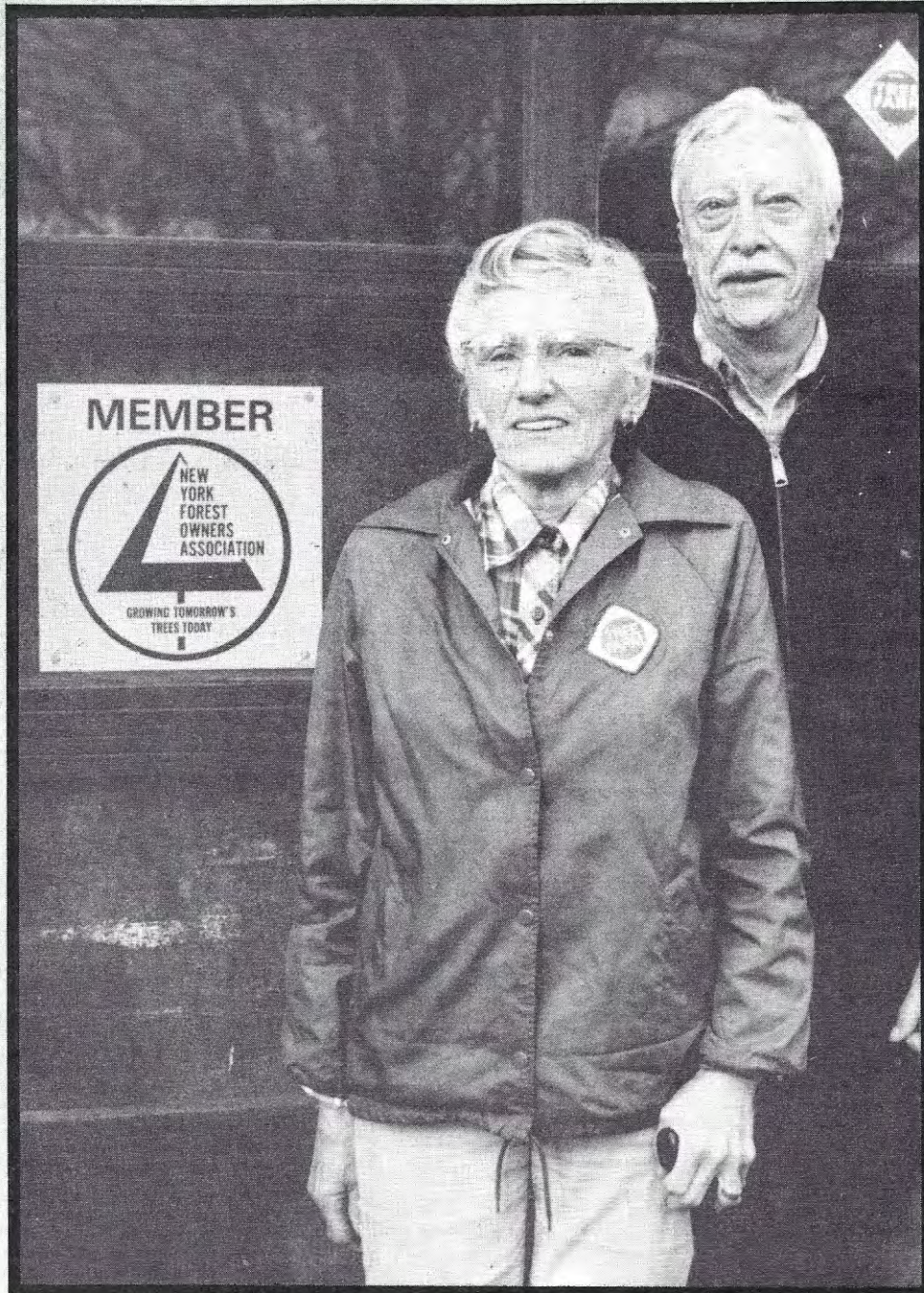


FOREST OWNER

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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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COVER PHOTO:

John and Harriet Hamilton were recently named the 1991 National Outstanding Tree Farmers—The highlight of the 50 yr. anniversary of the American Forest Council's Tree Farm Program.

PHOTO—MARK & SUSAN KEISTER

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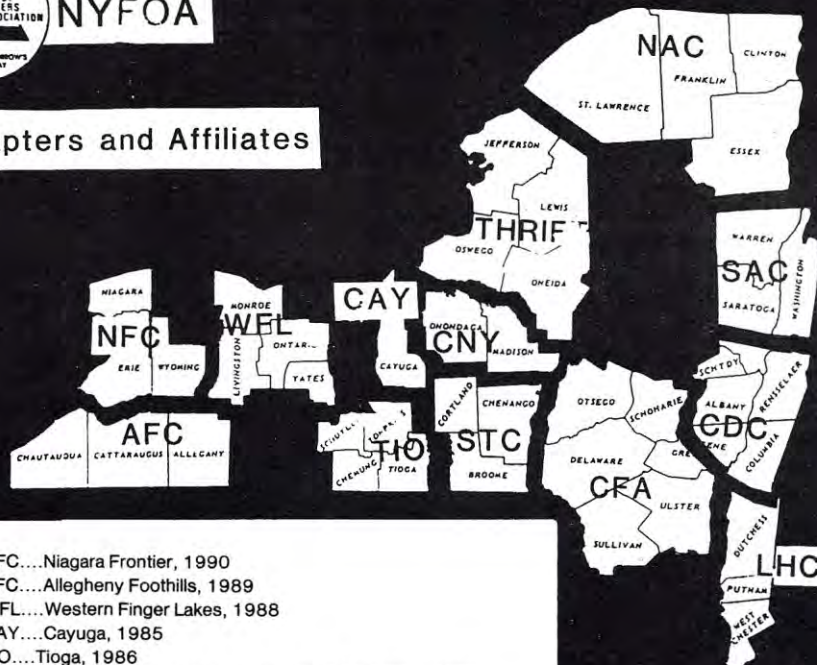
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NYFOA

Chapters and Affiliates



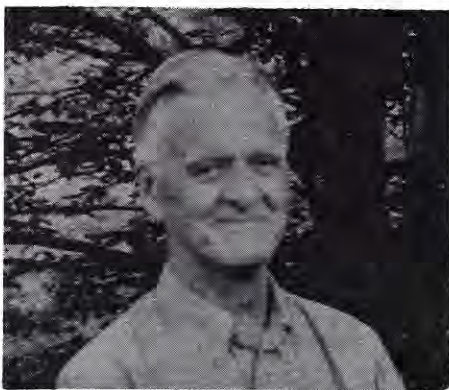
NFC....Niagara Frontier, 1990
AFC....Allegheny Foothills, 1989
WFL....Western Finger Lakes, 1988
CAY....Cayuga, 1985
TIO....Tioga, 1986
THRIFT...Tug Hill Resources, Investment for Tomorrow, 1982
CNY....Central New York, 1991
STC....Southern Tier, 1985
CFA....Catskill Forestry Association, 1982
LHC....Lower Hudson, 1991
CDC....Capital District, 1991
SAC....Southeast Adirondack, 1991
NAC....Northeast Adirondack, 1991

NYFOA is growing! Take a look at the chapters and affiliates represented in this map. Notice 5 were added this year! —C. Mowatt

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President's Message



STUART McCARTY

In the last five months, several of us, including Marian and Charlie Mowatt, Dick Fox, Mary and me, have attended a number of woodwalks and meetings of our chapters and affiliates. In the process it has become increasingly apparent to us that we have a very active association made up of many parts led by many dedicated people from all walks of life.

Not very many years ago we could almost count on one hand the meetings and woodwalks available to our membership throughout the state. Now with eleven chapters and two affiliates the calendar is full with some activity almost every weekend this fall. A conservative estimate of events for the coming twelve months as several of our newer chapters get going is that there will be sixty or seventy programs around the state!

What is the significance of this growth in activities? It certainly means that many more forest owners are being exposed first hand to the fundamentals of "forest" stand improvement, our first and primary objective. We are hearing a variety of approaches to caring for our woods depending on our personal objectives. There is no one way as our individual goals differ, a point I made in my message in the September/October issue. The leadership of the association is being dispersed with those volunteers who head the chapters and affiliates bringing a diversity in programming and activities that no one NYFOA committee could possibly achieve.

I want to express my appreciation to the leaders of these groups and

their teams. They are carrying a significant and valuable load in the successful operation of NYFOA. The chapter heads are Wendell Hatfield of Cayuga, Don Kellicutt of Southern Tier, Pat McGlew of Tioga, Ray Wager of Western Finger Lakes, Betty Densmore of Allegheny Foothills, Bob White of Niagara Frontier, Irwin King of Capital District, Ernst Spencer of Southeastern Adirondacks, Bob Davis of Lower Hudson, Tom Ellison of Central New York and Wes Suhr of Northern Adirondacks. In the affiliates we have Don Colton of THRIFT and Kathleen Farnum of the Catskill Forest Association. All of us who are interested in the future of NYFOA owe these people a hearty thanks!

At the risk of diluting the positive, in closing I feel I should express one concern; we are still reaching only a

small percentage of the forest owners of the state. We've enrolled 323 new members so far this year, but our net gain because of attrition is only 95! What can we do to increase our membership dramatically? Several ideas are being implemented by our Membership Committee, chaired by Dave Colligan. One is to follow up the delinquents more aggressively than we have in the past. Another is to recognize those members who have brought in new members. Yet another is to distribute our membership brochure widely through various sources. Finally, I have encouraged the chapters to join in a campaign to see which chapters can show the greatest percentage increase in membership from September 1991 through March 1992. My hope is that the chapter leadership will use their ingenuity and energy both to attract new members and to retain those already on the rolls. We'll hear more on this in later issues.

Letters to Editor . . .

Dear Editor:

The "Forest Owner" is an excellent publication that owes its success to an exceptional group of volunteers. For this reason it is embarrassing to suggest something that would involve additional time and effort on your part but here goes.

Part of each issue would make excellent reference material but much is of contemporary interest only with no long range value. This leads to a decision to file the entire issue, toss or cut and try to keep straight in a folder.

I would gladly buy a file of articles like "Ask the Forester" and "Easy Target" in the July/August 1991 issue. Previous articles on clear cutting are absolutely tops.

With each renewal, have a space to check with a cost added to the dues for those members that would like a file. This would make it quick and easy to buy the publication.

Maybe I'm an odd ball but it would be worth the extra cost to get a yearly file. Would you consider giving this a try.

Thank you again for an excellent publication.

Sincerely,
Jim Foster

A Charter (30 yr.) Member, Emiel Palmer advises that many members

maintain an index. The idea, then certainly, has merit. Given Emiel, as one odd ball to another, welcome and thank you. Of general and timely interest Jim and his ancestors have managed an Allegheny Plateau woodlot for 100 years and expressed his regrets at missing our fall meeting
- Ed.

Dear Editor:

The letter to the Editor by Tim Williams of the Cayuga Chapter, as it appeared in the Sept/Oct issue, is right on target. As I read issue after issue I often wonder how many of the NY forest owners do anything in their forest, and if so what they might be doing?

The most beautiful garden in your neighborhood came about by somebody working hard at it in addition to talking about it. So, what is the work being done, how is it going, what does it consist of? What are the successes and failures and what lessons can be passed on?

It used to be that we were privileged to read practical forestry article by Norman Richards, Doug Monteith and other experts and teachers. We had book reviews. I really enjoyed the article by Robert Demeree about clear cutting. I have learned a great

(Continued on Page 18)

Hard Work, Dedication, Award

By MARY McCARTY

Perhaps some of us are naive enough to think that the hard work of nearly sixty years by a devoted family committed to land stewardship would result in RESTING ON ONE'S LAURELS. Not so! Harriet and John Hamilton have recently won the NATIONAL OUTSTANDING TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR Award from the American Tree Farm System. Articles in the NY Forest Owner (July/Aug. 1991,) and in The Conservationist (Sept./Oct. 91) The Conservationist gave more details on their land, their concerted family efforts to transform 90 acres purchased in 1932 for a dollar an acre by Art Davis, Harriet's father, to the award winning 345 Hamilton Tree farm.

Members of NYFOA since 1979, Harriet and Jack have been active in the Western Finger Lakes Chapter including hosting woodswalks and serving on a panel for the 1989 Fall Meeting in Canandaigua.

Mike Virga, Chair of the NY State Tree Farm Committee wrote to Lester DeCoster, V.P. of the American Forest Council: "The Hamiltons have abided by traditional American values all their lives; they prove that dedication, hard work, and perseverance pay off. It can be seen in the way they've lived, worked, and managed their tree farm over the past half century . . . They blend the ethics of Muir, Pinchot and Leopold to come up with a philosophy that is pure Hamilton. They have the unique ability to communicate effectively with all environmentalists, regardless of their focus or view. PEOPLE LISTEN TO THEM."

Constructive management of a woodlot is an important aspect of this award, but the SHARING of that experience is the specific focus of their having achieved the award. To quote further from Mike Virga's letter: "The Hamiltons were forest stewards long before stewardship became an environmental buzz word. They seized the opportunity granted by the U. S. F. S. Stewardship Initiative and ran with it. Not only have their experiences enriched their lives but those who have had the chance to share in their knowledge and experience."



John Hamilton leads a stewardship tour of the Sierra Club's Rochester Chapter.

PHOTO/MARK & SUSAN KESITER



Sugar Maple and White Ash sawlogs from a commercial timber sale the Hamiltons conducted in 1987.

PHOTO/MARK & SUSAN KEISTER

Following the title of this article we can look now at the "more hard work" part! Today I spoke with both Harriet and Jack to ask how they were doing and how the calendar was shaping up after this recognition of the Award and their commitment to education and sharing their experiences. An upfront big plus for them has been the new friendships from this experience that have added another dimension to their lives. (Many of you readers can appreciate that fact as so many of us have experienced this new network of friends through NYFOA). The calendar of late includes the special party that was held at the Hamiltons to meet and greet the honored guest, Vice President Lester DeCoster, of the American Forest Council from Washington. He was stuck on the plane for six hours due to that communications breakdown in the New York City area, so a luncheon was arranged for the following day.

Harriet seems able to cope with these things!! Mike Greason and others were there, too. There have been interviews for newspapers, field days at Cuylerville, Tree Farm presentations by the Hamiltons for four groups of fifth graders on the value of Tree Farms. More meetings to explain the same values to Western NY Cooperative Extension Agents and 4-H agents. A few days later a tour for the public to show what they had done. Then off to Massachusetts - Tree Farm's 50th Anniversary, to share their experiences on this special year to the organization for this award. Then to Arnot Forest for the Master Forest Owner and COVERTS workshop. The Webelos Scouts from Springwater will be coming to work on their Forestry Badge soon.

In addition to all the traveling and entertaining there are two or three

(Continued on Page 5)

Winners and More Hard Work!

people who stop by daily to ask to see the property, as many can recall as "show and tell" sessions in kindergarten!! BUT, how wonderfully important the message is and the people who are willing to give it.

We can appreciate the long time commitment of the Hamilton family, their son and two daughters, their grandchildren; but the whole process would not have gone the way it has without the dedicated assistance of Billy Morris, Senior Forester of the D.E.C., Mark Keister, D.E.C. Forester, and Susan Keister, consulting forester. It has been a fulfilling experience for them, and it was surely TEAM WORK in the best sense. We feel honored to be part of this successful recognition of our fellow stewards. Once more, congratulations, and best wishes for the energy needed to fulfill your commitments.

The following are excerpts from the Hamiltons' remarks at the Albany Spring Meeting of the Empire State Forest Products Association after receipt of the 1990 NY State Outstanding Tree Farmers, by prior to recognition as the 1991 Northeastern Regional Win and the prestigious 1991 National Award (the second for a New Yorker; Mike Demeree, charter member NYFOA, Heiberg Award in 1969, was New York's first in 1985):

If you want to know what old feels like, watch lumber sawn from trees you have planted being used in the construction of buildings and see red pine logs from trees you have planted being hauled off for use as utility poles in Saudi Arabia. You may feel old, but you'll also feel proud.

We live on our Tree Farm which makes management considerably easier; it also brings a myriad of other benefits. The ponds that have been constructed for fire protection and wildlife make for great swimming when the work in the woods gets hot. We also hike, hunt, fish, ski, birdwatch, and enjoy the splendid variety of wildflowers and creatures with whom we share the property. One must be an optimist to keep planting trees past the time of qualifying for Medicare, but the joy of watching them take hold and thrive is beyond compare. Our love of trees is

such that we use them to pay tribute to family members and special friends we have lost. For each, we select a species that somehow suggests the personality of the individual being memorialized. Sadly, our grove enlarges with each passing year.

We are committed to the cause and are prepared to do whatever we can to promote forest stewardship. Indeed, we're grateful that we have had this opportunity to spread the gospel of growing better trees for better living.

Our home is heated with our own firewood, and we all have good appetites and sleep well, thanks to the exercise that comes with the job of managing the Tree Farm. Except for one timber sale done under contract, we have done all the planting, TSI harvesting, improvement work, road building, and maintenance. It has truly been a family affair, and we are over-joyed that the 4th generation appears to love the place as much as we do. I must add that without our son who is our chief logger, we would find it difficult to keep up with the work as we grow older. Another bonus is that we feast on the bounty of the land. Each spring we make five gallons of maple syrup for our own use and as gifts, and I make a minimum of 20 varieties of jams and jellies from both wild and cultivated fruit that almost everyone enjoys gathering.

We are committed to the cause and are prepared to do whatever we can to promote forest stewardship. Indeed, we're grateful that we have had this opportunity to spread the gospel of growing better trees for better living. Prepared and delivered by Harriet.

We have lived on our property for 17 years, and we have done essentially all the work ourselves with a management plan stressing multiple use. Our land is in Livingston County, 45 miles south of Rochester in an area of steep hills, valleys, and streams. The upper Cohocton River and another trout stream run through our two major valleys. There are 125 acres of maple, cherry, ash and oak on east-facing slopes, 125 acres of

predominantly red pine, spruce, fir, and larch on west-facing slopes, 50 acres of cropland leased to a potato grower, and another 45 in open land, ponds, waste and riverine land.

Our equipment is limited to a John Deere 30 hp diesel tractor, Farmi winch, blade, bush hog, 4-wheel drive pickup, log splitter, several chainsaws, and other small tools. The grid of roads is extremely important since our hills are steep enough to discourage use of the tractor on the slopes. Instead, we now have roads at the top, bottom, and midway points which allows us to skid logs up or down with 165' of cable on our Farmi winch. This also eliminates severe compaction in the woods. Our family has done timber stand improvement on over 200 acres of both hard and softwood stands, both selectively cut and clearcut mature pine, had one commercial sawlog selective cut, planted over 6,000 hard and softwoods including over 150 American chestnuts that we grew from seed, reconstructed two ponds, and built over 1½ miles of road, bringing the total road grid to over 6 miles.

In your business, it is important to show a profit, and I assume you would be interested in the economics of a small tree farm operation. Until now, I had not had the courage to total our expenses and income for the past 17 years. We have reported on Schedule F in the past, and by concentrating expense in some years, we have been able to show a profit in other years. We have had income from the sale of firewood, logs for 3 custom log cabins, locust posts and complete split rail fences, 36 MBF of saw timber, 20 MBF of lumber from a rented

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Fall Meeting Part I (Or: Wasn't That a Party!)

By BETTY DENSMORE

82 NYFOA members spent two fun-filled, educational days at Camp Allegany, Salamanca, NY at our annual Fall Meeting.

The AFC/NFC can take a lot of pride in having hosted a super meeting. We had great weather (Charlie Mowatt personally arranged that thunderstorm to punctuate speakers' remarks after dinner. I hope everyone noticed his superb timing; it didn't rain till after we started eating and stopped before we left the dining hall.) Saturday was the quintessential Fall day with foliage at peak color. Warm and sunny... what a pretty day for a drive to the Allegheny National Forest in Kane, Pa.

Our speakers: Jim Rich, Allegany State Park Manager and Susan Stout, National Forest Project Manager; gave interesting slide presentations. Interspersed by Mowatts door prize giveaways! Billy Morris presented John and Harriet Hamilton with awards and prizes for being National Tree Farmers of the year. His remarks were a mixture of superlatives for their achievement and an unmistakable personal fondness for the winners. Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton's responses underscored their deep love of the land and a genuine pleasure in the stewardship of it.

And what a great group gathered from all over N.Y.S.! Joan and Richard Regan flew in from Holbrook, NY, rented a car in Buffalo and drove to the park! So many people endured long drives to attend. We were impressed by the time and effort expended by so many. We hope it was worth it. Charlie Mowatt said it best, "Every time I looked up there was this sea of happy faces." This had to be one of the best natured groups ever assembled. Everyone took the few snafu's with great good humor. A few (most notably the Bensadouns, Dale Schaefer, Eileen Van Wie and John Marchant) neglected to read the information and didn't bring bedding or towels. No problem; others found blankets in their cars, afghans and spare towels for them. The Bensadouns locked their possessions in their room and themselves out; again no problem, our resident yegg, Don Lawson, took his credit card (and, no doubt, years of experience) and opened the door to re-unite them. Our group somehow missed Susan Stout on the Forest tour and spent that time enjoying the gorgeous day and talking. I was pleased that the McCartys brought their dog, Amy. She lent a certain dash and merriment to the proceedings. You can't have a good get-together without a happy dog.

range of sites. Susan Stout conducted a tour which illustrated different management strategies within what is generally described as even or uneven-aged management schemes, and the influence of deer on the different treatments.

The third investigator, Steve Horsley, a plant physiologist, made the case for forest management which was distinguished by the use of herbicides such as Roundup or Oust. This investigator's arguments of management plots and teaching aids; and his explanations and evaluations of the special concerns regarding the effects on animal and human health of these particular herbicides; convinced me of their superiority as a management tool where indicated. To the question of micromanaging small patches of undesirable vegetation in the understory, by such herbicides (backpack spraying), the response was favorable. (See NYFO Nov/Dec. 90; Jan/Feb 91; Mar/Apr 91; and references therein: Horsley and others, many references: Forestry Science Lab, PO Box 928, Warren, PA 16365)

Simply said: hunt the deer harder, kill some of the plants and wait. The more detailed and accurate solution requires technical knowledge about your particular woodlot. Such accuracy characterizes the current management plans of the Allegheny National Forest (NOT New York's Allegany State Park!) However, a particular project, the 840 acre Crazy Gray Project under that management plan as been stayed by an administrative appeal by an environmental group called Preserve Appalachian Wilderness (PAW). This group has similar appeals regarding projects in Vermont's Green Moun-

Fall Meeting Part II (Or: Allegany, Allegheny, Alleghany)

By R. FOX

Whatever the spelling of the early Native name for this Southern Appalachian Mountain plateau; whether it is New York's 65,000 Allegany State Park or the 1/2-million acre area known as the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania; the present meaning is big Black Cherry trees, small whitetail deer and many, many ferns. Although human culture during the past (up to the 1930's) impacted the area ecosystem in a manner represented by the apparent confusion in maps, signs, and other symbols; our program's professional and scientific guides engaged in the description and studying of the

current ecosystem were definitive. The density of white tail deer is generally too high and the deer are the dominant determinant of the ecosystem.

Mesomanagement which would favor biodiversity would suppress Striped Maple, Hay-scented Fern, and Beech in the understory and would employ special efforts to manage deer. The three researchers of the US Forest Service conducted tours Saturday on the Kane Experimental Forest which made that argument. Rich Ernst provided a tour which showed the results of different thinning and harvest treatments to different relative densities on a wide

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American Ginseng in NY

By ROBERT L. BEYFUSS

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) has been cultivated in New York since the early 1900's primarily because of the high prices historically paid for wild roots which have been gathered here since the 1700's. In fact, a New Yorker, George Stanton, who lived in Tully, New York, about 25 miles south of Syracuse is recognized as the first commercial ginseng grower. In 1904, Liberty Hyde Bailey, then director of the Cornell University Agricultural Experimental Station wrote "New York State is one of the leading states in the growing of ginseng. Considering the value of the New York product and the attention given to the plant, it is not improbable that New York leads the states". Unfortunately, widespread disease problems, particularly *Alternaria* blight, wiped out most commercial operations by 1910. However, in the last few years there has been a renewed interest in herbal medicines, remedies and substance that may prevent disease. This has led some growers to once again consider commercial ginseng culture.

Most of the ginseng grown in North America is exported to Hong Kong. A permit is required to export either wild or cultivated ginseng from New York State. Permits may be obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional rules and regulations regarding gathering of wild ginseng are also available from Department of Environmental Conservation.

The costs associated with ginseng production are directly proportional to the intensity of the culture. The least expensive way to grow ginseng is to broadcast the seed in a natural forest in adequate shade. American ginseng plants must be grown in an area that is at least 75% shaded. It is important to select a suitable site, preferably a moist, but not wet or poorly-drained, north or north-eastern facing slope. A mature oak, sugar maple or mixed hardwood forest without excessive underbrush is best. Areas to avoid are wet spots or places where shallow rooted trees and shrubs are dominate.

The nutritional requirements of

ginseng are not well documented, nor are the pH preferences well understood. Many growers incorporate bonemeal or some other phosphorus source into the growing area and some may adjust the pH to 6.0 or higher.

The procedure for planting seed is not complicated although it is important to make sure that the seed has been properly handled prior to sowing. Ginseng seeds have an immature embryo at the time the berries ripen (usually August in New York) and the seeds require a cool storage period followed by a warm storage period followed by another cool treatment before they will germinate. The seed must also be kept moist during this 18 month stratification period and cannot be stored for any appreciable length of time after the second cold treatment.

Some growers simply rake back the existing ground cover of leaves and decaying organic matter and broadcast seed at rates of ten to twenty pounds per acre. There are approximately 8,000 seeds per pound. The plants are then left to grow on their own for a period of seven to ten years. Other growers form raised beds in the forest that are fenced in. Large stones and stumps are removed to facilitate harvest and growing operations.

Forest cultivation involves many risks since the seed and plants may be eaten by rodents, (chipmunks, squirrels, mice, voles, woodchucks, etc.) deer or birds (grouse, turkeys, etc.). Although insect pests are not considered a serious problem, slugs often damage or destroy seedling plants. Certain diseases, particularly root rot caused by *Phytophthora cactorum*, can wipe out entire beds within a few weeks. It is also important to note that there are virtually no pesticides registered for use on American ginseng here in New York State.

Ginseng may also be cultivated in well-prepared raised beds in fields using artificial shade made from wood lathe or plastic fabric. Costs associated with this type of intensive culture may run \$10,000 or more an acre for shade structure and land



Illustration by Regina A. Hughes from
USADA Farmers Bulletin #2201
"Growing Ginseng."

preparation alone. These intensive operations may use up to 150 lbs. of seed per acre with average seed prices ranging from \$50 - \$75 per pound. The roots are usually harvested after four years of growth at which time individual roots will weigh as much or more than 8 to 10 year old forest grown roots. Yields from intensive, field grown plants average about 2,000 lbs. per acre (dry weight). Forest grown roots may yield 1,400 to 1,600 lbs. per acre under the most optimum management conditions.

The prices paid for field cultivated American ginseng roots in 1988 in Wisconsin (the major growing area in the U. S.) ranged from \$30 to \$60 per pound depending upon the shape and general condition of the roots as well as the prevailing market demand. Prices paid for roots gathered in the wild ranged from \$160 to \$250 per pound. These prices are all based on dry weight and the large differential between cultivated and wild roots reflects the time required to grow the plant and perhaps the quantity of the active ingredients within the root.

(Continued on Page 17)

Ask a Forester

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

Black Cherry Gum Balls

By WES SUHR

A few forest owners have asked, "Why all the gum or pitch balls on the stems of my black cherry trees?" My first response or answer is, "Oh oh, you've got problems, or your black cherry do. When I mark a cherry stand for cutting, those stems with a lot of gum balls are prime candidates for cutting, normally indicating physical damage or an infestation of 'bugs', reducing the vigor of the tree." This is somewhat analogous to the veterinarian's answer, "If you have a sick cow, shoot it!" Depending on the sickness, this may be good advice, but says nothing about how to reduce the spread of the malady through the rest of the herd (or stand).

Cause

If the cherry stem has a large number of gummy exudations (gummosis) on the bark, and there is no evidence of exterior physical damage, the most likely cause is the boring in the cambial/sapwood area by a bark beetle (probably the native peach bark beetle which occurs throughout the range of black cherry). Physiologically, the tree's defense mechanism is to "pitch-out" the intruding attack of the insect, and this process may prevent certain diseases from infecting the exposed tissue as well. Normally, there will not be many stems infested in the cherry stand unless there has been a thinning or harvest of cherry within the stand in the past two years. Where there has been heavy cutting of cherry and the tops (crowns) remain untreated, the chances are good for bark beetle build-up and attacks on the remaining uncut stems.

Forest entomologists tell us that the crowns and smaller stems remaining on the ground serve as breeding material for the bark beetle. If a large volume of fresh slash remains after cutting, a high population of adult beetles may emerge which can attack even healthy stems remaining in the stand.

Importance

Healthy trees rarely succumb to bark beetle attack, but as the tree grows in diameter, the gummy secretions created show up as dark spots or flecks within that beautiful red heartwood. Black cherry grown in the Adirondacks will rarely produce veneer quality material mainly because those dark gum spots are so common. Premium quality sawlogs used for furniture are also degraded by gum spots. Research indicates (*) it is very likely that bark beetles cause most of the gum spots found in the first log (16') of black cherry.

Control

How can the source or cause of the problem be controlled? That is, how can the land owner reduce bark beetle populations to improve the quality of black cherry? The same research report (*) offers these recommendations:

1. Harvest or thin outside of the growing season. For example, in the Adirondacks, this would be late August through February. This would not eliminate the beetle, but would minimize the growth of the population.
2. Reduce the volume of slash as much as possible during the dormant period (before the growing season begins). Utilize for firewood and possibly use chippers in high value cherry stands.
3. Maintain vigorous cherry stands through proper control of stocking. Again, reduce the amount of cut material as much as possible. Do not leave dead trees (stems you girdle or poison).
4. Avoid thinning black cherry after the stems reach young sawtimber size (11" dbh), especially if you cannot reduce the volume of slash.

At this point, I'll add another recommendation of my own. Practice even-aged silviculture rather than the selection system. Most cherry stands regenerated in openings — they enjoy a lot of sunlight and are "even-aged" or "one-storied" in structure. While



Only a few "seed trees" remain in this heavily cut black cherry stand. Gum globs indicated by finger and pencil (above hand); many smaller gum balls show as white spots below hand. Note untreated slash in background.

the stems are pole-size (4" to 10"), thin the smallest stems with weak crowns. Use as much of the cut material for firewood as possible. When the timber is mature and ready for the final harvest, clear-cut in small groups in any given year (1 to 5 acres in size), making it more possible for you to control the slash. If you want to retain a shelterwood overstory, remove it as soon as possible, within 2 to 3 years. And if you want to leave a few giant seed trees as a standing reminder of what "used-to-be", expect to see a few gum balls on their majestic stems.

***Occurrence of Gum Spots in Black Cherry after Partial Cutting** by Charles O. Rexrode and H. Clay Smith, Res. Pap. NE-634, NE For. Exp. Sta., Feb. 1990, 7 p. Copies may be obtained from US Forest Service, PO Box 4360, Morgantown, WV 26505, Attn. Helen Wassick.

Species Profile — Raccoon

By PAUL CURTIS

The raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is a distinctively marked mammal with a black "mask" over the eyes, and a tail with 5 to 10 black rings. Generally, raccoons have a grizzled salt-and-pepper gray and black fur, although some animals may appear yellowish. Raccoons usually weigh 10 to 30 pounds.

Raccoons are omnivores (eat both plant and animal food), and their diet commonly includes fruits, berries, nuts, acorns, corn, melons, crayfish, clams, frogs, fish, snails, insects, turtles, mice, rabbits, muskrats, and the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds or reptiles. In urban settings, raccoons frequently consume garbage, garden vegetables, tree seeds, fruit, and pet food.

Foraging takes place at night. During the day, animals may den in hollow trees, brush piles, muskrat lodges, ground burrows, rock crevices, barns, attics, and chimneys.

The breeding season may extend from December through June, depending upon latitude, but most matings occur during February and March. Litters are usually born in April or May after a 63-day gestation period. Average litter size is 3 to 5, and only one litter is raised each year. Young animals usually become independent during the fall following their birth in New York State.

Raccoons do not truly hibernate, but they may become inactive during extended periods of severe weather during winter. Animals may lose half their fall body weight as they live on their stored fat reserves.

Raccoons are protected furbearers in most states, with established hunting and trapping seasons. Section 11-0523 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law states that "In the Southern Zone, raccoons injuring private property may be taken by the owner or lessee thereof, or by a member of his family, at any time, in any manner. In either the Northern or Southern Zone, raccoons injuring property on occupied farms or lands may be taken on such lands at any time, by trapping or by aid of firearm, by the owners or occupants of the lands or by persons authorized in writing by them . . . animals taken

pursuant to this section in the closed season shall be immediately buried or cremated." All local laws or ordinances must still be followed.

Raccoons can be easily captured in traps. Live-traps at least 10 x 12 x 32 inches in size, and constructed of sturdy metal, can be baited with sardines, chicken, or canned fish-flavored cat food. NYS Environmental Conservation Law permits only licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control persons or Wildlife Rehabilitators to transport live-captured animals, so the landowner must euthanize raccoon caught in cage traps, or release them at the site of capture. Raccoons may also be captured in No. 1 & half leg-hold traps, and Conibear-type body-gripping traps can effectively catch raccoons in bait boxes. Conibear-style traps are designed to kill quickly, and should not be used in areas where there is a chance of catching nontarget animals.



Raccoon hunting or trapping during open seasons will provide recreational opportunities. The 1985 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation noted that more than 20.8 million raccoon hunting days occurred in the United

States annually. In 1977-78, raccoons were the most valuable furbearer for hunters and trappers. An estimated 3.8 million raccoons worth \$88.5 million were harvested.

Health Concerns

The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies outbreak entered NYS in spring of 1990. The current rabies situation in NYS requires surveillance and public education. Thirty-one counties in NYS require rabies vaccination to obtain dog licenses under Section 2145 of the Public Health Law. Eight of the 31 counties implemented a mandatory dog vaccination program when threatened by raccoon rabies. An emergency amendment to the NYS Sanitary Code adopted in October 1990, requires compulsory cat vaccination in counties with confirmed rabies cases.

If a person is bitten by a raccoon or other animal suspected of having rabies, consult with your local health department, the NYS Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (518-474-3186), the NYS Rabies Laboratory (518-869-4527), and during evenings and weekends, the NYS Department of Health Duty Officer (518-465-9720). Each decision concerning postexposure rabies treatment rests with the patient and attending physician.

Raccoons also carry large intestinal roundworms (*Baylisascaris procyonis*). Larval stages of this ascarid nematode are infectious and injurious for a variety of birds and mammals, including humans. Eggs are shed in the feces of infected raccoons, and contain larvae. If larvae are consumed by species other than raccoons, they migrate through the intestinal tract and invade other organs in the body, or the central nervous system. Two human fatalities, and several nonfatal cases

(Continued on Page 19)

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

Chapter Reports

THRIFT AFFILIATE

By **BONNIE COLTON**

THRIFT members were busy in August setting up and manning a booth at Woodsmen's Field Days. Forest Stewardship was the theme, and we featured a brochure describing the Federal Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP). It was targeted to Tug Hill landowners, but gave information pertinent to all localities. We also handed out THRIFT and NYFOA membership brochures.

September saw us lay the ground work for an expanded form of "government" to include more members in active participation. Rather than business and program planning being done by an executive committee, we are developing a Coordinating Council, which will have three members elected from each of the four Tug Hill counties. The Council will meet quarterly and will include more focus on networking with other resource stewardship groups and on long range planning.

THRIFT's main focus always has been educational and will continue to be. Members see the newsletter as a major service, particularly where age, distance, and involvement in other interests prevent so many from attending meetings regularly.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

By **BOB WHITE**

Sept. 21: 20 Members toured Beaver Meadow Audubon Center led by our own knowledgeable Earl Pfarner. Beaver Meadow is a paradise for waterfowl, beavers and all other native NY flora and fauna. After a short business meeting we drove to Earl's property and took an interesting walk through his woodlot. All of us admired the way Earl cuts and splits wood for himself and to sell.

Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. a woodswalk will be held on Don Messinger's property at 9621 Vermont Hill Road, Holland, N.Y. Tour features will be a Boy Scout Camp, old-stand forest and plantings of non-native species.

Nov. 9: A tour of American Lumber Company in Holland, N.Y., Vermont



LOWER HUDSON CHAPTER WOODSWALK—Left to right: Hal Griswold, Jane and John Geisten, Bamber Marshall, Bob Davis, (Chapter Chairman), Stuart McCarty (NYFOA President).

(Photo: Mary McCarty)

Street at 10 a.m. Here are some of the largest dry kilns in the Eastern U.S. After lunch we will drive about 3 miles to Pine Acres on Partridge Road to walk through the Fran Wroblewski Christmas tree Plantation. There is a gift shop on the grounds.

Jan. 11: 1 p.m. — 5 p.m. an AFTER HOLIDAYS, START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT party. At Harry and Rita Hassey's, 2800 Rt. 98, Varysburg, NY. Bring a dish (cookies, favorite dish, whatever); drinks will be supplied by Gerry Lazarczyk of 3255 Sodom Road, Grand Island.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

By **RAY WAGER**

The 91 - 92 WFL chapter meeting dates are: 11/6/91, 1/15/92, 3/18/92 and 5/20/92. Meetings are in the Cooperative Extension Bldg., Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY. Due to the popular response last year on I.R.S. rules governing Casualty Losses, we hope to have an expanded presentation this November.

On Sept. 14 Bruce Penrod, DEC Wildlife Biologist, conducted a very informative woodswalk on a portion of Hi Tor recreation and wildlife management area. 22 people responded very positively to the emphasis on managing woodlands for

wildlife. Program Chairman, George Appleton is arranging a presentation by Bruce at one of our general meetings.

On Sept. 28 we had our second annual TSI workshop. 16 members participated in this event hosted by member Gary Evans. This is a very valuable experience for people who have never done a management plan on their land. We are indebted to Sue Keister (ex.DEC Forester) and DEC Foresters Mark Keister and Billy Morris for their expert leadership throughout the day. These people are truly public servants in every sense of the word.

In December, three of our steering committee members' terms of office will expire, including the chairperson.

(Continued on Page 11)

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I am anxious that three interested and willing members volunteer for these positions. If you feel you cannot serve please nominate someone whom we may contact.

CAYGUA

By **WENDELL HATFIELD**

On Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. a meeting will be held at the north end of Lake Como at the woodworking shop of Floyd and Kathy Fuller. This awesome little shop is overcoming the obstacles of marketing and exporting woodcrafted items.

Then we go just down the road to the Lake Como Rod & Gun Club where Dick and Patricia Hemmings will serve refreshments.

TIOGA

By **PAT MCGLEW**

A political awareness workshop was held on Sept. 28 in the Tioga County Office Bldg., Owego, NY. The meeting was interesting and informative. Bill Brunner, of Endicott Lumber and Box Co. presented the workshop, which is sponsored by the American Forest Resource Alliance. The main focus of the workshop is to make people aware of the importance of expressing their views to those who hold political office and are involved with policy decisions. The Alliance will keep interested parties up to date on current issues that will, or could, influence forest management in a negative way.

We plan to call a meeting of those individuals who have indicated that they would help in building a sound organizational structure for the Chapter. Those interested please contact Pat McGlew at 607-699-3846.

CENTRAL NEW YORK

By **TOM ELLISON**

Our first meeting - woodswalk was held Sept. 7 at Heiberg Memorial Forest, named after Dr. Svend Heiberg, the founder of NYFOA. It was a beautiful summer day with near perfect weather. Eighteen people attended, including NYFOA President Stuart McCarty and his wife Mary; the Editorial Committee Chairman, Dick Fox, and Dr. Allen Horn. We also had several people who are not NYFOA members, because of ads in the newspaper and an article done on our local chapter. The walk was led by

Dr. Norm Richards, a member of the NYFOA Board of Directors.

We toured a stand of red pine that was thinned by Dr. Richards and Dr. Heiberg. We saw four clearcut stands in the same woodlot that showed how dramatically different regeneration could be. The determining factors were elevation, soil conditioning, water table and the types of plants that were growing on the forest floor. Berry patches still suppressed tree regeneration in several areas. After the walk we had a meeting and lunch at the E.S.F. Alumni Picnic Pavilion.

On Oct. 5 a woodswalk was held at Beaver Lake Nature Center where we discussed the management of woodlands for wildlife.

It is hoped that we can plan future meetings, woodswalks and lectures further in advance for our membership. Being a new chapter we are just getting the bugs worked out. We have an excellent group of members to draw from, but would always like to see more.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

By **WES SUHR**

Dave Daut, resource manager for Fountain Forestry, Inc., led our first woodswalk over his woodlot near Tupper Lake on Saturday, September 21. I apologize to **FOREST OWNERS** and the membership for not announcing this affair in the September/October issue, but we were in a rush to get this chapter rolling and didn't plan for much "lead-time".

We enjoyed a sunny, yet "nippy" fall day with 25 forest enthusiasts and four resource managers who fielded the questions. Main topics included Dave Daut's improvement of skid trails for recreational access, his use of Roundup for successfully treating dense fern growth, the pros and cons of logging sales, and boundary line maintenance. Don Brown, from the DEC Office in Canton, led the discussion on the enhancement of habitat for deer, grouse and song birds, and how this can be achieved with logging. Dave Forness, from the same office, portrayed the marking of forest stands for thinning or logging. And Bob Howard, manager of Howard Land and Forestry Consultants (Canton, NY), emphasized the importance of contract bidding and market timing of logging sales for optimizing landowner benefits. We

even shared a little dendrology, separating red and sugar maple and the three cherries (black, fire, choke).

A bunch of "die-hards" had a tough time calling it "quits" — we so thoroughly enjoyed communicating our love of the land and our pursuits with it that we didn't care how late it was getting. It was a good start for our Chapter, and I want to thank all the participants and resource managers for making it possible.

The steering committee (provisional officers) will be meeting soon to plan another woodswalk, develop membership and a newsletter, and assure that our Chapter is responsive to the needs of NAC members. If anyone out there has advice for us, we want to hear it. Contact Wes Suhr, RR 1, Box 59B, Oswegatchie, NY, 13670.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

By **BETTY DENSMORE**

Aug. 25: 14 members showed up at Mrs. Edith Mowatt's property to gather Balsam cones. We managed 12 bushels which translates into \$288.00 for the treasury. Our thanks to Mrs. Mowatt who donated her share of the proceeds to the AFC.

Sept. 28: 25 people attended a very educational slide presentation and woodswalk at Beth and David Buckley's property in West Valley, NY. The Buckley's are professional photographers and writers so the show was worth paying admission to (though they didn't charge us!). We toured their property to see the effects of 25 years of careful planning and planting for wildlife. A great tour.

At the above meeting we elected the officers for the 91 - 92 year. They are Peter Childs, Chairperson; Nick

(Continued on Page 19)

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOC.

On August 17th a small group attended a woodswalk held at Bob Cruickshank's property in Glenford, NY, Bob is CFA'S Treasurer and has been involved in promoting forestry for many years. Among Bob's major concerns is Wildlife Habitat Improvement and the timbercut in progress reflected this. The 20 acre parcel is being opened up to encourage new growth. He is

(Continued on Page 19)

Private Property Rights, And Other Quaint Notions

BY LUKE POPOVICH

Let's begin with an assumption, a fairly safe one under the circumstances: I assume that you are among that privileged class of people that was once the most hated but is now the most envied in certain social systems all over the world. I'm assuming that you're a private property owner.

And I'll bet that private property rights is a subject in which you have more than a passing interest.

Ironically, just when the rest of the world seems to be demanding the right to own property, we in this country seem to be tiring of it.

At least that's what I conclude from a host of environmental laws and the way federal agencies are choosing to implement them. From the pine flatland of Florida to the Douglas fir of Washington state, timberland owners — big and small — are losing control.

The problem is with the growing American appetite for curbing existing freedoms in the name of some rarefied good or ill-defined benefit.

Increasingly, the federal government is running roughshod over the rights of landowners (a minority) in its haste to secure supposed environmental and other benefits for the rest of us (a majority). The evidence for this claim is both familiar and disturbing.

First, all governments enjoy regulating private activity. In 1990 alone, the federal government churned out 63,000 pages of fine print regulations on the use of private property. And, you're clever enough to guess that these regulations didn't exactly expand that use.

In print these regulations can be menacing; in practice they are sometimes confiscatory. The preservation of the Northern Spotted Owl may cost some private landowners free use of approximately 3 million acres of forestland. Private landowners who own an estimated one third of all the wetlands left in the country may face

protracted struggles with federal agencies over the use of their land or find its market value greatly diminished due to government regulations.

The same loud voices heard in Oregon demanding restrictions on private timberlands are now heard braying in the Northeast, this time demanding federal acquisition of private lands for new parks and still more wilderness. That these northern woodlands have been well managed for generations by private landowners — or that the landowners may have prerogatives and wishes of their own — means little to those who always feel that what's yours is really theirs.

Then there's the evidence of federal takings. In the past 25 years the federal government has spent \$3.7 billion to acquire 4 million acres of recreation lands. Yet it has a backlog of unpaid bills for lands already condemned in excess of \$6 billion. Of course the Constitution protects unfair "taking" of private property without just compensation. But Supreme Court rulings have narrowed the definition of what a taking is to exclude actions which certainly devalue private property.

The problem isn't environmental legislation like the Endangered Species Act or Clean Water Act, or the admirable objectives behind them. In

my book, species preservation and drinkable water rank right up there with strong black coffee and the Sunday New York Times as essential to health and happiness.

The problem is with the growing American appetite for curbing existing freedoms in the name of some rarefied good or ill-defined benefit. We can't smoke in public places because some government-funded study at Kalamazoo Institute of Epidemiology found that Norwegian rats developed nosebleeds when exposed to the equivalent of 25 cartons of Camels in two days.

We can't use aerosol sprays to smite insects because Citizens Against Greenhouse Gases have determined that at present rates of gassification, in 10 years our atmosphere will lack the oxygen required to burn a match. Often, these appeals to curb freedoms are delivered in voices quavering with intolerance and self-righteousness, usually by the sorts of people whose property isn't at risk, who don't smoke, and don't use hair spray.

As private property goes, maybe this trend isn't surprising in a country now estimated to be 82 percent "urban." The relatively few of you who own sizeable chunks of land — bigger than a lawn — are out of sight of most Americans, hence out of mind.

Match this with the slightly larger

(Continued on Page 19)



For information on:

1. Tree Farm Survival Handbook - \$30.
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Forest Protection - An Ingredient For Good Stewardship

A NETHER WORLD

Professor Allen has graciously offered to help readers of NYFO enter a sort of nether world of the Forest. This introductory article will be followed by others which will require a sharper focus of the senses and the use of rulers other than the prism or log tape. The adventure should excite an interest or enrich a current awareness of this important part of the forest ecosystem. — Ed.

By DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

As an owner of forest land, at some point you will be confronted by an insect pest and, as a result, may find yourself in a quandary. The final decision as to whether or not the problem can be ignored or should be addressed in the form of some deliberate action on your part is determined by your management objectives, economic factors related to these objectives, and a myriad of less tangible social and environmental attitudes.

Regardless of how you approach the problem, you should bear in mind that good forest stewardship (in my view, synonymous), by definition, includes an element of protection.

In order to develop and maintain a healthy and productive forest, one must be cognizant of potential pest problems and often take steps to ameliorate them. I view "productivity" in the broadest sense, determined basically by your management objectives. It makes little difference whether your primary reason for owning forest land is to maximize timber production, to produce wildlife habitat, is solely to provide you and yours with amenable surroundings, or a combination of the above. In order to attain any of these measures of productivity, one occasionally must deal with the threat of insect damage.

Economic Considerations

For many owners of forest land, knowing what to expect in terms of the potential immediate and long-term

economic consequences of the damage that may be caused by a particular pest will have a major influence on their decision. Actually, this knowledge is fundamental to determining if, in fact, you have a "problem" to begin with. Generally, the more intensively you managed your forested land, the less damage you are likely to tolerate. For example, usually we are less likely to abide insect damage in a Christmas tree plantation that required several hundred dollars per acre to establish and tend, and where the appearance of the final product directly determines its value, than in a naturally established forest that we hold solely for recreational purposes. Similarly, a northern hardwood stand that is managed passively for hunting, may not warrant the same protection investment it would if it were developed into a commercial sugarbush.

What is a Pest?

Any animal, disease-causing organism or weed that prevents you from optimizing your management objective(s) is a pest. By definition, then, what one woodlot owner perceives as a "pest" may seem unimportant and be tolerated by a neighbor. Following the same line of thought, the term "outbreak" refers to a situation where the abundance of an organism attains a level (density) that causes damage which is intolerable to the land owner; otherwise, populations of the pest are said to be "sparse". So, here again, landowner views may differ in terms of what constitutes an outbreak. The reason for this disparity is that the two owners may have totally different values and management objectives.

Chemical use is not necessarily bad and, in fact, often can be part of good stewardship. To take no action and let the problem "run its course" may result in any unhealthy and unproductive forest. In many instances, pest problems that go unattended for ostensibly valid "environmental" concerns, create situations that detract from the environmental and economic quality of forested land for decades.

Preventative Maintenance

Deliberate forest management is often the most effective means by which we can develop and maintain forests that are less susceptible to pest outbreaks and/or less vulnerable to damage if an outbreak occurs. Under most conditions, forest pest problems can be minimized by encouraging the right tree specie(s) on a given site (soil, exposure, microclimate, etc.), removing severely damaged or low-vigor trees, and minimizing between-tree competition for water and nutrients by thinning the stand at appropriate intervals. Also, history has taught us that under most circumstances a biologically diverse forest community is often less susceptible to outbreaks or more resilient to disturbance than a relatively simple community. Unless your management objectives demand a single species condition (as in a sugarbush, for example), encourage multiple species. In a sugarbush (or any single species situation), one can enhance structural diversity by maintaining a mixture of age classes. Generally, different age classes of trees (e.g., seedling, sapling, pole, sawtimber) are subject to different types of problems. The key is to make it as difficult as possible for a pest to reproduce, disperse, and become established in a suitable host. Another thing that we have learned from hindsight, is that many of our most serious pest problems are created by human activities that inadvertently fashion ideal conditions for an insect or disease. This suggests that human intervention, in turn, should be an effective way to obviate or minimize many problems.

Chemical Control - a Necessary Tool

A large number of pest problems, however, materialize because of natural conditions that are favorable to the pest and over which landowners have no control. Weather that favors pest survival (e.g., a mild winter that enhances survival of gypsy moth eggs), drought that renders trees more susceptible to invasion by certain inner-bark pests such as pine

(Continued on Page 15)

Caring for the Woods: Something a Little Different

By JIM COUFAL

In the September/October 1991 issue of "Forest Owner," NYFOA President Stuart McCarty wondered "... if NYFOA should review what appears to be an emphasis on timber production in the *Forest Owner* and in our association's objectives;" a very good question indeed. In the same issue, Tim Williams presented the opinion that, in the *Forest Owner*, articles devoted to forestry political issues tended to reflect a single position — that of the commercial forest industry. He went on to say that "A more reasoned presentation of conflicting opinion . . . would add some perspective." This brief piece does not directly address either of these comments, but was inspired by them. It does go beyond forest stewardship simply for timber production, and it talks about the foundations of different perspectives on human/nature relationships. At the least it might be considered "something a little different."

Forest stewardship does, as President McCarty said, mean accepting a responsibility to care for the woods, and this is a much bigger and broader task than caring for timber production. Stewardship is one theme of the movement dealing with environmental or land ethics. Ethics has been defined in several ways, and in a broad sense means any value system used to judge the rightness or wrongness and the desirability or wisdom of one's objectives and actions. Ethics has also been defined as the disciplined reasoning required to be able to set objectives, make judgments, and take action. A land ethic thus is the disciplined reflections leading to a value system that causes us to take certain actions and to avoid others in relation to the land.

"Land," as used in the phrase the land ethic, means the soil, water, rocks, air, plants and animals— individually and collectively.

Put another way, a land ethic is ecological; it deals with humanity's relationship with, and moral obligations to the earth community. Forest stewardship is one expression of a land ethic, and therein lies the problem. The various perspectives on a land ethic can lead to setting different objectives, making different

judgments, and taking different actions, and these differences come about because things (objects or beings) are valued differently.

Philosophers think much about such ideas and ideals, and eventually their thoughts trickle down to us non-philosophers. But all of us, landowners and land-users alike, have a land ethic whether it is well thought out or a set of knee-jerk reactions based upon our personal odyssey through life. As he often did, Aldo Leopold said this so much better over 50 years ago when he wrote, "As a land-user thinketh, so is he."

The rest of this brief article provides a test that might help you think anew or again on your own land ethic.

As you read the cases below and "take the test," it would be easy to get hung up on "What ifs." Relax; do the best you can with the material as given, and think about what other information you would like to have if you could (in itself, this may help you understand your land ethic).

Part A:

For our purposes assume that there are two species — blue and sperm whales — that are identical in all ways but one. That is, the blue whale is a severely endangered species while the sperm whale is not. There is an

immediate crisis where a single blue whale is in need of rescue, and at the same time 40 sperm whales are also in need of rescue. They are in different locations, so you can effect one and only one rescue — either the single blue whale or the 40 sperm whales. You can't call upon anyone else; you have no other choices. Which would you choose to rescue and why?

Part B:

There are 240 lowland gorillas left in the world, all found on a 35,000 acre refuge in Africa. This refuge is under great pressure, being in the country with the fastest growing population of any in Africa. The country involved is also the poorest one on the African continent. If converted to agricultural use, the 35,000 acres could support about 30,000 people — about 25% of one year's population growth of the country — at a subsistence level. If you were in the position of making policy for management of this land, where the two extreme choices were to either convert the land to agriculture and see the lowland gorilla exterminated, or enforce strong protection for the gorillas despite this country's enormous human population growth, what would you choose to do and why?

(See answer on Page 17)

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Forestry Advisory Board Active

"New York's forests are growing and expanding," said R. Dean Frost of Whitney Point, NY, an advisor to NYS DEC Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, through the (State) Forest Practice Board (FPB) which met October 1 - 3 at a meeting in Lake Luzerne. Frost is chairman of the State FPB and a member of one of 9 regional boards that comprise it.

The FPB is a legislatively mandated advisory group to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding current issues.

With representatives from throughout the State, the FPB passed a number of resolutions, including one to urge inclusion of cost sharing for forest road improvements as an incentive in the Forest Stewardship Program.

"People and Trees - Partners in Time" is a slogan in vogue. DEC forestry staff promote its acceptance as a management concept for privately owned forestland since it symbolizes the continuing relationship and dependency between humans and forests. It is a complex concept that was discussed at the FPB meeting by Robert H. Bathrick, State Forester, NYS DEC. Being comprehensive in nature the "ethic" relates comprehensively to biological, economic, environmental, and social aspects of New York's 15 million acres of privately owned forests, that are held by 1/2 million landowners.

"Open space," its protection, preservation, and use, was emphasized by Mr. Bathrick as a current issue that DEC and others are evaluating relative to providing people and their communities with open space landscapes and environmental qualities, that will be valuable assets for years to come.

People interested in alerting the Forest Practice Board to their New York forestry concerns may contact a local board member (whose name is available from the nearest DEC office), or by writing to FPB, R. Dean Frost, Chair, RD 1, Box 80, Whitney Point, NY 13862.



With Robert H. Bathrick, State Forester, NYS DEC (far right) are New York State Forest Practice Board members at October 2 - 4, 1991 board meeting at Lake Luzerne, NY (from left) Earl Cardot, Fredonia (Chautauqua Co.); Dean Ryder, Carmel (Putnam Co.); Willard Ives, Troy (Rensselaer Co.); Tim Napper, Saranac (Clinton Co.); Chester Paprocki, Vernon (Oneida Co.); Gary Nichols, Gasport (Niagara Co.); George G. Gardner, Penn Yan (Yates Co.); Vern Hudson, Elbridge (Onondaga Co.); William Rutherford, Bloomingdale (Essex Co.); Everett Hopper, Horseheads (Chemung Co.); Charles Boone, Westerlo (Albany Co.); Margaret Warren, Napanoch (Ulster); Chairman R. Dean Frost, Whitney Point (Broome Co.); Nancy A. Wolf, Brooklyn (Kings Co.); Darrel D. Rippeteau, Alexandria Bay (Jefferson); Jim Rossi, Staten Island (Richmond).

(Forest Stewardship Photo by Taber)

Forest Protection—

(Continued from Page 13)

bark beetles, or conditions that may be detrimental to populations of the pest's natural enemies are examples of events over which the landowner has little influence. We are often left with no choice but to intervene directly with a chemical insecticide.

Chemical use is not necessarily bad and, in fact, often can be part of good stewardship. To take no action and let the problem "run its course" may result in an unhealthy and unproductive forest. In many instances, pest problems that go unattended for ostensibly valid "environmental" concerns, create situations that detract from the environmental and economic quality of forested land for decades.

If you as a landowner are willing to accept the possibility of this outcome rather than apply a chemical, that is your right. However, before making this decision one should be aware of the potential consequences. Similarly, one should use a little common sense.

Pesticides - Good News Bad News, a Balancing Act

First, I think it is important to realize that region-wide annually we apply very little insecticide to very few acres of land. In the northeast, these control efforts generally are aimed at defoliators with the intent of

saving foliage. Loss of foliage reduces tree growth or weakens the tree to the point where it is unable to defend itself against potential mortality-causing agents such as root diseases, or inner-bark feeding insects that girdle the plant. We often refer to these as "secondary" agents, because typically they flourish only on the heels of other agents that affect the tree when it is in a relatively vigorous condition. Secondary agents are so called, because ordinarily they are unable to become established in healthy trees. They are secondary only in an ecological sense but, indeed, they are important because frequently they are the ultimate cause of tree mortality.

Severe defoliation also may kill a tree outright, as usually happens following a single defoliation of conifers, or when broadleaved trees are affected for several years in a row.

Now for the common sense part! Every action that we take to manage a forest can have adverse ecological consequences, some of which are more long lasting than others. Even many of the so called "biological control" methods, can adversely affect life systems other than that of the target pest. I am convinced that there are many situations where

(Continued on Page 16)

Forest Protection—

(Continued from Page 15)

complete defoliation of a forest community, will be no less disruptive than a properly applied insecticide. Will defoliation affect organisms other than the tree? Yes indeed! Think of the birds that require foliated crowns in which to build nests. What about ground-nesting birds that depend on the shade from defoliated overstory trees? Many trees and plants can be stressed by increased soil temperatures that often occur when the shade provided by foliage is removed. Shading that trees provide is often a critical part of the environment of vertebrates and invertebrates that inhabit small streams. And so forth.

It is not my intent to encourage chemical use. I try to convince a landowner to apply a "hard" chemical only when I know that it is acceptable both from an economic and ecological standpoint, and the consequences of not treating will in all likelihood prevent that person from attaining management objectives. If properly applied; to include an assessment of need and selecting the correct material, formulation, dosage, method of application, and timing, chemical insecticides are a prudent and appropriate stewardship tool.

Biological Options - There Are Some

During the past twenty years or so, a significant amount of research and development supported by innumerable federal agencies, industry and certain state organizations has resulted in a variety of more ecologically sound direct control methods. In a broad sense, this arena is referred to as "biological insect pest suppression", and includes techniques that range from classical biological control (manipulation of parasitoids and predators) to genetic engineering methods. For example, if we go back to the defoliator situation that was posed above, in the northeast we have two "biological" options that may be appropriate for many situations; a bacterium known as B. t. (a much easier handle than the tongue-twisting name for this bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*!) and a molting inhibitor called Dimilin. The former affects a wide range of nontarget lepidopteran caterpillars that inadvertently

consume the spores. The latter has a wider spectrum of influence. It may kill any insect that is in the process of molting, and it is thought to have a major effect on populations of aquatic insects. There are additional caveats associated with these biologicals, but if applied properly under appropriate conditions, they may be options that are more compatible ecologically than a hard chemical. On balance, both biologicals effect a narrow spectrum of organisms relative to most chemical insecticides — and this, of course, is their appeal.

Tough Decisions

Sound forest management requires many decisions and you, the landowner, must be the decision maker. Seek guidance from

professionals and obtain the information required to make informed decisions about potential pests in your region and acquaint yourself with the menu of preventative and direct control strategies available for dealing with them. Do not neglect this responsibility to protect the economic integrity and ecological welfare of your woodlands. This responsibility is an indispensable ingredient of good stewardship.

Dr. Allen is a Forest Entomologist and Professor of the Faculty of Ecology and Forest Biology at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry SUNY, 146 Illick Hall CESF SUNY, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Conservation Easements

By JOHN KREBS

What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a public agency or a qualified non-profit conservation organization which permanently restricts the type, location and amount of development of a property in the future. A conservation easement does NOT have to restrict ALL development.

The property remains in private ownership and continues on the tax rolls with the restrictions of the conservation easement protecting those scenic and natural areas which have been designated as protected. A conservation easement can be tailored to meet the current and future needs of the donor and his or her heirs and assigns. The easement is filed in the county offices and becomes a permanent part of the title to the land regardless of future ownership.

BENEFITS OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Conservation easements give the property owner the peace of mind that his or her land will be afforded permanent protection. Neighboring property owners can work together to establish easements thereby enhancing specific areas. Conservation easements provide a way for property owners to protect the future quality of their region through voluntary agreements rather than government regulation.

In addition, conservation easements generally provide ESTATE TAX BENEFITS by reducing the

appraised value of the landowner's taxable estate, thus reducing inheritance taxes for heirs. Frequently when the family homestead is passed on to the children or other heirs, it must be broken up and sold in order to pay inheritance taxes. Conservation easements can help avoid that tragedy. In this way the heirs inherit the land, but because much of it is placed under easement, the estate taxes are greatly reduced. The heirs will own the land, can sell it, pass it on to their heirs, etc., but are relieved of exorbitant inheritance taxes — because the development value of the land has been given up under the easement.

Simply stated, if your estate (including real estate, cash, stocks, etc.) is greater than \$600,000, the federal estate tax could be as high as 55% of the amount greater than \$600,000. New York State has a graduated tax on amounts greater than \$108,333.

OTHER BENEFITS ARE:

- Federal and state income tax advantages

A conservation easement donated in perpetuity may qualify for a federal and state deduction. Here's how it works

Appraised value of land before the conservation easement minus — appraised value of land after the conservation easement equals the amount of charitable contribution = tax deduction to you

(Continued on Page 17)

Ginseng—

(Continued from Page 9)

A fourteen page production guide entitled "American Ginseng Production in New York State" by Robert L. Beyfuss, is available for \$1.00 from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County, HCR #3, Box 906, Cairo, New York 12413. This publication contains an appendix of ginseng supplies sources.

It should also be noted that there is a New York State Ginseng Association. The president is Steve Roth, Bridge St., Roxbury, NY 12474 (607) 326-7906. The main contact person for ginseng rules and regulations at DEC is Doug Schmid, DEC, Room 406, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.

Conservation—

(Continued from Page 16)

The value of the property given up by the easement, which is the value of the charitable gift, must be determined by a qualified appraisal done by a qualified appraiser. The appraiser determines the value of the property first without restrictions at its highest and best use pursuant to relevant governmental land use regulations and then later the value of the property with the restrictions specified in the conservation easement. The difference between the two values constitutes the charitable gift.

- Local real property tax advantages

When municipalities assess properties for real property taxes, the market value of the property, which may include both current and potential uses is the basis. By restricting a property to its current use or limiting its potential use, that property should not be affected by the tendency to tax properties at their highest use potential. Thus, one could appeal a town assessment by stating that their restricted property does not have the development value of other similar properties.

By organizing neighbors and using conservation easements on adjacent properties, entire neighborhoods or towns can be protected. This affords property owners the assurance that land which borders them will not be surprisingly developed. As more and

more property owners restrict their land to protect its natural and scenic qualities, protected areas will retain their spacious rural character, thus enhancing our quality of life.

For information on conservation land trusts in your area write or telephone the Land Trust Alliance, 900 Seventeenth Street NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20006. (202) 785-1410.

John W. Krebs and his wife, Carol, own a 434 acre farm in the town of Springwater, NY. For 27 years they have practiced forest and wildlife management on the property. Questions can be addressed to him at 1239 W. Bloomfield Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472.

Caring for the Woods—

(Continued from Page 14)

ANSWER

The answer is, of course, that there is no single, simple, best answer in either case. What you choose to do will depend upon what you value most; what any society chooses to do will depend upon what it values most. But your answers should be *illustrative* of what you value and where this fits in the three broad perspectives of a land ethic.

If, in Part A, you would save the sperm whales because you would affect the life and suffering of 40 individuals as compared to the one blue whale, you might be coming from what is called the *biocentric* perspective. Biocentrists put great value on individuals, especially sentient individuals (those capable of pain and suffering). Animal rightists or animal welfarists are biocentrists.

If you chose to save the single blue whale because it was a member of an endangered species, you might be coming from what is called the *ecocentric* or *holistic* perspective. Ecocentrists value the stability and diversity of populations, species, and ecosystems, and they expect the individual members of a biotic community — human or otherwise — to subordinate their interests to those of the community.

In Part B there is a direct clash between the interests of humans (in this case, a potential population of humans) and those of an endangered species of great interest. If you have an anthropocentric perspective—a

human-centered one — where human interests always take precedence, then you likely chose to convert the refuge to agricultural land. Our current U. S. version of anthropocentrism puts great value on individuals (human individuals), but there have been times in history, and current places in the world, where there was and is more of a valuing of the human community.

In Case B, both biocentrists and ecocentrists could find strong arguments for favoring the lowland gorilla, an animal that has a highly developed social life, a level of intelligence, and one that can be studied to teach humans about their own evolution, to say nothing of its values as an attraction for tourism dollars.

The above is, of course, oversimplified. None of us has a single, one-and-only perspective that operates all conditions. And nothing was said about the differences between *instrumental values* (where an object or entity only has value as a means to serve human interests) and *intrinsic values* (where the object or entity is seen to have value unto itself, without any reference to human needs or wants). If, for example, the lowland gorilla has intrinsic value there is a stronger case for saving it than if it is only another means to human ends.

Further, nothing has been said to this point about how such exotic examples might transfer to your day-to-day activities as forest stewards, whether as landowners or as land-users. How do the anthropocentric, biocentric and ecocentric perspectives bear on old-growth, spotted owls, rural development, land taxes, wetlands, pesticides, clearcutting, biodiversity and all the other things that we are called upon to deal with? How do your perspectives fit into these hotly debated views?

The basic question becomes, "What do you think?"

Professor Coufal serves Forestry at the Col. of Env. Sci. and For., SUNY as Coordinator of Undergraduate Education.



Letters—

(Continued from Page 3)

deal from DEC foresters over the years. In addition to global concerns, could we get more details? Could you persuade the experts in DEC to share some of their practical lessons (I almost said tricks) with us?

Come on, Editorial Committee, let's put the meat on the table! Let's hear FROM WITHIN THE FOREST!

Respectfully and sincerely,
Peter S. Levatich,
Tioga Chapter

From communications and letters to members of the Editorial Committee:

... Your tribute to Evelyn Stock and Howard Ward brought back fond memories ... it appears Stuart's message recognizes some problems. Allied to it is the letter from Tim Williams ... his point that not all owners are deeply interested in harvesting and products ... nice to know there is an industry market ... to raise the money for taxes or buy that new pickup. In view of this varied interest it might be prudent to sectionalize the FO and place items of certain interests in the same place in each issue. No reason why short letters to the editor could not be after lead editorial ... How about all Chapter and other organization news in the back ... following the letters, tree growing articles, insects, diseases, equipment hints ... Michigan and New York forest owners might have to take up the slack to fill the void left by the upheavals being wrought on our western forests ... Maybe now is the time to get into the New York schools and educate the students to what good forest management is all about.

Harold Kollmeyer,
E. Lansing, Michigan

A number of others have expressed similar sentiments and similar worthy suggestions. - Ed.

Hard Work—

(Continued from Page 5)

portable mill, 125 40 - 51' utility poles, 1200 25' cabin poles, and TSI cost-sharing as well as rent from leased cropland. Our expenses have mainly been for equipment, repair and maintenance, and capital improvements on roads and ponds and a survey which resulted in an additional 25 acres on which we had not paid taxes.

Our figures showed what I feared: in round figures, income of \$45,000, expenses of \$50,000, and land taxes of \$29,000 for a loss of \$34,000. However, when I thought about it a bit more and did some creative accounting to include the savings from income tax deductions, lumber for several projects, and heating of our home solely with wood as well as heating the homes of our two daughters, I was able to convince myself that we not only broke even but made a profit of \$3,000 not including our capital improvements, timber volume increase and the vast enjoyment we have had in performing the work and seeing the amazing results of our efforts.

On the down side, we naturally have had some other problems, too. Our taxes have increased to over \$9/acre including a school tax increase of 345% in the past 12 years. The increase in the deer population since our TSI has limited regeneration in our hardwoods. A hybrid poplar guaranteed to grow 5 feet/year which was put in for screening has managed to achieve a height of 2 feet in 10 years, and the deer take during hunting season has increased from 2 to 10 each year. We have learned, however, that leaving some brush in the hardwoods reduces browsing and fosters rapid regeneration. So far, we have had only two accidents, one broken arm and one dented helmet from a widowmaker. At least we are not required to pay workmen's compensation insurance.

One other discouraging aspect is that every time I skid 50 or 60 year old softwoods to the roadside for pickup after thinning, felling, and trimming I wonder why we didn't cut and wholesale them 40 years ago as Christmas trees for the same or a greater price than we now receive. Our distance from some markets, our marketing inexperience, and relatively infrequent small sales are another problem for smaller tree farms such as ours. Other negative aspects of tree farming that should be mentioned are the weight limits posted on roads from time to time that can and do interfere with the transport of products. The increasing tendency of many municipalities to regulate logging can also interfere with a tree farmer's goals. So far, our town and county have not imposed such restrictions.

Prepared and delivered at the meeting by Jack.

'91 Professional Timber Harvester Award

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

This year's award for PROFESSIONAL HARVESTER of 1991 goes to Ralph A. Hotaling, Jr., of West Cocksackie. Ralph was nominated by NYS DEC, senior forester, Gerald Andritz.

For someone starting out in timber business Ralph says the first thing to do is to find someone with some knowledge of the business, talk to them and learn all you can. When you accept work on a woodlot, talk with the landowner and agree on how the lot will be done and stick to it. Most important, treat the land as if it were your own.



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Chapters—

(Continued from Page 11)

Ratti, Treasurer; and Jan Lawson, Secretary.

Oct. 4 & 5th: Fall Meeting see Forest Owner.

Upcoming events: Dec. 14, 1 p.m. Jan Lawson and Audrey Childs will co-hostess our Annual Christmas Party at the Childses home, 3208 Cooper Hill Road, Hinsdale, NY. Bring a dish to pass (cookies, favorite dish, whatever); drinks provided by our hosts. This event is a **DO NOT MISS!!!**

Catskill—

(Continued from Page 11)

providing an excellent habitat for grouse and deer. He did actually see a couple of deer shoot through during our walk. Bob built a small pen to exclude wildlife to demonstrate just how much the wildlife eat. The vegetation was very thick inside the pen and around the outside looked as through a lawnmower had gone through!

Jack McShane, CFA President, hosted a Pond building workshop on his 240 acre property in Andes, NY on September 14. The turnout was tremendous, over 100 attended giving Jack a super opportunity to explain CFA's goals and philosophies to many non-members.

Jack has already had 3 ponds installed and is contemplating adding two more. After picking some of Jack's apples and viewing a short video on pond building, the group followed John Lafever of Lafever Excavating to each pond. He explained the entire process and the various types of ponds. Then we proceeded to the proposed sites to learn how an estimate is done.

Some stayed on to tour Jack's woodlots. There isn't a lot of timber on the property so Jack has concentrated on Wildlife Habitat Improvement. Bird boxes were found all over his cut trails led through fields where heavy fawning takes place. Brush piles encouraging rabbits to move in were also found. The group spent a good three hours in the woods. It was a long, most enjoyable day with perfect weather. Another positive outcome is that CFA's membership should increase from this time.

One last not, the CFA board would like to announce the addition of a 12th board member, John Dunbar.

Raccoon—

(Continued from Page 9)

involving eye damage have been confirmed. Humans should avoid all contact with raccoon feces. Hunters and trappers should wear gloves, and wash their hands with a disinfectant soap after handling raccoons.

Usually 10% or less of the raccoons in a given area are infected with *Trichinella spiralis*, the causative agent for trichinosis in humans. Consequently, raccoon meat should always be cooked thoroughly before human consumption.

Many raccoons also are infected with canine distemper and raccoon parvovirus. Animals with distemper may exhibit rabies-like symptoms, and distemper can only be confirmed through serologic tests, histologic demonstration, or by virus isolation. Raccoons with parvovirus often exhibit severe diarrhea, dehydration, and depression. These diseases have no known public health implications.

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From *Wildlife Damage News*, Vol. 3, Summer 1991

Private Property—

(Continued from Page 12)

percentage who describe themselves as "environmentalists" and it's easy to see how environmental regulators feel endowed with an olympian mandate beyond the reach of us mortals.

The growing number of Americans living off a service and information economy probably explains why the debate today over property rights usually involves intellectual property rather than land and natural resources. The fervor and the logic now employed by pro-choice advocates in defending a woman's body as the ultimate private property to do with as the owner wishes, was once also used in defense of landowners' rights to work their land.

Curiously, a case can be made for hanging part of the blame for the erosion of private property rights on that champion of the little landowner,

Thomas Jefferson. It was Jefferson of all people who deleted "private property" from the Declaration of Independence after it had survived in the Bill of Rights of both Virginia and Massachusetts, and in the Fifth Amendment, where it joined "life" and "liberty" as the triad of absolute human rights. Jefferson later explained that "pursuit of happiness", his delightful substitute, embraced private property because without the right to one's property happiness was, in his mind, unthinkable. Those most contemptuous of the concept are, not surprisingly, environmental hyper-activists. They seem to ignore the overwhelming evidence that environmental degradation is most commonly found, and usually in the most severe forms, in socialist countries without private property rights of any kind. Isn't there correlation between stewardship of property and the formal recognition of the rights and obligations of those who own it? There is, for those with eyes that see.

Reproduced from *Tree Farmer*, Fall 91

Fall Meeting-Part II—

(Continued from Page 6)

tain National Forests (6) and in New Hampshire's National Forests (2). All such appeals are still in the review process by their respective Forest Supervisors.

The significant argument on PAW's side for "no action" on these projects supports a biodiversity that would be favored by an uninterrupted canopy for areas in excess of 100,000 acres. (That must be macromanagement or NO management at all.)

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New York's Vital Signs

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests has some extra copies of **THE STATE OF FOREST HEALTH IN NEW YORK** by Michael Birmingham available by request from 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-4253. The 34 page document provides an overview of health problems indexed by both host and agent and arranged by region. The material is presented in a highly readable form and general to the question.

Right to Harvest Law

The NYS DEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board on September 24, 1991 at the Fall meeting in the Danby Town Hall in Danby, Tompkins County unanimously moved to promote the development and enactment of a Right to Harvest Law. (See NYFO; Mar/Apr 91; 9, 12). A total of thirty-one members, guests, and department employees from the 9 county region were in attendance.

WOODLOT CALENDAR

Nov. 6 - WFL Casualty Losses; Co-op Ext. Bldg., Elmwood Ave., Rochester, Ray Wager (716) 924-2589

Nov. 7 - Empire State Forest Products Assoc. Annual Fall Meeting, Auburn, NY (518) 463-1297.

Nov. 9 - NFC, 10 AM American Lumber Co. Tour, Holland, NY, Wroblewski Xmas Tree Tour (716) 537-2803.

Nov. 20 - 12:15 PM, Federal Income TAX STRATEGIES, National Video Teleconference; Norwich, NY (607) 334-5841

Dec. 14 - AFC 1 PM Annual Xmas Party, the Childses; Hinsdale; (716) 942-6600.

Jan. 11 - NFC 1 PM, Start the Year Right Party; The Hassey's; Varysburg; (716) 537-2803

Jan. 15 - WFL, To Be Announced, Co-op Ex. Bldg. (716) 924-2589.

April 25 - NYFOA Annual Spring Meeting (tentative); "Case Studies of Management Plans"; Marshall Auditorium Syracuse.

Jan. 18 - CDC; 6 p.m. Dinner/Meeting with Mike Birmingham, DEC Forest Health Specialist; Mike Greason (518) 457-7370

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The NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION is a nationwide organization of non-industrial private woodland owners with offices in the Washington, D.C. area. Membership includes landowners in all 50 states. NWOA is affiliated with state and county woodland owner associations throughout the United States.

Founded by non-industrial private woodland owners in 1983, NWOA is independent of the forest products industry and forestry agencies. We work with all organizations to promote non-industrial forestry and the best interests of woodland owners. Member of: National Council on Private Forests, Natural Resources Council of America, and National Forestry Network.

Members receive 4 issues of NATIONAL WOODLANDS MAGAZINE and 8 issues of WOODLAND REPORT with late-breaking news from Washington, D.C. and state capitals. An introductory visit from a certified professional forester is available in most states (for holdings of 20 acres or larger), plus other member benefits.

— Keith A. Argow, Publisher

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