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Volume 14  
Number 1

the voice of 255,000 forest owners in New York  
- representing an ownership of 11 million acres



## New York Forest Owner

January - February, 1976

### Forest Owners Tour Arnot Forest

- William W. Ballagh  
Chairman, Publicity  
Committee

The forestry tour at the Arnot Forest on October 11 was both a proof of current interest in forest management and a guide to more profitable planning for all forest owners.

Forestry management factors and data presented are available in other summaries and technical papers presented. The tour of the woodlot with the professors and technicians to point out the illustrations of factors affecting growth tied the data into management needs. The tour was an outstanding performance leading us to see what we have in a woodlot, of helping us to "read" the signs of how it got there, and conjecturing with us on the means for more profitable use.

The afternoon tour had one hundred odd attentive participants. About half were members of the N.Y. Forest Owners Association who had attended a forenoon tour and noon luncheon.



Professor Wayne Sinclair of Cornell's Department of Plant Pathology has the rapt attention of the 250 spectators as he discusses the implications of beech bark disease.

Every timber producer of the state should have an annual experience of some such type of tour or meeting. Through membership in the N.Y. Forest Owners Association he or she could combine this experience with exchange of ideas to build more profitable forests for today and for the heritage of tomorrow.

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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*Alan R. Knight*

## Editorial

This editorial will be, I hope, the first of many opportunities to visit with the readers of the Forest Owner. Perhaps they can be a chance to get something off my chest, or an attempt to provoke your thoughts with an outrageous or awkwardly eloquent idea. This first editorial should serve, I suppose, as an introduction. After all, it is my first issue.

My wife, Nancy, and I become a staff of two to produce this newsletter. We'll argue about it, take turns typing, and act like proud parents when it comes off the press. I think we were flattered to be asked, and a little extra money won't hurt the budget either!

Aside from that, the fact that we believe in forests motivates us. Believe in forests? Yes. Believe that they have value, beauty, and even rights. It reminds me of a story by Dr. Seuss. An elfish creature goes around proclaiming, "I am the Lorax and I speak for the trees!"

One could do worse than to be a Lorax.

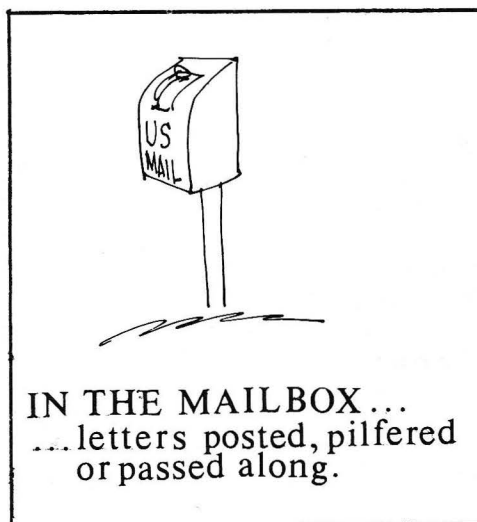
THANK YOU, HOWARD...

"We welcome aboard a new editor, Alan Knight. Familiar to Tioga County as editor of Country Living, a magazine from Cooperative Extension. As a former member of the Extension Board of Directors, I have enjoyed working with him and found him knowledgeable and, above all, enthusiastic. I anticipate great things from the Forest Owner... maybe some advertising, dress it up, and get more members.

-Howard O. Ward  
Candor, NY

#### A TOUR OF SCOTTISH FORESTRY...

I missed the fall meeting, instead I vacationed in Scotland, Ireland, Holland, and France. The areas of Scotland we saw were mostly bare looking low mountains covered with ferns of a beautiful shade of brown, and heather, and sheep... but no trees or bushes.



Mile after mile of these mountains had recently been planted with evergreen seedlings. They spoiled the peaceful looking landscape, and the people are not too pleased with this. I understand the Forestry Commission has taken sheep farms and planted them to trees to supply much needed lumber. In WWII the shortage of wood was crippling.

We saw many interesting things, but it was good to be home again.

- Evelyn Stock  
Syracuse, NY

#### STATE FORESTERS TO ADOPT EXTENSION PROCEDURES?

(a letter to a Soil and Water Conservation District Office)

I have just returned from the woods with Bob Demeree. He confirms your statements relative to "extension type service" on forestry matters. As a consequence Bob recommended hiring a consulting forester. I believe it's the right way to go. They can spend more time in trying to educate people and less in doing things that a consulting forester can do. In other words, I think the DEC Division of Lands and Forests is moving in the right direction. Let's get more people educated and let the costs of consulting foresters be a part of the cost of doing business.

- Howard O. Ward  
Candor, NY

Essays, articles, and letters should be addressed to:

Alan R. Knight  
Editor, NY Forest Owner  
526 Anderson Hill Road  
R.D.2, Candor, NY 13743



TIMELY ARTICLES  
IN  
COMING ISSUES

- What's with the Forest Tax Law?
- Watch out for beech bark disease.
- Announcements about the spring meeting, "Fun in Your Forest".
- The American Tree Farm System.

# Forest Owner's School a great success...



Saturday, September 6, 1975 was a perfect day and for those attending the second Cornell School for Forest Owners we hope it was a time well spent. The program had variety, with good opportunity to find fresh enthusiasm for those who traveled to Ithaca that day.

Originally it was intended that this article provide a summation of the meeting. To do this properly would take several pages of the Forest Owner. We expect the proceedings to be published and copies will be sent to each attendee, except in the case of couples, then but one will suffice. A few copies will be available, for those interested, certainly by our Annual Meeting, at cost, so be on the lookout for it in Syracuse in April.

Outstanding publicity was given this meeting via radio, the American Agriculturist magazine, Cooperative Extension at Cornell and of course the Forest Owner. This is the secret to success.

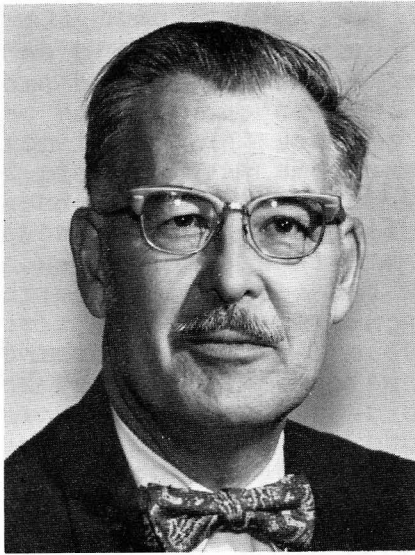
This 1975 event came up to expectations - an increased attendance over double that of the first F.O. School and it operated profitably. On both counts we are pleased and hope another year will find even greater interest by our membership. We feel that the opportunity to be of help is there and will work even harder to bring the third edition to reality.

As this is written, certain events have developed that will compound any future F.O. School with problems. The original idea for this type of one day meeting specifically oriented to the Forest Owner was proposed by Professor Fred E. Winch, Jr. three years ago. With the idea planted, two people put it in motion - Professor Alex Dickson and Bob Sand. After 32 years with Cooperative Extension, Fred is retiring late in November 1975 and Alex has accepted a position with the University of New Brunswick, Canada effective January 1, 1976. So the whole Cornell contribution is evaporating. We know personally the big void that will develop with the absence of these two fine, dedicated foresters from our State. May the powers that be diligently recruit for the vacancies these exceptional men create on leaving Cornell.

Both Fred and Alex have done yeoman service, in many capacities and on innumerable instances, for the New York F.O. Association. We wish each the best, success, good health, much happiness and add double portions of an overflowing measure of heartfelt thanks for the wonderful years they have dedicated to their profession. The expertise they so freely contributed to our cause will be long remembered by many.

- Robert M. Sand





## Fred Winch, Jr. Retires

After 32 years of service as an extension forester at Cornell University, Professor Fred E. Winch, Jr. retired in November of this past year. A fitting farewell function was held in late November on the Cornell campus.

A graduate of both the University of Maine and Cornell, Professor Winch has been a prominent figure statewide and beyond in many aspects of public forestry education. While he is perhaps best known for his extensive and effective efforts on behalf of the maple sirup industry, he also worked long and hard in helping 4-H youth and the state's Christmas tree growers. In recent years, he has been very much concerned with land use and equitable forest taxation.

Always one to encourage and support personal and professional integrity, he has over the years been an active member of the Society of American Foresters. A past chairman of the New York

Section S.A.F., he most recently served as editor of its newsletter, the New York Forester.

At Cornell, he has discharged many onerous responsibilities with distinction. He has been Director of Cornell's Arnot Forest, Department of Natural Resources' extension project leader, Associate Director of New York State Cooperative Extension, and acting chairman of the Department of Natural Resources.

His efforts have not gone unrecognized. A variety of honors and awards has been received from such groups as the New York Maple Producers' Association, the New York Forest Owners' Association, the New York Christmas Tree Trowers' Association, the Northeastern Loggers' Association, the Cooperative Extension honorary society, Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Fred plans to remain active as a consulting forester, operating out of his Sunapee, New Hampshire home.

(Note: be sure to read "A Glance Over My Shoulder", by Fred Winch in this issue.



Individuals who have made significant contributions to forest management and conservation are eligible for nomination for the "Heiberg Award". Svend O. Heiberg devoted his life to advancement of sound forest practices as a forester, professor, author and dean.

Please submit a biographical sketch and the reasons for the nomination. by February 1, 1976. to William C. Craig, RD 1, Sherburne, NY 13460.



## **A Glance Over My Shoulder**

by  
Fred E. Winch, Jr.

In 1945-1948 "retired" farm land could be purchased in 60 to 150 acre tracts with no buildings for \$5 to \$15 per acre. These tracts included forest land, open hay fields and natural re-seedings among the thornbrush. Good pond sites were to be found on these tracts.

Little attention was given to these areas, only those folks with "more money than brains" purchased them. Access was by poor public roads in most cases, but many were on semi-improved highways. In the post-war period many people acquired these tracts primarily for a retreat, a place to grow trees, and just perhaps a place to practice real forestry. Christmas tree farming came into being on many of these ownerships, largely accidentally. Families planted trees with the idea of harvesting Christmas trees "to put the kids through college". Some did, probably more than anyone knows. A few forward looking people consolidated their ownerships and became commercial Christmas tree farmers producing several thousand trees yearly.

...a feature length article  
by Cornell's retiring friend  
of forestry.

Many found, after 10 to 15 years, that the natural woodlands included in their purchase had grown valuable timber. Many times this first cut, often under the direction of foresters, returned much more than the original purchase price of the land.

In the late 50's, dollars became tight. Fuel costs rose and there was much interest in heating the farmstead and rural home with wood, an interest created originally by the scarcity of coal during war years. During the years of '55 to '60 many woods were improved by removal of fuelwood.

Interest was also growing to own land for private personal recreation. The "farms" that continued to retire from marginal areas often had good buildings; at least they could be readily fixed up into an attractive country dwelling. Land was better than on those farms retired earlier and there were opportunities either to grow some livestock and hay crops, or neighboring farmers would rent and operate better fields on the tract. The farm pond came into its heyday, more hunting and fishing. Work weeks became shorter. Recreation attracted more people, and those who could not own land looked for areas away from state lands to use on weekends and holidays.

Several owners of large and small tracts saw opportunities to put some of this rural land to use. Some of the Christmas tree farmers who had cut one or more crops from their land saw the possibility of picnic areas and campsites, especially where water impoundments could be built economically. Those landowners with a knack for meeting people and serving their needs became campground operators, and in the 60's this enterprise grew -- often on lands which had little other use. Private campgrounds now provide more campsites than state facilities have; it is an entirely new rural enterprise in New York.

Since there is no more "free" land in the state, prices of prime recreation land have gone up. The dollar value and the environmental value to the state of this formerly "worthless" land has increased many fold.

It has increased in value to agriculture in New York in a way that many farm owners seldom recognize: This land has remained on the tax rolls. If commercial agriculture had had to foot the bills of the last 25 years for all rural services, the load could have been much greater. In many cases farm operators have also been able to rent land more reasonably than they would have otherwise "just to keep it open". In many sections of the state, we now have agriculture interspersed with nonfarm rural lands. This maintains an environmental atmosphere that gives New York a unique flavor, attractive to permanent residents and tourists alike.

Also, some things have been happening to the woodlots of the state in these 30 years. Look at the composition of the majority of the forests of New York. We have large supplies of very desirable species, high quality species needed by industry: sugar maple, ash, basswood, black cherry, oaks, tulip, yellow birch and others. In fact, in total New York has probably more sugar maple and yellow birch than any other state. These species are valuable. The growth has gone on relatively rapidly from the cut-over and mismanaged days of the twenties and thirties. These stands

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"agriculture has made  
money...but forgotten  
the woodlot."

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are now getting to the stage where they will produce timber and dollars. Agriculture has made money from cows, corn, and hay, but has forgotten the woodlot in its preoccupation with larger herds. In a way this has been to the good, for our growing stock has increased. Timber values for these valuable species have risen from \$12-15 per M to as much as \$100 or more in the period prior to the present recession. Perhaps we are more fortunate than we know, for in this period of casual management (or management by neglect) we have grown a renewable resource, made more valuable because it is renewable.

(continued)

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!! Spring meeting of the Forest Owners Association is scheduled for April 10th at Marshall Hall, Syracuse. "Have Fun in Your Forest" is the theme, and Chairman Gene Farnsworth is lining up an appropriately enjoyable day for all!

But we have a problem: We have more owners of forest land (255,000) in New York than any other state; we also have more privately owned forest land than any other state, but the sizes of tracts are small. If we discount the 20 largest ownerships, our average forest owner has about 30 acres of forest land, whether farmer, rural nonfarmer, or absentee landowner.

We are fortunate in another way in that if the future of energy is as dark as it is claimed for the next 10 years, at least 255,000 people in the state may keep warm! A larger proportion of them are switching to home-grown heat.

Our individual forestland holding sizes put us in a typical farm forestry bracket. We need flexible mobile harvesters, able to get in and out of small woodlots for small harvests. Our valuable species will pay their way; utilization can be better. Already there is demand for chipped wood "waste" for pulpwood, but breathing down the neck of the pulp industry is the specter of using that same wood for an energy source. Vermont, among others, already is using wood in an electricity generating plant (wood is a cheaper BTU source than either coal or oil) and even this is not the final competition. Alcohol from wood can become energy additives for the internal combustion engine.

All is not a bed of roses. We can grow, under reasonably good management  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cord of wood per acre per year. That cord is presently worth \$1.50 to \$3.00 standing (stumpage). Present competition for land has pushed prices up on the market and assessment rates can be confiscatory if forestry is the goal of the owner. These stumpage rates will allow only a valuation of \$35 to \$50 per acre. The alternative to the owner is to further fractionate his holdings, or overcut,

which would push us back to where we were in the mid-20's, or sell to the owner of last resort (public ownership).

A further complication is a general attitude that harvesting timber is detrimental to the environment -- a tree is a thing of beauty and a joy forever and it should never be cut. Concerns reflected by the Environmental Protection Act also will throw obstacles in the path of future harvesting.



In the past 30 years we have traveled the road from a land surplus condition in New York to one of land scarcity. We have seen forest products go from surplus to a relatively scarce commodity if measured by the price pattern. We must recognize that wood is now on the threshold of greater demand, with more diverse uses as a renewable resource, than it ever has been. We just may be able to manage every reasonably good site for its greatest production of wood and energy in the near future. In spite of taxes, energy crises, small size tracts, and environmental problems for the forest owner, "the best may yet to be".



Austrian research shows that  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of woodland can filter up to 68 tons of dust out of the air in one growing season!



# let's convert adversity to forestry opportunity

Politics, people, public pressure, energy, and economics make the world go around! Many states in the U.S.A. the Nation itself, and the world are in the midst of political, social, economic, cultural, and energy crises. How do we in forestry capitalize on the situation?

We find a crisis - that is, a need of people - and we fill it. This is relative to good marketing. You must get the right product to the right people in the right way (package) at the right time for the right price. Then they buy it and you make a profit or succeed in your venture. And remember, what is true in New York may also be worthy of consideration in other places too; because many similarities characterize people and places.



As 1975 comes to a close over the forests of New York, three prominent forestry, forest product, and wood utilization educational leaders and foresters in the state are leaving. Professor Fred E.

Winch has retired to New Hampshire from Cornell University. Dr. Alex Dickson has returned to Canada at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton from Cornell University. Professor R.C. Deckert, editor of the Marketing Bulletin at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry is retiring in Syracuse.

So What? Who is going to do their work?

Do you know what a typical reaction of administrators is when somebody resigns or retires? Do we need to replace them? Where can we use the money to more advantage? Should we change the job description or responsibilities? Those are good questions and certainly worth asking! But, do you know where some of the information comes from for making decisions? It comes from other aggressive people - persons who are not "forest industry" - who stand up and voice their concerns and justify (demand rationally) program support.

You must organize your thoughts relative to program support and approach appropriate officials with your logical and well prepared requests for programs from educational institutions, associations, or government agencies.

To complement the forestry picture in New York, two new faces appear on the scene: Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Dyson.

Melvin N. Zimmer is a freshman assemblyman who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Small Business of the Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry, and Economic Development. He knows that small businesses - which include

logging and sawmill businesses - in New York have been struggling to survive under economic, managerial, and government burdens. He wants to rectify the situation to improve the viability of small business in New York. He wants to know from you what can be done to help. Let him know.

John S. Dyson is the new Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. He recognizes that forest crops of pulpwood, firewood, and logs are important to the agricultural economy and the state.



In fact, he has shown his interest by having a law drawn up which would include some forestry land under the Agricultural Districts Law. And relative to making money by good marketing, he has developed the logo "Grown in New York State" to promote the state's agricultural products. What do you think? Should this logo apply to baseball bats, oak flooring, cherry furniture, maple bowling alleys and paper products, as well as Christmas trees and maple syrup. By the way, did you know that New York State is the nation's largest producer of maple syrup?

Crises are opportunities. Leadership by design and decree rather than by default is what forestry needs. Your challenge is to look out for yourself and the industry which supports you. Take aggressive action whether it

be by the soft-sell approach or a hard-sell; but don't just expect things to go your way by themselves. They won't. Somebody else will take them away.

Another more common evaluation of the crisis is the analogy, "It is the wheel that squeaks the loudest that gets the grease!"

- David W. Taber, Cooperative Extension Specialist, Wood Utilization Service, Applied Forestry Research Institute, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, N.Y.

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to the F.O.A.:

Catherine V. Murray  
Route 12  
Alder Creek, N.Y. 13301

Edward Duheme  
Nostalgic Forest Products  
Star Route  
Northville, N.Y. 12134

Joseph Tortorella  
306 Barton Circle  
East Syracuse, N.Y. 13057

Gussie Esther Gaskill  
3 Sunny Slope Terrace R #2  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

John A. Donaghy  
R.F.D. #1  
Philadelphia, Pa. 13673

How to  
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Association  
By Laws



Assorted Publications  
You Should Know About

Any member may prepare amendments to the NYFOA bylaws for consideration at the Annual Association Meeting in April 1976 by sending proposed amendments to Francis H. Ross, Bylaws Committee Chairman, Box 51, Hamburg, NY 14075 before January 26 for publication in The Forest Owner.

Notice of proposed amendments must have been mailed to all members of the Association at least 10 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. To make maximum use of the Forest Owner, most of the March-April issue will be devoted to information concerning the Annual Meeting. This will give the membership about 30 days notice of that meeting and of proposed Bylaw changes.

If you would like a copy of the Bylaws please detach the coupon below and send to:

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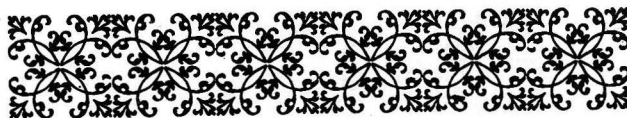
- Publications available -  
No charge from Applied Forestry  
Research Institute ( A.F.R.I.)  
S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental  
Sciences and Forestry, Syracuse,  
N.Y. 13210 . Complete listing  
available on request.

No. 24 - Gabriel, W.J. and  
R.L. Nissen, Jr. 1974 -  
A Time Study of Felling Small  
Diameter Hardwood Trees in  
New York State.

No. 25 - Burry, H.W., and  
R.L. Nissen, Jr. 1974 -  
Forest Resources and Wood  
Using Industries of the  
Catskill Region.

No. 26 - Gabriel, W.J. et al.  
1975 - Machines and Systems  
Suitable for Logging Small  
Woodlots in the Northeast.

- From Suffolk County  
Cooperative Extension  
246 Griffing Avenue,  
Riverhead, NY  
Woodland Owners Guide to  
N.Y.S. Forest Tax Act -  
Cooperative Extension,  
Suffolk County - A guide  
for forest owners in Suffolk  
County.

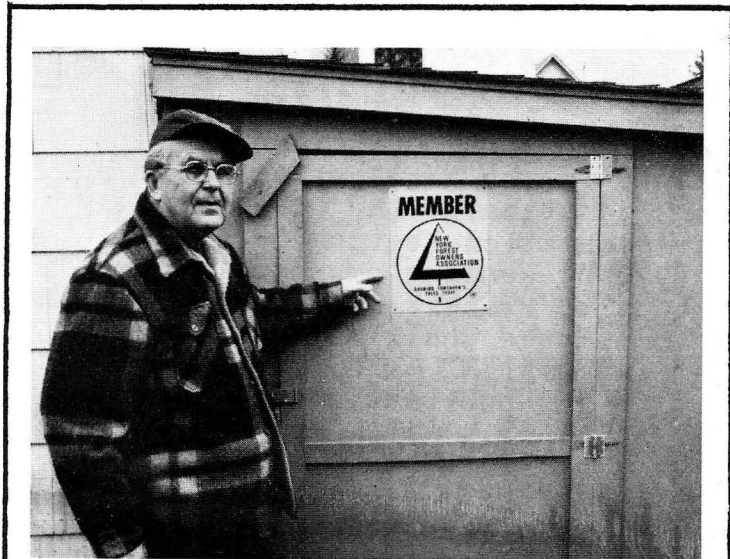
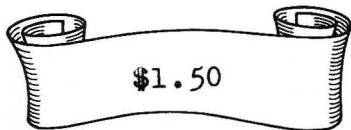
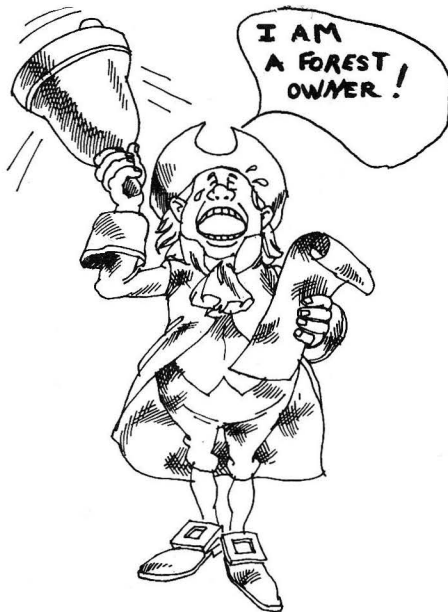


The mark of a man is  
what he has gotten from his  
roots. -Rod Serling.

The mark of a good leader  
is attention to detail.

- a U.S.Army manual

# TELL THE WORLD!



Association President  
Lloyd Strombeck shows  
off his Forest Owner sign.

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