



FOREST OWNER

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

NYFOA - 1962 - 1972 - 1982

College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y., April 29

VOLUME 10

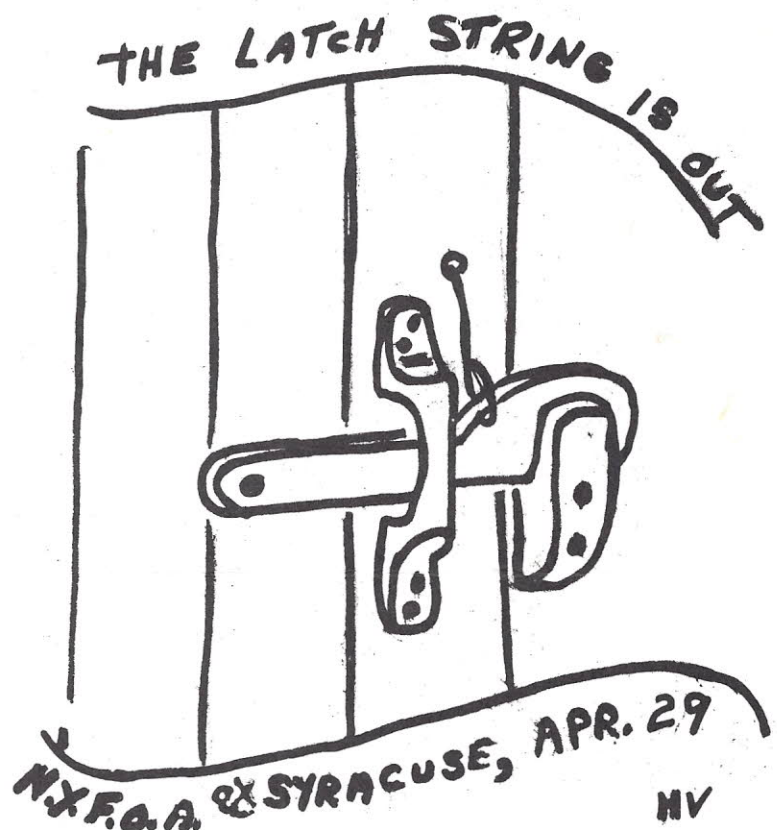
MARCH-APRIL, 1972

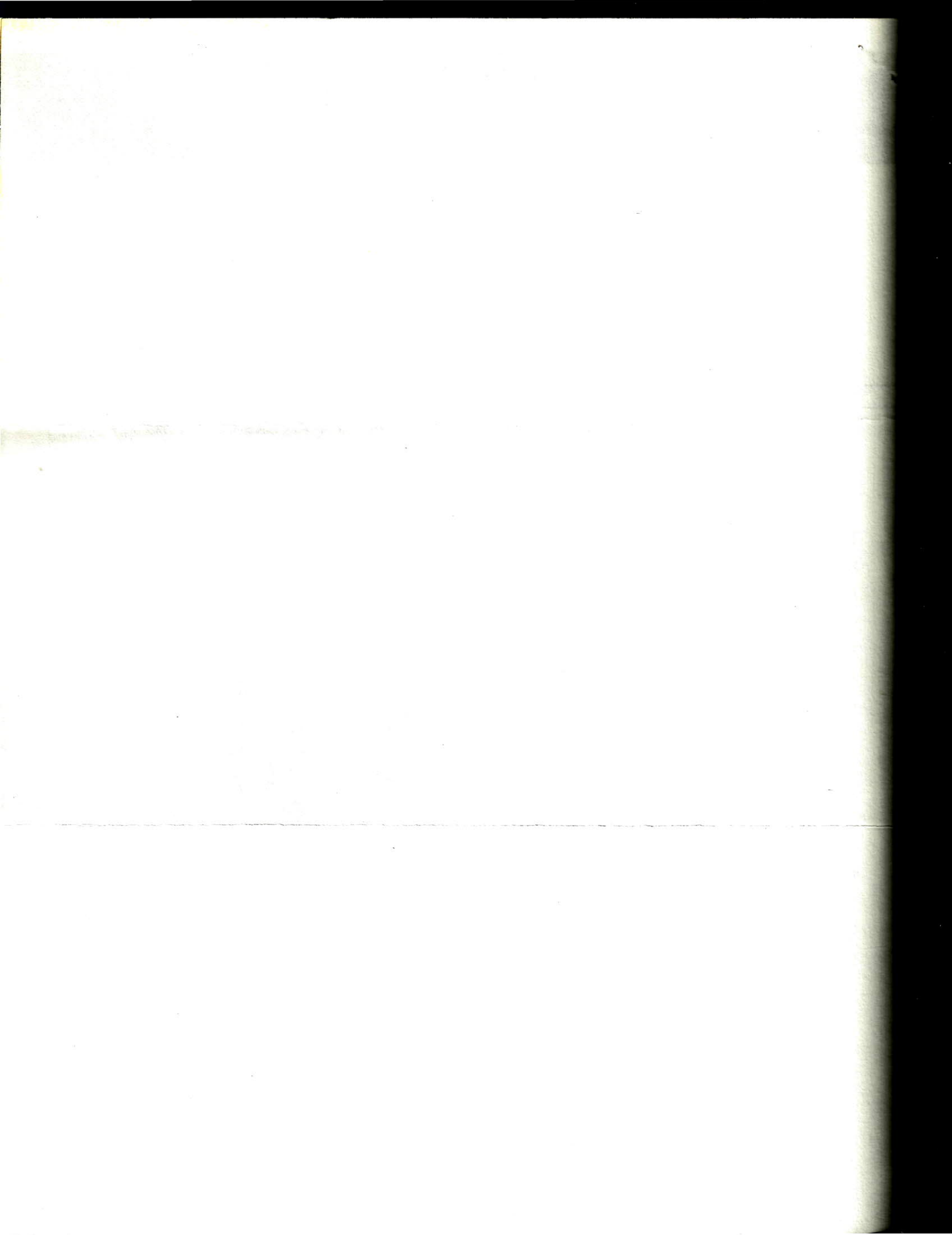
NUMBER 3-4

Published by NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOC., P. O. Box 98, Castleton-on-Hudson, N. Y. 12033

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PUBLIC ACTION

There is a rapidly growing tendency of natural resource, environmental and conservation groups to get together to discuss common problems and interests and to organize for effective public action.

The N.Y.F.O.A. is being represented in at least three of these groups:

1. The Forest Resources Public Affairs Committee
of the Empire State Forest Products Association
2. The Board of Natural Resource Organizations
3. The Environmental Planning Lobby

The Forest Resources Public Affairs Committee of the Empire State Forest Products Association is set up for the dissemination of information on pending legislation of interest to forest owners and industries. It attempts to find concerned and knowledgeable guidance for legislators on the benefits and hazards of such legislation. This committee has ready access to legislators and a working knowledge of the legislative process.

The Board of Natural Resource Organizations is being organized to expand and replace the old Shackleton Point Meeting. The present participating organizations are:

1. The State Fish and Wildlife Management Board
2. The State Forest Practice Board
3. The State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
4. The State Agricultural Resources Commission
5. The New York Forest Owners Association
6. The New York Conservation Council
7. The Farm Bureau
8. The New York Soil Conservation Districts Association, Inc.

The organizational intent of this group is first to achieve a unity in positions relating to the broad issues and interest in natural resource management and natural resource use, secondly, to convey these positions to state and local agencies, independent organizations and others concerned with natural resource endeavors, thirdly, to present the organization's opinion to the executive and related branches of government.

The Environmental Planning Lobby is organized to provide a central state-wide focus for concerned organizations and citizens to work for the protection, restoration and improvement of the natural and urban environment of the State of New York.

In pursuit of this purpose, the Environmental Planning Lobby may campaign, lobby, litigate and engage in a broad range of other activities. At the meeting in Albany on January 22 and 23 there were about 75 different organizations represented. All of these were seriously concerned with some aspect or aspects of the environment. Their approaches to their problems ranged from the most radical to the most conservative and from the knowledgeable to the ridiculous.

If any member of the N.Y.F.O.A. would like to participate in the activities indicated, has ideas on how the N.Y.F.O.A. should participate, or forest land owners interests pursue, please contact

David Hanaburgh
Box 122
Buchanan, N.Y. 10511

FOREPAC TO WATCH BILLS IN LEGISLATURE

The Forest Resources Public Affairs Committee will notify the N.Y.F.O.A. of progress on the important bills. There have been over 200 bills prefiled already this session that could affect the forest land owner. Most of these will never get out of committee, but they should be watched.

This is the type of service that the forest land owners have long needed. We hope it will be useful.

Sincerely,
John Stock

NEWS OF YOU

The following is in part the response of Walter D. Edmonds, Boonville, N.Y., to our query - "Tell us about your woods."

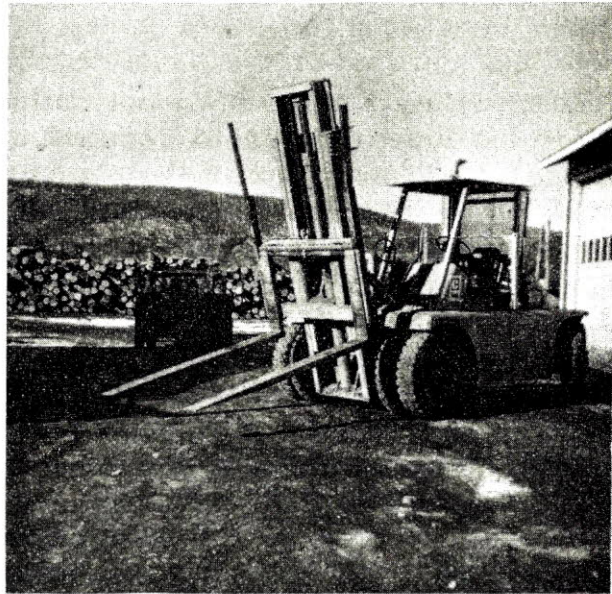
"The big ancient black cherry was all cut off, through my agency, after World War II, when the Harden Company was desperate for cherry. The trees, some of them more than thirty feet before they branched and up to nearly four feet through in some cases, had begun to fall. The same was true of our big spruce which my mother sold off some time after World War I. The big pines that used to be on the place were cut and sawed on the place, in a mill just below our house on Christol Creek (now called Crystal, which it is not!).

When I was a small lad scouting through the river woods I'd come on the stumps, some as much as five feet across, and dance on them in some kind of unholy attitude. I cannot recall what prompted me to do this. I suppose the woods always went to my head. But now the woods are all second growth. So the woods are good mainly as a cover for wildlife, and just to walk through. All my life I have loved them and the land they grew on - about 950 acres."

NEW SAW MILL AT DOVER PLAINS, N.Y.

Kelly Brothers have been in business at their Route 22, Dover Plains, N.Y. location for about six years. The home office is in Pittsfield, Mass. Kelly Brothers own seven mills - two others in New York State, one in Granville and the recently purchased mill at North Creek, formerly the John Baker Mill.

Two years ago, at their Dover Plains location, they installed a new building and mill. Sawing is done with an automated circular sawmill. They are in the process of converting to a waterfeed system. The Dover Plains manager, Phil Gunzinger, reports they are harvesting on a 70 - 80 mile radius from private land owners. They buy stumpage and contract out the logging. Buying is also done from vendor loggers on a grade and scale basis. Almost all lumber purchased is hardwood - 60 - 70% oak with volume in a year running 4 to 4-1/2 m.b.f.



Sawed lumber is sold green and rough on a grade basis. The majority of their output goes directly to furniture and flooring manufacturers. Truck load lots of sawdust are sold to area farmers for use as bedding.

Mr. Gunzinger grew up in the business. His dad was a lumberman. He worked in the Boonville, N.Y. area before going to Dover Plains. Bob Shea is purchasing agent for Kelly Brothers. Telephone (914) 832-6082.

PINEWALD REPORT

Ed N. Moot, the Penner of Pinewald reports - Snowmobiles - ha! They, with chain saws, cut a path right through on our north line. No one asked permission to do this. They even tore down my trespass signs. I put up new ones with this sign below the trespass signs - Do Not Remove This Sign Again. They have not, in fact they have been very quiet. If they had only consulted me I would gladly have cut a very narrow fire line right next to the stone wall; but this vandalism I will not stand.

Do any forest owners who manage their land on a multiple use concept have snowmobile trails and what have been their results? Write us!

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LAW

The Occupational Safety and Health Law is the most comprehensive national safety act ever enacted. The lumber and wood products industry is one of five in the nation selected as a "target industry" by the Labor Department for special attention because of its past high injury rate. EVERYONE IN THE INDUSTRY SHOULD BECOME FAMILIAR, IMMEDIATELY, WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

The Federal Safety Standards are not mailed to employers. You have to order them from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$ 0.20. A packet of information materials on the act can be obtained from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Washington, D.C. 20210. Information specifically of interest to loggers can be obtained from the American Pulpwood Association, 605 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

The important point is this: get informed and keep informed. The act has been well termed one of the most significant pieces of legislation to pass the Congress since the New Deal decade. As members of a target industry loggers already found out that the OSHA is enforcing the act "to the letter of the law."

Excerpt from article by K. S. Rolston in the
"Forest Farmer", December 1971

SPRING BEAUTY, IN BEECH WOODS

By Fannie Stearns Gifford

Lift your feet softly as a fox or deer
Believe your eyes, but not too well,
For here
Foams the first tide of April's flood,
Washing the beech trees' feet.
No dye of bud
Blurs the high penciled boughs with living stain,
But deep below, where only snow has lain
So long, so long, or sad leaves bleached and drifted,
A frothy wave of pearl and rose has lifted
Its crest, and broken, pure as frost, in seas
Of petal pink.
Like silver kelp the trees
Extend their roots, relaxed from winter's steel.

Lift your feet softly, that they too may feel
This shallow roseate pool for thruth, and know
The strong and delicate season's sunward flow.

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OWNING WILD LAND

Dr. C.E Farnsworth, Prof. of Silviculture
School of Environmental and Resource Management
State University of New York, College of Forestry

A column by Sylvia Porter (Syracuse Herald - Journal, January 21, 1972) served to emphasize a dramatic change that has taken place, and is continuing to develop, regarding wild land ownership. In the metropolitan areas of the state, many people earn their incomes in the urban centers, but look with great interest to the country as a place of escape. As Mrs. Porter comments: "For some families, the lure is a second weekend place which can be turned into a retirement home later; for others it is a remodeled hillside barn in a still sparsely populated state; for still others it is an abandoned farm or a "character" structure in a ghost town, or a beach house or a manicured plantation. Whatever the dream, the fact is that when farm land exchanges hands today a full 40% for the transfers involve buyers other than farmers.

Many of the farms that change hands in New York have substantial areas of forest land. Many of them are not really farms at all, but are mostly land that either has reverted or is reverting to woody growth following the cessation of active farm practises. Some of the areas have never been farmed; the forested land was never cleared, although it may have been cut-over several times for such wood products as could be obtained, in accordance with the needs or whims of the owner. It is estimated that there are some 250'000 owners of parcels of land which in some degree are forested, or may be forested with the passage of time, and the numbers are increasing with each year. Most of the members of the New York Forest Owners Association are included in this statistic, and as we are aware, many people are actively searching for wild land to buy.

This "invasion" of the countryside by city people is a most significant and interesting development in light of the history and circumstances surrounding it. Some forty years ago, during the depression, large areas of rural land were abandoned for nonpayment of taxes, although compared with present tax levels the levies were indeed modest. Many thousands of families had begun to move off the land during the 1800' and this movement was accelerated during the depression. Purchases of very great areas of land were made by the State, at average prices substantially below five dollars an acre. This was possible because the rural land owners often could not obtain an adequate financial return in products from the land and they were eventually forced to move. Often, however, before they eventually gave up, they endured a considerable period of financial and physical hardship.

Most of the modern "invaders" are much less concerned with the material products, either forest or agricultural, that the land can provide. Many are more or less uninterested in the idea of active agriculture for profit, or in cutting the forest trees to produce an economic return. The prices they are prepared to pay in comparison with their expected income from production on the land are quite unrelated.

In addition, they are prepared to make substantial investments in buildings, in general improvements, in tree planting or in other ways. This invasion is by people who by and large are taking resources to the land rather than by people depending primarily on the production of products from the land to provide a profit for time and investments made. It is indeed an entirely different situation from that which existed even during the first half of this century. All this is occurring during a period while land prices continue to go up and up. Land taxes have increased several times over in some cases. The rate at which land is moving out of agriculture continues to be high. In spite of all these apparently unfavorable factors, there is almost no land which is reverting to public ownership through abandonment for nonpayment of taxes, and in many areas it is difficult to find land to buy even at present high price levels. Mrs. Porter remarks that the purchase of rural land can be an excellent investment, earning as much as 15% a year in value increase. In the new pattern of owning such land, producing a product to sell need not be a major consideration. Ownership satisfaction, together with the promise of much higher land values for the future, provide the stimulus. It is indeed true that "the times they are a changin."

B O O K S

"Forest Ownership for Pleasure and Profit" by Shirley and Graves.
Available from Syracuse University Bookstore. \$ 5.95.

"Woodlands for Profit and Pleasure" by Reginald O. Forbes.
Published by the American Forestry Association. \$ 5.00.

Another book is being written by Dr. Leon Minckler, based on his thirty years research experience in the Forest Service. Publication date is still six months or so in the future. The title will probably be "Environmental Thinking for Woodland Owners." We will watch for this one!

More producers are showing greater interest in producing a larger quantity of maple syrup this spring. Inventories are depleted and prices and weather conditions look favorable. Harold Typer, Westford, N.Y., maple farmer and N.Y.F.O.A. director, has been elected President of the Central Maple Producers Association.

The Schoharie County Maple Festival will be held as usual late in April. They select a Maple Queen from their County.

The maple tree is the New York State tree.