



# FOREST OWNER

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

Vol. 12

October 1, 1974

No. 5

## Editorial Committee

William M. Roden, Chairman ..... Trout Lake, Diamond Point, N. Y.  
 Lucille Betts ..... Helen Varian  
 David H. Hanaburgh ..... William Lubinec  
 Merle Wilson, Editor ..... 24 Louisa St., Binghamton, N. Y. 13904

\*\*\*\*\*

The opinions stated in this periodical are expressly the views of the writer, but not necessarily the opinions or policies of the New York Forest Owners Association, or of the FOREST OWNER.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Index

Article	Page
President's Column .....	2
Minutes of the 76th Meeting .....	2
Minutes of the 74th Meeting .....	3
Committee Chairmen .....	5
Member Losses due to Demise .....	5
A Re-established Market - Dave Cook .....	5
Letter from John Smigel .....	6
Letter from Donald Majka .....	7
Letter from Ronald W. Pedersen .....	7
Letter from Fred E. Winch, Jr. ....	8
Property Tax Law in Relation to Taxation of Forest Lands .....	8
Governor Signs Forest Tax Law .....	9
Forestry Motivation, Land Laws & Taxes - Henry S. Kernan .....	10
Pile O' Chips - Ed Moot .....	11
Natural Timber Resources - Henry S. Kernan .....	12
Letter from Alan R. Knight .....	14

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Your nation has a new leader, lets all get behind him and bring this country around by being more productive and less wasteful.

Committee chairmen have been appointed, but they still need your help. Volunteer your services by contacting committee chairmen directly.

Our new Director William M. Roden has agreed to become chairman of our Editorial Committee, since our previous chairman Mr. Lloyd Strombeck has been promoted to First Vice President with many more responsibilities.

Mr. Roden is a noted and gifted writer. His address is:

Trout Lake, Diamond Point, N. Y.

Hats off to Alfred Najer, Chairman of our Education Committee who has held NYFOA exhibits at the County and State Fairs.

It is with the greatest sorrow and regret that I announce the untimely death of Director Archie Koons. Mr. Koons was the Chairman of our Woods Walks committee and Archivist. His death will be keenly felt by the New York Forest Owners Association and myself.

Our Fall Meeting will be held in Sherburne, N. Y., home of Rogers Conservation Center, and Webb and Sons, fully automated million dollar sawmill. Directors A. Bratton and Henry Kernan are co-chairman, tentative date is October 12, 1974. Plan to attend.

Last but not least we have appointed Barbara Pittenger our newest director. She will be our Archivist.

MINUTES OF THE 76th MEETING

Minutes of the 76th Meeting - Board of Directors - NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
Northway Inn, Syracuse, New York  
June 8, 1974

William Lubinec, President, presiding.

The following directors were present: William Lubinec, Miss Betty Campbell, Alfred Najer, Jens Hansen, Emiel Palmer, J. Lewis DuMond, Mrs. Lucille Betts, Francis Ross, D. John Ridings, and Robert Sand.

The minutes of the 74th and 75th meetings were read by the Secretary and upon motion approved.

Treasurer Palmer reported that there is \$1863.00 at the present time in the checking account. His report was approved.

John Ridings, Chairman of the Budget committee, presented a proposed budget for 1974-1975. Upon motion of Sand, seconded by Campbell, this was approved.

It was reported that Archie Koon is seriously ill in a Syracuse hospital.

William Lubinec reported for the Editorial Board stating that a strict editorial policy is needed.

Upon motion of Ross, seconded by Campbell, it was voted that the Forest Owner reserves the right to edit all material to be published. This material does not necessarily reflect the views of the New York Forest Owners Association.

Alfred Najer reported for the Education committee stating that he would like to know in what direction to work. It was suggested that he submit two articles a year in the Forest Owner.

The following were appointed to the Heiberg Award committee:  
Allen Bratton, chairman, Harold Tyler and Lewis DuMond.

It was suggested that a job description of each committee be given to the Chairman of that committee.

Jens Hansen stated that he prefers to be relieved as Chairman of the Membership committee. Betty Campbell was appointed the new Chairman.

Jens Hansen was appointed Chairman of the Woods Walk committee.

Under Natural Resources and Land Use Planning, President Lubinec reported that he had sent a letter to Gov. Wilson with a copy to the Department of Environmental Conservation, requesting that every effort be made in the planning of State projects to avoid unnecessary destruction of natural resources including woodland and forest areas. He also stated that the Department is to change the designation of forest lands from V.

It was reported that the Fall meeting, if desired, can be held in the Norwich area.

It was reported the the Fall school is to be held at Cornell University on September 14. It is to begin at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. and to continue until 4 p.m. It will be open to all and it is hoped there will be 350 to 400 attending. Cornell is to handle the publicity. There will be a registration fee to include lunch.

The next meeting is to be in Binghamton.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Lewis DuMond, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE 74th MEETING

Minutes of the 74th Meeting - Board of Directors - NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
Knapp Hill Road, Chenango Forks, New York  
August 12, 1974

William Lubinec, President, presiding.

The following directors were present: William Lubinec, Lloyd Strombeck, Emiel D. Palmer, Henry Kernan, Robert M. Sand, Jens Hanson, Allen Bratton, Harold Tyler, Verner Hudson, Francis Ross, and Merle Wilson.

Non-director present: Barbara Pittenger

The minutes of the 74th meeting were approved as read and accepted.

Treasurer Palmer gave his report showing a total ballance in the bank of \$1766.10 with no bills outstanding. There is \$3317.76 in the savings account. This report was accepted.

Mr. Wilson stated that he still has \$33.00 remaining in his expense account.

President Lubinec appointed Evelyn Stock and Robert Sand to audit the books.

Barbara Pittenger was elected to the Board of Directors.

President Lubinec asked Barbara Pittenger to become Archivist of all Correspondence to see that a copy of all significant correspondence be given to Moon Library.

President Lubinec presented a list of the committee chairmen:

A discussion followed, namely regarding the need for Editorial Chairman to be near Merle Wilson to eliminate such expensive telephoning regarding publication of the NYFOA Forest Owner.

Fall Meeting: October 19 is to be the date at Sherburne. Allen Bratton and H. Kernan were asked to plan it. Bill Craig of Norwich will give a tour of lands and game reservations. Sleeping accommodations at this location are fair.

Robert Sand stated that for Industries the lumber market is going down.

Forest tax. John Stock would like to resign as Director at the convenience of the Board. His term ends in 1975 and the Board wishes to let his term run out. (His contacts with forest taxation and legislation are of great value to the NYFOA).

Allen Bratton was thanked for his work on the Heiberg Award Committee.

Woods Walks: August 17 is the next Woods Walk at Al Najer's, Chestertown, N. Y.

Betty Campbell reported 25 or so with quite a few children attending her woods walk. All enjoyed the experience; there were talks regarding land use.

Jens Hansen asked that Woods Walks be announced beforehand in the NYFOA Forest Owner from Binghamton where addresses are located. If the NYFOA mailing privilege is used the cost would be 1¢ 6 mil rather than 10¢ each.

R. Sand moved to pay Betty Campbell \$26.00, her mailing costs re her woods walk.

J. Hansen said the Aug. 17 is the only one planned at present. It was suggested we request feedback from woods walks for helpful suggestions for improvement in the future.

Spring Meeting: Robert Sand was appointed by President Lubinec as Chairman for 1975 Spring Meeting. L. Strombeck gave a critique on the 1974 Spring Meeting.

Director of Harvesting: Harold Tyler says this is at present at a standstill. He has copies of contracts and will get these to Merle Wilson for the Forest Owner.

Old Business: Emiel Palmer gave the sad information that our valued member, Archie Koon, of Auburn, died after several weeks in the hospital. His interest in and activities on behalf of the Cayuga Museum, Seymour Library and Children's Theater make any of these possible recipients of donations in his memory. Emiel Palmer moved that the NYFOA send a \$25.00 donation in his name to the Cayuga Museum. This was seconded. And passed by voice vote.

New Business: A letter from the State office of Planning Services from FBL, is considering mapping woodlands, They are interested in using symbols.

The Forestry Department of Texas A AND M has requested a list of our publications or catalog with a list. A vote was taken. All but one were for sending this with the request that we receive their publications in exchange.

Emiel Palmer sent Helen Varian a check for 2nd quarter honorarium of \$56.25.

A discussion re authorizing payment of bills centered on presently having to send them to each chairman, when they they pertain to his committee, for signature then to the treasurer to be paid. With a chairman many miles away this has at times been awkward and time consuming. Lloyd Strombeck asked that we change this rule to be more practical and make bills paid more quickly.

Robert Sand moved all bills connected with the Forest Owner be sent to Merle Wilson for his

O.K. Seconded by H. Kernan.

Mrs. Varian is to send a list of new members to M. Wilson.

(Letters pertinent to be sent to M. Wilson.)

The Chair entertained a motion to remove non-functioning Board members as stated in the Constitution. (Henry Maag and Ken Parsons, due to lack of attendance for 1½ years, their names are to be dropped from the Board.)

Governor Wilson has signed the Forest Taxation Bill which takes effect Sept. 1, It is now a law and forest land values are to be determined some time in September. This is a revision of 480, formerly the Fisher Law.

The Board thanks Mrs. Lubinec warmly for the delicious lunch she prepared.

Next Meeting - Prior to Fall Meeting at Sherburne, Oct. 19

Meeting adjourned for a walk in Bill Lubinec's plantation.

Respectfully submitted

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Accreditation - David Hanaburgh	Legislation - John Stock
Archivist - Barbara Pittenger	Membership - Miss Betty Campbell
Budget & Finance - John Ridings	Natural Resources - Evelyn Stock
Editorial Board - William M. Roden	Nominating - Lloyd Strombeck
Education - Alfred Najer	Publicity - Miss Jane Barton
Fall Meeting - Al Bratton & Henry Kernan	Printing & Mailing - Lucille Betts
Forest Industries - Robert Sand	Spring Meeting - Robert Sand
Forest Taxation - John Stock	Timber Harvesting - Harold Tyler
Heiberg Memorial Award - Al Bratton	Trespass & Condemnation - David Hanaburgh
Land Acquisition - Board of Trustees	Woods Walks - Jens Hansen

MEMBER LOSSES DUE TO DEMISE

Dear Mr. Strombeck,

I want to notify the Forest Owners Assoc. of the death of my husband, John J. Ahern, on 21 July 1974.

Sincerely,  
Eleanor L. Ahern

The New York Forest Owners Association extends deepest sympathy to Mrs. Eleanor L. Ahern for the demise of her husband, John J. Ahern. Our sympathy greatly exceeds our expression in these few words.

A RE-ESTABLISHED MARKET - Dave Cook

Most of us Forest Owners aspire to have our woods develop into beautiful and productive forest -- the kind we read about. But this requires a lot of things -- time, patience, skill and perseverance. If we want to grow really fine and valuable timber we have to work at it, not just by sitting still but by doing something! We have to periodically remove the unwanted trees and ultimately harvest the stems that need to be cut, either because they occupy space better used by neighbors or because they are ripe for cutting.

To do this in our complex and varied Northern Hardwood forest requires the highest order of technical skill; to leave the promising trees, to remove those that should come out and to do all this with the least damage to the forest. To do this we must have both skilled

cutters and diversified markets, markets that will take most of what we have to sell. For good husbandry, that means a lot more than just peddling prime sawlogs -- those items practically sell themselves. We must have markets that can absorb a wide variety of products-- trees of commercially less desirable species, crooked ones, culls, tops and maybe even limb-wood. If he has a market like that, the Forest Owner can utilize most of what he can grow!

From before World War II, the hill country of eastern Rensselaer County had a reasonable stable market for low-grade hardwoods - of which we had an over-abundance - at the Mechanicville mill of the West Virginia Company. In the later years, they would take almost anything, if it were 4" on the small end at least 8' long. Crooks, knots and most other defects made no difference, as scaling was by weight. The conscientious woodcutter left but little usable wood!

Between labor troubles and the pressures from the over-zealous environmentalists to have the mill's pollution cleaned up 100% and "by yesterday", West Virginia closed down what was, at the time, the biggest pulpmill in New York State! Everyone has heard about the thousand people who lost their jobs at the mill! But who ever mentioned the woodworkers who lost an outlet for a 70,000 cord annual cut of pulpwood? Or who thought about the Forest Owners, who had no choice but to leave the less-than-sawlog material in the woods, to make the forest untidy and to feed the worms and the bugs? These were the forgotten men!

Three years have passed since that low blow hit the forest management of eastern Rensselaer County. However, in June of this year, we got a new break. Finch Pruyn & Co. of Glens Falls set up a Satellite Chipping Plant on Route 2, near Grafton, to tap a new wood supply. This plant will accept "beech, birches, maples, red oak and hemlock". Specifications are those usual for long-length pulpwood - not less than 4" nor more than 22", lengths 8' to 20'. These are good specs- such material can be efficiently handled with our usual logging equipment. Wood is paid for by weight, the equivalent of \$26 per cord. Such stuff may not yield the Forest Owner any very great stumpage but it will let him get a lot of crummy trees out of the woods.

Many of you will ask if the local timber resource can supply sufficient wood to keep the Chip Plant going. You bet it will, and lots more, too! And the woodcutters on the Mountain and in nearby Massachusetts and Vermont will be happy to have a new and relatively non-selective outlet for pulpwood, so that rough logs can go for chips rather than be crowded onto the sawmills as pallet logs.

Those of us who are interested in intensive forest management welcome Finch Pruyn & Co. and its corps of trained foresters to the hills of Rensselaer County!!

LETTER FROM JOHN SMIGEL

Editor, Forest Owner  
Binghamton, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wilson,

The Editorial Committee deserves credit for editing an interesting and informative Forest Owner.

David H. Hanaburgh and Ed Moot write practical articles with a lot of horse sense.

David H. Hanaburgh's article on condemnation was a stunner! Especially the part as prescribed in Section 3-0305 where the environmental conservation law authorizes the Commissioner to remove the owner from the property thirty days after the service of the notice of appropriation.

Our inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness is dulled and stilted by this type of confiscatory law.

Quote - "From the Conservation Report (National Wildlife Federation) May 10, 1974 - Senator Bayh said the international swapping of crude oil, in what could be known, as "the Great Alaskan oil switch," might cost American consumers billions of dollars, without adding a single drop to the oil available for use in the United States." End of quote.

Just like the wheat deal, our natural resources, whether it be timber or oil can be exploited causing shortages and high prices and depletion.

I don't agree with Prof. Robert R. Morrow's two statements in the Forest Owner, in which

he says, Quote, "the argument of saving timber for our children implies that they are more deserving than the Japanese or other people. What if Seward had been a native of Nagasaki rather than Auburn, N. Y? The shoe may have been on the other foot." End of quote.

I would prefer to save our Alaskan timber for Our U. S. children. We cannot go on supporting other people and causing acute hardships here at home. The horn of plenty has sprung a big leak, there just isn't enough to go around for everyone anymore.

The U. S. has been built on blood and sweat, and it is slowly being eroded by our liberal reciprocal trade agreements and give away programs.

John Smigel

LETTER FROM DONALD MAJKA

#201  
3200 Shandwick Pl.  
Fairfax, Va. 22030  
17 Apr. 74

Dear Mr. Hanaburgh,

I wrote you in June, 1973 on a problem. You were very helpful. You know what they say about helping a fellow with a problem. Well here I am again.

I would like to trade the State of N. Y. a 110 acre piece of woodland located in the Adirondack Park for a piece of State owned land (preferably in Lewis Co.). I would appreciate it if you would address the enclosed envelop to the agency you feel may be responsible for such matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I find your contributions to the Forest Owner magazine the most interesting & meaningful.

I am personally in favor of harvesting and using trees in a reasonable way. I feel that one way to put the woodlots of the State back into a condition where they will grow the most and best timber is to be able to get a good price for the stumpage. I own about 1100 acres in Lewis and Jefferson Counties presently. About 10 years ago I was unable to sell some of my timber because of its low quality. In the past few years I have been able to get rid of the low grade logs and have started on a program of cull removal. If I had not been able to sell my Spruce and large Beach, the woods would probably be stagnated.

I own a 140 acre tract (plantation) of White Pine 50 years old 7"-15" DBH. The plantation needs thinning. I feel that there might be a higher use for the thinning rather than pulp. Do you know of anyone who might want these for log cabins or fence rails or hewn beams? I also have about 100,00 board feet in White Pine 22-26 DBH with very clean stems (no limbs). Do you feel the market for this type of log will be strong over the near future?

For my purposes I would appreciate it if a small portion of the Forest Owner magazine could be devoted to market conditions, trends and general information.

I want to say again how much I appreciate your articles. I believe you take a strong (militant, if you will) position for the individual owner and his rights. I support your position on this.

Yours truly,  
Donald Majka

LETTER FROM RONALD W. PEDERSEN

Mr. Donald J. Majka  
3200 Shandwick Place  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Mr. Majka,

Mr. David Hanaburgh has sent me a copy of your April 17 letter and asked that I respond to your question of the possibility of a land exchange with this Department.

Under present statutes, this Department is prohibited from leasing, selling or exchanging

land under its jurisdiction. Most, if not all, of the lands under our jurisdiction were acquired for a specific purpose and the statutes in effect prevent these public lands from being diverted from that purpose. Accordingly, we are unable to consider your suggestion.

Sincerely,  
Ronald W. Pederson

LETTER OF FRED E. WINCH, JR.

TO: Cooperative Extension Agents -- Agricultural Division  
FROM: Fred E. Winch, Jr., Prof., Natural Resources Extension  
RE: An Amendment to the Fisher Tax Law

Enclosed is a summary of the amendment passed by this session of Legislature.

The purpose of the bill was to amend Section 480 of the Real Property Tax Law to update its present provisions for the benefit of the people of the State of New York and the private owners of forest lands which will be reflected in the improved management of our timber resources.

The bill as amended has more realistically defined the acreage to be included and the volume of timber to require harvest cuts. If such cuts are not made the forest land will be removed from forest land rolls. A realistic rollback of taxes is provided for as land is removed from forest use but no penalties are imposed if an enforced taking occurs.

Commercial forest land is held by 255,000 landowners. Of the 8 million civilian work-force (1967) in New York employment in the timber related industries amounted to 1.4 million workers earning nearly \$2 billion in wages. The State's forest resources add to its tourism attractions which are estimated to be worth over \$3.5 billion yearly.

The trend in taxes for forest land has been upwards dramatically during the last few years. This situation is curtailing interest, motivation and investment for timber growing and improved management. This bill is aimed to help those interested in timber production and management to continue to produce forest crops and maintain forest based industry in the State.

\*\*\*\*\*

An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Law  
in Relation to Taxation of Forest Lands  
S. 9881                      A. 11823

(An Amendment to the Fisher Tax Law as of April 1974)

The Fisher Forest Taxation Law was amended to recognize that land presently "devoted to growth of forest crops are often assessed at a level which renders continued dedication to such use uneconomical, "due to" assessment practices which do not take into account the present use of the property being assessed." This recognizes that forest lands are a viable segment of the economic and environmental resources of the State. The law provides:

1. No lands will be classified under the Fisher Law after September 1, 1974, but lands so classified may continue if the owner so elects or he may apply for certification under the law as amended. A) Lands eligible are devoted to and suitable for forest crop production through natural seeding, reforestation or normal growth. B) An eligible tract will be 25 acres or more devoted to forest crops.
2. Applications for certification shall include a statement that the tract will be used for forest production for a minimum period of eight (8) years with obligations devolving to the owner, his heirs, successors or assigns. A) The value of such forest land shall be determined annually by the state board of equalization and assessment by ascertaining the average value of lands in New York used in forest production and incorporating data from USDA and other data as may be appropriate. B) Separate determinations may be made as appropriate for different regions and for different types of forest lands. C) Ceiling values for forest land will be determined for each tract and make corrections to the assessment rolls. D) If the value of the certified tract exceeds the forest land ceiling, that excess portion shall not be subject to real property taxation.



3. The owner of the tract must give notice to the town supervisor not less than 30 days prior to the time any cutting is proposed. The owner will be required to pay, not later than 30 days after harvest, six (6) percent on the sumpage receipts. The owner may cut 5 standard cords or equivalent for his own use free of taxes.
4. All taxes received by the supervisor shall be distributed in the same ratio as real property taxes were levied to school districts and to the town supervisor.
5. When the tract has grown to contain 15,000 board feet per acre as determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the owner may be directed to make a harvest cut in accordance with recommended forestry practices within two years of such notice. The tax at 6% will be due when the timber is cut. If cutting is made as recommended, the tract may continue to be certified; if the owner fails to make the cut as directed, the tract will be deemed to be converted to a use which voids the forest use clause.
6. If the land certified for forest crop land is converted to other usage a five-year rollback for the excess over forest land assessments will be determined. If the conversion applies only to a part of the tract, only that portion will be considered as a separately assessed parcel. Such rollback taxes shall be levied and collected on the first assessment roll prepared subsequent to such conversion. If all or any portion of such land is converted to a use other than for forest crop production by eminent domain or involuntary proceedings except a tax sale such lands shall not be subject to rollback taxes.

GOVERNOR SIGNS FOREST TAX LAW

From - New York State Environment, August 1, 1974

The commercial forest land owners in New York State, an estimated 250,000 strong, soon will have an alternative to skyrocketing land taxes under a new law approved by Governor Malcolm Wilson.

Effective September 1, 1974, a revised tax law will allow forest owners to have their land assessed at a rate which reflects its worth when devoted to producing forest products. The new law, Section 480a of the Real Property Tax Law, will be known as "The New York Forest Tax Law."

Much forest land is currently being assessed for the value it would have if fully developed, and the tax structure is blamed for freezing out the interest, motivation and capital investment needed for growing timber and improving forest management.

"Taxes have made it almost impossible for the landowner to have large holdings unless he's very wealthy," explained Robert Smith, head of DEC's bureau of state and private forestry. "It's not surprising that many owners of forest land have opted to sell to developers.

The revised forest tax law patterned on the state's successful agricultural districting law, provides that beginning September 1, 1974 any owner of forested land, 25 acres or more in size, can apply to DEC for a certification that his land is eligible for special rates under the new forest tax law. The landowner must agree to keep his land forested for eight years.

Certified landowners will have their land taxes based on forest land value. This value will be determined by the state board of equalization and assessment after consulting with DEC, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and other appropriate sources.

In order to safeguard the local tax base, certified forest owners also agree to pay six percent tax on the money they received from the harvest of forest products on certified land.

Whenever DEC decides that a certified forest owner has an average of 15,000 gross board feet of merchantable timber per acre of land, the department may direct the owner to make a harvest cutting within the next two years.

If after eight years a forest landowner converts his land to a use which DEC feels will eliminate forest crop production, the owner will be required to make up the difference between the normal tax rate and reduced taxes he paid over the preceding five years.

FORESTRY MOTIVATIONS, LAND LAWS, AND TAXES  
by Henry S. Kernan

Reprinted from the August issue of the American Agriculturist:

Before the Agricultural Districts Law farms in New York had no escape from the booming land prices and assessments that were knocking too many out of raising food and into uses thought higher and better, or at least able to pay more. Now the same forces are knocking as hard or harder upon forest lands, raising taxes by three or four times in a single year and spinning still harder the roulette of property change, already down to about once in 20 years. Such a wild shuttlecock game is hardly conducive to maturing timber over several generations, and can indeed drive forest lands to the extremes of devastation and stagnation. For all that acre by acre forests do not yield the wealth of farms, the state and nation need wood.

The 1974 Legislative Session recognized this fact by Amending Section 480 of the Real Property Tax Law in relation to forest lands. Although New York has 255,000 woodland owners, the chief beneficiary is the general public that lives and travels in the state. Surely all but the most myopic urbanites are aware of forested landscapes and readily grant both the incalculable values of forest recreation and hunting, of water and wildlife and the calculable value of the 150 million cubic feet of wood removed for use from those landscapes in 1973. Such values sustained and expanding year by year have a significant part in New York's position as first among all fifty states in respect to timber-based employment and income. Of the 17.3 million acres of woodland (56 percent of the state), 13.4 million acres are in private ownership and capable of expanding timber yields. If they become economic wastelands, among the culprits will not be so much fire or disease or slack markets for what they produce as the inequity of antiquated tax laws.

The inequity lies with the doctrine of assessment at the highest and best use as determined by sales and regardless of present use or public interest. In effect that use is equated with the highest price. Land that has changed hands at inflated values for a landing field or a shopping mall can pay the corresponding taxes. But to treat a woodland as if it were a trailer park breaks the bonds of economics and common sense both. If a tax on woodland has no reasonable relation to the growth of timber thereon, it removes the motive even for waiting, as well as measures to improve the quality and growth. The drive upon the owner is to sell what he can and turn the property over to the highest bidder. Owning forest land has long been an American privilege, widespread and much cherished. An inequitable tax can make it a prerogative of the rich.

Not only is forest land low in timber income; but if the ownership is small, the yields come only as the timber matures. In this state forest ownerships average about 50 acres each, hardly the basis for an annual income. Instead of creating wealth, they must often draw upon other sources to pay taxes levied each year with no relation even to the periodic income.

The purpose of the new law is therefore to correct such inequities and encourage the growing of timber and pulpwood. Section 480A now stipulates that the State Board of Equalization and Assessment and the Department of Environmental Conservation will aid local assessors in applying the new law to forest land. They will do so on the basis of appraisals and sales of land used for the commercial production of timber. An owner, must take the initiative of applying for enrollment under this section. An eligible tract must cover at least 25 acres; it must be suitable for growing timber or pulpwood and the owner must state his intention of doing so for at least eight years. If his tract is approved, the owner henceforth pays a real property tax based upon use as forest land and not upon "highest and best" use. He also pays a six per cent severance tax to the town in which the property lies.

The law has provisions to prevent the creation of an unproductive tax haven. One requires rollback taxes for five years if the land is converted to other uses except by eminent domain. Another requires the owners to keep average volumes below 15,000 board feet per acre. Thus if he does not place his mature, over-stocked stands on the market, state foresters may prescribe and carry out a cutting plan.

Farmers can enroll their woodlands separately from their other property and benefit from the lower tax. With some 3.7 million acres of forest, they owe thanks to the New York Forest

Practice Board and the Legislature for Section 480A and a fairer chance for their woods. The net tax loss which may or may not result is a small price for good forestry in New York.

PILE O' CHIPS - Ed Moot

Wonderful - we are getting folks to write to the Editor. Great. We have, in our membership, some of the best minds in this state. Many of them are timid about getting their name in PRINT. As long as those of us who do write keep an open mind, never use animosity or get angry, the pages of The Forest Owner will be about the only house organ in the U. S. which has material contributed by its members. Come fellows and gals - write in - tear me apart if you wish. I am like a cork on a still fisher's line - I bob up again and again and NEVER give up.

Ecology is so misunderstood. OUR ecology includes EVERYTHING IN OUR environment. We are destroying it so fast that we can become a desolate planet by the year 2500, if we do not watch out!

Sorry I can not be at Mr. Najers woods walk Aug. 17. Black berries, in three patches, which tell one of the most intriguing stories in natural forest ecology, will be ripe for fall picking Aug. 16,17, and 18. I have written my apologies to Mr. Najer. The Mrs. and I will have been married 51 years Aug. 15. We took a wedding trip up through Chestertown Aug. 16, 1923 in an old Model T. What a story we could tell. The old route 9 was a stem winder. Phew.

Some of the good NYFOA members may wonder at my type of journalism. I was a firm follower of the agricultural journalism of Herbert W. Collingwood and John Dillon of the Old Rural New Yorker. What a voice northeast agriculture had then. We, who know that a leading national farm magazine does NOT classify Tree Farmers as farmers. Ha, Laugh that one off - you can not get a subscription to that big national farm magazine if you are truthful and say you are a TREE FARMER.

I have never met Mr. Ward. Hope to soon - if only we could have hours to visit before a large fireplace hearth some time in late October or after Election this year - boy that will be a real hoe down in Nov. I am not a Jean Dixon but look out for things to happen (like rifle shots) before 1976 when we should be calm, peaceable, happy and contented. All of our problems have been man made - Nature has had no hand in the mess we are in-NOW.

Let me take Mr. Howard's refutation in the same order in which he listed the news media release which I never had a part in forming but which I believe in. Thoroughly - FREE MARKET he says - ha, hog wash. Who made all of the money on the BIG grain deal which Congress now says was the cause of our terrible inflation. Hundreds of us free lance writers threw up our arms in distress when it happened, but, our stories then, over a year ago, were listed as inflammatory by editors. Free market - my eye - the gamblers on the grain and cotton markets made more money than the farmers who grew the cotton and grain. Those facts point up that OLD economics works no more - it is a whole new ball game with pressure groups calling the shots.

Now the items listed by the press:

Paragraph A - I am sorry to trip up Mr. Ward on that one-silt- the erosion by water on our continent began the minute the upthrust of our land, from ocean submersion, took place. Thus the highway system erosion is like a thin sheet of paper on the face of time as regards soil erosion. This is a geological FACT.

Paragraph B - Strip mining left West Virginia looking like the battle fields in France after World War 1. Those folks down there have had to fight and fight to get a proper control of land to its original surface condition. Why was Congress so concerned, during the judicial hearings, that they be in the house to vote on the strip mining control bill? We can not turn our heads away from destruction of the earths cover. NEVER.

Paragraph C - A public service, financed by tax payer money should not have to repair the work done by private enterprise which wants to get energy from the bowels of the earth. The company which despoils the land should be forced to make it NEW again by methods approved by legal agencies - NOT DO THE WORK and have the tax payer, pay the bill.

Paragraph D - The trouble here in our AREA, not the far west, is that all sorts of inducements are made to get the small land owner to cut off his trees for wood pulp, small

disease ridden logs for tool handles and other silly uses. We do not blame the small owner who is harassed, by ever rising taxes, in order to hold onto his small acres and still live on the land. If every small wood lot could be replanted (which it will NOT be and Mr. Ward knows that) then clear cutting is O.K. I have NO argument with clear cutting if the land is recovered in the proper way. I care.

Paragraph E - I did not complain about the 3 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  millions acres of HIGHWAYS covering land. That figure, and all I reported, came from another bureaucratic agency which puts out news with no communication of its bureau with departments who really are interested in land use. I abhor the cutting and slicing all over the map as does every sensible person in the U. S. Main cross country highways O.K. but when they slice up a town, a village, a good living area with high speed truck trackage, for those who pay no attention to sensible speed laws, then I yell to high heaven.

Paragraph F - Power stations which remove top agricultural land from cultivation are "no go" with me. We can cover this state with power ponds soon if we do not get control of the folks who just do not give a d--- for the small farm land owner. Why should upstate New York provide power for a MEGALOPOLIS which has about 60% of silly electrical uses anyhow. Those hi-rise aluminum and glass buildings with a thousand air conditioners are the scourge of this country. We waste more energy with silly gadgets than we do in using electrical energy with some real (worthwhilemess) that term is hard to bring out.

Paragraph G - Some of the most nonsensical urban sprawl has been left to developers who have no concern for many of the esthetic values of the land around a metropolis. When the government has to provide billions to help care for the sewage of a big urban sprawl then what gives - I think we as small forest owners should encourage all of the older near retired farmers to KEEP their lands, keep their old big houses, remodel them (mostly their own work efforts) for two or three small apartments for the young kids who are marrying with full knowledge BOTH will work for a few years anyhow. Then the farmer can arrange a very small apartment for his old age so his wife can have less hard work and stay away from BIG money real estate sales and get mixed up with URBAN life and eventually get on welfare as many are today - that story is a sad one no one likes to write about. Urban sprawl - fight it to the finish and make developers SHOW why - before any big development takes place. Hundreds of young families could pick up small rural apartments if the big houses were remodeled and get those folks away from the urban complex which today is getting worse.

Paragraph H - We KNOW what spreading garbage can do if put on top of the land. Boy, we had to fight, fight, fight to get an open garbage dump CLOSED. Crows by the thousands, rats all over, and FIRE-heavy winds twice spread fire to our forest. I sued the village a token amount - only fifty dollars, and then they woke up. The burning of garbage for energy in BIG cities is the NEW answer - lets push on that research.

Now if the research PUT in weapons could be directed to peaceful use, like engery machines for each small place on rural lands, water collection ponds to lift the soil water which has been BADLY depleted by deep wells. Who will fight that argument - in fact NO ONE is sure. Oh, there is so much to do if we did not WASTE tax money. Why should I pay land Tax for some speedster from California to come east on a BIG wide highway at 65 miles, or more, an hour? Today an accident is reported in our local press where a guy was doing 95 - police car could not catch him - he was not fleeing, just "nuts". He hit a tree. I never drive over 50 and never will no matter how high the engine on my car will go. Who wants speeds over that amount?

#### NATIONAL TIMBER RESOURCES - Henry S. Kernan

From The Baltimore Sun

Since earlier this year a United States Distric Court has enjoined the Forest Service from sellin an extra billion board feet of national forest timber as ordered by the Cost of Living Council. An issue in the case are high prices for lumber against contentions that the 92 million acres of timbered national forest have a broader vocation than supplying coniferous lumber to a voracious market for housing.

With nearly two thirds of the soft wood saw timber inventory, public forests are the logical and efficient source of wood. Yet their traditionally subordinate part in supply

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. FALL MEETING

Rogers Environmental Education Center, on N.Y.S. Rte.80  
1.5 miles west of Sherburne

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 12, 1974

A.M.

9:30 - REGISTRATION  
INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

10:00 - WELCOME  
William Lubinec, President  
J.S. McKnight, Director  
Cooperative Forestry  
U.S. Forest Service  
Washington, D.C.  
The Forest Incentives Program  
National Outlook

10:45 - COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PRACTICE - SPECIALIST.  
State Office  
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation,  
Syracuse, N.Y.

11:45 - Leon S. Menkler, Adjunct Professor, State University of New York, College of Environment Science and Forestry  
Syracuse, N.Y.  
"Northern Hardwood Silviculture"

Question and Answer Period.  
Questionnaire forms will be distributed so that written questions can be directed to the speakers.

12:30 - LUNCH  
Buffet at Sherburne Inn.

P.M.

2:00 - ASSEMBLE AT PARKING AREA  
ROGERS CENTER.  
Buses will take a group to one of two woodlots where work under incentives programs has been done.  
Robert Thomas property,  
Chenango Lake  
Frank Bulsiewicz property,  
Smyrna

Tour guides will be Department of Environment Conservation Department Foresters  
Ernie Hammerly, FPA Forester for Chenango County  
J.B.Cullen - Forester Assistant.

4:00 - RETURN TO ROGERS CENTER  
Safe trip home.

Our thanks for making meeting rooms available and help in planning to the N.Y.S.Department of Environmental Conservation.

John Kiernan, Director - Rogers Environmental Education Center.  
Chad E. Covey, Senior Forester.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Henry S. Kernan, Co-Chairman  
Allen W. Bratton, Co-Chairman  
William C. Craig

Detach - complete - mail - BEFORE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1974 - To:

Allen W. Bratton  
R.D.#1  
Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Names of all attending)  
for the Fall Meeting of the N.Y.F.O.A. - October 12, 1974.

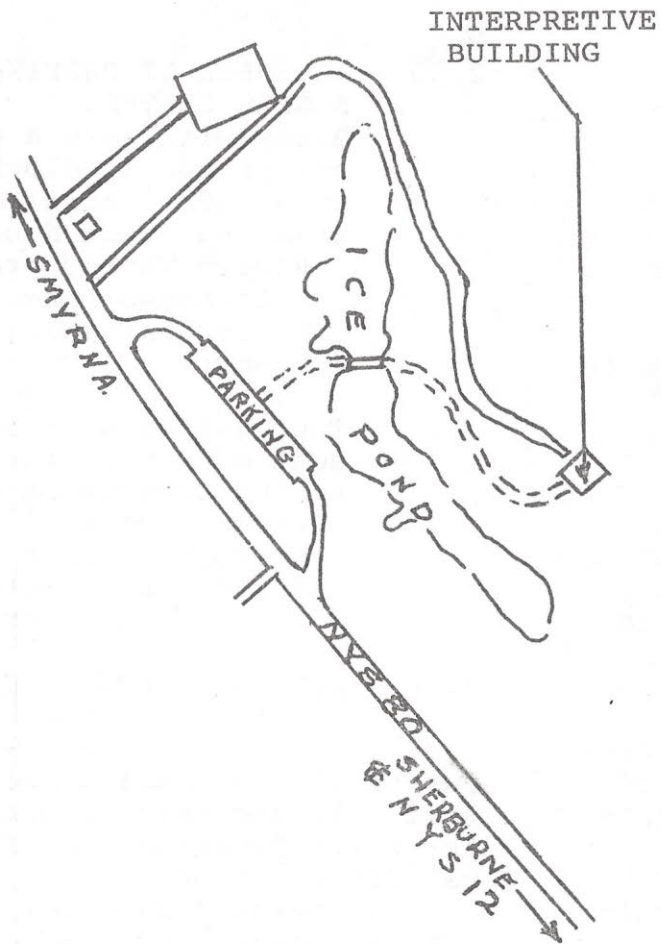
The fee of \$5.00 for each registration should be enclosed with this form. (Includes registration, luncheon, coffee & doughnuts, and bus.)

ROGERS CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

PROGRAM

FALL  
MEETING

1974



Please use parking area as shown above. Look for directional sign. Walk to Interpretive Building.

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
Lloyd G. Strombeck  
57 Main Street  
Owego, New York 13827

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Binghamton, N.Y.  
Permit No. 132



will probably not change easily or soon. Only intensive timber management could change that part to a major one, a proposal which Congress has ignored or defeated several times.

\*\*\*\*\*

Instead Congress has chosen non-industrial private forest for money and attention. Although such ownerships cover 60 per cent of the country's forested area, they have only one fifth of coniferous sawtimber. Economists and foresters have long shuddered over their fragmentation and poor condition; but Congress has seen them as an opportunity to help private endeavor without sparking controversy over the federal forests.

At the time of hearings and debates even such contentious viewers of forest policy as the Sierra Club and the National Forest Products Association accepted the choice as wise. While the national forests by law have a vocation for multiple use, private lands can reach for whatever degree of commercial timber management the owners' means and interests allow.

Thus by that strange transmogrification of words which is the genius of our language, FIP (once a silver coin worth  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pence) has become the Forestry Incentives Program and a potentially weighty factor for better housing and the quality of life which abundant wood products can give. Herein is a new tack for forestry. Other programs such as the Soil Bank have planted trees, but primarily for social purposes aimed at easier, pleasanter surroundings for residents and visitors to the countryside. The new forestry incentives are for the national timber supply and only incidentally for the benefits which receive equal status on the national forests.

FIP has two sections of the 1973 Farm Bill. They authorize annual appropriations of \$25 million with orders that the Secretary of Agriculture use them where planting trees and improving timbered stands best match the aim of producing sawlogs. Therefore the 1974 Program Year, although leaving out no state, placed half the funds in the Southeast, with Alabama's \$903,000 the largest share. California's \$50,000 is about half of Maryland's, with Alaska and Rhode Island coming in last with \$5,000 each. State foresters select the counties and local foresters the exact sites for planting or improvement. The use of high quality land first results from a clear directive and should prevent weak mix-up of social and economic needs which cost-sharing programs have too often become.

Nevertheless the Forestry Incentives Program would probably not have come about had not cost-sharing suggested an alternative of the controversial cutting of old-growth timber on the national forests and to the cycles of steeply rising lumber and plywood prices of 1969 and 1973. Since then both the Forest Service and the President's Panel on Timber and the Environment have pointed toward even steeper prices and shortages of coniferous sawtimber instead of the lowcost, abundant and high quality wood which the forests should provide. They include the best and most extensive pinelands in the world and hardwoods that rival the best of the tropics.

Therefore the program offers incentives only for planting trees and improving timber stands upon the sites most capable of yielding returns upon the costs incurred. Those for planting run from \$32 to \$90 an acre, depending mainly upon the effort needed to rid the ground of competing vegetation and prepare the soil. The first year's planting of 450,000 acres will be mostly on the coastal sweep from East Texas to the Eastern Shore where some 30 million acres lie idle or nearly so.

\*\*\*\*\*

The aim of timber stand improvement is to give the best trees room to grow by eliminating their competitors for light and space. It will cover about the same area as planting, but with lower costs and less time for salable results than the 20 years pine planting require.

A taxpayer can well ask why this form of private enterprise needs the pillip of federal help up to 75 per cent of the investment cost. The country needs wood while millions of acres are either unstocked or growing wood so poor as to be almost without value. For the private owner the alternatives to growing wood can usually be bonds and savings accounts that yield higher returns.

The alternatives to public ownership or help are the ecological and energy problems of using materials which neither sink rapidly and harmlessly back into the cycle of life as does wood nor renew themselves with the easy nudge of an incentive dollar.

LETTER FROM ALAN R. KNIGHT

TO: Woodlot Owners

RE: Forestry Incentives

"As you may know Tioga County has been designated and funded for a Forestry Incentives Program. Tioga County has forest resources in large enough quantities and wood-using industries to qualify for the program. This program is designed to increase tree planting and forest management on small holdings typical of those in our County.

"This program was designed to meet the challenge created by the expectation that the demand for wood and wood products will exceed the supply within the next 30 years unless our management programs are intensified on small ownerships. Recent rises in stumpage prices are increasing the annual cut from New York forests further reducing the available supply unless efforts to hasten growth are intensified.

"It is urged that if you have areas of forest land of less than 500 acres extent you investigate the possibility of the cost sharing program for reforestation and forest stand improvement work with our County ASCS office and our District Forester".

Sincerely,

Alan R. Knight  
Cooperative Extension Agent

---

BULK RATE  
U. S. Postage  
P A I D  
Binghamton, N. Y.  
Permit No. 132

---

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