494 Ellisburg Rd. Sandy Creek, NY 13145 (315) 387-5553

St. Lawrence County Theo & Harry Howe HC 61, Box 454 Massena, NY 13662 (315) 769-5340

Donald O'Shea 822 Pearl Street Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-5137

Saratoga County William Clarke 182 Wells Road Porter Corners, NY 12859 (518) 893-2354

Schoharie County John Riedl Gusty Comers, Box 24 Gilboa, NY 12076 (607) 588-7711

Tioga County Robert Weber 93 Kelsey Road Candor, NY 13743 (607) 659-3395

Tompkins County Marjorie Devine 610 Braley Hill Rd. Brooktondale, NY 14817 (607) 659-3127

Peter Levatich 158 Bailor Road Brooktondale, NY 14817 (6107) 539-7049

Ulster County Robert Cruickshank Cruickshank Road Big Indian, NY 12410 (914) 254-5764

Warren County Erwin & Polly Fullerton RD 2, Box 530 Hudson Falls, NY 12839 (518) 747-7230

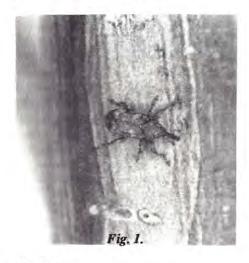
Charles Jefts Old Post Road Lake George, NY 12845 (518) 668-5342

Cellist Don and Violinist Suzanne Grosz, members of NYFOA's Western Finger Lakes Chapter, acknowledge that since childhood and over a professional career as musicians, "The wood in our instruments is not dead." - Don Grosz during the recent workshop at Arnot Forest,

WHITE PINE WEEVIL

By Douglas C. Allen

In 1917, Julia Ellen Rogers published a book on the common trees of North America. Her description of white pine invites the reader to "study a sapling pine and see in its vigorous young growth the fulfillment of nature's plan, before storms have broken any of the branches and changed the mathematics of the pattern." Those of you who have seen virgin stands of white pine at the Pack Forest in Warrensburg or at isolated locations throughout the Adirondacks, have some appreciation for the straight and vigorous image that Rogers portrayed for this "prince of the forest". Little did she know, nor did anyone else for that matter, that once the original"ancient" pineries were cut a small snout beetle would forever alter the mathematics of young white pine growth throughout much of the tree's range.



The Insect

White pine weevil adults (Fig. 1) are one-quarter of an inch long and brown with distinct patches of whitish to reddish brown scales. The head is tapered anteriorly and the mouthparts occur at the end of a slender beak or snout. This insect is considered the greatest obstacle to growing quality white pine in the eastern United States.

Life History

Adults overwinter in the litter and emerge from late March through April. In the northeast, emerging females seek white pine or Norway spruce where they feed on the inner bark tissue of shoots and deposit eggs in punctures that they excavate in the bark immediately below the terminal bud.

White, grub-like larvae hatch from the eggs and feed downward beneath the bark, which quickly girdles and kills the leader (Fig. 2A). Before feeding ceases, they also destroy the previous one to two years' increment of height growth in white pine. When feeding is completed, larvae pupate in coffin-like cavities excavated in the



Fig. 2A. White pine leader (current year's ht. growth, black arrow) and whorl of lateral branches killed by weevil. White arrow indicates extent of feeding.

center of the dead leader. The cavities are lined with small, excelsior-like wood shavings. These "chip cocoons" protect the immobile pupa. The next generation of adults emerges between late July and early September, at which time the new weevils feed on the inner bark of branch tips before descending to the litter.

The Damage

Weevil injury is important if a landowner wants to manage white pine for sawtimber. Attacks are usually confined to young trees less than 20 feet tall. Larval feeding significantly reduces merchantable height and causes a sweep or crook in the butt log, the most valuable section of the tree bole. A crook results in white pine when the terminal shoot dies and one of the lateral shoots in the second or third whorl of branches (depending on how far down the stem larvae feed) takes over as the leader. In Norway spruce a new bud below the dead terminal forms a new leader, preventing the crook that is so damaging in white pine.

Value

Wood from white pine is light and durable, but soft and easily worked. During the 1950s, '60s and early '70s, stumpage prices of white pine sawtimber were dismal, fluctuating between \$8 to \$50 per thousand board feet. Prices have crept upward in the last couple of decades and during the late 1980s and early 1990s average value was \$75 to \$120 per thousand. As sources of western softwoods become off limits to harvesting, the value of our eastern pines may continue to increase. Recently, 6.9 million acres of spotted owl habitat in the pacific northwest, the most productive forestland in the world and a major source of our softwood lumber, was taken out of production. The demand for this material is not likely to decrease, so markets will look elsewhere.

Stewardship Recommendations

If your objective is to grow commercially valuable white pine, there are a number of ways to minimize weevil damage.

Direct Control:

1.In young plantations, physically remove (clip and destroy) infested leaders as soon as they begin to wilt or turn color, usually in early July. The most effective method of pruning is to also remove all lateral shoots except one in the whorl immediately beneath the dead or injured portion of the stem (Fig. 2B). This eliminates competition for the leader position and accelerates straightening of the new terminal.

2. Treat the leader and adjacent lateral branches with an appropriate insecticide in late March-early April (when adults emerge and seek egg laying sites) or early fall (when adults feed prior to wintering in the litter). Studies in Maine suggest that fall treatment may be more effective, because weevils are accessible for a longer time, timing is not as critical, weevils are exposed on more horizontal targets (lateral branches) than in the spring, and beneficial insects inside infested leaders are protected from the insecticide.

Indirect Control:

1. Shading of white pine by a hardwood overstory has long been recognized as a viable silvicultural method that discourages weevil attack. Shading makes terminals less attractive to weevils, but it also retards height growth.

2.A recent analysis of plantations in Quebec suggests that cumulative weevil damage is less on well to moderately drained sandy loam soils. White pine grows most rapidly under this condition, which decreases the probability of weevil attack. That is, trees are more likely to grow out of the susceptible height range in a shorter period of time.



Fig. 2B. White pine after weevil damage has been pruned.

Final Option

Landowners who have no interest in the commercial value of their white pine can ignore the weevil. Even though tree form may suffer and height growth is impeded, weevil damage will not kill the host. Most trees eventually overcome an attack and attain a reasonably stately appearance.

I thank Mike Greason, NYS, DEC, Albany for information on stumpage prices and Larry Abrahamson, SUNY, CESF, Syracuse for reviewing an early draft of this article.

Professor Allen is a forest entomologist with the FAculty of Environmental and Forest Biology at ESF SUNY. This is his sixth article in the series.

Winter Tour a Cure for Cabin Fever NYFOA Offers Southern and Alpine Tours



Lou Sand (Mrs. Bob Sand) and Massachusetts forest owner Daniel Cotton (r) marveling at the Noble Fir Christmas trees they encountered at this tree farm in Denmark. The young forester at left, Fin Jacobsen, was a sort of consulting forester on the island of Funen.

Just about the time you'll be wanting to bust out and hurry spring along, NYFOA can take you where spring is already arriving.

Join NYFOA for a "cabin-fever-cure tour" headed south March 13-23. We'll be visiting a wide variety of forest owners along the way, folks much like ourselves, and some pretty extraordinary ones, too.

Plans call for visits to one of the southernmost maple syrup producers in the US, to Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia; and to Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, often called the "cradle of American Forestry."

We'll spend a couple nights at the fabulous Callaway Gardens where you relax, walk in the gorgeous and manicured landscape, and even learn how they operate their private hunting facilities.

We'll also have a get-together in Georgia with the well-established southern Forest Farmers Association to see how it operates and what it offers its members.

But it's not all forestry. We'll make some stops at a few well-known and fascinating stops such as Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens, too.

Best of all, you'll be traveling with

people who share your interest, people who'll become lifelong friends.

Interested? Check the box and we'll send you the details.

Those Gorgeous Alps

It's hard to think of the fabled Alps without thinking of forests and cordwood piled tight against snug chalets. Just how do the rugged folks of the Swiss, Austrian, and Bavarian Alps manage their woods? If you haven't been there to see it first-hand, you're in for an experience!

We're planning an Alpine tour May 9-23 and it promises to be as memorable as all the other NYFOA tours of the past: visits to private woodland owners - sometimes ending up at a little cabin for a toast to the forest, sometimes a dinner hosted by a local forest-owners' group. As always, we allow free time for poking around small town antique shops and farmers' markets as well as visits to "must see' attractions like King Ludwig's castles.

Want to come? Find out more by checking the box and sending it in.

Tours are being arranged by Alan Knight, who has organized many NYFOA and other agricultural tours over the past 15 years.

Yes, I'd like to find out more about these NYFOA tours. Please send me information about					
۵	the NYFOA Southern Tour March 13-23.				
	the NYFOA Alpine Tour May 9-23.				
Plea	ase check the tour(s) of interest, clip, and return to:				

Alan Knight, 96 Targosh Road, Candor, New York 13743.

(Please include your name and address when returning this form.)

R.J. Fox, Editor RD#3, Box 88 Moravia, NY 13118

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1992 NY State Fair



Photo by William Snyder, Grown by Truman McDonald in Campbell, NY



Letters

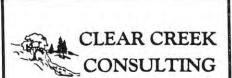
Dear Editor,

Maybe I've missed it, but I don't remember ever seeing anything much about Japanese Larch in your publication.

I've got thousands of beauties - they must be good for <u>something</u>.

It would be nice if you could have a qualified forester and marketer come upt with a short article.

> Thank you, A. Feldmeir Little Falls, NY



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WOODLOT CALENDAR

Nov. 4: WFL 7:30 P.M., Extension Bldg., Highland Ave., Rochester; "Managing for Wildlife" Audio/visual program by Beth & David Buckley.

Nov. 7: NFC 10 a.m. Woodswalk in Zoar Country. Meet at Vail & Unger Roads, Town of Collins. Call Tom Casey 716-322-7398.

Nov. 13: THRIFT 7:30 p.m., Historical Perspectives on TUG HILL, Speaker - Lyle Raymond. Call (315) 376-5595.

Nov. 14: AFC 10 a.m., Extension Bldg., Ellicottville. Growing Hybrid Chestnuts as a cash crop. Call Peter Childs 716-557-2529.

Dec. 4: TIO 6:30 p.m. Dish to Pass Xmas Party, Arnot Forest 607-699-3846.

Dec. 5: NFC 10 a.m., Hayes Hollow Road, town of Colden. Woodlotmarked for harvest. Call Dave Colligan 716-832-3611.

Dec. 12: AFC 1 to 5 p.m., Christmas Party at Joann and Mark Kurtis, 36 State Park Ave., Salamanca. Call 716-557-2529.

Dec. (): THRIFT, Holiday Dinner - Election Results, at Colton's 315-376-5595.