



FOREST OWNER

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

Vol. 12

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No. 3

Editorial Committee

Lloyd G. Strombeck, Chairman57 Main St., Owego N. Y. 13827
Lucille Betts
David H. Hanaburgh
Merle Wilson, Editor24 Louisa St., Binghamton, N.Y. 13904
Helen Varian
William Lubinec

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Wm. Lubinec

The Spring Meeting of NYFOA was a success. Chairman Lloyd Strombeck did an outstanding job, along with the other members who worked with him.

It was a pleasure to see that the publicity was so ably handled by our chairman Miss Jane Barton.

My congratulations to the seven new directors who were voted in by our members plus the two remaining directors who were appointed to fill two recent resignations.

Many thanks to John Ridings who so ably assisted me in last years reign, plus the able assistance of your directors who really run our organization.

With the high price of oil making plastics rise tremendously recently, there will be a switch back to wood in some cases. Preservationists are also causing a harvesting problem in our national forests, so it behooves each and every one of us with our small private holdings to better manage our renewable resources. For every dollar that goes to the tree farmer is multiplied at least 24 times by the time our wood ends up in the finished product. Thus your efforts will be helping all segments of our wood industry.

Unless we do the job that should and must be done, our Government might step in to see that the job is done.

MINUTES - 74th MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the 74th Meeting - Board of Directors of NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
Hilton Inn - Syracuse, New York
March 6, 1974

William Lubinec, President, presiding.

The following directors were present: William Lubinec, Archie Koon, Mrs. Dean Betts, Emiel Palmer, Lloyd Strombeck, Henry Kernan, John Ridings, & J. Lewis DuMond.

The minutes of the February 2, 1974 meeting were read and upon motion approved.

Emiel Palmer, Treasurer, gave his report stating that there is a balance in the checking account of \$1930.04, and in the interest account of \$3276.80, making a total balance on hand of \$5206.84. This report was accepted.

President Lubinec gave a report from Mrs. Varian stating that there are now 432 members of whom 105 are family members counting as two. This gives a net membership of 327. 163 have been dropped for various reasons during the year.

Mrs. Betts for the committee on Condemnation and Trespass, read a letter from David Hanaburgh to Ronald Peterson, 1st Deputy Commissioner of the Conservation Department; together with comments from Mr. Peterson. These letters are to be copied and sent to all directors.

Archie Koon reported for the Woods Walk committee stating that Henry Kernan is to have one on June 1.

John Ridings reported that the Budget and Finance committee is trying to separate items so that they may be charged to the proper operations.

The Nominating committee reported that all nominees have been contacted and all have agreed to serve.

Lloyd Strombeck reported that the Editorial committee would like to have more response from the readers.

Strombeck reported that the Spring meeting is all set and that the publicity committee is working. It was suggested that clippings of interest from local papers be sent to Jane Barton.

Strombeck reported that a "Forest Owner's Training School" is planned for September 14, 1974. This is to be at Cornell in cooperation with the Forestry department of the Agricultural College. The topics planned for this school are:

1. Clear cutting
2. Forestry incentive programs
3. Esthetic logging on private lands.

At Cornell they have suggested the possibility of having the Fall meeting at the Arnot Forest again at the time of the training school.

John Stock's resignation was accepted with regret.

Harold Tyler reported that cutting contracts will be printed in the Forest Owner.

Upon motion of Strombeck, seconded by Ridings, it was voted to invite Mr. Whitmore, head of the Tree Farm program for New York, to be guest at the annual meeting.

Upon motion of Palmer, seconded by Kernan, it was voted to purchase liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000. DuMond is to take care of this. Cobleskill is the address to be used.

It was urged that the members of the Board contact their assemblymen and senators in connection with Assembly bill #8532, which makes it necessary for hunters to have the permission of the landowner in order to hunt on his land.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Lewis DuMond, Sec'y

12th Annual Spring Meeting

Northway Inn, Syracuse, N. Y., April 6, 1974

We had a successful meeting with nearly a hundred persons in attendance including guests.

The business meeting was brief with the members passing a resolution to amend our by-laws to set up a board of 5 trustees to administer any grants of land to NYFOA and to insure its proper management in perpetuity to the wishes of the grantor.

Committee Chairmen made their reports. This will be fully covered with our minutes in the next issue.

Mike Demeree gave a report on a proposed bill A-11823; S-9881 to amend the real property law in relation to the taxation of forest lands. The members were all in favor of it.

Dr. R. Mark gave a report on the Tug Hill Commission.

James Briggs, Cooperative Extension Agent from Broome County gave an excellent talk with color slides on "Wild Foods".

The High Light of the day was the presentation of the Heiberg award to Dr. C. Eugene Farnsworth by our gifted Toastmaster and former executive secretary Dr. Floyd Carlson.

Chairman L. Strombeck was moderator for the afternoon program.

Professor Fred E. Winch, Jr., Extension Forester, Cornell University gave an excellent talk on "Wood-Its Value as a Fuel and How to Use It".

David Taber, Cornell University gave a talk on "Wood Fuel. Its Safe Preparation and How to Market It".

There was a Panel Discussion later to answer questions.

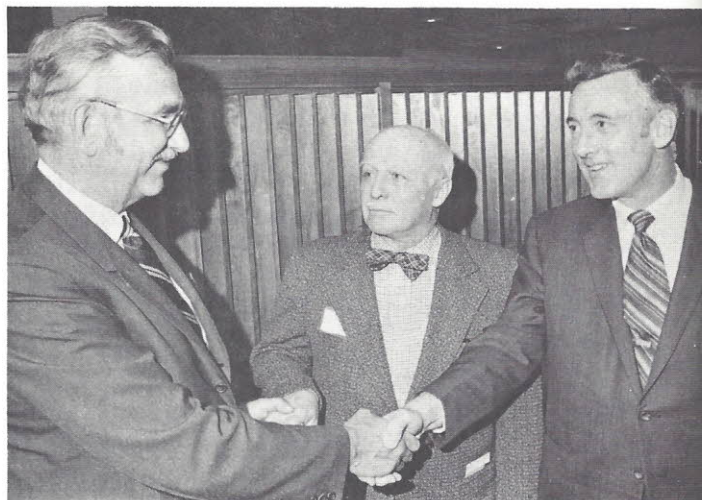
There was an excellent display of Wood preparation machinery.



DR. C. EUGENE FARNSWORTH left Professor Emeritus of the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, receives the ninth annual New York Forest Owners Heiberg Memorial Award. Making award is Dr. Floyd Carlson also a Professor Emeritus at the Forestry School.



MISS JANE BARTON Publicity Chairman NYFOA with D. K. Whittemore (center) Regional Forester of International Paper Co. and Head of Tree Farm Certification in New York State. Lou DuMond able Secretary of NYFOA



PRESIDENT William Lubinec left, Director Archie Koon center, Director Robert Sand right



DIRECTOR David Hanaburgh, left, Mrs. Helen Varian, NYFOA Secretary with Mr. Varian at right



DR. ALEX DIXON Professor at Cornell University left, Director Robert Sand right



DIRECTOR AND TREASURER Emiel Palmer left and NYFOA President William Lubinec right

TREE FARMER CITED - David Tabor

Francis A. Demeree of Bainbridge was presented the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award for 1974 on April 11 at the annual meeting of the Empire State Forest Products Association at the Treadway Motor Inn, New Hartford.

Donald K. Whittemore, chairman of the N. Y. S. Tree Farm Committee for the American Tree Farm System made the presentation along with Richard Lewis, National Tree Farm Program Manager from Washington, D. C.

Demeree of Terrace Hill Rd., Bainbridge and Chairman of the Board of Geo. Demeree & Sons Auto Dealers in Bainbridge has Tree Farm No. 6 consisting of 1312 acres located in Chenango, Broome, and Otsego counties.

Demeree said, "With my lifelong interest in fish and game, and conservation of natural resources, the most constructive way to go was in acquiring and improving woodlands. This naturally led into Tree Farm operations with emphasis on multiple use management."

Donald Whittemore in presenting the award mentioned that Demeree is one of 350 Tree Farmers Certified in New York for practicing good forest management on over 500,000 acres of woodland. Whittemore mentioned that the award is given to Demeree by the foresters in New York who work to support forest management practices and good conservation under the principles of the American Tree Farm System.

The basic aim of the American Tree Farm System is to place more woodland under management practices that will bring continuing benefits to the owner and produce more and better forest products and services for the American people.

Francis Demeree has been managing his woods for 20 years based on a written management and reforestation plan which was prepared in 1954 by foresters with the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation out of the Sherburne office.

Harvesting trees while promoting a healthy and vigorous woodland is a major benefit of the American Tree Farm System. Demeree has harvested almost 1/3 of a million board feet of logs, conducted timber stand improvement on over 1,000 acres as an investment in the future for better forest growth, and planted almost 150,000 trees.

Demeree's outstanding dedication to forestry, conservation, and tree farming in New York is characterized by excellence according to Donald Whittemore.

Persons owning woodland and interested in tree farming should write to Don Whittemore, P.O. Box 1500, South Glens Falls, N. Y. 12801 for the name of the local Tree Farmer forester and information on Tree Farming.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS FOR FOREST OWNER

Russell E. Getty has retired from the State University of N. Y. He is now Regional Representative of the Western Forest Industries Association for the States of Montana, Idaho and eastern Washington, and is based in Missoula, Montana.

Mrs. Robert Miller writes that we should be concerned with legislation concerning land use. "One of the most dangerous pieces of legislation in this category was the Land Use Act which would have destroyed the whole essence and concept of private ownership of land. The bill passed the Senate but, fortunately, it was defeated in the House Rules Committee. Bills such as this one are often proposed in the name of "Land Use Planning" or "Protecting the Environment." I am certainly in favor of protecting the environment and conserving our natural resources and proper land use - but let's protect private ownership of land."

LETTER FROM JOHN RIDINGS

Dear Archie,

When you publicize the Woods Walks, do you suppose the owners could write through you a Forest Owners article giving:

1. Specific driving instructions?
2. Availability of facilities on location?
3. The details of what one will be seeing.

This third item comes to mind as I ponder whether to spend one day and 200 miles to visit Kernan's property. Of course, Henry does say his property is described in the 10/73 issue of American Forests, which I will try to locate at the library.

When you have all the information for each, probably Jane Barton would send it to a local newspaper inviting the public. Then if the host had some membership applications, we should get some new memberships out of it. Believe it or not, we only had 13 new members last year.

Regards
John Ridings

LETTERS - to & from Jane Barton - David Hanaburgh

Miss Jane Barton
Windy Hill Farm
R. D. 1
Esperance, N. Y. 12066

Dear Jane,

I believe you talked with Don Whittemore, Chairman of the New York State Tree Farm Committee, at our NYFOA Annual Meeting in Syracuse. At a meeting of the Empire State Forest Products Association the sponsors the Tree Farm Program, I talked with Mr. Ed Stana, Regional Manager of the Tree Farm Program, who produces educational and publicity material for the program. He is anxious to push this material into any newspaper, magazine, radio, or TV outlets that can be made available. NYFOA or ESFPA tag lines can be added to this material. Do you think we can cooperate with ESFPA and the American Forest Institute in developing a publicity program.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Dorothy Wertheimer who was interested in such a program at one time, but the NYFOA could not develop the capacity to handle it.

Very truly yours,
David H. Hanaburgh

Mr. Ed Stana, Regional Manager
Tree Farm Program
American Forest Institute
1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

MEMORANDUM REGARDING LAND ACQUISITION - James L. Biggane

Dear Dave:

This note is to comment on your article in February 1 Forest Owner about Condemnation planned by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Land acquisition by the State is regrettably a very difficult and often misunderstood task. This has been a major concern of ours and soon after his appointment, Commissioner Biggane issued the enclosed memorandum to clarify any possible misconceptions on the part of our people and to clearly set forth the manner in which the exploration or carrying out of land acquisition activities is to be handled.

I hope you'll accept my assurances that the memo was prepared and signed with full sincerity. If you have questions about any of the points, I hope you'll let me know.

My letter to Mr. McKeon from which you quote in your article is a very brief summary of a number of the points which the enclosed explains in considerably more detail. It was written for a particular situation, and while I regret it may have been misconstrued, this is

understandable in view of its brevity.

As a long-time member of FOA, I continue to enjoy the Forest Owner and commend you and the many others who work to make it the useful and informative newsletter that it is.

Best regards,
Ron

TO: Land Acquisition Staff
RE: Land Acquisition by DEC

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the Department's land acquisition policies and the underlying concepts and approach which must govern our acquisition work and all our contacts with the public, property owners, county clerks' office personnell, or anyone making inquiries.

Most importantly, there must be recognition and understanding that individuals view their property just as you and I view ours -- we've worked for it, have given it tender loving care, and in all likelihood, have associated fond memories and hopes and expectations for its future. Compassion and understanding need not be inconsistent with legislated responsibilities to consider the long term public interest to be served by public ownership or selected parcels.

In keeping with these responsibilities, we have identified a number of parcels which in our opinion should be considered for eventual acquisition by the State. The words "considered" and "eventual" must govern our attitude and discussions. I hope that we will not receive any further reports that one of you has said or left the impression that the State is out to get a piece of property regardless of the owner's feelings. While there are, of course, certain parcels of extremely high priority, there is no possible way during the early exploratory phases that you can know the owner's feelings or if ultimately some mutually advantageous acquisition arrangements will be worked out. Accordingly, a "heavy-handed" approach is not appropriate, and, in fact, is counter productive.

Materials are in preparation to help explain to the public the Department's legislated responsibilities and our procedures/options/policies with respect to land acquisition. In general, the following points will be made:

1) The Department identifies various parcels in keeping with its responsibilities to preserve, provide access to presently owned state lands, or other specific purposes as provided for by law. Identification of these parcels stems from past or current studies made by individuals who know the area and understand the purposes of the applicable legislative authority. Usually, at this stage, far more parcels are identified than are apt to be acquired in the foreseeable future.

2) Funds are made available to the Department to carry out acquisition. Each year the legislature appropriates a certain amount of money which is the maximum the Department can expect to spend or commit during the current fiscal year. In fairness to current land owners, the legislature does not act upon a request to acquire specific properties, but rather makes the funds available to the Department as a "lump sum."

3) After properties are identified which meet the purposes of the program, they are screened and some are selected for exploration of possible acquisition. Selection is made by Central Office staff, using various criteria, including potential development pressures on the property, desirability and/or benefits to the public (which obviously vary according to the type and purposes of the acquisition program) and, of course, the funds available to the Department.

4) Department representatives contact the owner, explain that the Department is considering acquisition of this property, point out the reasons for this consideration, and the general procedures and opportunities available to the land owner. Department representatives may have to check county clerk office records, which are open for public inspection by anyone, to ascertain the name and address of an owner and the boundary descriptions for a property.

5) An appraisal of the property is made by licensed appraisers, following established procedures which include review of current land values in the general area, and on-the-ground inspection of the property.

6) Following completion of the appraisal, the property in question and the appraised value is again considered by central office personnel to assure its continuing high priority relative to other needs and to be sure that funds are available.

7) The Department's field representative again visits the owner and in keeping with the law explains the appraisal and the various ways acquisition arrangements could be made. These include:

- Outright purchase at the appraised price or similar agreement such as purchase at a later date; for example, during the following tax year.
- Acquisition in pases, so that a portion of the property is transferred to the State over each of several years, for example.
- If an owner desires to retain the use of property, he may sell it to the State but retain a life interest, or in the case of an organization, an interest for a term of years. This is often an ideal arrangement from the standpoint of the owner and particularly in those cases when there is a commitment to appropriate stewardship, the Department welcomes the opportunity to explore this approach. Under a life interest arrangement, the owner can enjoy both his property and a substantial portion of its current market value.
- Any one of a number of combinations of outright purchase, gift, or life interest arrangements.

8) The Department's goal is to carry out its responsibilities in ways which meet both the needs and desires of the land owner and the broad public's interest. Flexible use of the opportunities to work out mutually satisfactory arrangements is the rule.

9) Immediate acquisition of high priority properties being held by those who fully appreciate the broader public interest is not important. Many landowners are excellent stewards, and in such cases, the Department's ultimate aim is to place critical properties under the protective cloak of state ownership before they fall into less thoughtful hands.

10) In accordance with Law, the appraisal price must be offered to the prospective property seller. Flexibility to negotiate a higher figure is severely limited, and in all cases such negotiation must first be considered by the central office in consultation with the Comptroller's office. If the owner desires to sell the property at a lower figure than the appraisal, it is possible to do so.

11) If after thorough exploration of the various alternatives means of acquisition, mutually agreeable arrangements cannot be reached with the owner, the Department may in singular cases consider utilization of its eminent domain powers when necessary to assure preservation of unique resources values or public access to public lands or waters when acquisition is essential to meeting program goals.

The Department policy is to avoid use of its eminent domain powers. If occasion arises when serious consideration of their use is necessary, it will only be after an extremely careful review of all related factors and with the full knowledge of the owner.

Land acquisition is a difficult and delicate responsibility. Regrettably, it is often misunderstood and the material and public information efforts we intend to pursue are designed to help eliminate this misunderstanding.

I have full confidence in the capabilities and sensitivities of department staff to successfully carry out our land acquisition programs in ways which will reasonably balance land owners' understandings and feelings, and the longer term public interest for which we have some very specific responsibilities.

James L. Biggane, Commissioner

LETTER TO MR. RONALD W. PEDERSEN

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your note to me dated February 8, 1974, relative to the Land Acquisition Policy of your Department. I hope you will continue to exchange comments with Members of the New York Forest Owners Association and through its official publication, The Forest Owner. The present Department of Environmental Conservation has lost much of the close contact with the landowner that was maintained by the old Conservation Department through the game warden,

the fire towermen, the fire warden and the District Forester. At the Albany level this contact was practically demolished by Henry Diamond and Company.

For several years now there has been a steady, serious erosion of the deeded rights and titles of the private landowner in the name of the public good. Apparently the private landowner is not a member of the public.

Here are some of the areas of landowners oppression and increasing conflict with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

1) Through the pressure of well organized Sportsman groups the Department has developed the thesis that all wildlife belongs to the State. It is the private landowner, however, who provides most of the food and cover for this wildlife with little or no compensation from your Department or big-mouthed Sportsman groups. The game warden has become a policeman in a big State car, with flashing lights, a menace to rural traffic, in some cases a blackmailer.

2) Most of the modern oppressive legislation has been developed in your Department through so-called Governor's Bills and pushed through the legislature by organized pressure groups. Many of these bills did not achieve the results for which they were designed, but did increase the oppression of the private land owner. Such legislation would include the so-called "Streambank and Bed Control Law". This legislation has caused widespread harrassment and fines of private landowners for failure to get the permission of your department for putting in culverts, building stream crossings, building watering places for livestock, and building stream improvements for fish habitats.

3) The whole series of contemporary legislation on private land use is in reality a condemnation or expropriation of private land ownership rights in the interest of State socialization. The Wild Rivers bills, the Agency legislation, and the wetlands legislation, You can claim that you do not run the agencies, but your department is directly or indirectly responsible for much of the policy and the private land regulation that develops from them.

4) For the past twenty years there has been a rapidly increased and expanded use of the power of eminent domain. No private landowner can afford to make his property look real attractive with out the fear that some half-witted bureaucrat will work up a scheme to take it away from him. If your Department finds a piece of private land that is administratively inconvenient you immediately think of condemnation. So-called "Fair Market Value" is a lie and a cheat when applied to condemnation proceedings. The owner whose land is being condemned is being "Damaged" to the extent of at least three times the "Fair Market Value" according to your own rules for the valuation of timber in trespass cases.

Can you wonder why private landowners are becoming more and more concerned about how much of an equity they have in their own land and how good their titles are. Can you wonder at the growing distrust of a State Department that is becoming less and less interested in these custodians of some of the State's basic resources and more and more interested in paternalistic planning for the freeloaders of these resources. It would seem that the Soil Conservation Service is getting much closer and doing a much better job in the interests of the private land owner and the State than is your Department.

I hope that we can generate a definitive discussion that will lead to the improvement of the position of the private landowner in the State.

Your comments will always be welcome in the Forest Owner, especially if items are kept within the limits of 200 to 300 words. Our organization is a forum for the expression and arbitration of conflicting ideas and objectives in private land ownership.

Very truly yours,
David H. Hanaburgh
Chairman, Condemnation and Trespass

LETTER FROM RONALD D. BALDWIN

To all members of NYFOA:

Had a great time at the Annual Meeting Saturday. As a new member I was very favorably impressed with the organization and attention to detail with which the meeting was carried

on. The program was especially enjoyable and very timely.

During the formal and informal conversations there was one question that kept cropping up - How do I find a reliable timber harvester? As this is my area of "expertise" may I offer you the following thoughts.

If you know very little about harvesting timber or are unsure that you can protect your interests adequately, then I would advise that you turn to a third party, in the form of a consulting forester. The small fee involved could more than be made up in the form of a better price for your timber or just the peace of mind of knowing that you and your woodlot have been used properly.

Should you be confident that you can negotiate yourself a good deal move with caution. Some decisions can be made before contacting a contractor, such as, what kind of a harvest do I want?; how much money should I reasonably expect to receive?; do I want a lump sum payment or a by the thousand board feet arrangement?; am I interested in aesthetics?

How do you contact a reliable timber harvester: Call several sawmills in the area, they will know who the most dependable and steady harvesters are. The State foresters and local consulting foresters know the contractors in any given area. Ask any neighbor who has had a successful harvest and rely on whatever list can be provided you by NYFOA or by the NYS Timber Producers Assoc. Those names which show up on these lists most often should provide you with a starting point.

How do you check on these harvesters, or one that just comes knocking on your door? Ask him to provide a list of his most recent clients to be checked as references. And check them. A call to his bank and the people from which he has bought his equipment could give you a picture of his financial status. A harvester who is reluctant to allow these checks could be a poor risk.

Negotiating the price. The same people who provided the names of possible contractors can also provide you with stumpage price information. Keep this fact in mind - the highest price is not always the best price. Many a woodlot has been poorly harvested because the landowner has squeezed the last penny out of his contractor. This means that the harvester must cut the timber as fast as possible in order to realize any profit. Fast is not good for the woodlot.

Once you have selected a contractor and settled on a price then get everything into a timber sale contract. This can be very informal or through a lawyer. A reliable harvester should be willing to go along with the landowner with whatever precautions he desires.

With these precautions followed you should be as reasonably sure of a good business transaction as when you deal with any other businessman. For every rotten deal which you have heard about there are thousands of others successfully negotiated and carried through.

I enjoyed meeting many of you at the meeting and hope to make all of your acquaintance in the near future. Mr. Kernan has asked that I make his Forest Walk for the purpose of answering questions from a harvester's point of view. Will look for many of you there.

The NYFOA looks like a viable, energetic association. I look forward to a rewarding experience through being a member.

Sincerely,
Ronald D. Baldwin

TIPS FROM LETTER REGARDING PRICES FOR LOGS

From: Wood Utilization Service

231 Baker Laboratory, State University College of Forestry at Syracuse
University, Syracuse, New York 13210

1) Depending on the price one expects for stumpage and who one hires for logging, one may or may not break even.

2) Reliable loggers can be identified through the New York State Timber Producers Assoc. service foresters of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and consulting foresters. However, as with any contract, the best way to ensure that it is properly executed is to have supervision. Therefore, it might be well worth the 10 or 15 per cent of the stumpage price received to employ a consulting forester or a timber agent under the FPA program to administer a timber sale. There is nothing like constant inspection and supervision to ensure

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Ronald D. Baldwin

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Available from local Extension Office or Mailing Room, Cornell University for 20¢. This 32 page bulletin covers the most common wild and domestic plants (did you know rhubarb leaves are poisonous). Discusses those plants common to New York.

Poisonous Plants of the United States and Canada

1964, John M. Kingsbury

Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 626 pages.

Available through bookstores. This is the "Bible" of poisonous plant books. Many hospital emergency rooms keep copies on hand for diagnosing poison cases.

(2) What about partridge berries?

The diminutive partridge berry Naccinium or Vitus - Idaea is common in New York in moist woodlands. The cooked red berries are commonly eaten, especially in the Maritime Provinces.

James N. Briggs
Cooperative Extension Agent

A SELECTED LIST OF
BOOKS ON EDIBLE, MEDICINAL, AND OTHERWISE USEFUL PLANTS

From: L. H. Bailey Hortorium
New York State College of Agriculture
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850

Some of the most useful are:

Angier, Bradford. Free for the Eating. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa. 1966
191 pp. illus. \$4.95

Angier, Bradford. More Free-for-the-Eating Wild Foods. Stackpole Books. Harrisburg, Pa. 1969. 192 pp. illus. \$4.95

Fernald, M. L. and A. C. Kinsey. Edible Wild Plants of Eastern North America. Revised by R. C. Rollins. Harper and Row, Publishers, N. Y. 1958. 452 pp. illus. \$6.95. Includes a chapter on poisonous plants.

Gibbons, Euell. Stalking the Wild Asparagus. David McKay Co., N. Y. 1962.
303 pp. illus. \$6.95.

Gibbons, Euell. Stalking the Blue-eyed Scallop. David McKay Co., New York. 1964
332 pp. illus. \$6.50 (primarily shellfish and marine but some fresh water)

Gibbons, Euell. Stalking the Healthful Herbs. David McKay Co., N. Y. 1966.
303 pp. illus. \$6.95

LETTER FROM MERTON R. BEAN

The N. Y. Forest Owners Ass'n.

Several things have happened to induce me to submit my "two cents worth."

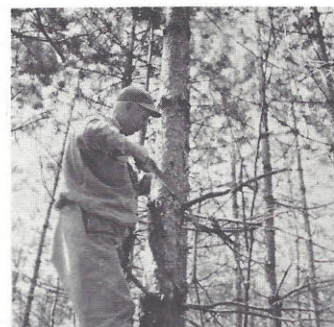
A rough record of my connection with forestry - I was among the first fifty-eight N. Y. Staters to become a Certified Tree Farmer, at Speculator several years ago.

In 1926 I bought two farms, and that year and the next, set out 102,000 trees - 40,000 white pine, 40,000 red pine, 20,000 Norway spruce and 2000 Scotch pine. This covered all the open land on both farms. The farm containing the white pine, Scotch pine and about 14,000 of the spruce was sold about ten years ago to be used in connection with a ski development.

So at present, I have, on the other farm, 40,000 red pine, 6000 spruce (less casualties) and 75 acres of hardwood. This hardwood was cut over on a marked tree basis 21 years ago.

(\$3500.) The same piece is again being cut on a marked basis but also to harvest a large number of trees on a pulp classification. (\$7000.)

Seventeen years ago, I sold 2000 red pine, to be used for pole barns, for about \$4000. These trees were taken out in solid rows, to be of some help in thinning. The 40 acres of red pine (set 6 x 6) now contain probable 25-28,000 stems. These are being marked for a thinning cutting, leaving about a 100 trees (20' x 20') of the best appearing trees, that come close to that spacing. The 20,000 m/1 to be culled at present, contain some junk, but a lot of trees as good as those being left. The 4000 trees being left (100 x 40 acres) would be left for five or ten years, to improve farther. Also to spread the income over more years, especially in regard to the I.R.S.



The foresters helping with the project estimate the trees to be 80' tall, with an average of 40' to an 8" top, on those being held as well as many of those to be sold now.

As an environmental sideline - I had a pond dug in the bed of a small, spring fed, never failing water course. It is 75' x 150' x 10 ft. deep. It is surrounded by the spruce and hardwoods, seeded and set with several kinds of shrubs for wildlife.

This project has not been a money maker, at least in a hurry. However it has provided a use for spare time for many years, if one likes to use an axe to remove hardwoods from the pine and culls from the hardwoods.

The marking of timber, as mentioned, was done by the Forest Div. of the State Conservation Dept. under the Forest Practise Act. I am sure that their plans and recommendations have been valuable in producing better quality lumber, and at better prices. I wish more farmers could see the benefits of the Forest Practise Act.

Merton R. Bean
R. D. McGraw, N. Y. 13101

P.S. Merely a sideline -

At the time these trees were set, 1926 & 27, several years ahead of the first State reforestation, some of my friends asked, "How long will it take them to come to usable maturity?" Oh, I estimated 50-60 years. I told them I'd probabaly not realize much from them, but the returns from them would help out the education costs of our grandchildren.

As time progressed, our family included five sons and a daughter. Next, all of our children were married and there were 21 grandchildren. Up to the present, we have only been able to make a couple of "token" helps toward their education. Now four of the grandchildren have gained some education and gotten married.

As Robert Burns wrote, "The best laid plans of mice & men gang oft a gleg." I should have estimated great grandchildren!

LETTER FROM ALEX DICKSON

Mr. Bob Sands
Cotton Hanlon
Cayuta, N. Y. 14824

Dear Bob:

I have been doing some exploring and thinking in connection with the Cornell School for Forest Owners, slated for September 14. We have a good place in which to hold the school-- the auditorium of Morrison Hall on the Cornell campus. Close by is a cafeteria which would serve us lunch as well as cater to our coffee breaks. Right now I am making arrangements for the Christmas tree growers and the cafeteria is going to provide a fried chicken lunch for \$2.00.

As far as program is concerned, I feel I have enough ideas on hand now to make an interesting day! Clearcutting from the standpoint of the researcher and an interested educator

who has just written a popular book entitled, Clearcutting: A View From the Top. A pot-pourri by Ray Marler on forestry research findings as they apply to New York State; someone from Albany or ASCS state office or both to discuss the forestry incentives program as well as RECP; Dave Taber plus a representative from the New York Timber Producers Association to talk on the feasibility of aesthetic logging on private forest land.

These would take up the day very nicely from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a couple of breaks along the way for lunch and coffee. We could have some dignitary from the College here welcome the participants and have the president of the NYFOA wind things up with what we have chosen to call in our Christmas tree growers' school a "critique and challenging comment."

If you feel the need to have some further input from your committee, fine. If not, give me the go ahead and I will try to make final arrangements with the people involved. So far I have only made tentative contact.

Best personal regards!

Sincerely yours,
Alex Dickson, Assoc. Professor Natural Resources Ext.

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DR. RICHARD V. LEA
905 WESTCOTT ST.
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13210