The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people who care about New York's trees and forests

July/August 2009

Member Profile: G. Robert Baker

Volume 47 Number 4

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
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In This Issue . . .

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Forest Owner

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Volume 47, Number 4

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the September/October issue is August 1, 2009.***

Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is $35.

This publication is printed on Finch Opaque, Smooth, 70 lb. text paper. Located in the beautiful Adirondacks, Finch has long understood that the viability of our business relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources. Finch papers are made with renewable energy, post-consumer recycled fiber and elemental chlorine-free pulps. In addition, Finch Paper was the first integrated paper mill in the US to received both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

Cover: The Baker family with their dog, Dempsey. From left to right: Ashley, G. Robert, Gaby, Brandon, Allison and Lindsey. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Baker family.

From The President

Hello fellow forest owners.

We all need to be aware that Emerald Ash Borer has been found in one western NY county and what that means to the future of family forests in our state. I'm proud of NYFOA's staff and board members response to this discovery; and NYFOA's partners at NYS-DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension have reacted quickly and professionally. I feel confident that we have the expertise here in NYS to address this infestation. That said, though, every forest owner needs to be alert and taking precautions: Don't move firewood, don't plant more ash trees, and be on the lookout for the distinctively metallic green Emerald Ash Borers and the holes they leave in tree trunks.

In June, the NYFOA board had a busy two-day retreat at Cornell's Arnot Forest. We had a productive session including a board development training with Brian Henehan, a Senior Extension Associate from Cornell's Department of Applied Economics and Management. Thanks to Dr Peter Smallidge and the staff at the Arnot for hosting our group; and thanks to Brian for the time he spent with us. I continue to appreciate the efforts of NYFOA's Vice President Mike Seager in providing direction to NYFOA's staff and helping to lead the work of NYFOA's committees.

The primary NYFOA committees and their chairs are: governance – board member Frank Winkler, member and chapter services – board member Kelly Smallidge, policy – Carl Wiedemann, and education – board member Rich Taber. These committees, along with an ad hoc planning committee, are meeting throughout the summer. NYFOA's board will be looking at our organization's many valuable partnerships to determine the most appropriate levels of future involvement and to identify the potential for expanded engagement in those efforts that will best help NYFOA work toward accomplishing its priorities.

Rich Taber, the NYFOA board delegate from the Central NY Chapter, was elected at the June board meeting to fill John Sullivan's unexpired term as association secretary. I want to thank Rich for stepping up to this position on the NYFOA Executive Committee, in addition to continuing in his role as chair of the NYFOA education committee. I also want to express my appreciation to John for his many years of service on the NYFOA board; and we will look forward to his return in the near future.

I'm looking forward to seeing folks at the 2009 Forest Owners Workshops, Woodswalk, and Banquet in Lake Placid and Paul Smiths, October 2-4.

I am getting excited about the upcoming 2009 forest owners workshops, woodswalk, and banquet in Lake Placid and Paul Smiths, October 2-4. In addition to an informative program all day Saturday and on Sunday morning, there are also some fun events planned for each of the three days. It will be a great chance to get to know forest owners from other regions of the state in a relaxed setting. I hope you will be able to attend. See you in Lake Placid!

–Dan Cleveland
NYFOA President

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

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of ***The New York Forest Owner***, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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County of Residence: _____
County of Woodlot: _____
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Pest Alert

The Green Menace, the Emerald Ash Borer, has been found in Cattaraugus County, NY. See important information about what the public and woodlot owners can do now provided by Rebecca Hargrave from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County beginning on p. 18.

Adult beetles are generally larger and brighter green than the native North American Agrilus species. Adults are slender, elongate, and 7.5 to 13.5 mm long. Males are smaller than females. Adults are usually bronze, golden, or reddish green overall, with darker, metallic emerald green wing covers.

The dorsal side of the abdomen is metallic purplish red and can be seen when the wings are spread. The prothorax, the segment behind the head and to which the first pair of legs is attached, is slightly wider than the head and the same width as the base of the wing covers.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org). You would get an email every two months announcing when the current edition is available for download; and be given the URL for a webpage where you can go and get a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

Executive Director's Voice

Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend the 2009 NY forest owners fall workshop, woodswalk, and banquet in Lake Placid, October 2 – 4. The planning committee is made up of members of NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter, lead by Chapter Chair Bill LaPoint. This group is putting together an outstanding program including time for enjoying the Adirondack's fall colors and meeting other forest owners. The preliminary agenda includes a Friday evening welcome reception with musical entertainment, Saturday educational workshops and woodswalks at Paul Smiths, a banquet, and Sunday pancake breakfast and sugarbush/sugarhouse tour. Additional information, registration package, and spouse activity ideas will be available in August on NYFOA's website *www.nyfoa.org*, or call the office to request a registration package by mail. Thanks to our sponsors (as of this writing): Curran Renewable Energy, Finch Forest Management, Stihl, US Forest Service, and Woodmizer.

Coming up August 21 – 23 is the NYS Woodsmen's Field Days, in Boonville. There are a number of educational workshops of interest to forest owners planned (see listing on p. 12). NYFOA will have a display set up there - coordinated by NYFOA board member Rich Taber and members of NYFOA's Central New York Chapter. If you are interested in volunteering to staff the NYFOA booth and talking with forest landowners about the benefits of joining NYFOA, please let Rich know.

June saw the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer in NYS. Yikes! What does this mean to us as forest owners? See Rebecca Hargrave's timely advice about what we can be doing now beginning on page 18. If we don't have your email address yet, please send that along to Liana in the NYFOA office. When we receive updates, you'll be the first to know. Also keep checking *www.nyfoa.org* for new information. NYFOA was invited by NYS-DEC to participate in stakeholders meetings in western NY. Thanks to NYFOA board member Dick Patton and members of NYFOA's Allegheny Foothills Chapter for representing forest owners at these sessions.

–Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

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* Minimum order is 50 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.
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100+ signs, add $.75 for each 50 signs over 100 (150 would cost $5.25 plus $.75 for the additional 50 for a total of $6.00).

Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE

Peter Smallidge

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt, check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.forestconnect.info

Question: We recently inherited a woodlot and would like to utilize some of the trees for firewood and also thin some areas through logging. We have heard about "low-impact" harvests, but don't know what impacts we should expect. What can we expect? Can you help please?

Answer: Your woodlot can be a source of wood and other values. Your interest in low-impact harvesting is common among many woodland owners. Harvesting impacts can be both visual and physical. The visual impact is what we see and the physical impact can influence the ecological processes of the woods and the benefits available to you in the future. The impacts can affect individual trees, the woods, and the soil. I'll describe each of these. There are many ways to proceed that will result in a low impact harvest. Ultimately you will want to obtain some educational materials, visit other owners to see their strategies, and work closely with a qualified forester and logger. If you are doing the work yourself, safety is paramount.

The visual impact is associated with removing trees, perhaps adding access or skid trails, and often having some portions of trees on the ground rather than standing. Although beauty (and ugly) is in the eye of the beholder, most owners don't see beauty associated with an aggressive harvest that removes many trees. However, aesthetics typically don't predict the ecological health of the woods. Factors other than the number of trees removed determine the ecological or necessary impact of a harvest. A common visual concern is clumps of tree tops left in the woods. Although a bit unsightly, tree tops serve important functions as habitat and can impede the browsing of deer on seedlings. The aesthetic quality following a harvest changes rapidly from one year to the next. Visit some recent harvests with other woodland owners to see what changes you might expect after a few years. Once informed, some owners will be more or less inclined to proceed with a harvest.

Physical impacts result from changes in the trees, woods and soil because of the harvest process, and those changes may remain long after harvesting. The physical impact on the residual trees, those trees remaining after the harvest, can be positive because the residuals have less competition for sunlight and greater opportunity for enhanced growth and vigor. Only the larger and healthy trees, not the small and poorly formed ones, are able to respond favorably to the increased sunlight. There is no advantage to leaving "runt" trees with the hopes of making a sow's ear into a silk purse. Some residual trees may be damaged by poor directional felling or careless skidding of logs. Some residual trees along the skid trails will be unavoidably damaged; so minimize the number of skid trails and select equipment operators who work with care. Before owners undertake cutting their own trees, they should participate in a course such as the Game of Logging for Landowners. This is a chainsaw safety and felling

Homemade arches can be effective tools to access logs. Commercial varieties are also available. Photo courtesy of Bill LaPoint, Northern Adirondack Chapter.

Trees along skid trails should remain until the end of harvest, or through multiple harvests to protect trees near the skid trail. The red oak in the foreground was cut prematurely and resulted in unnecessary skidding damage to the black cherry.

Farm tractors and a winch provide better productivity than an ATV and have enough weight to move larger logs. Roll-over protection systems are essential. Photo courtesy of Tim Levatich, Southern Finger Lakes Chapter.

course, hands-on, and highly acclaimed as the best way to learn safe, directional felling. Similarly, owners who skid their own trees using ATVs or farm tractors should use caution to avoid roll-over and similar hazards. Spend time with other owners to learn about appropriate and inappropriate strategies. Don't try to skid on side slopes without adequate roads and lift the front end of the log to avoid snagging on rocks or stumps. Every year owners are needlessly killed or injured.

Positive physical changes in the woodlot may occur because of increased structural diversity such as through increases in the abundance of harvest residue known as "slash". Openings in the woodland canopy increase sunlight and can stimulate understory growth. Not all understory species are desirable. Other physical changes in the woodland may be more subtle because of shifts in the variety of species. Some harvests may favor cutting of some tree species over others. Depending on the species preferentially cut and your objectives, this is either good or bad. Typically you want a variety of species, usually native species, suited to the soils of your woods. Avoid the process known as high-grading or diameter-limit cutting where only the biggest and most valuable trees are cut and the poor formed and unfit trees remain as residuals.

Soil impacts are most often associated with changes resulting from skid trails and haul roads. Skid trails are necessary to remove and utilize the cut trees. Skid trails have both positive and negative potential. Soil erosion happens due to soil disturbance not due to the cutting of trees. Thus, the simple answer is to minimize skid trails and use best management practices, or BMPs, to help you manage small amounts of slow moving water. In most cases, BMPs will prevent problems associated with soil erosion. BMP guides are available through the NYS DEC, often through your local office of the Soil and Water Conservation District, or on-line at *www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp*. Work closely with your forester to identify skid trail locations that will support your future recreational access. If properly closed after harvest, skid trails can make nice walking and skiing trails. Avoid or minimize skidding between approximately March and early June when the bark on trees is loosely held; minor bumps at this time can remove large pieces of bark from residual trees. Skidding during this time should only be by carefully selected contractors or when most of the trees are being cut and there is considerable space among the residuals. Spring skidding often results in soil ruts that damage root systems. Less damage occurs with skidding during the dry season or on frozen ground. Some types of equipment are less likely to form ruts than other types. However, damage is most often related to the driver not the equipment; it pays to visit recently harvested sites. Skid trail design and equipment selection are beyond what I can cover here, so visit other owners and talk with your forester and logger about your options.

Successful low-impact harvests depend on many factors including the points above, plus your objectives and the people you hire. There are a couple options to help you clarify these factors. All these options may be helpful. One is to use the publication *Forest Resources Management: A Landowner's Guide to Getting Started* available for purchase through your county office of Cornell Cooperative Extension or on-line at *www.nraes.org* as publication #170. Another option is to contact Cornell Cooperative Extension or *www.CornellMFO.info* for a free visit from a nearby trained volunteer owner. A third option is to become active with your local chapter of NYFOA and talk with other owners during seminars, workshops, and woods walks. With woods walks, you can see examples of how harvesting occurs and what to expect. Finally, you can contact your local NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and speak with a public service forester.

Prepared by: Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY 14853. pjs23@cornell.edu www.ForestConnect.info

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL

The Economy is on everyone's mind. In this time, when we're all watching every penny and trying to pick up extra shifts at work, it's tempting to take some extra cash from your timber when it comes along. Just beware of only looking at the bottom line on your timber sale. Sometimes when that logger knocks on your door and says he can cut your lot and you'll make a lot of money, it's not all it's cracked up to be. I urge you to go back to your management plan and take a look at your long term goals. This will help you keep things in perspective.

Harvesting *can* be used as a tool for landowners through selection system tree or group cutting, or a partial cutting of high quality timber mixed with a stand improvement component. A stand of trees cannot be sustainable without harvesting some of those trees and management plans that don't include a harvest for this year can be changed if you need to. The ideal of sustainable management is that the forest provides for the landowner and future generations. Good management will accelerate the natural progression of the forest to allow the landowner to reap the benefits in the present and his offspring to reap the benefits in the future.

There are many ways a woodlot can meet the financial needs of the present while still meeting your long term goals of sustainability and the environmental criteria you've deemed important. Working with a knowledgeable forester can help you make decisions about how to manage for quality timber and how to improve aesthetics, create edges and brush piles for wildlife and to prevent erosion and damage to remaining trees. Then hiring a logger trained and certified through the NY Logger Training Courses will help ensure a quality job.

So, with all this in mind, if you'd like to learn more about the NY Tree Farm certification program remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (*nytreefarm@hotmail.com*) away.

Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.

Kid's Corner

Rebecca Hargrave

Greg Vigilante, NYFOA and American Tree Farm member submitted this photo. "This picture was taken at our Tree Farm (29 acres) in Dresden, NY in northern Washington County. In the picture are Nicolas Vigilante (my son - left), David Vigilante (my dad - back), Matthew Vigilante (my son - front center), and Dorothy Vigilante (mom - right). My parents were visiting from California and we took them up to our land for a picnic and woods walk." Rich McDermott is their DEC forester.

Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, (address on page 22) and it may end up on this page!

The Lost Ladybugs

Insects are important to our world. Usually we only think about the ones that bother us or our plants, but there is a group called beneficial insects that feed on those pesky ones and do us a big favor. One of those insects is the Ladybug, or more correct the Lady Beetle, since it is a beetle not a bug. Over the years, non-native ladybugs have been introduced to help us combat sucking insects like aphids and mealybugs, and these non-natives have pushed out our native ladybugs to the point where we don't see them anymore!

This is why we need your help! Help us find our native ladybugs. Researches at Cornell want to determine where our native ladybugs are, and what effect the exotic ones may be having on our forests and farms. Bug specialists at Cornell (entomologists) are willing to identify the different types of ladybugs that people find, but they can't get to all corners of the state. They need you to collect ladybug samples and send them in. The collection is all being done through the Lost Ladybug Project, *http://www.lostladybug.org*.

The ladybug is considered a "beneficial insect."

You know what ladybugs look like; little bright orange or red beetles with black spots. Have you ever noticed that some have a lot of spots while others only have a few? The multi-spotted lady bug is one of the exotic species and it generally has a lot of spots. A couple of our native ladybugs are the nine-spotted and the two spotted (guess the number of spots). The nine-spotted used to be the most common ladybug in the northeast, but it wasn't seen for years. The first nine-spotted that was seen in fourteen years was found in Virginia by a 10 and 11 year old sister and brother in 2006! Maybe you can find the next one!

So, what do you need to do? Go to the Lost Ladybug web site *www.lostladybug.org*. There are complete instructions on how to participate and the steps to take, including field guides to the ladybugs, activities, posters, songs and more! You can also check out postings from around the county, and see what's been found in your area.

Then go hunt for some ladybugs! You can collect them, photograph them, and upload your photos to our entomologists at Cornell. Take notes on where you hunted and the time and date, then return your beetles to where they came from. You may want a sweep net, a hand lens, and a ladybug field guide from *www.lostladybug.org*. Go out a few times over the summer to catch different types of ladybugs, look for plants with lots of aphids on them, you'll be sure to find a ladybug or three.

Help us find the Lost Ladybug…maybe its right in your backyard!

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

Common Snapping Turtle *(Chelydra serpentina)*

The common snapping turtle is our largest and most widely distributed freshwater turtle. It has a long stegosaurus-like tail with a jagged upper surface, a stout head with a sharp hooked beak, an olive-green to black carapace that is jagged toward the tail end, and prominent claws on all four feet. These turtles can be fairly large, exceeding 14 inches straight-line carapace (upper shell) length and weighing up to 45 pounds. On the underside, the plastron is yellow or grayish, and quite narrow relative to other turtles, frequently giving the appearance that the turtle has outgrown its shell. Although adult males tend to be slightly larger than females, they can be difficult to distinguish. Male snapping turtles can reach sexual maturity at the age of 4 or 5 years, while females may take several years longer. Average adult life spans of 20 to30 years have been recorded in several studies, with some females living as long as 40 years.

During the summer months, common snapping turtles often can be seen moving from their freshwater habitats to upland areas in search of nesting sites. When egg-laying is complete, these turtles move back into water at which time they can be difficult to spot. Snapping turtles often remain partially submerged in the mud with only their eyes and nostrils protruding above the surface. In this position, their head resembles the head of a basking frog, except darker and more pointed. Unlike other aquatic turtles, snappers are seldom seen basking out of the water. Instead, they usually are only seen with their head and sometimes upper carapace visible at the surface.

Similar to most turtles, snappers usually do not bite if stepped on underwater, nor do they bother swimmers. In fact, if you do not actually see a snapper, the chances are good that you will never know it's there. The reason for their name is obvious, however, when they are encountered on land. Unlike all other turtles in our region, they can be very aggressive, lunging their heads forward and biting with the slightest provocation (or sometimes just as a warning). With their sharp claws and fierce jaws, large individuals can do much damage, and are best left alone.

Common snapping turtles can be found in any body of freshwater, small to large, from sea level to altitudes up to 1600 feet in the Northeast. They occur throughout New York State, even in Central Park. Although some individuals enter coastal brackish waters, snapping turtles prefer slow-moving freshwater areas, with muddy bottoms and emergent vegetation that provide good foraging and escape cover. The common snapping turtle is omnivorous, and will eat just about anything, live or dead. Its most frequent food items are aquatic plants and non-game fish, but it also eats insects, small mammals, young waterfowl, amphibians, and other reptiles. Snappers feed throughout the warmer months, but fast during the winter, remaining dormant and burrowed in the pond bottom or in the banks.

Breeding begins soon after snapping turtles emerge from dormancy in the spring, and mating may take place from April to November. The nesting period for females lasts around 3 weeks, from May through June, with a peak at the beginning of June. Females prefer to lay their eggs on rainy afternoons and evenings (heavy rains may help wash away scents that lead predators to the nests). They generally choose open sites near wetlands, with well-drained sandy or loamy soils. They also are seen nesting in forest clearings or agricultural fields, and on bare soil banks or road embankments. The nesting female first digs a nest chamber with her rear feet and claws, then fills the underground chamber with eggs. Eggs are spherical and pliable, like soft ping-pong balls that bounce around in the nest chamber. A single nest may contain from 20 to 40 eggs, exceptionally as many as 83. Successful eggs hatch from September through October. As with many other turtles, the length of incubation can vary by several weeks, depending on location and temperature.

Like many other reptiles, the sex of the hatchlings is determined by tempera-

NYFOA Safety Tip

Stay on the Prowl for Poisonous Plants

As the sun beats down and temperatures rise, poisonous plants may be the last thing on your mind. But if you work outside, they are as real a threat as sun and heat.

Can you identify ivy?

The most common hazardous plant is poison ivy. It comes in three forms: a weed mixed in among grasses, a small bush in a fence row or a climbing vine on a tree.

Poison ivy is fairly easy to spot. Each dark green stem has three shiny oval-shaped leaflets, with white flowers in late summer and white berries in early fall. Also in the fall, the leaves turn dark red or purple. Even in winter, despite its brown and brittle appearance, poison ivy still contains uroshiol, the oil that results in an itchy rash.

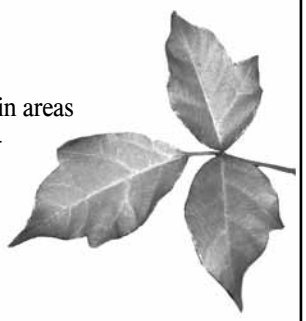
You need not even contact a damaged plant to be exposed to uroshiol. It sticks to leather, animal fur, clothing and tools. Even when it's being destroyed by fire, poison ivy can send the oil up in smoke, posing a threat to your eyes, mouth and lungs.

Watch for a rash of symptoms

If you come into contact with poison ivy, wash with soapy water as soon as possible. It takes a while for the oil to set in, so if you wash quickly enough, you might be able to prevent a reaction.

If you are sensitive to poison ivy, a red itchy rash will appear within 12 to 48 hours. Blistering and severe itching may follow. The blisters should crust over and heal over 10 to 14 days.

Treatment is a lot like the common cold. You can soothe the symptoms, but mostly you just have to ride it out. To relieve itching try an over-the-counter lotion such as calamine or zinc oxide. A doctor may prescribe hydrocortisone cream for more severe cases.



Prevention is the key

Apply barrier cream before working in areas with poisonous plants to prevent skin irritation. Immunization to these plants is available to some outdoor workers in constant contact with them. Check with your health care provider for more information.

Education and prevention are the best ways to steer clear of poisonous plants. Familiarize yourself with the plants or your region, dress to keep uroshiol off your skin and out of your airways, and you will stay reaction-free at work and play.

Safety tip provided by Ed Wright, President, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc.

ture of the eggs while they are in the nest. Under warmer conditions (above 85o F) only female turtles are produced; at intermediate temperatures (from 75o to 85o F) males are produced; and in nests colder than that, females are produced. Interestingly, in some nests, the heat of the sun from above causes eggs in the upper nest to be warmer than eggs down deeper. This differential heating creates females near the top of the nest and males near the bottom. So, for sex determination, there is an element of luck involved in whether an egg way dropped into the nest early or late, or in some cases the way in which the egg bounced as it fell. This environmentally controlled mechanism is called temperature-dependent sex determination.

Common snapping turtles generally are abundant throughout their range, but in some areas are very sparse due to several pressures. As in many other reptile species, snappers are highly vulnerable to predation at early life stages. Predation of nests in many areas is high, ranging from 30% to 100% of the nests in some studies. Main predators of the eggs such as raccoons, crows, and dogs, are frequently associated with high human populations. Also, with increased development often comes loss of wetland and nesting habitat, which are both essential for snapping turtles. Some local populations have been severely depleted by over-harvesting for their meat, and this decline is a major concern. Because of the diet and the habits of snapping turtles, they may accumulate high concentrations of contaminants, such as PCB and mercury, in their tissues. This could pose a health hazard to people who eat snapping turtle meat.

Landowners can enhance habitat for snapping turtles by maintaining the natural hydrology of wetlands and preventing unnatural drainage. Because snapping turtles frequent emergent vegetation for feeding and resting cover, maintaining native vegetation in and throughout shallow wetlands and around the margins of large, deep ponds will benefit this species (and other turtles as well). Provide a buffer zone of natural vegetation of 100 feet or more surrounding ponds and wetlands. Turtles, as well as other animals such as frogs and salamanders, require both wetland habitats and surrounding upland habitat to remain healthy. By maintaining open areas with loose soil near aquatic habitats, landowners can also ensure that these turtles have adequate nesting sites. Old log landings, maintained as open habitat, can make suitable nesting sites. By focusing on both upland and wetland habitat, landowners can attract and provide for snapping turtles and a wide diversity of other wildlife.

Adapted from "Hands-On Herpetology: Exploring Ecology and Conservation" by R. L. Schneider, M. E. Krasny, and S. J. Morreale.

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at ArnotConservation.info

NYFOA Calendar & News

Carbon Market Opportunites

The new US Forest Service Carbon Market Opportunities website is up and running. Link to it from the Homepage (*www.na.fs.fed.us/*).

The website delivers background on climate change and forests as well as information about how private forest landowners can engage in voluntary markets and the potential costs, benefits, risks and opportunities of doing so. Look for other updates, tools and resources on the website as well, including a link to CVal, a newly released forest carbon spreadsheet valuation tool designed for landowners and consulting foresters.

Sustainable Woodlands Webinar Series

The ForestConnect Forestry Internet Seminar Series uses web conferencing technology to provide research-based and unbiased information to forest owners and others interested in private forest lands management. Broadcasts occur on the third Wednesday of each month, once at noon—and limited to the first 100 participants to arrive—and a repeat live broadcast at 7:00 PM, Eastern time. You need a high speed Internet connection. All webinars will be recorded for later viewing. Each broadcast is scheduled to run an hour, although questions and answers may take additional time. There is no charge for participation, but registration is required. Register by visiting *www.ForestConnect.info* via the web conference link. Upcoming webinars include:

July 13, 2009 - Forest carbon cycles and management. Maria Janowiak, Michigan Technological Institute

July 27, 2009 - Landowner perspectives on forest stewardship and sustainability. Ruth McWilliams, USFS (retired)

2009 NYS Woodsmen's Field Days Offers Forest Owner Educational Assistance

Below is the schedule of seminars that will take place during the Woodsmen's Field Days. These mini-seminars will be held at the Fairgrounds in the new Forestry Educational Building (next to Husqvarna/CJ Logging Exhibit Area).

Friday August 21

9 am - 10 am
New York Turkey Management & Role Of NWTF • Doug Little - Wildlife Biologist (NY/NE) National Wild Turkey Federation

10 am - 11 am
Serious Invasive Threats To New York Forests • Kim Adams - SUNY ESF

11am - Noon
Marketing That Makes Money For Your Forest-Based Business (without spending a lot of cash!) • Jim Ochterski - Economic Business Specialist CCE of Ontario County

Noon - 1 pm
NY Trained Logger Certification (TLC): What, Why & How • Tom Pavlesich - N.Y.C. Watershed Agricultural Council

1 pm - 2 pm
Tips For Working Better With The Forest Owner • Mark Keister - Forester, NYS Department Of Environmental Conservation

2pm - 3 pm
Changes Of Ecology, Management & Integrity Of Northeastern Forest Due To Invasive Impacts • Dr. Ralph Nyland - Distinguished Service Professor in Silviculture, SUNY ESF

3 pm - 4 pm
Any Chance Of Trees Surviving New York's Hemlock Wooley Adelgid Outbreak? • Mark Whitmore - Professor of Natural Resources, Cornell University

4 pm - 5 pm
Do - It - Yourself Woodlot Work With An ATV • Scott Bell - Forest Equipment Inventor

Saturday August 22

9 am - 10 am
Hemlock Wooley Adelgid Has Arrived In New York - What Does The Future Hold? • Kim Adams - SUNY ESF

10 am - 11 am
Tax Responsibility For Timber Harvest • Stephen Goodman - IRS Forester

11 am - Noon
Heating Communities With Wood Chips • Collin Miller - Wood Products Utilization & Marketing Specialist, N.Y.C. Ag Watershed Council

Noon - 1 pm
Do-It-Yourself Woodlot Work With an ATV • Scott Bell - Forest Equipment Inventor

1 pm - 2 pm
Positive Forest Stewardship To Limit Invasive Introductions • Steve Vandermark - Forest Specialist CCE of St. Lawrence County

2 pm - 3 pm
Asian Longhorned Beetles In The Catskills • Jerry Carlson - NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

3 pm - 4 pm
Wetland Property Tax Status For Forest Land Owners • Judy Robinson - U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

4 pm - 5 pm
Making Money Growing Willow • Larry Smart - Cornell University

Questions, comments or thoughts on future Woodsmen's Seminar topics may be directed to Walter Friebel at 315-841-8874.

New Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteer Training

New MFO volunteer training will take place at Arnot Forest on Wednesday, September 9 through Sunday, September 13, 2009. You can apply on-line at *www.cornellmfo.info* or call Diana at (607) 255-2115.

Mark your calendars now! October 2 – 4, 2009

Enjoy the fall colors in the beautiful Adirondacks and meet other forest owners to share ideas on caring for your woodlands

2009 New York Forest Owners Fall Workshop, Woodswalk, and Banquet

Northern New York Master Forest Owner (MFO) Refresher

October 2 – 4, 2009
Lake Placid and Paul Smiths, New York
Hosted by the Northern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
FOUNDED 1963

Additional information, registration package, and spouse activity ideas will be available on **www.nyfoa.org** by August 1

Program will include:

- **Friday evening welcome reception with entertainment**
- **Saturday informational workshops and woodswalks at Paul Smiths**
- **Banquet with speaker and entertainment**
- **Sunday pancake breakfast and sugarhouse tour**

SAF CFE credits applied for

Event will be based at **Northwoods Inn, Main St., Lake Placid, (866) 294-7171**.

Overflow lodging at Placid Bay Inn, Saranac St., Lake Placid, (518) 523-2001.

Request special rates for forest owners when you call.

Sponsors to date:
Curran Renewable Energy • Finch Forest Management
Stihl • US Forest Service • Woodmizer

finch forest management

Timber Theft and How to Prevent It

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

What should you do when a logger knocks? Short answer: call a forester! Timber harvests should be planned and designed to further the owner's objectives, be they wildlife enhancement, recreation or timber production. Timber harvesting is an honorable and essential occupation, but unplanned harvests may mean an owner is agreeing to "be stolen from." In the next issue, we will discuss choosing a timber harvesting firm, after developing a management plan with your forester.

Why call a forester? Most private forest owners do not have the training to appreciate that a well planned timber harvest should be a satisfying undertaking. Or, with needed income possible, to understand that now is not the best time for a harvest. Or, that maybe a harvest now will not yield income, but rather would be an investment by removing the poor trees. In short, most private forest owners do not have the ability to look at a woodlot with the eye of a forester who "sees" the woodlot twenty-thirty or more years hence, and knows what steps now will help achieve the vision.

We can't say too often or with greater conviction, that landowners need a plan. They need to have gone through the process of thinking about their objectives and at least begun to understand their options. For some owners, inviting a Master Forest Owner volunteer (call NYFOA or your county extension office) for a free visit may be a starting point, for others, a Department of Environmental Conservation forester or a paid private consulting forester may be more appropriate. Owners interested in qualifying under New York's forest tax law will need a plan prepared by a private consulting forester.

Selecting a professional forester is somewhat like dealing with your medical doctor or having your automobile serviced. You must feel confident in the forester's advice and judgment. Consulting foresters advertise in journals and magazines (several are listed in *The New York Forest Owner*). Your Department of Environmental Conservation regional office has a list of known professional consultants. Sometimes neighbors or fellow members of NYFOA can suggest foresters they feel are well experienced, have good judgment, and are willing to listen to and understand owner's views.

Several items should be considered when interviewing foresters. Most consultants will offer a list of clients they have worked with, and a few phone calls can be very informative. The way in which they charge for services varies with some charging by the hour and while others work on a commission basis. There are advantages to either method and often the choice depends on the particular job to be done.

Sometimes the forester's professional and other experiences will be relevant. Young foresters just starting out have the latest knowledge while older more established ones have the benefit of greater experience. Finally, owners must feel comfortable working with the individual or firm. The greatest service the consultant can provide for you is to put into action the hopes and aspirations you might have for your woods or lacking any definite plans, help you formulate a sustainable future for you and your family.

If a timber harvest is planned, the forester should be your agent. You might not have any idea of what timber you have or its market value. There are also many different ways that trees can be selected for harvest. The method you and your forester choose must be done with your objectives in mind and with good knowledge about all alternatives. The best solution is one reached after considering all alternatives and the consequences of each.

Many wood-using firms have professional foresters on their staff. These are highly competent and conscientious people. However, remember, they work for the buyer to insure that the buyer pays only what is necessary to acquire the timber. Many industry foresters do give valuable advice to landowners and will be of great help in planning and conducting the timber harvest. However, the first step is to contact an independent consulting forester to be your agent.

Consulting foresters exist in all areas of New York. They are familiar with markets and the various silvicultural methods for managing forests. They can help you develop a management plan for your property. One of the first things your forester should ask you is what are your objectives and interests in your forest? What do you want to do with it? What are any long term and short term considerations? You should accompany your forester through your woods, if you are able. You will learn a lot from the observations and questions. And, you can point out your (hopefully!) well marked property boundaries. If you are physically or otherwise unable to accompany the forester, see if you can get a family member to go along. They will in turn begin to appreciate the wonderful resource you have and maybe take a greater interest in being involved in your forest.

Hugh Canham is a retired professor from SUNY ESF and a member of NYFOA's CNY chapter. Ron Pedersen is a past President of NYFOA and is a member of the Capital District chapter.

A Tree's Response to Defoliation

Douglas C. Allen and Kim B. Adams

Many of New York State's forest owners have had to live with high and persistent populations of forest tent caterpillar (Fig. 1) and eastern tent caterpillar (Fig. 2) during the past several years. Typically, outbreaks of these two insects last for two to three years in a stand or forested area until disease, predaceous and parasitic insects, changes in food quality, adverse weather, or a combination of these events reduce populations to innocuous levels. We can only speculate about the factor or factors responsible for the current situation, but the fact that high populations have occurred over a fairly large geographic area (i.e., several states) suggests the involvement of weather factors. Favorable weather at certain times of the year can enhance survival of the defoliator or at other times weather may be unfavorable for natural enemies. Though we lack an understanding of just why these populations have endured, it seems worthwhile to reiterate the consequences of repeated heavy defoliation, to identify factors that often magnify the effects of defoliation and to indicate available control options.

The insects most frequently involved in large scale defoliation of forest grown trees belong to one of three groups, the Lepidoptera (moths), Coleoptera (beetles) or Hymenoptera (sawflies). The most serious defoliators associated with broadleaved trees in our region are *whole leaf feeders*; that is, insects that consume an entire leaf including the veins. Two other important groups are *skeletonizers* that eat only the tissue between the veins giving the leaf a lace-like appearance and *leaf miners* that consume tissues between the upper and lower "skin" of the leaf. This behavior results in tan to brown foliage that appears otherwise intact. The change in color occurs because the "skin" or epidermis of leaves does not contain chlorophyll, which is responsible for the green color of healthy foliage.

The major whole leaf feeders associated with needle-bearing trees are sawflies, a misnomer because they are not flies in the adult stage but a type of wasp.

The timing of defoliation for broadleaved trees may also be important. Our most damaging defoliators begin to feed around budbreak and continue through much of June. They are thus subjected to the vagaries of spring weather but have access to more nutritious, less well-defended (chemically) young foliage. Trees that are severely defoliated this early in the growing season will set new buds and refoliate by mid-summer. This depletes much of the energy reserves of the tree, and it will be less capable of survival should subsequent stresses occur during the same growing season. Defoliators that feed later in the season occur much more sporadically here. They often face fewer challenges posed by the weather but must consume late season foliage which is less nutritious and more difficult to digest. By this time, many trees have already stored much of the energy needed to produce leaves the following spring. However, trees substantially defoliated late in the season, often will attempt to produce a second complement of foliage, leaving them with little energy reserves for the upcoming growing season. This second cohort of foliage might remain on the tree well into autumn when it may catch and hold heavy, wet snow which can result in broken limbs. Additionally, in some instances this second effort to produce foliage does not give the tree time to set buds for next year – without viable buds there can be no foliage.

Native trees and their complement of foliage feeding insects have co-evolved over millions of years. During the growing season, one can find innumerable species of leaf feeders on any given tree, most of which occur in numbers so low as to be unnoticeable to anyone not looking for them. These species consume, at most, a very modest 5 to 7% of the foliage each year. Only a very small number are major defoliators capable of attaining outbreak status. By definition the term "outbreak" is applied whenever insect damage, such as defoliation, reaches a level which threatens a forest owner's management objectives.

During the course of evolution, trees have developed a variety of chemical, physical or developmental defensive mechanisms that help to maintain populations of most leaf-feeding insects at very low levels. Healthy broadleaved trees are able to survive and function, at least temporarily, without a major portion of their foliage. This is yet another adaptation for confronting leaf-feeding insects. For example, we know that a healthy sugar maple can lose approximately 50% of its leaves before major changes occur to its physiology or growth. Even following one complete defoliation, a tree like this may recover the following year if it is able to set new buds before the end of the growing season. The consequences of heavy defoliation are more severe for conifers, because they are not able to replace lost current-year foliage by forming new buds, and because the loss of older needles represents a loss of energy reserves that cannot be replaced.

The impact of heavy defoliation is influenced by many factors that should be considered before a forest owner makes a decision to intervene and apply a direct control measure. Generally, control involves using either a registered synthetic organic chemical or a registered biological insecticide like the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis ("B.t.")*.

The first thing to consider when evaluating the need to take action is your *management objective*. Using sugar maple as an example, if you manage a sugarbush most likely your goal is to produce a maximum amount of sweet sap. The amount and quality of maple sap that comes from a tree is directly related to crown size (genetics is also important); therefore, one should respond more quickly to save foliage compared to other objectives. For example, when defoliation in a sugarbush first becomes "noticeable" or is heavy on an adjacent property, it is very likely that defoliation in the *sugarbush* the following year will be heavy enough to affect sap production. Therefore, foliage should

Figure 1. The forest tent caterpillar.

Figure 2. A cluster of eastern tent caterpillars resting on their silk tent.

be protected next year. With sawtimber in mind, however, one year of moderate defoliation (e.g., 40-60%) will have little impact on growth. When stand, site and moisture conditions are favorable for the tree species of interest, even one year of heavy (i.e., ≥60-75%) defoliation is not likely to threaten survival.

Stand conditions should influence your decision as well, because many variables determine the ability of a tree species to tolerate heavy defoliation. Is your property a good site (soil, moisture) for the species of interest? Are current moisture conditions favorable? Is this the first year of heavy defoliation? These factors impact tree vigor and, to one degree or another, determine how a stand responds to a season of heavy defoliation.

One "condition" that is often not considered, because it occurs in soil ("out of sight, out of mind"!), is the presence of shoe-string root rot, also known as *Armillaria*. Even under otherwise favorable site, stand and moisture conditions, following more than two to three years of heavy defoliation severe crown dieback and tree mortality may occur when this wide spread organism invades the roots. The fungus lives in most soils and normally is a saprophyte (sap-row-fight), so called because its nutrition is obtained from dead organic matter. Studies with maple and oak have shown that heavy defoliation triggers physiological changes in a tree that convert starch stored in the roots during the growing season to a sugar favored by the fungus as a food source. This renders otherwise healthy roots susceptible to invasion by the fungus. The fungus can be the agent that ultimately kills the tree, not the defoliation. This is another item to consider when deciding whether to protect foliage. It is not possible to control the fungus, but maintaining tree vigor by protecting foliage, especially when a stand has been stressed recently by drought, heavy defoliation, or silvicultural activity, will decrease the likelihood that this fungus will invade the roots.

Control options for insect defoliators are limited but effective. They may be costly, however (e.g., $20.00/acre or more), and that is why a prudent forest owner should carefully evaluate the need to take action. Insects have been defoliating trees for millennia and, within reason, trees are able to withstand the consequences of this stress.

Therefore, it is important to realize that the appearance of defoliation does not spell disaster! It is a normal event in all forest types. Populations of natural enemies take a year or two to "catch up" with an unusually abundant defoliator population, but fortunately more often than not these parasites, predators and disease-causing microbes play a major role in bringing the pest population down to tolerable levels. If one moves too quickly to control populations of native defoliators with chemicals, this will likely reduce populations of beneficial insects. Similarly, lowering populations of the defoliator too quickly can prevent epidemics of disease-causing microbes that usually require high host populations to become established.

Again, some management objectives may require quick action to preserve foliage (e.g., aesthetic values, sap production, mast production for wildlife, etc.), other objectives will not be materially affected right away in a vigorous, well managed stand.

This is the 99th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF and Kim Adams is an Instructional Support and Extension Specialist at SUNY ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/31301.html.

Emerald Ash Borer Alert!

What the Public and Woodlot Owners can do NOW about Emerald Ash Borer

Rebecca Hargrave

Originally from Asia, its first US discovery was in Michigan in 2002. If the emerald ash borer follows the trend in the mid-west, it will likely kill all of our ash trees; all sizes and all species.

While the borer may have far to come before it gets to your area, we all can be taking precautions.

Tips for everyone:

1) Do not move firewood!

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) larvae (young) live and feed under the bark of ash trees, and can be present even after the tree has died. Cutting ash for firewood and transporting it has helped EAB spread more quickly. Also, there are other worrisome insects and diseases that can be spread through firewood movement, including maple pest the Asian Longhorned Beetle, currently found in and around NYC and in central Massachusetts. Due to these insects and diseases there is a new law in NY: you cannot move untreated firewood more than 50 miles. Please buy and burn your wood locally. Information on the issue of moving firewood can be found at: *www.dontmovefirewood.org/*. For information on the 50 mile rule: *www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html*.

2) Do not plant any more ash trees

It is inevitable that you will have to deal with the EAB where you live. Choose a non-ash shade tree for yard, street, or forest planting. For suggestions contact Cornell Cooperative Extension, *www.cce.cornell.edu*.

3) Be on the look out for the EAB and its signature exit hole

Emerald Ash Borers are very distinct, small, longer than wide, and metallic green. When the adults emerge from trees they chew a "D" shaped exit hole. If you see an insect like this, or an exit hole, contact us, or bring the insect in for ID. Tips for landowners: If you have ash in your woodlots, don't despair! There are some things you can do to make our forests healthier in the long run.

If you have timber quality ash trees:

1) Contact a professional forester about your best management options.

The timber market is not at its best right now, and we don't want to flood the market and lower the value of high quality trees. Ash is a popular wood; it's great for floors, cabinets and furniture. Plan your harvests carefully to have the best return on your investment.

2) Don't be tempted to liquidate all your ash.

Selecting valuable trees could be worthwhile, but there are a couple concerns about removing all of our ash trees. Naturally resistant ash trees have yet to be found. EAB has devastated all ash trees it's come across, but we're holding out hope that some will be found that can resist its attack. In addition, research is being conducted on biological controls and pesticide options, so by the time it gets here, it may not be a bad as we once thought. Also, standing dead trees (snags) provides wonderful wildlife habitat and

continued on next page

Emerald Ash Borer
Howard Russell, Michigan Sate University, Bugwood.org

EAB "D" Shaped Exit Hole
PA DNCR - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

It's important for NYFOA members to know that EAB, in all its life stages, is a "Federally-regulated pest." That means, if it is found anywhere, on any material (ash nursery stock, logs, firewood, etc.), then that material may not move off-site. It's in effect quarantined. This affects active logging jobs, nurseries, local mills, and firewood producers.

– Bruce Williamson,
Chief, Bureau of Private Land Services/
Division of Lands & Forests - NYSDEC

EAB/firewood
Toll-Free Hotline 1-866-640-0652.

food for cavity nesters and insect feeders. Leaving a few trees to become snags can benefit your overall woodlot diversity.

3) Begin to manage for other species of trees

Removing some large and medium sized ash trees around future crop trees will hasten the growth of the trees left standing. Select your future crop trees (for timber, wildlife food production, maple syrup production, etc.) and clear away ash or other undesirable trees that are interfering with that crop tree's canopy. Remember, if you're going to conduct removal activities yourself, to have the proper chainsaw training and wear the appropriate safety equipment.

For more woodlot owner information check out "Private Woodland Management in Anticipation of Emerald Ash Borer", written by Peter Smallidge, PhD. NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest with Cornell University at *www.ForestConnect.info* — click on Publications. If you are interested in a timber sale, have it professionally planned and implemented. For advice and information contact your local Extension Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension, *www.cce.cornell.edu*, or Forester at the Department of Environmental Conservation, *www.dec.ny.gov*.

Some great references for pictures, descriptions, life cycles, and what you can do:

The New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse web site: *www.nyis.info/*

The National Emerald Ash Borer web site: *www.emeraldashborer.info/*

The NYS Department of Conservation web site: *www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html*

If you have a suspicious insect or tree, bring a sample or photos in to Cornell Cooperative Extension or DEC Forestry Office, or call the NYS EAB Hotline at 1-866-640-0652.

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.

Member Profile: *G. Robert Baker*

Alexandra Silva

G. Robert Baker, or G-Bob, as most people refer to him, has been a self-employed logging contractor since 1976. Currently living in Saratoga County with his wife, Gabrielle, G-Bob owns his own company: Baker Forest Products. Gabrielle, a local pre-school teacher, has worked at their church's nursery school program for the past several years. With two of their children gone and two still living at home, the couple is now preparing to celebrate twenty-eight years of marriage. Allison, the oldest child, followed in her mother's footsteps and is now an elementary school teacher. Brandon is currently completing an electrical workers apprenticeship after having graduated from Paul Smith with two degrees in Fish & Wildlife and Surveying. Ashley is finishing her final year in nursing (RN) school, while Lindsay has recently completed her second year at SUNY Cortland.

For his own part G-Bob did some post-grad work after graduating from the University of Northern Colorado with a liberal arts major and a double minor in biology and chemistry. Still not sure what profession best suited him, G-Bob returned to the East Coast and took a short-term job with a Vermont logger in 1972. Having loved the experience, he decided to purchase a used skidder after finding an advertisement in the local paper. That same year, 1976, G-Bob left Maine, where he had been living, and returned home to New York.

As he embarked on his new-found profession with visions of grandeur, G-Bob quickly realized that he wasn't going to be the area's biggest contractor any time soon, since he was continuously buying equipment. Now, however, G-Bob runs a successful business, Baker Forest Products, which caters to various property sizes.

White pine residual logs from a 2004 mini-harvest on the Baker property.

While a number of logging jobs are relatively small, only about five acres in area, G-Bob also has clients who require rotational thinning on 600-acre properties. With an entire career revolving around woodlot management, G-Bob finds most foresters and landowners to be excellent stewards and enjoys working on projects with them.

Having had two to three kids in college simultaneously for the last eight to ten years, and given current market conditions, G-Bob doesn't see himself retiring from the logging profession anytime soon. While the job is physically demanding, he finds that it keeps him healthy and being his own boss is a great perk. Despite the recent economic downturn, G-Bob has yet to see a decline in his year-round business, as he already has jobs booked out for the next few years. Unfortunately, he surmises that scheduled harvests may be postponed if owners are forced to renegotiate stumpage prices to avoid selling timber into a poor market.

Aside from running his own business, G-Bob is also on the board of New York Logger Training (NYLT). Established in the early 90's, the NYLT is a statewide organization offering logger education, primarily in safety procedures, first aid and CPR, as well as forest ecology, silviculture and BMP's. The organization aims to not only provide a safer workplace for loggers, but to also improve professionalism and public image. G-Bob has also been on the Northeastern Loggers Association board for the past six years and is their representative to the American Loggers Council, a national organization of timber harvesters.

Additionally, G-Bob is a member of the Southern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA. Though he joined over a dozen years ago, his schedule has never permitted him to hold office. G-Bob keeps busy with various NYFOA activities, including co-leading woodswalks on properties he has logged.

Though he has yet to lead a woodswalk on his personal property, G-Bob

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Balsam and Frazer Fir Christmas trees grown on G. Robert Baker's eighty-acre property in Saratoga County.

owns 100 acres of land that he purchased in 1978. Originally farmland, the primary eighty acres was in transition when G-Bob bought it, and is now a combination of white pine and mixed northern hardwoods grown in Windsor sand gravel. G-Bob has done many mini cuts over the years, harvesting a few loads of logs almost annually after taking time in the spring to pick and choose what trees to harvest. While it helps pay the property taxes, he wouldn't recommend doing this for the majority of properties as it increases residual damage.

Christmas trees, including spruces and balsam firs, have also been planted on the property, though it is more of a hobby for G-Bob. While he harvests and sells some of the trees, visitors are also allowed to pick and harvest trees of their liking. G-Bob also manages three bee hives on the property, though he has never made a habit out of harvesting the honey. Instead, the apiaries help facilitate pollination on the property.

White pine sawlogs harvested this spring from the Baker property and headed to the sawmill.

Despite his success with white pine and Christmas tree planting, G-Bob experienced disappointment when a planting of black walnuts failed a few years ago. G-Bob attributes the failure to unsuitable soil composition and believes that your site structure dictates what species will grow best. In the late 90's, G-Bob was forced to throw away a good deal of market-sized Douglas firs after they became diseased.

The eighty acres was also part of a "SIP Grant," a federal program for wildlife habitat improvement. As part of the program, G-Bob removed four acres of low-grade pole timber and planted crab apple, European larch and imperial clover. The clover successfully served as a cover crop for several years, but eventually failed. Now he is trying to plant alfalfa, but with limited success. Nonetheless, G-Bob has noted an increase in wildlife on the property.

The remaining twenty acres of property is mountainous forest land and includes a few feeder springs that dry up after springtime. The area includes one nice stand of timber that is now gorgeous red oak and hemlock, after G-Bob removed 50,000 board feet of diseased beech from the area in 1974. The twenty-acre area is located approximately five miles from where he currently lives.

G-Bob also manages an additional 200 acre property in conjunction with his siblings. His father, who had a love of land, inherited much of the property, though he bought additional pieces. G-Bob has done similar wildlife habitat improvements on these areas, but not to the same extent as on his own property. Nonetheless, managing the additional acres of land while also tending to his own property and running Baker Forest Products keeps G-Bob busy year-round.

Alexandra Silva is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the September/October Issue issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe @syr.edu Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

Deadline for material is August 1, 2009

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