



# FOREST OWNER

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

"Enhancing the quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life. Our economic, technological and social progress will mean little if it is paid for in polluted waters, contaminated skies, a ravaged natural heritage."

— Governor Nelson Rockefeller  
State Message 1970

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SENATOR DOUGLAS HUDSON WELCOMES N. Y. F. O. A. AT ANNUAL MEETING AT CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK.

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SUNY COLLEGE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
AND FORESTRY



1.

PRESENTATION  
BY  
R. STEWART KILBORNE  
NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER  
NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 16, 1970

"In his State of the State message on January 7 of this year, Governor Rockefeller summed up the State's environmental goals for the coming decade. He said,

"Enhancing the quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life. Our economic, technological and social progress will mean little if it is paid for in polluted waters, contaminated skies, a ravaged natural heritage.

"New Yorkers have already demonstrated their commitment to preserving our natural resources, most notably by two major measures hailed nationally as outstanding environmental events of the decade:

"-Our \$1 billion dollar Pure Waters Bond issue for building sewage treatment plants, approved overwhelmingly by the voters in 1965; and,

"-Passage of the Conservation Bill of Rights, dramatically voicing a strong commitment to protecting and enhancing the quality of our environment.

"But rapid population growth, urbanization and unparalleled industrial and commercial development require an all-out effort and a sharpened focus on the restoration and protection of our environment."

With this prologue, the Governor went on to outline his proposals for the creation of a new Department of Environmental Conservation.

As you know, a bill to create the new Department was approved by the 1970 Legislature and signed into Law on April 22. Because of the tremendous importance of this action and the impact that it will have upon the environmental management programs of our State, I want to spend a few moments summarizing some of the important aspects of the new law.

The purpose of the new law is to reorganize, unify and strengthen New York's environmental protection and recreation programs by creating a Department of Environmental Conservation, a Council of Environmental Advisors, a State Environmental Board and a separate Office of Parks and Recreation.

A brief description of the functions, powers and duties of the new Department of Environmental Conservation are especially pertinent to this meeting and to your interests as resource managers and forest owners. The new Department will have the responsibility to:

- carry out the environmental policy of the State;
- prepare an environmental plan for the future that establishes clear priorities;
- provide for the prevention and abatement of water, air and soil pollution;
- assure preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and man-made scenic qualities;

- undertake scientific investigation and research on the ecological process and pollution prevention and abatement;
- monitor environmental conditions;
- encourage recycling and reuse of products to conserve resources and reduce waste products;
- promote sound practices for the use of agricultural lands, river valleys; open lands and other areas of unique value;
- encourage the disposal of solid wastes, including domestic and industrial refuse, junk cars, litter and debris consistent with sound health, scenic, environmental quality and land use practices, and,
- initiate an extensive public information and education program to inform the public of environmental conservation principles and enlist help in all of these programs.

As you can well imagine this is a tremendous challenge but the new Department will have the needed, active support of a Council of Environmental Advisors and the State Environmental Board.

The State Environmental Board will be an interagency coordinating board that will serve as a forum for the various State agencies and departments as well as public members to exchange views and ideas for the proper balancing of environmental considerations. The 15-member board will be required to give approval before any standard criterion proposed by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

The Council of Environmental Advisors will provide special counsel to the Governor on environmental policy matters affecting the State. The council will be comprised of seven citizens representing a broad range of interests and disciplines.

The new Department comes into being on July 1 of this year and a top-level task force is busy working to insure that the Department of Environmental Conservation is ready to immediately assume leadership. When we look at the areas of responsibility that will be amalgamated in the new Department we can appreciate the momentous working being carried out by the task force committee.

The new Department will pick up the powers and duties of the Conservation Department as we know it today and will assume the powers and duties of the Water Resources Commission.

The new Department will assume the air and water pollution control and solid waste disposal functions, powers and duties of the Department of Health, the Air Pollution Control Board and the Pesticide Control Board.

It will also assume the pesticide control functions and powers of the Department of Agriculture and Markets and will take on the responsibilities of the Natural Beauty Commission.



In addition, the Law provides that although park and recreation functions go over to the new Office of Parks and Recreation, the management, care and custody of the Forest Preserve and the recreation facilities in the Forest Preserve continue in the Department of Environmental Conservation under the same constitutional and statutory policies now in existence.

This, then is the broad make up of the new Department that will provide the backbone of our State's program to enhance and protect the quality of our environment. Some have called this a "super-agency" - - and I firmly believe that we need a "super-agency" if we are going to do the "super-job" that must be done.

As an association of individuals tied closely to one of our most important resources, you know that the goal of restoring and protecting the quality of our environment can be achieved only through cooperation of government, industry and individuals.

To emphasize the importance of the role of the forest landowner, I want to take just a minute before closing to review a few of the multiple values of forestlands that in the past have too often been overlooked.

Although the phytoplankton of the ocean provides between 50 and 75 percent of the world's conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen, trees and woodlands play a major role in the process of photosynthesis on land.

Among the top items of importance are the products made from wood and wood fibers and the employment that production and manufacturing process provide.

The soil building and erosion prevention qualities of forest cover are well documented.

Trees can help filter some pollutants, dilute them through the release of oxygen and slow wind currents permitting dust and other particles to settle out.

Trees provide habitat for wildlife and birds and shade the stream banks thereby cooling water for aquatic life.

Trees can reduce noise levels.

And, in times of stress and tension the aesthetic quality of a forest - - or even a single tree - - can provide an amazing psychological lift.

It would be difficult to rate the importance of the various properties of our woodlands and their composite value is inestimable.

The forest landowner, both as a citizen and by the resource he represents, has an important role in the total environmental picture.

Through the centuries our environment has done a rather remarkable job of cleaning the filth and waste of a civilization that has considered pollution and environmental degradation as someone else's problem.

Now, our environment seems to be shouting back - - across the backyard as it were - - that the problem is our problem."



CHILDREN IN SCHODACK PLANT TREES ANNUALLY  
GERALD FRIENDS, PRINCIPAL  
CASTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Boys and girls in grades K through 6 of the Schodack Central Schools will plant a tree of their own each year that they are in the school district. Through the generosity of a conservationist friend of the school, pine seedlings have been furnished to 850 children to help them get a better understanding of their natural resources. During the Spring of 1970, all of the children received red pine seedlings to take home and plant on their own property. For the kindergarten child that remains in the school through grade six, this kind of conservation project will permit him to see an annual progression of growth as well as a series of trees that have been planted at intervals of one year. The program was stimulated in 1970 because of interest focused on the subject of environmental pollution.

As an added part of the education program members of the Castleton Garden Club have visited the classrooms of the elementary school to discuss the purposes of controlling pollution around the home where each child lives. Under the title of ABATES, kindergartners met such puppet characters as "Litterbug" and Susy Spotless"; while middle grade students had a heated debate on pollution of the Hudson River.

Both activities will be repeated during the next school year because it is the hope of the people in southern Rensselaer County that the younger members of the community will give leadership to the topic of conserving natural resources.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADVANCE NOTICE - - FALL MEETING  
Weekend of September 19th  
David H. Hanaburgh, Chairman

Many of you have been speculating as to what has been going on and what are the future prospects for the New York Forest Owners Association.

We are planning a Fall Meeting for the weekend of September 19th, in the vicinity of Speculator, N. Y., so make plans to come in plenty of time.

Keep an eye out for future announcements on this event.

\* \* \* \* \*

APPALACHIAN TIMBER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Harold Nygren, Timber Agent, reported that more than twenty requests had been received from property owners seeking assistance in disposing of timber. Seven timber lots that had been marked for cutting by State Foresters of the Stamford and Sherburne Districts have been referred to Mr. Nygren to negotiate sales, by the District Foresters, Robert Williams and William Craig. Four of the timber lots, one each in Chenango, Schoharie, Otsego, and Delaware, are being readied for sale, Mr. Nygren reported. The area to be included in timber sales is 226 acres and the timber to be cut is estimated at 400,000 board feet. Besides the four counties in which activity is already under way, the area covered by the Association includes Broome County.

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REPORT ON MAIL BALLOT  
CHANGES IN BY-LAWS; ELECTION OF DIRECTORS  
Henry Maag

The following changes have been voted on favorably:

Directory - Page 33, Membership, Section 3

New: Annual dues shall be announced in February and are due and payable by March 31st.

New: Regular member dues are \$6.00 per year. Family membership (Husband and wife) dues are \$10.00 per year.

Directory - Page 33, Expulsion, Section 1

New: Expulsion: Any member who shall fail to pay association dues for one year shall automatically be dropped from membership.

The following directors have been elected:

Robert M. Ford  
Henry Maag  
John Smigel

Jens U. Hansen  
Alfred Najer

Joyce (Mrs. R.W.) Gilmore  
Lloyd G. Strombeck

\* \* \* \* \*

WOODS WALK AT MISS FOX' PROPERTY  
AUGUST 1, 1970 - CHATHAM, N. Y.  
Arthur Weinheimer

This walk will be through 80-plus acres of plantation, which have been under intensive management since planting in 1952. "Greens" operations have made pruning currently a profitable operation.

Make reservations by July 24 by mailing a self-addressed envelope, indicating number in your party, to the "Forest Owner". Directions to the plantation and time schedule will be sent out promptly.

\* \* \* \* \*

WOODS WALK AT PANTHER MOUNTAIN TREE FARM  
AUGUST 15, 1970 - CHESTERTOWN, N. Y.  
Alfred Najer

Panther Mountain Tree Farm is being operated for recreation rather than timber cutting for profit. Alfred Najer has been a cooperator of the Forest Practice Act since 1953 and the tree farm has been certified under the American Tree Farm System.

The woods walk will include the demonstration of ASC cost-sharing programs under the following practices:

Practice F-1 (B-10): Improving spruce-fir forest type stands to develop high quality wild Christmas trees

Practice B-10: Improving woodlands

Make reservations by August 7 by mailing a self-addressed envelope, indicating the number in your party, to the "Forest Owner". Directions to the tree farm and time schedule will be sent out promptly.



## ANNUAL MEETING 1970

The Board of Directors has elected:

Hendrik W. Van Loon	President
William Lubinec	First Vice President
Henry Maag	Second Vice President
Eniel Palmer	Treasurer
J. Lewis DuMond	Secretary
Henry Maag	Membership Secretary and Editor

The Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting has discussed and recommended a number of steps to insure the continued services to the members by means of the house organ and programs. Some of these steps are recommendations for the changing of by-laws for which a mail ballot is enclosed.

The asking for higher dues is a must. It also seems only fair that a member should not be continued on the list and receive publications if he has not paid his dues for as long as two years. A one-year period will allow anyone to catch up if he has missed a statement.

The issuing of membership cards will be worked on the honor system in the future to eliminate the office work. If the changes in by-laws are approved, all memberships paid up to March 31, 1970, will be honored through March 31, 1971. In February of 1971 and each year thereafter, the announcement of dues will also include a blank membership card for the following year and each member is asked to validate it by his signature after payment of the dues. This system is being used in a number of large organizations and has proven to be effective.

The Board of Directors has decided that for the next three years, the place of publication of the Forest Owner will be Castleton-on-Hudson, New York. Anyone writing to the organization in general or supplying material should use the following address:

New York Forest Owners Association  
P. O. Box 98  
Castleton-on-Hudson, New York 12033

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Varian and Mr. Alfred Najer have been appointed so far to serve on an editorial committee.

It is customary that at each annual meeting the question of how to improve service to the members and how to sense their interest are one of the discussion topics. We suggest that for the next few years we employ the following techniques to gain such knowledge:

1. That you take your New York Forest Owner Directory and under the geographic listing of members look for those who live closest to you, call them on the phone, get together, discuss the Forest Owner and the things you would like to be done and send us a report on your meeting.
2. We are inviting papers on any topics relating to the interests of the Forest Owner and instead of publishing the full papers, we shall just publish the key words and then make copies of those papers available only to the interested members on a fee basis. This, in turn, will give us over a period of years an excellent idea of the most asked for topics.

We expect to publish the Woods Walk schedule shortly. The date for the fall meeting has been set for the third weekend of September and it will be in the area of Northville, N. Y.

Henry Maag  
Membership Secretary