

FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

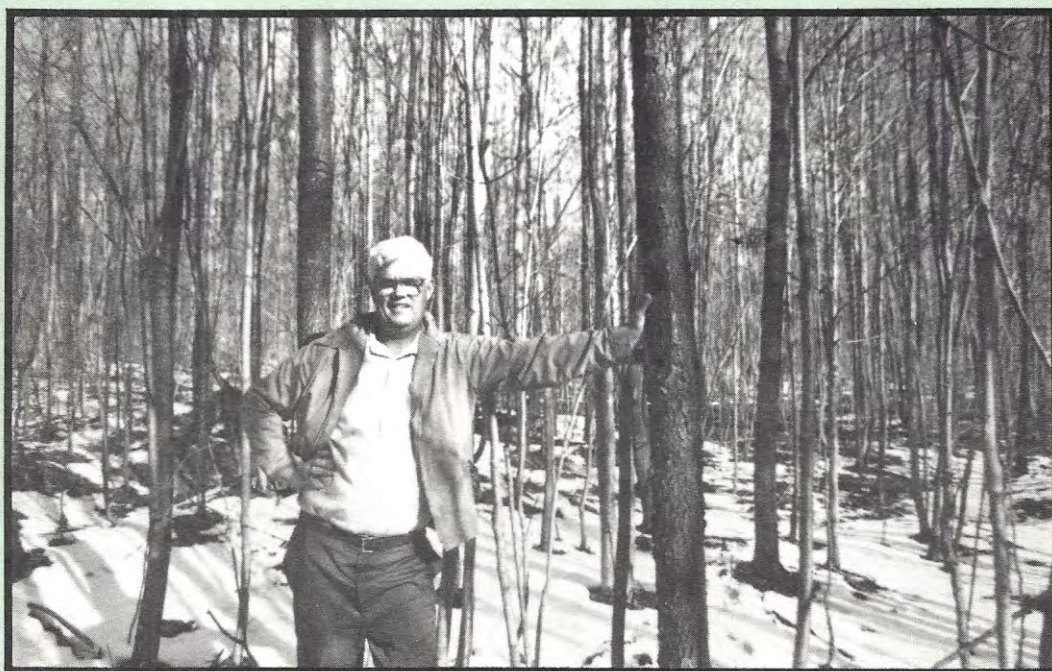
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

People and Trees; Partners in Time

THE NEW YORK



Clearcut!



Clearcut 'n 20

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NYS DEC Assistant Regional Forester Robert Demeree discusses the practice of clearcutting in an article that begins on Page 3. The photos were taken in the Cuyler State Forest by Jim Peek.

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Karen Kellicutt, Editor

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 is 30 days prior to publication in March.

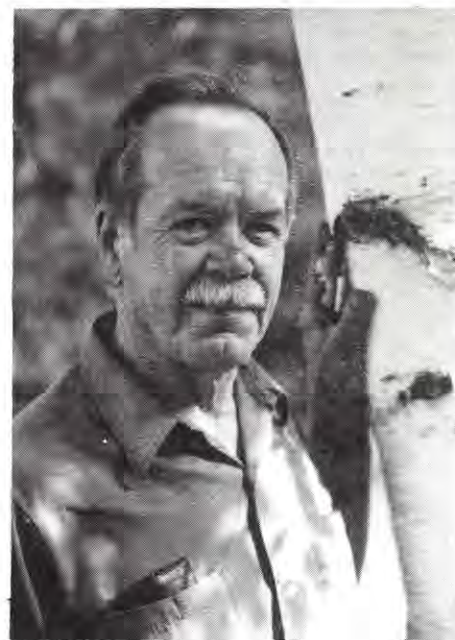
Please address all membership and change of address requests to Executive Director, P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

President's Message

Members living within driving distance of Gurnee Woods (owned by NYFOA Director Vern Hudson) should make every effort to attend the January 26th woodwalk. This is our first attempt at scheduling a winter woodwalk and has the additional novelty of being conducted on X-country skis. The Hudsons operate a commercial X-country ski venture as one of their uses of their property and NYFOA members will learn something of the possibilities and pitfalls of this business in case they have an interest in trying it out on their properties.

This is just one example of the interesting things that members do with their land. In talking with members and reading about chapter and affiliate activities, I have come across a number of other innovative land uses that you don't find in the forestry text books. The best way to learn about these kinds of things is to get out and see them on woodwalks or to talk with other landowners at chapter meetings. If you want to get the most out of your membership in NYFOA, there is no substitute for taking an active part in the organization.

One of the last bills passed by Congress in late October was the Farm Bill. This is the first time an agriculture bill has had any provisions dealing with forestry. Several of these programs will be of interest to NYFOA members and other private woodland owners.



Allen Horn

The Forest Stewardship program that you have heard so much about has been funded for another year. Congress must have been impressed by what was done the first year because they doubled the appropriation for the next fiscal year. A new Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) was also funded. It will be a cost sharing program for multiple-use benefits. This will be broader in scope than the cost-sharing for timber production under the older FIP. The money for State and Private Forestry increased from \$104 million to \$183 million. This is the money that in part finances the DEC foresters who come out to your property and advise you. Let's hope this extra federal money will at least preserve the level of service you have been getting.

Allen Horn

Clear-Cut — Myths, Madness and Controversy

by Robert Demeree
Assistant Regional Forester,
NYDEC Region 7

Clear-cut is a word that always raises controversy. The mention or suggestion of a clearcut in any area of the country is bound to raise the hackles of any so-called environmentalist within a hundred miles as well as a raft of other people who may not normally be environmental activists — the hunters, hikers, campers, bird watchers, etc.

Why all the hullabaloo? What is it about clearcuts that are so controversial? That is easy to answer. The Society of American Foresters defines clearcutting as the cutting of all trees two inches and larger at diameter breast height in an area large enough so that a significant portion of the clearcut area will receive one hundred percent sunlight during the day. In central New York, a one acre or larger clearcut will fill the bill. So it is easy enough to see why clearcutting is so controversial. One day, there is a stand of trees and the next day or the next week they are all gone, leaving nothing but raw stumps and generally, tops limbs and debris. To add insult to injury, the leaves or needles from the cut trees on the remaining tops turn to a rust red color and remain there for a period of four to eight weeks and look very unsightly — not a pretty picture. Worst of all, to most of the concerned citizens, it appears that the trees are gone "forever". Also, people are convinced that clearcuts are motivated only by short term greed.

If clearcutting is such madness, why hasn't it simply been abandoned? Not only has it not been abandoned on a national level, it is probably slightly increasing in total area per year. Why would forest managers continue to fly in the face of adverse public opinion? Why indeed? The answer is simply that clearcutting works. Almost without exception, clearcuts are regenerated to desirable species either by natural means or by planting by man. It is not uncommon in Central New York to have 40,000 seedlings per acre be established after clearcutting. Once regenerated, the clearcut area can be left to grow for the period of the rotation age

which can be from 20 to 300 years. The regenerated stand can be cultured at appropriate times to thin out undesired species, trees of low value and vigor, and achieve optimum spacing to assure good growth of the stand.

Probably the biggest single reason to apply the clearcutting technique is that the desired regeneration is shade intolerant in nature. By this, I mean that the desired species will not grow well in shade. Perfect examples of this in Central New York are black cherry, ash, and oak. It is impossible to regenerate these three species without some form of heavy cutting to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor.

Also, clearcutting is administratively easy. Picture this scenario. You own 1010 acres of forest land. One thousand acres is totally forested without any streams, swamps, or any other interference to management, and 10 acres is occupied by an excellent road network that will allow access and harvest throughout the tract. You, as the owner, decide to practice even-aged management. Remember the term "even-aged". You go to the far corner of your tract and clearcut 10 acres. The next year, you go to another corner of the tract and clearcut another 10 acres and the next year, the same and every year thereafter for 100 years. Obviously, the trees regenerated in the first clearcut (of course, we are assuming successful regeneration of valuable species) will be 100 years old and ready to harvest. What could be easier? There is a harvest every year to provide income and at the end of 100 years, the owner has 100 10-acre stands, everything is wonderful, and you are a proud 130 year old landowner.

Sounds crazy? Only the age of the landowner. With the exception of streams, swamps, cliffs, high peaks, and other impediments to management, many of the forests of the world are managed under something that approximates this scheme. Many of the forests of the world, for one reason or another, are generally unsuited for any type of



Clearcut 'n 100. Photo: Jim Peek

partial cutting system. The firs of the west are too tall and immediately blow down if thinned, the pines of the south routinely regenerate to an undesirable scrub oak complex if managed by a system of partial cuts, and the marvelous oaks of Central Europe would rapidly be replaced by beech (also true in Central New York) and on and on. In fact, the Northeast, with its maple, beech, hemlock complex, is probably one of the few regions of the world where partial cutting is a viable option.

Careful management by an aware forester or forest owner can make partial cutting, "uneven age management", work in some areas of the Northeast. Skillful manipulation of the stand that keeps a representation of vigorous healthy trees in all diameter classes is necessary. The danger here is the loss of the intolerants such as ash and black cherry, and because tolerants such as beech and hemlock have such low value, they will be eliminated, and a stand of pure sugar maple may result. Such a monoculture has some inherent dangers. The price of sugar maple may fall periodically due to fashion changes in the furniture industry, but worse, monocultures are prone to attacks from insects and diseases.

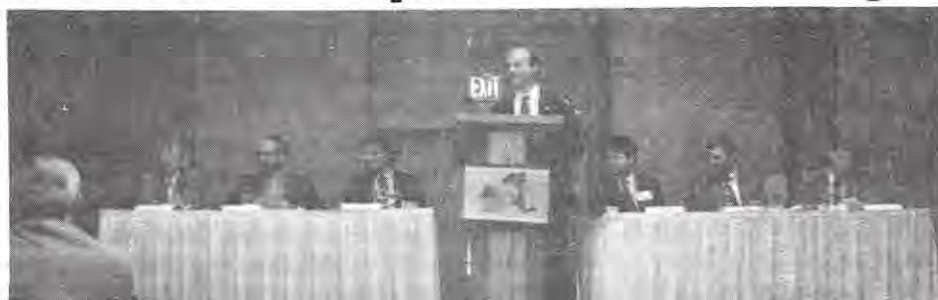
(Continued on Page 19)

Tree Cutting Ordinances — Topic of Fall Meeting

The Empire State Forest Products Association held its annual Fall membership meeting November 8th, in Ithaca, New York. The meeting, entitled "Timber Harvesting Practices; Local Controls & State Directions?," highlighted the issue of local harvesting ordinances and the related concerns of industry, local governments and others. Deliberations by Chemung County to promote county wide rules along with a number of other local instances within the past year have sparked renewed interest in the subject. The meeting provided a forum for industry and local government to come together and develop an appreciation for each other's concerns and to discuss alternatives that might serve to address local needs.

A panel discussion featured both local government and industry speakers on some real life examples in several regions of the state. Speakers were asked to talk on their concerns and interest in several specific ordinances and then respond to questions. Local government representation was provided by Kevin DeLaughter, Senior Planner for the Town of Colonie (a suburb of Albany), Peter Berger, Attorney for the Town of Wawarsing (in the lower Hudson Valley), and Lee Hanle Younge, Environmental Management Council Staff Consultant for Chemung County. For the industry side: Charles Gerber, Vice-President of Lumac Company in Ballston Spa spoke of problems with the Colonie ordinance; Aaron Robinson, owner of Robinson Sawmill in Berryville, commented on his concerns with the Town of Wawarsing's harvesting ordinance; and, Mike Hanlon, Controller for Cotton-Hanlon, Inc. spoke on the Chemung County proposal.

The panel generated some excellent discussions. A number of alternatives with broad appeal were suggested such as a notifiational process to hold individuals more accountable and to help establish what, if any, real problems exist. There are a number of state guidelines and laws governing harvesting practices that raise the question of a need for additional local controls. Probably the most important result of the discussion was the improved understanding and



Left to right:

Lee Hanle Youge (Chemung Co. EMC Staff Consultant, Reg. 8), Peter Berger (Attorney, Town of Wawarsing, Reg. 3), Kevin DeLaughter (Sr. Planner, Town of Colonie, Reg. 4), Bob Stegemann (Ex. V.P. ESFPA), Mike Hanlon (Controller, Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.), Aaron Robinson (Owner, Robinson Sawmill, Reg. 3), Charles Gerber (V.P., Lumac Co.).

appreciation of each party's needs and concerns. More of that is needed on issues like this.

The discussion then turned to the state's view on the subject. Langdon Marsh, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, discussed the state's interest in resolving the issue on a statewide level indicating that the DEC, at this time, had no interest in promoting statewide regulation. The Department feels there is little justification for further controls. The existing laws are adequate in mitigating sedimentation to water bodies which is a primary concern. The Department's efforts would focus on enforcement of current laws. Marsh indicated that the forest community may want to consider so-called right-to-harvest legislation as an alternative to what appears to be a growing patchwork of local restrictions.

He also discussed SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) implications of local ordinances and state permits. The question of SEQRA application to timber harvests in relation to stream crossing permits had been raised earlier this year. The industry, through ESFPA, expressed grave concerns over possible lengthy time delays in permit processing. Bob Stegemann, Executive Vice-President of ESFPA, expressed Marsh's comments with the statement, "This is the challenge, that the Governor's Task Force on the Forest Industry stated, needs to be met. Government and industry need to develop a better working relationship and ways to deal with situations like this that do not

unnecessarily diminish the competitiveness of New York's forest products industry." Lang indicated that the Department has developed what may be an acceptable solution to all interests. This will involve simplifying permitting procedures for stream crossing permits and expanding a model for permit administration, now used in DEC Region 5, statewide. This should reduce turn around time on stream crossing permits significantly.

Marsh conveyed the Governor's commitment, through DEC and DED, to promote a healthy forest industry. Lang stated that "the industry's presence is important in helping to maintain open space and other environmental values." These same views were heard and seen in the Governor's Task Force on the Forest Industry, as well as, the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century.

Submitted by Kevin King -
ESFPA Executive Assistant

SPEAK OUT

Letters concerning timber ordinances and other subjects of concern to forest owners are always welcome. Send to R. Fox, Dresserville RD, Moravia, N.Y. 13118.

YOU ARE THERE

John Marchant, Executive Director NYFOA, presented NYFOA as one of seven case studies at a 3-day Symposium (Oct. 24-26) On Volunteers And Communication In Natural Resource Education held in East Windsor, Connecticut. The Symposium drew a national audience, provided some useful exchanges, and suggests NYFOA must be doing it right.

Tree Cutting Ordinances

In addition to the principal subject of the fall meeting the 50 ESFPA attendees heard from Doug Monteith of SUNY CESF, report on the ESFPA "Information Needs Survey" — of the nearly 25% response ratio, "Safety is clearly a very important matter to the industry", Tree Farm Program's Mike Virga, Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper, stated there were 250 new tree farms for 1990; Mike complimented NYFOA's Ex. Director John Marchant for closer ties; the tree farm program may require higher standards and some fees prior to enrollment; and finally, Mike remarked with pleasure that on recent tours and walks, he doesn't recognize anyone. John and Harriet Hamilton, WFL Chapter, were especially recognized as outstanding tree farmer for 1990 (Jul/Aug FO). The Hamiltons also captured a door prize.

In reference to the tree cutting ordinances, some additional notes: There was disagreement amongst attendees and panelists regarding the degree of participation by industry, owners, and officials in the preliminary planning of regulations. The laws are crisis driven, originate with short-lived peripheral aesthetic concerns directed at environmental management and end as intrusive regulation of buyers and sellers. The timing of harvest and yard inventories with the issuance of permits involves additional capital, capital interest, possible layoffs and idle machinery; and all, at a risk to market fluctuations and public disfavor. The principal focus is misdirected at the industry; it is more logically placed at the landowner who must bear all costs ultimately and has a direct responsibility to the environment. From a reading of the Town of Colonie ordinance, the law essentially prohibits timber harvesting (30% agricultural, but 75,000 people per 59 sq. mile) on over ¼ acre except for development. In the Town of WaWarsing the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review process is triggered by the ordinance and requires 12 sets of data which effectively deprives small woodlot owners of the right to market. Why is forestry treated so

harshly when agriculture does more harm to the environment?

Prompted by a well received comment made at the meeting by David Taber, he was interviewed by THE NY FOREST OWNER:

Taber said that from his experience in working with: (1) local governments, (2) people that were involved in establishing timber harvesting ordinances, and (3) organizations promoting regulations of logging, he had observed a number of phenomena. He stated that people make "career decisions", while taking positions relative to the forest environment, which benefit the person's economic security in the short run, regardless of long term implications, which may not be as beneficial. Lawmakers like laws.

Taber added that it appears that most owners of large tracts (100 acres or more) of forest land did not seem to be overwhelming advocates of logging ordinances. However, it seemed that bedroom-community house/lot owners in rural towns, those people who do not own much, if any forest land, had an interest in "preserving" landscapes, the "natural beauty of the forested hillsides" of their local environment. And he said that it was in one's self interest to vote to gain environmental benefits at the expense of other people, the landowners who pay property taxes on forest lands.

Also, Taber argued that people who take strong positions in promoting "logging laws" commonly have strong convictions relative to being part of the environmental movement and in which they can take personal satisfaction from accomplishing something as an environmentalist.

Taber was quick and emphatic in his defense of stewardship principles and the environmental movement; it is an excessive use of government as the means to obtain desirable ends for a "perceived problem" that is questioned. The Stick is too Big.

David W. Taber is a Senior Extension Associate with Cornell Cooperative Extension in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with the Faculty of Forestry at Syracuse.

Progress Made In Chapter Development

By STUART McCARTY

As I write this, at the end of November to meet a publication deadline, good things are happening in the realm of chapter development:

1) In the Albany area, Joe Messina has just had his first steering committee meeting to organize for the future. He sees a chapter that will serve all or part of six counties around Albany.

2) Out of Warrensburg, John Hastings had a great response to his mailing with the result that he has over 150 woodlot owners indicating an interest in a local chapter in a three county area. Since most of the 150 are not NYFOA members, John is going to have an informational meeting for them on December 17 with John Marchant giving the audience an overview of NYFOA activities and objectives.

3) In October Bob Davis of Wappingers Falls wrote to volunteer to organize local woodswalks and a "Lower Hudson Chapter", including Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties and New York City! He is now getting underway with what could be a very dynamic chapter. If anyone wants to help, call him at (914) 831-8780 (daytime number).

4) A survey of 130 Tioga Chapter area woodlot owners confirms that a chapter is desired by a sizeable number. Steps are underway to form a leadership group to help put that chapter back on its feet. Howard Ward is recovering from major surgery and will do what he can as "senior advisor" to the new steering committee.

These are exciting times for NYFOA and certainly the occasion for keeping the ball rolling. In addition to the great work being done by those mentioned, we need to get chapters started in Syracuse (55 members in Onondaga County) and Utica (46 members in Oneida County, some of whom are served by our affiliate, THRIFT). Call me, (716) 381-6373, or write, 4300 East Avenue, Rochester, 14618, if you want to know more.

Chapter Reports

WESTERN WINDS

Members of the **Allegany Foothills Chapter** collected 137 bushels of black walnuts according to DEC's Charlie Mowatt. However, Betty Densmore, AFC newsletter editor, acknowledged special assistance from Niagara Frontier's Mr. and Mrs. Bob White. Further cooperation between these two chapters may result in a shared newsletter. And there's the special tour by a Japanese Delegation accompanied by DEC's Region 9 Forestry Manager Wayne Cooper and Senior Forester David Waldron on the 50 acre SWCD-award-winning woodlot owned by Bob White in Ashford Hollow, Cattaraugus County. **Western Finger Lakes** sponsored a TimberStand Improvement Workshop and Potluck Dinner for 27 at the forest and home of Mark & Sue Keister, Pokey Moonshine Hollow (hmm) in Wayland, Steuben County (barely). DEC Region 8 Foresters were the designated drivers.

IN THE SOUTH

Pat McGlew, a consulting forester representing the **Southern Tier Chapter**, reported a "Real Tree" mixer jointly sponsored with the NY Christmas Tree Growers Assoc. at the Richard Molyneaux Tree Farm in Broome County near Endicott. The July affair was attended by an estimated 1200; and there were 42 vendors from all over the country. The two groups enjoyed a great day of discussions of Christmas tree shearing, forest management, pest control, diseases, Cornell's Integrated Pest Management (IPM), fertilizers, blueberries and buckwheat.

The **Catskill Forestry Association** has filled the position of Executive Director formerly held by Don Gilbert, with Richard Black, a retired industrial forester from Michigan.

OVER THE LINE

Lycoming County, PA forestry folk met recently to form a county-wide Forest Landowner Association. The **Bradford Forest Landowners Association** (formed in 1980) which has grown and affiliated with other local groups, concentrates on the education of its members and the general public regarding forest management and related issues.



Bob White, DEC and a Japanese delegation see how to do it and where they come from. Details in Niagara Frontier Chapter Report.

FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

THRIFT's Bonnie Colton has reached an unstable pinnacle on Tughill's plateau and will no longer be able to do it all. A hard choice by Bonnie has made the position of newsletter (*Hill Talk*) editor available; for details call her at (315) 376-5595. A recent suggestion noted in *Hill Talk* was directed at beaver battles: Place a 3' x 3' **WHITE** flag fastened at the top between two poles at the construction site of the dam; the beaver will leave and never come back. Obviously beavers know nothing of human history.

CENTRALLY — CAYUGA'S CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL

It starts in the heart, grows in the mind and is driven mightily by the spirit. With the memory of campfire smoke from the 1985 38th Woodsmen's Field Days at Boonville and the occasion of a young woodsman's death, the first outbreak of fever prompted a 1986 Valentine's Day demonstration at Moravia Central High School — in the parking lot. Despite poor weather and cramped quarters, something was right; the play was repeated with an expanded cast of characters a year later at Lamco Manufacturing in neighboring Locke, N.Y. The weather that day shattered records, pipes, and radiators; but the crowd was a little bigger and the spirit only more determined. (Remember the Sun, the Wind, and the Man's coat?). The third year, a 1988 contingent invaded Tompkins County and threatened Tremont State Park's annual winter festival with the woodsmen's industry.

From the beginning Tom Hewitt made a very significant contribution to the spirit of the demonstrations through the use of draft animals. They had to be there. Since the working area was severely restricted with intermingled spectators, the intelligent and domestic qualities of the horses, mules, and oxen were safer and more entertaining. And when one adds to the equation, the animals' spirits, the fever becomes infectious.

A special committee arranged with Arthur Nordby II, Fillmore Glen State Park Superintendent, the 1989 event; and the First Cabin Fever Festival was born. The spirit of Millard Fillmore and the replica of his cabin birthplace provided a flavor of authenticity. The weather was superb with well over a thousand in attendance each day. February 1990, the Second Festival had become a class act; **Cayuga Chapter**, NYFOA had parented a whopper.

Although the Third Cabin Fever Festival (February 9, 10, 1991) was already well past the planning stage, **New York State closed the parks to all winter activities**. Ignoring some loud noise originating with owner-types, "Let's buy it back," a recurrent theme in this neck of the woods, cooler minds prevailed; and a deal was struck. With Art Nordby's last official nod of approval (Art commences his retirement shortly afterwards, Feb. 23, 1991) the support of Robert Tyrrell, NYS Finger Lakes Parks Regional General Manager; and various assurances of the Festival Committee — the buildings and grounds will be available. No costs to the budget-strapped State of New York. Way to go.

The Cabin Fever Festival: Winter Fun Since 1986



The 1986 event mixed spectators with snow and cold temperatures...



Tim Roberson and his first sawmill (1987)...



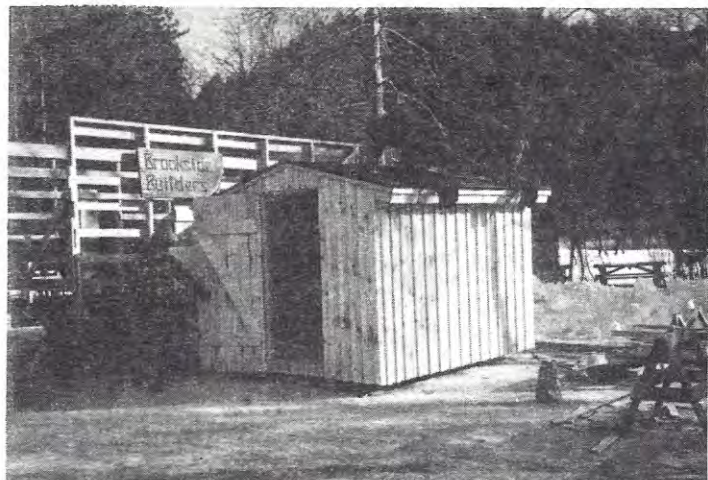
Warm weather greeted visitors to the 1988 festival, then held at Treman State Park...



The festival always promises good fun and good times (1989)...



A bridge built before breakfast (1990)...



With more than enough sun, these fine folks get the job done (1990)...

Ask a Forester

Send Questions to:
Wes Suhr, R.R. 1, Box 59B
Oswegatchie, N.Y. 13670

The Fern

By WES SUHR

"What can owners do about limiting ferns, striped maple, and other growths (undesirable) in the understory?"

Oh, boy! A question from a reader, who's also a writer (refer to Dick Fox's article, "My Woods Have Gone Fern Enough", Nov/Dec 1990 issue). Now, why would you want to "limit" such a sensitive, fragile, intricate form of Nature which has been the marvel of botanists and the inspiration of artists for centuries?



The sensitive, intricate fronds of fern

CHARACTERISTICS OF FERN

As Dick points out in his article, ferns are members of an ancient group of plants with fossil records dating back over 250 million years. They are land plants, but water is required for fertilization. The parent plant produces numerous spores which are released to the forest floor to germinate when moisture and light are adequate. After the spores germinate, the developing structure (called the prothallus or gametophyte) produces both sperm and eggs, but the sperm will "swim" to the eggs of another prothallus. Once the eggs are fertilized, cellular division takes place to form the embryo and the resulting structure of tiny ferns with perennial rootstalk and annual fronds and stem. The site preference or ecological requirements for prolific fern development is a very important consideration in the management of our northern hardwood stands.

A fern is classified as a **polypody**, being a member of the Family **Poly-podiaceae**. The dictionary defines **poly-** as "more than one or many" and **-pod** as "foot"; in fact, many fern have creeping or branching rootstalks that spread horizontally between the organic and mineral layers within the first inch of forest soils. These **rhizomes** become enlarged by food storage and develop many slender fibrous roots. Pieces of the rhizome may be broken off or separated through disturbance of the forest floor, and each piece is capable of producing its own roots, stalk and fronds — in other words, it can reproduce vegetatively. This has consequences important to the regeneration of northern hardwood stands.

THE PROBLEM

In the Northeast, the hayscented and New York ferns have dominated the understory of thousands of acres. They grow one to three feet high with fronds that will completely shade the ground, totally eliminating all tree seedlings, even the most shade-tolerant. The resulting **regeneration lag** for commercial tree species may last 15 to 20 years or more, or until there is a significant change in the moisture and light reaching the fern layer. You're right, Dick — we can't afford this — I have the same problem on several of my acres. This is an important economic problem for many forest owners in New York.

Now, I like to see some fern in our forests, as long as it's scattered and not dominating the understory of commercial tree stands. Deer feed commonly on the green fronds and rootstalks of fern in late fall, early winter and spring. And at a certain point in the history of a specific stand, it may even provide a silvicultural advantage which I'll discuss in the next issue. But, if possible, you want to avoid what is shown in this photo of one of my sugar maple stands — a continuous carpet of fern (browned and toppled by frost), completely dominating the understory, eliminating all tree seedling growth. This stand was thinned in 1980!



Sugar Maple stand with 100% fern ground cover.

This site happens to be on a poorly drained flat — the high moisture here is highly desired by hayscented fern. Incidentally, when the fronds are crushed in your hand, you do get the scent of freshly mowed hay. Before I thinned this stand, there was little ground cover, just a few fern here-and-there poking through a continuous blanket of hardwood litter. In terms of basal area, the density of sugar maple, with a few scattered black cherry, was 120 square feet per acre. This was a high-density overstory, what foresters call a "fully-stocked stand" for this site, completely shading the ground, allowing for very little advance regeneration (tree seedlings).

Many stems were low-quality, so I really over-thinned this stand (more appropriately called "improvement cutting"), cutting it back to 65-70 square feet per acre in this initial treatment. This was the first mistake, for it allowed sufficient light to reach the ground for prolific development and rapid spread of the hay-scented fern. In just three years, the site was covered by a carpet of green fern, about 5 acres of it! "Misery loves company", Dick — we share this fate with many other forest owners.

(Continued on Page 9)

Ask a Forester —

(Continued from Page 8)

AVOIDING THE PROBLEM

Dr. Ralph Nyland, silviculture professor in the Faculty of Forestry, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse), suggests it may be possible to avoid this fate. He explains it is the dense shade of the fern cover which eliminates the desirable tree seedlings — seeds may germinate, but photosynthesis will not occur at such low light levels. He says there is probably no **allelopathic effect**, that is, suppression of tree seedlings with release of a toxic plant substance by the fern. Recent research by Stephen B. Horsley (USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Warren, PA) indicates that an allelopathic effect of fern to hardwood seedlings cannot be reproduced or demonstrated.

Ralph Nyland went on to explain what I should have known before the cutting — these general management guidelines could help many forest owners:

■ If there is fern on the site, and in particular if it approaches 30% of the ground cover, you will **NOT** control the fern through silvicultural practice (cutting technique) alone.

■ So with fern near 30% of ground cover, the recommendation is **DO NOT CUT** or delay the cut until you can **CONTROL THE FERN FIRST**.

■ Herbicidal spray the fern **BEFORE** the cutting or thinning.

■ Once you're ready to cut, keep your overstory residual density high and uniform — in terms of basal area, **OVER 65 SQUARE FEET PER ACRE**.

■ Treat the stand and remove the wood with a **MINIMUM OF DISTURBANCE TO THE SITE**. Do not use crawler tractors and plan skidder/tractor trails to disturb the least amount of area.

CONTROLLING THE PROBLEM

OK, Dick, so we have the problem. What can we do now? Since you wanted some information on controlling woody undesirables as well, I'd like to break the control discussion into three problem cases — 1) fern alone, 2) striped maple and/or beech alone and 3) fern with striped maple and beech regeneration. Case (2) is as great a problem (or greater for some forest owners) as the fern

problem. Let it be known that "control" does not imply eradication; effective control in this case means reducing the problem plant (s) cover by 80% or more. For example, if the problem plant canopy covers 100% of the ground, effective control would be reducing it to 20% or less of the ground cover in terms of its leaf canopy. All of the recommendations reported have been obtained from recent research and field trials. This is a summary report of four sources of information, summarized, I hope, to be the most useful for the forest owner. Case (1) recommendations will be reviewed in this article, while Cases (2) and (3) will be covered in the March/April issue. The information sources reviewed are listed at the end of each article.

If you have extensive acres covered with these problem plants, the most effective and economical spraying mechanism would be using a tractor/skidder mounted storage/pumping/spraying unit. However, for most non-industrial private forest owners, a backpack storage/pumping unit is adequate. Both Ben Meadows and Forestry Suppliers sell such units; for example, Ben Meadows lists the Solo Backpack Sprayer, Model 475 for \$120 which has a four-gallon holding tank and a diaphragm pump to deliver a maximum pressure of 60 psi. You can purchase the more efficient backpack mist blowers, but they cost about four times as much.

CASE (1) — FERN ALONE.

Chemicals: Roundup from Monsanto
Oust Weed Killer from
DuPont

Application rates: Roundup, 0.25
gal/ac or 1 lb
ai/ac
Oust, 2 oz/ac or
0.09 lb ai/ac

In the studies, these herbicides were applied to foliage in 59.5 gal/ac of herbicide solution (water) using a low-pressure sprayer, spraying in n-s and then e-w direction, attempting uniform and complete coverage of foliage.

Timing: best during fully-developed photosynthetic period — from mid-July to mid-September; at least ½ day before rain or wait ½ day after rain; wind under 5 mph.

Both chemicals have achieved effective control of fern, but Roundup has no "soil activity", whereas Oust does. That is, where the site has been disturbed, severing the rootstalk of fern, Roundup alone may not achieve control. So I would recommend using either Oust alone or a combination of the two (same rates). There is an advantage to using both in the same herbicide solution as I will point out in the next article. Two other important points should be mentioned: both chemicals together will kill most or all of any hardwood regeneration contacted, but they have no or very little carry-over or residual toxicity to future tree seedling reproduction.

If you have detailed questions regarding the use of these herbicides, contact Dr. Larry Abrahamson, the resident forestry-herbicide expert, by calling 315-470-6751 (answering machine) or by writing: SUNY CESF, ONE FORESTRY DRIVE, SYRACUSE, NY 13210.

Sources reviewed: "Control of Understory Vegetation in Allegheny Hardwood Stands with Oust" by S.B. Horsley, *North. J. Appl. For.* 5:262-262, Dec. 88; "Control of Grass and Sedge in Allegheny Hardwood Stands with Roundup-Residual Herbicide Tank Mixes" by S.B. Horsley, *North J. Appl. For.* 7:124-129, Sep. 90.

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Forest-Owner Tours Being Planned

Picture yourself visiting spruce forests in the alpine foothills. Your guide, a Bavarian forester, is outfitted in knickers and Loden cape.

NYFOA has been there.

Picture yourself enjoying the comraderie of forest owners at a banquet in a baronial mansion in Denmark, or returning from a Christmas tree plantation near Hans Christian Anderson's home to a welcome cup of cheer in a cozy thatched-roof tree farmer's house. NYFOA has been there, too.

In fact, five times NYFOA has sponsored very successful tours: to Austria-German-Switzerland; Denmark-Sweden-Finland; across Canada by train; England-Wales-Scotland; and through New England. Always well organized, but with time to go a 'wanderin'. Always at least cost because no travel agents are used. And always full of unique experiences and — the best part — memorable forest owners who host us.

Now you can go, too. Just tell us where and when you might like to go. We'll put together a tour that would be most popular. □



Long-time NYFOA director Bob Sand (center) and Connecticut Christmas tree grower Phil Jones (left) visit the Danish tree farm of Paul Rasmussen (right). Rasmussen later joined NYFOA's Canadian tour.

Cut -----

**Please complete this
questionnaire and return
to: Alan Knight, 96
Targosh Road, Candor,
NY 13743.**

I would prefer to
visit:

- ☐ Switzerland/
Austria/Germany
- ☐ Scandinavia
- ☐ France/Belgium/
Holland
- ☐ England/Scotland/
Ireland

- ☐ Soviet Union
- ☐ Quebec/Nova Scotia/
Prince Edward Island
- ☐ Western Canada (by rail)
- ☐ Southern US
- ☐ Australia/New Zealand

Assuming the tour would be for two weeks, the best
month for me to go would be _____.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

1990s: Kids and Conservation



Cayuga Chapter member Tim Roberson sets up for a sawmill demonstration.

September 25 provided organizers and participants a clear and warm beginning for the second annual Conservation Field Days, which continued to the 26th. The event was sponsored by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and was held at the Cayuga County Community College Nature Trail in Auburn, NY.

This year's Field Days attracted over 1300 Sixth Graders from throughout the county who participated in events designed to increase their awareness of environmental issues, conservation practices, and what they can do to properly utilize natural resources.

Enthusiasm ran high among the conservation staff members organizing the activities despite initial cases of the jitters. Over 600 students per day would be treated to more than 4 hours of games, hands-on exhibits, short discussions, and demonstrations given by experts from the various conservation disciplines.

Thanks to advance planning, however, area high school students involved in environmental studies, classes were given the opportunity to volunteer their expertise and interest as they led some mini lectures and games, and guided the kids around the lengthy course to different work stations. Their efforts were a big factor in making this large scale event an educational success.

The themes presented at the various stations covered many areas of long-standing interest and included current theories and practices. Students were treated to Woodsman Skills whereby they were shown how logs are harvested from the forest. A log truck was present that demonstrated how the cut logs were loaded for transportation to pulp or lumber mills. The students were also shown what tools the woodsman has and their proper use. A mobile sawmill demonstrated lumber making.

Over at the Organic Gardening location, the young conservationists were given information concerning what constitutes organic gardening and why it's becoming so popular in gardens across the country. They are also given exhibits of insects used to control garden pests. And this produced many interesting comments.

The Role of Wetlands station was of particular interest, especially for children who live in or near the many wetland areas of Cayuga County. Here they were told about inhabiting waterfowl and their special adaptations that allow them to survive in this ecosystem.

Another topic of widespread interest and concern was Recycling and Composting. The volunteers at this station covered the different types of waste management from the recycling of glass, aluminum, and styrofoam to the re-use of plastic and paper bags to help reduce the tonnage of waste being sent to our shrinking number of landfills. Composting of biodegradable household waste not only helps reduce the amount of product shipped to landfills, it also provides gardeners and lawn care devotees with an excellent base of natural, organic fertilizer.

Other topics covered included Endangered Species, Bats, Migratory Birds, Energy Conservation, Soil Conservation, Raccoon Rabies, Pond Life, Forestry, Insects, and a student favorite, Dog Training.

Jim Hotaling, district manager, who revived the Conservation Field Days last year after about a 15 year hiatus, said that he plans to expand the program in the near future to include a field day for adults.

John Rowe, Education Consultant

The Cayuga County Conservation Field Days is typical of Conservation Field Days held in counties of the state and supported by Federal, State, County, and other local municipal and volunteer agencies and organizations.

—Ed.

DEC PUBLISHES SEMIANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR COOPERATING TIMBER HARVESTERS

Each DEC Region staffs a forester especially schooled in the vagaries of utilizing and marketing forest products; these U & M Foresters provide an independent resource to the industry. For some time they have participated as input and administrative leaders for the 150 sawmill publication, *Lake Erie and Ontario Sawyers and Filers Association Newsletter*; and for everyone, the semi-annual *Stumpage Price Report*. Apparently, they will make a bridge (preferably wooden) between the trees and whatever or whoever needs the extension.

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480A: A Building Block to Forestry Management

The outstanding Nov/Dec issue of the *NY FOREST OWNER* has been received and devoured by this reader. In short order form, the salient points brought forth in the five articles in the issue seems to be as follows:

Concern for and action favoring our environment has become of paramount importance.

Proper "stewardship" of millions of acres of "Non-Industrial Private Forests" could provide vast benefits to the environment and to the economy of our state.

Government regulations and harvesting ordinances are on the rise.

Fragmentation of forested lands is of grave concern.

Forest ownership in New York needs to be converted from an expense item to a mildly profitable or at least a break even enterprise.

Many constructive building blocks are needed and available in varying degrees to aid and strengthen the goals of good forestry management.

Many of you will not be surprised to hear from me that we have the strongest of building blocks of good forest management almost in place. — The New York State Forest Tax Law (Section 480A).

The almost is the catchword. Large numbers of talented people on all sides of the question worked for many years to develop and to help pass the legislation into law.

The almost revolves around the one major defect in the law and explains why only 217,000 acres out of 13.5 million acres of NIPF are certified and receiving the good management called for under it.

The defect, of course, is that the 80% tax benefit received by the certified

forest lands is transferred to the other taxpayers in the townships and school districts in the relevant tax jurisdiction. In many areas this is a minor consideration, but in heavily forested areas, with an otherwise low overall assessment base, the blow can be devastating. What can be done to remedy this situation?

Bills have been introduced each year, A4539 Hinchey, and S3282 Cook, to amend the tax law to provide state reimbursement to local tax jurisdictions for tax revenue losses.

Passage of these into law would loose a steady stream of forest lands into the fold of good forest management.

Let's check the estimated costs involved. The forest owner would still be paying a fair tax per acre on his forest land. The State would receive the 6% cutting (stumpage) tax on all harvested timber and all moneys derived from charges incurred by forest owners by change of use and/or penalties for non-compliance.

And let's say 2½ million acres became certified at a saving to forest owners of an average of \$10.00 per acre per year. The cost to the State would be 25 million dollars less the designated income. This sum is a small fraction of the State budget in these hard scramble times and it would provide tremendous economic and environmental gains. So, what's to be done?

Many of us have always felt that when "The New York Forest Owners Assoc." attained the numbers and the far flung membership it now has attained that it could be a strong political force for sound forestry in the State.

So, let's go, forest owners, Forest Practice Board and all other interested organizations and groups and get this important and beneficial legislation passed into law. All of New York State will be a winner.

Submitted by Francis A. "Mike" Demeree; Charter member NYFOA; 1985 National Outstanding Tree Farmer.

WORDS FROM THE WOODS

By Bill Berry, senior vice president, Rayonier Forest Resources, and chairman, Forest Industry Wetlands Task Force.

The Administration's policy of "no net loss" of the nation's wetlands has particular significance for the timber industry. More than half of all the remaining wetlands within the U.S. are forested. In the South alone, about 33 million acres of land recognized as wetlands are under forest management by private timber growers like Rayonier Timberlands, L.P. About one-third of the Partnership's Southeast timberland comprises wetland areas.

The 1987 National Wetlands Policy Forum* sponsored by the EPA and coordinated by the Conservation Foundation, concluded that good forest management is compatible with other natural functions and is one of the preferred economic uses of wetlands.

*To order a copy of the *National Wetlands Forum Report* contact The Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 4860 Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, MD 21211.



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WILLIAM O'NEILL 321 POST CREEK HILL BEAVER DAMS, NY 14812		FRED E. WINCH, JR. BOX 312 BRADFORD, NH 03221		GORDON KAMMAN 101 NANETTE DRIVE ELMA, NY 14059		NEW MEMBERS DIRECTORY: WFL = Western Fingerlakes NFC = Niagara Frontier Chapter SOT = Southern Tier Chapter CAY = Cayuga Chapter TIO = Tioga Chapter THR = THRIFT CFA = Catskill Forest Association AFC = Allegheny Foothills Chapter	
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BRUCE PENROD 6528A, RTE. 15A SPRINGWATER, NY 14566	WFL	CHARLES E. VALENTINE R.D. 1, BOX 3 RODMAN, NY 13682	TH	ROBERT A. PAPWORTH 228 HAMPTON ROAD SYRACUSE, NY 13203		<i>Evelyn was a strong and sensitive editor of the Forest Owner from 1978-1985. She was a traveling companion of Moira and Al Roberts to the Huntington Ecological Center Woodwalk in the Adirondacks, and to last October's NYFOA Fall Meeting.</i>	
JAMES L. PITT BOX 552 BATH, NY 14810	WFL	GERHARD POPP 1116 WEBSTER ROAD WEBSTER, NY 14580	WFL	DANA BATLEY P.O. BOX 4285 ITHACA, NY 14852			
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				MATTHEW D. KUBICK R.D. BOX 13G, RT. 28 POLAND, NY 13431			

Rommel Wins National Tree Farm Inspector

Dick Rommel, Senior Forester for the N.Y.S. DEC in New Paltz, has been chosen the National Top Tree Farm Inspector. Dick, the first recipient of this new award, was chosen among 9,000 volunteer foresters nation-wide who administer the Tree Farm Program locally. Without dedicated foresters and willing employers the Tree Farm System could not exist.

Dick received the National Award at the National Forests Products Association's Annual Meeting held in November in Seattle, Washington. Prior to winning the national award, Dick also won Top Inspector honors for New York and for the Northeast region. He has been an active Tree Farm inspector since 1976 and has certified over 100 Tree Farms, mainly in Livingston and Ulster counties. One notable Tree Farm certified by Rommel is the 12,000 acre forest at West Point managed by the U.S. Military Academy. Dick is also an active Project Learning Tree facilitator and has trained hundreds of teachers throughout the state.

New York State Tree Farm Chair Mike Virga from Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper said, "Dick's participation in the Tree Farm and PLT programs has truly established him as one of New York's outstanding forest stewards. Rommel sets a unique example by his dedication to the present management of our forests, and to the future stewards of these woodlands."

Jane Difley, Regional Manager for the American Forest Council,



Dick Rommel receives his award during ceremonies held in Seattle, Washington.

presented the Northeast Regional Award and had this to say about Rommel: "When it comes to Tree Farm, Dick is both a visionary and a hands-on practitioner. Countless landowners, teachers, students and

foresters have benefitted from Dick's enthusiasm and stewardship ethic."

The New York State Tree Farm Program congratulates Dick and wishes him continued success in the future.

Nolan's Sporting Supplies

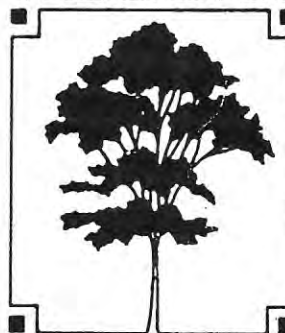
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BRIEFS

FROM THE WASHINGTON WILDERNESS

The U.S. Congress doubled appropriations for the Stewardship Fund and added 20 million for cost-sharing Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP); the Forestry Incentive Program (FIP) was renewed; and, both the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) were increased. There was little movement on capital gains (the bubble).

NYFOA, INCOME TAX, & NATIONAL TV

Under the leadership of Priscilla M. Johnson, Cooperative Extension Agent in Chenango County, December 5, 1990 the University of Georgia's nationwide broadcast of "Federal Income Tax Strategies for Timber Owners" was made available in New York as an interactive video teleconference that included 4 on-site resource professionals. A toll-free number was provided for the nationwide participants to ask questions of the tax experts in the Georgia broadcast studio during the 2½ hour satellite relayed live broadcast. On-site panelists at Cornell's Extension Education Center in Norwich were Stuart F. Smith, Cornell's Dept. of Ag. Ec.; Hugh O. Canham, Forest Economics, SUNY CESF; William Betts, NYS DEC Region 7 Forester; and David Tabor, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dept. Natural Resources.

Timber taxation is very complex and there seems to be some interest or pleasure in keeping it that way. It was appropriate that NYFOA contributed to the financial costs for the program; there were many forestowners, some foresters, a few accountants and a lawyer in attendance. A later issue of *The NY FOREST OWNER* will treat the subject with competence; I. Use capital gains treatment when appropriate — to avoid self-employment tax or to offset capital gains; II. Allocate Basis appropriately to land, structure or improvements and timber; III. Seek help from professional foresters

and/or tax advisors; IV. Obtain: USDA, Forest Service, 1989. "Forest Owner's Guide to Timber Investments, the Federal Income Tax, and Tax Recordkeeping." Ag. Handbook No. 681 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

1991 NYS INVIROTHON

The NYS Envirothon is getting complicated. The competitive High School (9-12) program is partly led by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and because of the number of participants, the Districts are cooperating in order to hold preliminary events. Cayuga and Onondaga SWCDs, for instance, will hold their preliminary, May 9, 1991. The New York State Final Testing will be May 23, 1991. Further details in the Mar/Apr issue.

WHAT IS, IS WHAT?

The Wall Street Journal recently displayed a cartoon depicting the mountain top exchange between a Himalayan teacher and his disciple: "If a tree falls in the forest, and there's no one to hear it, who fills out the environmental statement?"

EQBA — TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

Who owns the mountains? NYFOA does.

RECIPROCITY

The American Agriculturist, a former patron of NYFOA and a long time voice (Founded 1842) in New York has a new format. The December 1990 issue features an article on Forestland Resources based on an informative interview between Editor Gordon Conklin and recently retired Cotton-Hanlon forester, Robert Sand. Bob enthusiastically endorsed NYFOA in the article.

BIOMASS IS NATION'S TOP RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

Biomass — including wood, wood waste, and agricultural waste — is the largest renewable energy source in the U.S., according to a survey conducted by Public Citizen, a consumer group formed by Ralph Nader.

The survey indicated biomass accounts for 3.46 quadrillion Btu, more than 50 percent of U.S. renewable energy production.

The report, "The Power of the States: A Fifty-State Survey of Renewable Energy," is available from Public Citizen, 215 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

from SOLID WASTE & POWER/
DECEMBER 1990



For information on:

1. Tree Farm Survival Handbook - \$30.
2. Tree Farm Services and Membership

Contact: NYS Tree Farm Committee

c/o Empire State Forest Products Assoc.
123 State Street
Albany, N.Y. 12207
(518) 463-1297

A Response to Forestry Critics

Recent articles in *Time* and *Life* magazines imply forest plantations are void of value beyond producing fiber. Not necessarily so. All too often, in trying to make a point, complex ecosystems are viewed in overly simplistic terms.

For years I have heard red pine plantations described as biological deserts. Red pine, more so than many other species, tend to grow uniformly and often stagnate without management. Because the trees do not express dominance because they grow at about the same rate, they can become dense stands with little diversity and no understory; hence they gain the biological desert reputation. Norway spruce, on the other hand, will grow in stands where individual trees will outdo neighbors.

The issue has risen to the public eye in discussions over spotted owls and cutting old growth western primeval forests. The argument is that reforestation of clearcut with single species (monoculture) plantations is removing all but fiber production values from forest land. I will not argue over how much primeval forest we should save or harvest. I definitely support saving an amount that will guarantee future generations a perpetual primeval forest. But I will take exception to the simplistic criticism of managed plantations and the negative connotation towards "tree farms."

Let me discuss a plantation that I have worked with repeatedly over the past twenty years. In the late 1920's the plantation site was depleted, abandoned farm fields and pasture. Poor farming practices coupled with heavy soils overlaying shale presented a pretty bleak future. The state purchased the land and reforested it under the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC) work project. In the early years the plantation controlled erosion, provided cover for a variety of wildlife, stored carbon and began to filter air. Though not an ideal red pine site, most of the seedlings survived and grew to be 8-10 inch diameter pole sized stems about 45 feet tall by 1970 when I began working for DEC. A thinning was in progress at the time I was hired and I took over supervision.



In response to forestry critics, the author refutes recent claims implying forest plantations are void of value beyond producing fiber. Photo: Peter Innes.

At that time markets were limited. A few small operators were buying red pine for rustic rail fence stock and pulp. Because they could not afford nor cut large volumes in a year, I elected to mark relatively light thinnings over as many acres as the market would bear to prevent stagnation of the many plantations in dire need of thinning. Around 1975 the pulp market increased dramatically and I was able to complete the initial thinning cycle and return to many sites for a second cut.

At some point a cluster of 25 pink lady slippers was noticed. Being in the orchid family, these plants are on the protected plants list. Care has been taken not to risk destroying their habitat during the various management activities that have been conducted over the years. Today that original cluster, after four harvesting operations, has expanded to at least

165 plants. One could argue that forest management has enhanced their habitat.

Old fencerows within the plantation have red oaks, maples and other native trees held over from farming days. These trees have been a seed source for natural regeneration that has occurred in response to the thinnings. Today there is a lush understory with the best component of desirable red oak that I have seen in my career. Foresters are often frustrated in attempts to assure red oak reproduction; consequently this site is especially appreciated. The oaks and shadbush in the hedgerows provide mast (seeds) for deer, grouse, turkeys, squirrels, and a variety of songbirds. The lush understory provides browse and cover.

Besides benefitting wildlife, this

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Forestry Critics —

(Continued from Page 17)

plantation has provided other values as well. The present logger and his horse, as well as several loggers before, temporarily and periodically earn a living through harvesting marked trees here. Between other State Forest and private forest sales, loggers are a significant part of the local economy. State land annually produces around \$3.5 million in stumpage sales (trees sold standing on the stump). New York's forest industry yields approximately \$4.5 billion a year. The multiplier factor from a dollar in stumpage to return on finished product is around twenty-five. Therefore, wood is a valuable economic renewable resource in the state. Stumpage income is often needed for private forest owners to be able to afford to retain their forest land. Even though most forest owners do not own their land primarily for timber production, forest products can serve as an important economic factor and serve as a tool for achieving landowner goals. In one crop rotation this plantation may yield \$1000 per acre in stumpage.

Main skid trails have been laid out to serve as recreational trails. They link up to ones in adjacent stands (homogeneous forest types of the same size classes) to form a network over the entire State Forest. Hikers and cross-country skiers can determine the size loop they want to undertake and enjoy a few hours or a whole day.

Even nonusers benefit. Tree growth stores carbon in wood fiber. This carbon sink is considered very important in the global warming concern. As forest products such as lumber and paper are harvested, the carbon remains stored unless the product is burned or the carbon released through some other chemical break down. Surfaces of the needles and branches capture particles from the air thereby filtering air. The organic duff layer on the soil and the tree's fine root system filter water. Shade from the crowns slows snow melt and the various parts of the tree intercept rain thus reducing erosion and runoff. These factors contribute to trees modifying our climate and improving our water and air quality. Years of needles,

branches and dead trees falling and returning to the soil has done wonders for the soil that had been abused for over a century before the plantation was established. Today the soil is richer, has better structure and holds water better than it did a few decades ago.

Other benefits include raspberries, blackberries, and, for those who know the safe ones, mushrooms. I usually enjoy chewing on checkerberry leaves and berries as I walk through the woods. I enjoy seeing partridge berry, pink ladyslippers, flowering shadbush and any creature that crosses my path.

Is this plantation void of value? I think I have proven not necessarily so.

Now a few words on tree farms. The American Tree Farm System is a program sponsored by forest industry through the American Forest Council. It is a program that recognizes some of the finest land stewards in the world. Tree Farmers are private woodland owners who tend to be people from all walks of life who are dedicated to leaving their land better than they found it. Few own their land primarily for fiber production. They do use forest products and harvesting to pay taxes and other landownership costs and as a tool to achieve other owner goals. Many enjoy the harvest for the satisfaction they receive from the maple syrup, firewood, Christmas trees or logs. Tapping or cutting the trees, hauling the product, and

processing the product can be hard but very rewarding work.

Conveying a negative image of tree farms does a great injustice to a truly fine group of forest owners. Tree Farm has fifty years invested recognizing these outstanding stewards. Let's not let critics pass unchallenged.

Michael C. Greason is an associate forester with DEC's Division of Lands and Forests.

INTERCHEM COMPLETES SYNTHETIC FUEL OIL FACILITY

Interchem Industries of Vancouver, British Columbia, has completed its first plant to make synthetic fuel oil from wood waste. In making that announcement, Interchem said deliveries of fuel oil and charcoal would begin in late 1990 following completion of final testing at a southern Missouri location.

The wood waste is vaporized in a process that converts it into fuel oil and other materials, including charcoal. Approximately 13,000 tons of wood waste will be processed each year at a plant in Howell County, Mo., the company said. The enterprise will create 1.7 million gallons of synthetic oil annually, which will be used as a replacement for No. 6 fuel oil, an industrial grade of fuel oil.

Total revenues from the Missouri plant are expected to reach \$100 million annually, the company said.



Pink Lady Slippers have spread from a cluster of 25 plants to at least 165 on this plantation as described by author Michael C. Greason. Photo: Peter Innes.

Wood/Coal Mix May Cut Emissions, Costs at Generating Plants

New York State Electric & Gas may get cleaner air and save fuel costs in 1989 by using wood products and other fuels at Jennison and Hickling, its two stoker-fired generating stations.

With help from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Company began test burning wood products at Jennison Station in Bainbridge last summer. When those tests proved successful, NYSEG started a similar program at Hickling Station in East Corning.

The goal of this alternative fuels evaluation program is to reduce fuel and production costs. The effort is coordinated by the corporate plant performance and fuel engineering department with plant personnel. They think use of wood products may eventually cut overall costs by 10 percent. NYSEG is now setting up vendor sources and networks to get more wood by-products.

The fuels group would like each plant to burn up to 2,000 tons of wood products each month, primarily chips and coarse sawdust. Jennison now burns about 750 tons a month in a proportion of 75 percent wood chips and 25 percent sawdust. These wood products are blended with coal. At this stage the wood makes up 3 to 4 percent (by weight) of the fuel being used.

The DEC identified potential wood product suppliers within 40 miles of each plant. In seeking out vendor sources and networks, NYSEG may explore innovative transportation arrangements. For example, municipalities which buy bottom ash from the plants for winter road maintenance may be asked to exchange chips from municipal tree trimming for ash.

Using wood products at the generating stations may have significant benefits, according to Rick Mancini, manager-plant performance and fuel engineering: wood has virtually no sulfur content, so its use reduces overall plant emissions; wood contains very little ash, which reduces particulate emissions and the total ash produced; because of the high combustion temperatures, there is no creosote or smoke from burning wood; the natural moisture in wood may reduce the moisture added to the

stoker coal firing process, thus improving combustion efficiency; mixing coal with wood improves coal fines retention which has been a problem at the stoker stations; and the mixture process permits a larger surface area of coal to be exposed to air and this further aids burning.

Because of their size, wood chips can only be used at the stoker plants. The chips are stored separately and then combined with coal in the desired proportions during the coal bunkering process. The bunkered coal/wood mixture is further mixed as it is transported to the stoker.

The fuels group is examining other fuels which may lead to economy and operational efficiencies in the power plants. Coarse sawdust may be acceptable for mixing with coal in plants which burn pulverized coal. Other potential fuels for blending with coal may include rubber tires, refuse-derived fuels, railroad ties and other wood products.

NY Forestowner:

Here is a copy of a story I wrote on wood burning at NYSEG's generating

stations from the June 1989 issue of Tie Lines News, the NYSEG's employee/retiree newspaper.

To update you somewhat, NYSEG continued to evaluate wood burning during 1990 and is currently compiling its final report on the tests. That report will recommend the Company use wood as a commercial fuel during 1991. This means that wood will be evaluated on much the same basis as coal as a fuel source — cost availability, waste disposal, handling considerations etc.

Our generation department expected to burn about 4,000 tons of wood a month at Jennison Station during 1991. Hickling Station is not currently burning wood, nor is it expected to use any significant amount in the next year.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to write or call. If you include some aspect of NYSEG's operation in a future publication of the New York Forest Owner magazine, I'd like to see a copy.

By Nancy J. Kirtland

Clear Cut —

(Continued from Page 3)

There is another problem. Let's suppose that you own a 50 acre sawtimber stand. You have been told by your faithful DEC Service Forester that the stand is mature and needs a timber sale. You are conservation minded and want to do it right. You engage a consultant forester and instruct him to make a light harvest. He follows your instructions and marks only the larger trees along with some poor "culls" and some smaller trees that needed to come out for spacing reasons. The timber is sold and cut, leaving you with a nice residual stand and a potential harvest in the next fifteen to twenty years and you feel good about the job.

So what's wrong? Just this; unbeknownst to you, your stand is an even aged stand, like a large majority of timber stands in New York, a result of a commercial clearcut around the turn of the century. (A commercial clearcut is one in which all merchantable trees are cut, and since wood markets were very good in 1900,

the cuts were very heavy). Your stand regenerated immediately after the cut so that all the trees are pretty much the same age. Now remember what you have just done. You have cut the larger mature trees and left the smaller ones. Oh Oh, the smaller ones are the same age as the bigger ones. Why are they smaller? Unfortunately, they are smaller because they are poorer. Yes, poorer, either genetically or physiologically. What you have done is cut your best free-to-grow dominant trees and left not quite so good codominants and intermediates, trees that will produce neither the growth nor the quality of the trees that were removed. Two or three repetitions of this treatment will leave a very poor forest indeed. This type of management, especially when culls are not cut, typifies high grading. Unfortunately, this type of cutting is very common in New York and is often recommended by ill informed "environmentalists".

What's to be done? Am I recommending that you all rush out and clearcut your timber so that it will

(Continued on Page 20)



Clear Cut —

(Continued from Page 19)

regenerate to valuable, free-to-grow, dominant trees? Of course not. What I am trying to do is demonstrate the rationale and logic of larger public and private owners who are using even aged management and are conducting clearcutting on their private lands. By and large, clearcutting is not appropriate for the small private forest owner. It is much too drastic. Unless markets change a great deal, no merchantable product is available from a clearcut for at least fifty years and a final harvest of mature sawtimber should not occur until about age ninety.

Some clearcutting may be appropriate for smaller owners. A very poor quality stand that offers no potential for growth and development of good timber may be clearcut and regenerated. Some owners are interested in wildlife management and small clearcuts offer excellent diversity for many species. The fact remains, however, that a clearcut area is out of economic production for a long time and the tax bills come every year on every acre. Most owners are unwilling to conduct such a drastic treatment and rightly so.

There are viable alternatives to clearcutting for the smaller owner. Hopefully, these will be discussed in a future issue.

Stay tuned.

WOODLOT CALENDAR

- Jan. 2 - Mar. 15** NYS DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery Seedling Orders, (518) 587-1120
- Jan. 8** Cayuga Chapter, Annual Meeting, Panel Discussion "Woodlot Management; 7:30 PM Central High School Cafeteria, Moravia, NY (315) 497-1078
- Jan. 18, 19** NY Christmas Tree Growers, Winter Meeting, Sheraton Inn, Liverpool — John Webb, (315) 568-5571
- Jan. 19** Southern Tier, "Your Regional Forest Practice Board" Extension Office, Upper Front St., Binghamton (607) 699-3846
- Jan. 19** Niagara Frontier, Potluck Dinner, Holland, NY Town Hall, (716) 537-2803
- Jan. 23, 25** NY Soc. Am. For., "The End of Forestry", Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY
- Jan. 23** Western Finger Lakes, ESFPA Ex. Director Bob Stegemann, Extension Office, 249 Highland Ave., Rochester
- Jan. 26** NYFOA "Woodski", Gurnee Woods, 10 am, Chatfield Rd. (South NY5, West of Elbridge) off Hamilton Rd., (315) 689-3948
- Feb. 9, 10** Cabin Fever Festival, 10 am - 4 pm, Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia, NY (315) 497-1078
- Feb. 16** Allegany Foothills, Bruce Robinson presents "Tree Biology" by Dr. Alex Shigo, 10 am, Parkside Drive, Elliptonville

Reminder: The 1992 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST: Mary McCarty 4300 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

AND

Mar/Apr. Calendar Inserts by Feb. 1, (315) 497-1078 FAX: (607) 849-6611