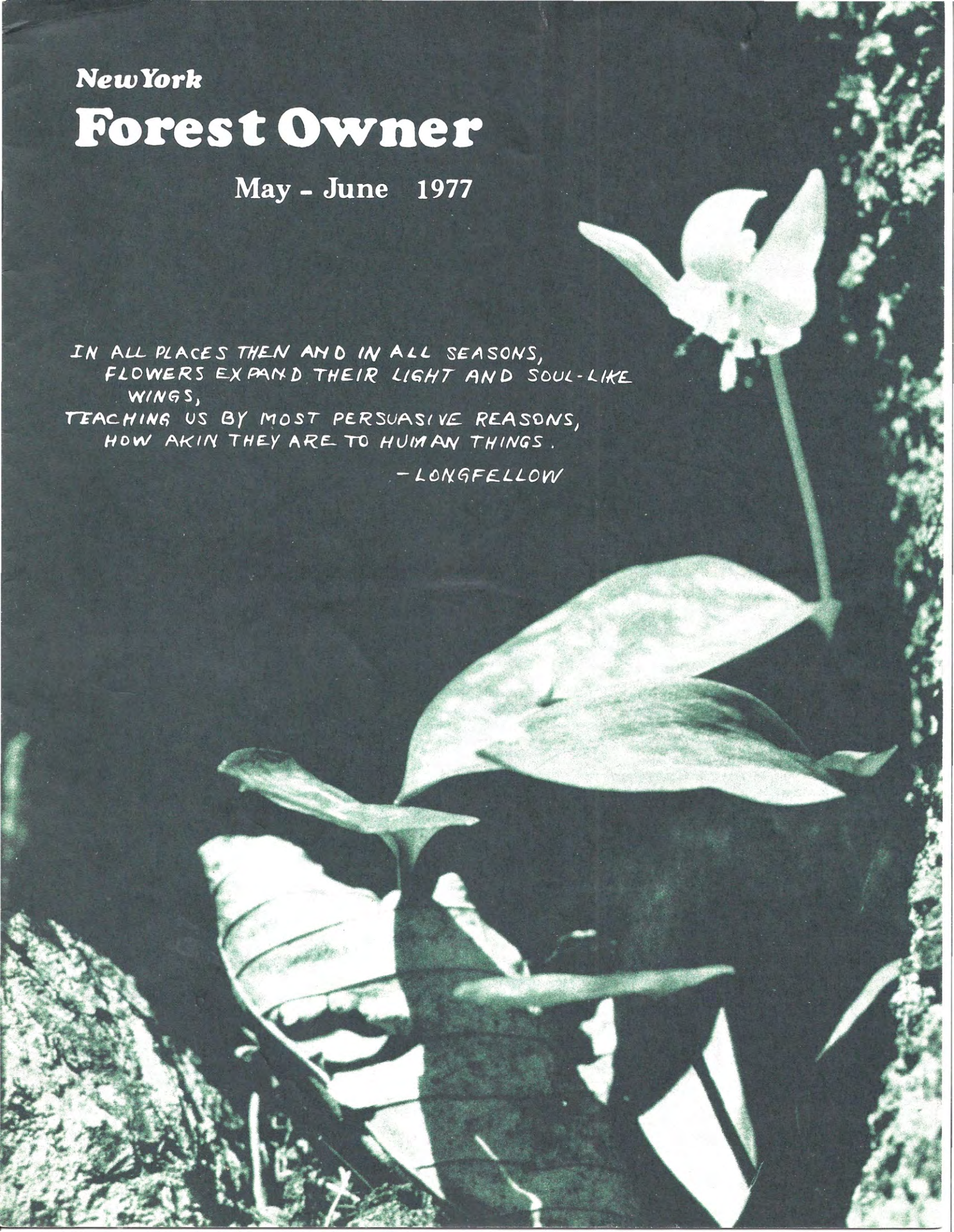
New York
# Forest Owner
May - June 1977



IN ALL PLACES THEN AND IN ALL SEASONS,
FLOWERS EXPAND THEIR LIGHT AND SOUL-LIKE
WINGS,
TEACHING US BY MOST PERSUASIVE REASONS,
HOW AKIN THEY ARE TO HUMAN THINGS.

-LONGFELLOW

vol.,15 no.3

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**How we've grown –**

"Have been very interested in following the growth of the Association and find the new *Forest Owner* (how it has grown!) exremely interesting."

– Emmy Lott

**A New Jersey FO –**

"If you haven't heard, you'll be interested to know we have recently launched the New Jersey Forestry Association."

– Ginny and
Harry Sampson,
Allenhurst, NJ

**The Blazing Logs of Summer Suns –**

"Gene Farnsworth and many others want to know why I don't write for the *Forest Owner*. I really do not have a good reason. Looking out of the window at the fine drifting snow, I bethought me of an old time jingle . . .

The blazing logs give back
the glow
Of summer suns of long ago.

That motto is burned into our mantel at the forest. I first saw it over the fireplace in the clubroom at Fernow Hall, on the Cornell campus."

– David B. Cook
Albany, NY

**So goes NH –**

"Your publication is excellent, and is something I would like to try possibly twice a year. Can you give me some idea of the cost involved, etc?"

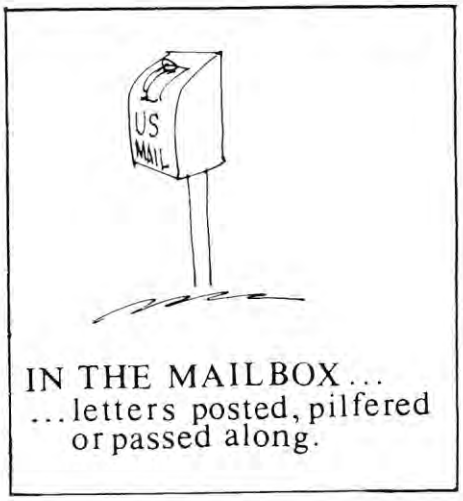
– John Herrington
Executive Director
NH Timberland
Owners Association

**Greetings from an old NYFOA Friend –**

"Congratulations on a continually improving *Forest Owner*. Last issue is a beauty. How do you do it?

Please pardon the typing as I am just now getting back into the hunt 'n peck routine. It's tough not to have a secretary after 40 years. I keep busy now as state chairman of the NH tree farm program, director of the NH Timber Owners Assoc., and on the Cooperative Extension council."

– Fred E. Winch, Jr.
Warner Rd.
Bradford, NH
03221




IN THE MAILBOX . . .
. . . letters posted, pilfered or passed along.

**More on Education and taxes –**

"First let me congratulate on the excellent copy of the March-April edition. It is superb.

Some of my friends in NYFOA may wonder how I get so worked up over education in this state. The reason is simple. My town, Guilderland, is right next to Albany. The Board of Education in our town, elected by the people, has voted both in 1976 and 1977 to release the superintendent from his contract. Who says no? Why, Mr. Nyquist. Is it any wonder why some high taxpayers get all up tight over such systems? This is not the only district in this state where this has happened.

That is not all. Who says that private property shall bear all education expenses? All of us who own land are in the middle of a tax pinch and we must fight tooth and nail to have this system changed now, not wait until the year 2000 to make a change."

– Ed Moot
Schenectedy, NY

**Thanks from Mrs. Heiberg –**

"Thank you not only for sending me extra copies of *The Forest Owner*, but also for your kind words.

Swend would have enjoyed reading *The New York Forest Owner*, not to mention seeing how the Association has grown these 10 years."

– Mrs. S.O. Heiberg
Syracuse, NY



Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: Alan R. Knight, Editor, *N.Y. Forest Owner*, 526 Anderson Hill Road, R.D. 2, Candor, N.Y. 13743.

Written materials, photos, and art work are invited. Although the return of unsolicited materials cannot be guaranteed, they are normally returned after use.

The first day of the previous month is the deadline for inclusion of any item. Published: January, March, May, July, September, November.

## Got a question?

# Ask a Forester

**From a New Jersey landowner –**

My father owns 60 acres of a farmer family farm of 150 acres on Barnes Hill Rd. Horseheads, N.Y.

Could your association tell us if there are any free booklets we could write for on forestry?

Cecile E. Saunders
Long Branch, NY

*Dear Ms. Saunders:*

*Your problem is a little complicated as you live in New Jersey and inquire about services for New York.*

*First, you can write to the following New Jersey Agencies and inquire about free publications on forestry:*

*1. Director, Division of Information*
*Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 1888*
*Trenton, N.J. 08625*

*2. State Forester, Bureau of Forestry*
*Dept. of Conservation & Economic Development*
*Labor & Industry Bldg., Box 1390*
*Trenton, N.J. 08625*

*Second, (To Residents of New York State)*

*1. Mailing Room*
*Bldg. 7, Research Park*
*Cornell University*
*Ithaca, N.Y. 14850*
*(Ask For, "Management of Small Woodlands In New York" Number E 1125 by Dickson)*

*2. County Agricultural Extension Service*
*Federal Building*
*Elmira, N.Y. 14902*
*(I would inquire here first)*

*David H. Hanaburgh*
*Consulting Forester*
*Buchanan, NY*

**Harvesting and Preservation –**

I would appreciate details concerning your organization, as outlined in the October 1976 edition of the American Agriculturist, on Gordon Conklin's Editorial page.

I own nearly 40 acres of fir and hardwood located just north of Oneida Lake, in the Town of West Monroe, N.Y., in addition to other nearby open acreage, and would appreciate any information you may have concerning it's harvesting and preservation.

Walter E. Darrh, Jr.
Central Square, NY

*Dear Mr. Darrh:*

*Since I cannot tell from your letter much about the size of your timber I strongly recommend that you ask for assistance from the local forester who is employed by the N.Y.State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. His name is Richard Garrett, and you should write to him at N.Y. State Dept. of Env. Cons., Fisher Ave. Cortland, N.Y. 13045.*

*He will walk through your woods with you and discuss its potentials with you. He can also advise you on local markets for forest products and a thinning and cull removal program on which you can get Federal cost sharing. He can also advise on tree planting on your open land.*

*A.W. Roberts Jr.*
*Committee on Natural Resources and Land Use*

**Recently Moved to a Farm –**

We have recently moved from a city to a small farm. Our land includes about 20 acres of woodland. We understand that the N.Y. Forest Owners Assoc. provides information regarding the care of such land. If your association seems appropriate for us, would you please send us further details. Thank you.

Eileen Bulemerei
North Rose, NY

*Dear Ms. Bulemerei:*

*The membership folder sent you described some of the benefits offered by membership in the Forest Owners Assn. We also have a question and answer column in our publication "The Forest Owner". We also try to serve as a clearing house for information and services available from other organizations.*

*Some of these organizations which might be of interest to you are:*

*1. Soil Conservation District - offices in all counties - farm plans, drainage, ponds, etc.*

*2. N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation - District office in Bath - Woodland management, timber stand improvement, timber sales.*

*3. Cooperative Extension - Offices in all Counties - Misc. farm information, bulletins on many subjects concerning rural living.*

*4. Consulting Foresters - Lists available from N.Y. State Dept. of Env. Cons. - Forestry services of all kinds for a fee.*

*I hope this answers your letter. If not, and you have something more specific in mind, drop me a line.*

*A.W. Roberts Jr.*
*Committee on Natural Resources and Land Use*

**You Should Sell Your Timber –**

As a new member I was surprised by the centerfold article "You Should Sell Your Timber," for that is exactly what I am attempting to do. It said in a very clear, factual manner just what I had wanted to read.

I have inquiries from four timber buyers. Each expressed the fact that there is little demand for Aspen locally. The state forester has suggested that I should try to get a lump sum for all the marked trees, otherwise the choice species will be cut and others left standing.

If you can suggest sources of information or advice, you can be sure it will be greatly appreciated.

George P. Ricotta
Binghamton, NY

*Dear Mr. Ricotta:*

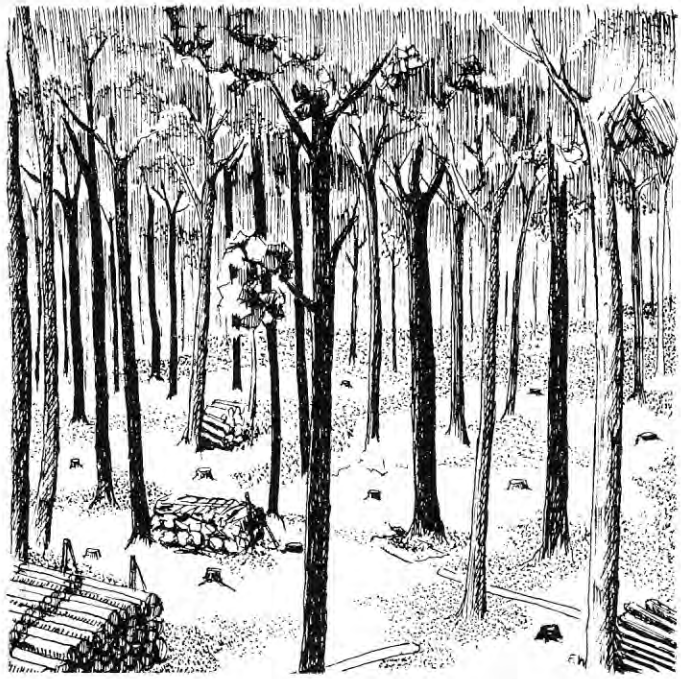
*Thank you for your kind comments on my article in the FOREST OWNER.*

*As far as selling your timber is concerned I would say that the Cons. Dept. Forester gave you good advice. I would suggest that you ask each of your interested buyers to submit to you a sealed, lump sum bid, for all the marked trees. Give them a date and time that you will open the bids and give them a week or two to look over the woods. Let them know that if they can't market the aspen or other species they don't need to cut them.*

*Of course you could turn the whole process of selling the timber and supervising the cutting to a consulting forester who would probably charge about ten percent of the selling price. However, I doubt if he would get you any better price than if you ask for sealed bids yourself. Your Cons. Dept. Forester can give you a list of consultants near you.*

*A.W. Roberts Jr.*
*Committee on Natural Resources and Land Use*

# Improve Your Woodlot by Cutting Firewood



**By Ken Lancaster and Clyde Hunt**

U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE

## INTRODUCTION

Over the centuries, wood has been a major source of fuel and heat. Our forefathers revered wood and used it to fill every need from heating their homes to making tools. They made maximum use of the back woodlot.

The choice of wood for fuel was not only logical, but a most natural one, for trees are a renewable resource. They can be harvested periodically without permanent disturbance to the natural environment.

Only in the last fifty years or less has wood lost this important role. As a nation, we shifted to the convenient fuels: oil and natural gas. Ironically, it is our heavy dependence on these nonrenewable resources that created the shortages and exhorbitant prices of today's energy crisis. Consequently, wood has come into its own again, as more and more people look to the woods for the traditional source of heat.

The renewed use of wood for fuel creates an opportunity to correct some of our past mistakes. Our woodlots have been mismanaged, overcut, or often neglected. Past cutting practices left our woodlands with an overabundance of crooked, diseased, and otherwise unsaleable trees. These hamper the growth of the more desirable individuals, the straight, and healthy trees that are needed for lumber and veneer. To establish a good forestry program, the first step is to remove these less desirable trees for fuelwood, especially those trees that compete with the best crop trees.

## THINNING HARDWOOD STANDS

Trees need room to grow at their maximum rates. If too close together, they compete for water, nutrients, and sunlight, and grow more slowly. A young stand of trees starts with 4000 to 6000 stems per acre. At maturity, when they measure about 20 inches in diameter, less than 100 trees per acre will survive. Most of the young trees die before they are large enough to harvest for sawlogs.

This is a natural selection process and it is slow, requiring 150 to 200 years or more to complete. Thinning hardwood stands when they are young hastens the process be permitting the more desirable trees to grow rapidly throughout their lives. Removing competing trees by frequent thinnings enables the stand to produce larger, higher quality trees. This promotes a greater volume of wood per acre in a reduced period of time - much less than 100 years.

Before thinning your hardwood stand, know the value of the trees you are thinning. As a rule sugar maple, ash, white and yellow birch, are more valuable than red maple, beech, or aspen (poplar); oaks are more valuable than the hickories. Check with your forester for advice on this point and for hints on tree identification.

You should begin thinning as early as possible to gain the bene-

*Figure 1. - A young stand of hardwood in need of thinning. In this stand a number of trees are unable to reach full sunlight. These "suppressed" trees, will naturally die and drop out of the stand.*

fits of repeated thinnings. The best time to start thinning a hardwood stand is when the trees average between 4 to 10 inches in diameter at breast height (4½ feet above ground). Trees of this size class, commonly referred to as poles, respond rapidly to thinning. At that point in life, intense competition from surrounding trees starts to slow their growth. (See figure 1.)

This does not mean that stands of larger size trees, averaging 10 to 12 inches, should not be thinned. Such hardwood stands are, however, approaching commercial sawtimber size. In most cases, the thinnings can be sold as sawlogs. Before doing anything in these stands of larger trees, you should get technical assistance from the local service forester or a consultant forester. These professionals will help you select the trees to be cut and those that should be left for future growth.

## SELECTING CROP TREES

The best way to thin a young polestand is the "crop tree selection method." This is a simple method for thinning stands to the greatest advantage of the best trees in the stand. Cut competing trees for firewood.

The trees selected as crop trees should be of valuable species. They will probably be the most valuable individuals in the stand. They should be straight and tall with relatively small branches, and should show signs of self-pruning: the lower 10 to 16 feet of the tree should have few or no branches. A few small dead branches in this section are a good indication that the tree will develop into a good quality tree, free of defects. (See figures 2 and 3.)

Look up into the crown. The crown of a crop tree needs three to four feet of open space on at least two sides. Those trees touching the crown of your crop tree are the competitors. They may be removed for fuelwood. (See figure 4.) In most cases, removing one or two side competitors will provide the crop tree with the space it needs, but don't hesitate to remove more if necessary.

The field procedure for selecting crop trees is this: start 10 to 20 feet into the stand or from the property line. Select a crop tree and identify it, either by tying a ribbon around it at breast height, or by using a spot of paint. Then, pace about 20 feet (eight steps) on a line parallel to the edge of the stand or property line. Mark the closest crop tree within a 5 - 7 foot radius. If there are no trees that meet the crop tree specifications within this circle, pick the best of the lot and mark it. If there are no trees, pace out another 5 feet (two steps) and try again. If there aren't any trees within 7 feet of the second spot skip it and start over again at the next spot 20 feet away. (See figure 5.)

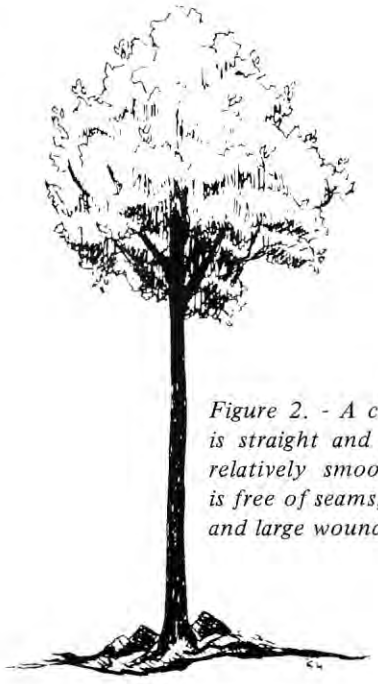


*Figure 2. - A crop tree is straight and tall. Its relatively smooth bark is free of seams, breaks, and large wounds.*

Sometimes a compromise is in order. If two high-quality trees are side by side, the best decision might be to accept both as crop trees and to release each on two sides.

In most polestands, there is an abundance of "understory" trees that are much smaller than the crop trees. Their crowns are seen below the crowns of the larger trees. In such a position, they are deprived of sunlight - natures way of removing them from the stand. Harvest any understory trees big enough for firewood. Their removal will have little effect on the growth of the crop trees, but they will provide enough firewood to make the effort worthwhile.

After releasing the crop trees, your next concern is the dead, dying, and deformed trees that hinder the development of the area. Any of these trees that have not been removed in thinning should also be harvested for firewood.

Work safely in your woodlot. Felling trees and falling branches - both live and dead - present potential hazards. Stay alert until they are safely burning in your fireplace.

A pamphlet of this length cannot cover every situation. The system though simplified is silviculturally sound. It will improve the quality and composition of the stand, with the opportunity to increase growth and volume. However, you should contact your local service forester before you start. He will help you to identify species and choose crop trees, and will clear up any problems you may have in thinning your woodlot.

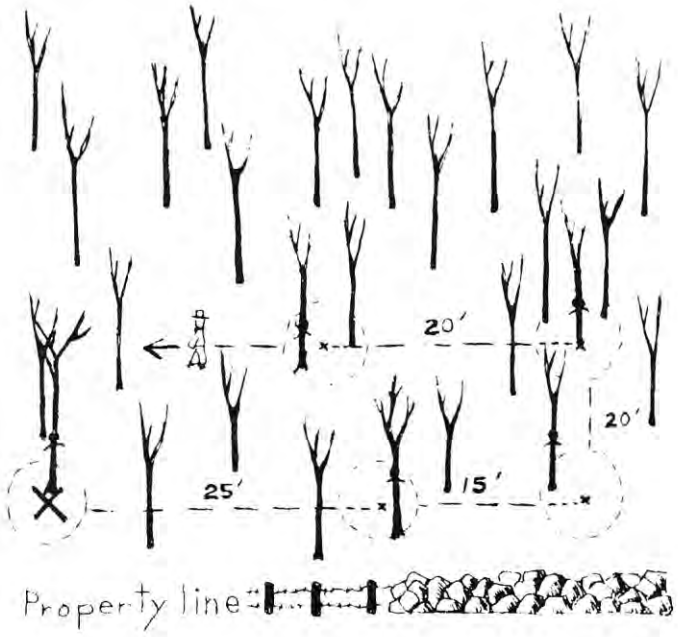



*Figure 5. - Try to space crop trees 20 feet apart. You will end up with a sufficient number of trees per acre, spaced, in some instances, 15 feet apart and in others, 25 feet apart.*

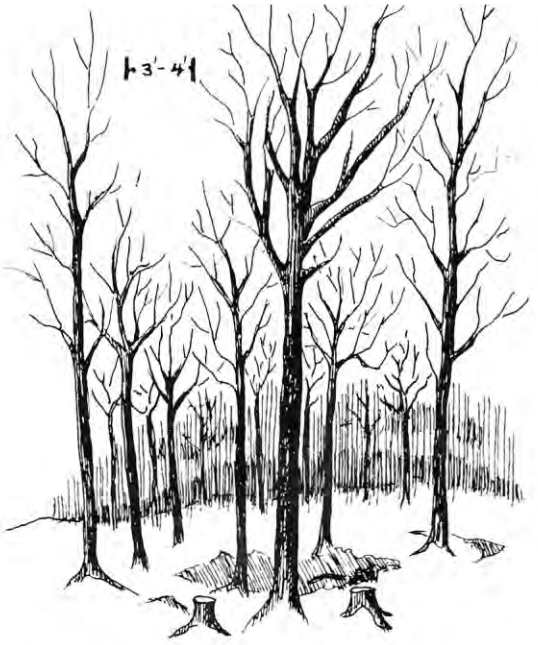



*Figure 6. - Remove the side competitors on at least two sides, allowing from 3 to 4 feet between crowns.*

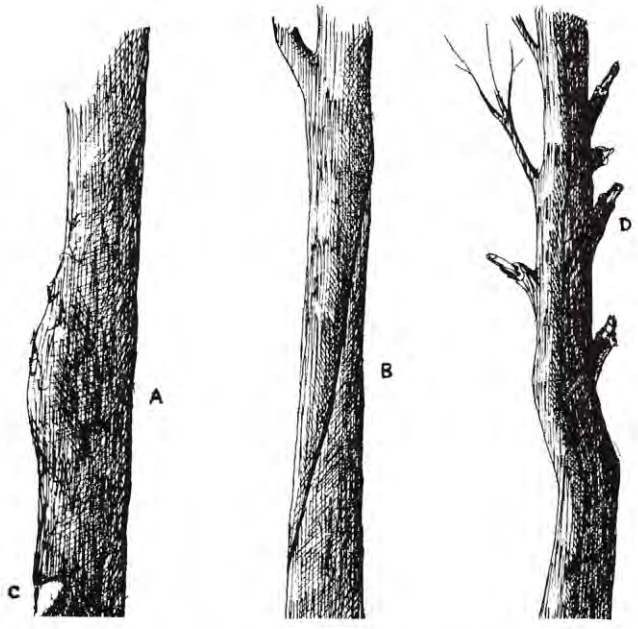



*Figure 3. - Crop trees should not have: A. Swollen stems: B. Seams or breaks in the bark: C. Mechanical wounds caused by logging or other equipment: D. Poorly healed branch stubs. All of these defects indicate internal damage or disease. Such affected trees and crooked trees are best removed for firewood.*

*Figure 4. - The crown of the crop tree C needs room to expand for maximum diameter growth. Crowns that are narrow, compressed because of side competition, are not reaching full growth potential. Trees A and B are competitors of the crop tree C.*

Follow this procedure until you reach the far edge of your stand or the distance you have previously decided to go into the stand.

When you reach the end of the first line, pace off 20 feet at a right angle to the first line. Pick a crop tree, mark it, then go back along a line parallel to the first line. Use the paint spots or ribbons on the crop trees of the first line to guide you as you proceed on the second line.

Ideally, you should pick a crop tree every 20 feet and release its crown. As nature doesn't space trees evenly, it is impossible to adhere rigidly to this distance, but by using it as a guide you will end up with a sufficient number of released trees (about 100 per acre). As you walk through your stand, don't hesitate to pick a good crop tree even though it's growing within 15 feet of the last one. If it is impossible to locate an ideal crop tree within 25 feet, pick the best one you have.

This is a slow procedure at first. But as you gain experience and confidence in yourself, the work will progress faster and be most enjoyable.

## THE HARVESTING OPERATION

After you have selected the crop trees for release, you can begin harvesting your stand. First, remove trees that touch or are too close to the crowns of the crop trees. They are direct competitors. (See figure 6.)

In some high-quality stands, the trees to be removed are as high in quality as the crop tree. Although this may be disturbing, remember that most of the trees you are removing will not live to maturity. At some future time, they will be shaded out and die. Furthermore, the crop trees you release will grow faster so they will regain some of the growth you lose by removing the competition.

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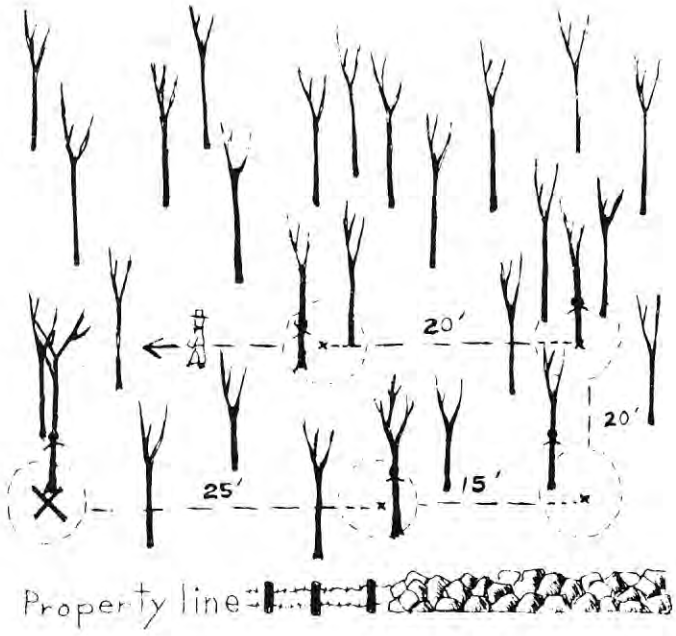


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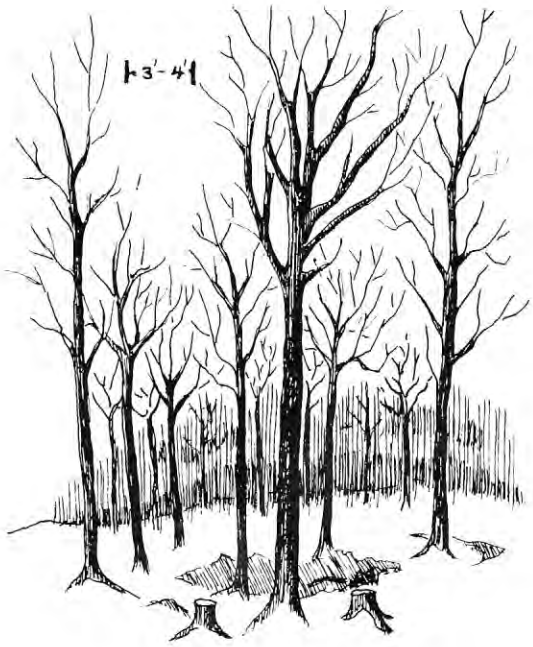



*Figure 6. - Remove the side competitors on at least two sides, allowing from 3 to 4 feet between crowns.*

DOGWOOD

"THROUGH CLOUD RIFTS THE SUNLIGHT IS STREAMING IN FLOODS TO FAR DEPTHS OF THE WOOD, RETOUCHING THE VELVET-LEAFED DOGWOOD TO CRIMSON AS VITAL AS BLOOD."

-ANNA BOTSFORD COMSTOCK

"THOSE OLD DAYS WHEN THE BALANCING OF A YELLOW BUTTERFLY O'ER A THISTLE BLOOM WAS SPIRITUAL FOOD AND LODGING FOR THE WHOLE AFTERNOON."

-JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

INDIAN PIPE

PINK LADY SLIPPER

"GRACEFUL AND TALL THE SLENDER DROOPING STEM,
WITH TWO BROAD LEAVES BELOW,
SHAPELY THE FLOWER SO LIGHTLY POISED BETWEEN,
AND WARM ITS ROSY GLOW."

-ELAINE GOODALE

"IT HAD SECRETS ALL ITS OWN,
SECRETS THAT BAFFLE THE WISEST MEN; YET THIS PLANT WAS MY FRIEND."

-LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY

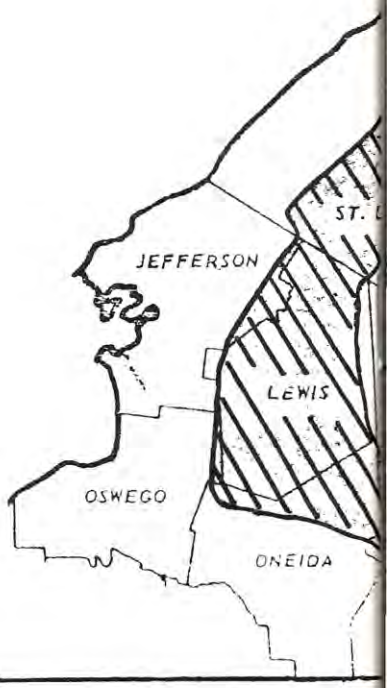
COLUMBINE

photos by Howard Miller

# New Pine Disease in New York State

## *Fungus Could Spread Westward*

from NYS ENVIRONMENT · · · by James Beil




**Scleroderris lagerbergii** is muscling its way into pine plantations of northern New York and killing tall pines in its path. The cold temperate disease infects a pine tree through its needles and eventually kills the entire tree.

The fungus already has a firm hold in Europe, Canada, the Lake State and New York State. But the recent and dramatic increase of this disease in northern New York is cause for concern, especially since researchers suspect that this might be a different strain than occurs any place else on the continent.

Until recently it had only been identified in North America in smaller Christmas tree and nursery sized stock. But now its devastating effects are showing up in 30 and 40 year old red and Scotch pine plantations in New York. Forest Service pathologists are worried that this strain, which kills mature trees as well as young trees, might spread west.

Scleroderris disease infects from pine to pine through the needles. The fungus spreads from the needles to the branches and kills them. Infection occurs predominantly during June and July by wind blown and rain carried spores. Visible symptoms show up the spring after infection, when the needles begin to turn red from the base out. Dead branches and branch tips are very evident in early summer.

The disease was first identified in New York in 1964 near Saranac Lake. Three years later, a survey revealed five additional infections, all within 10 miles of the first location with infections also noted in Oneida County. A rapid build-up of infections has occurred since then and a cooperative U.S. Forest Service — Department of Environmental Conservation survey in 1973 showed that 77 north country plantations are infected, over half of which are in Franklin County.

Dr. Edson Setliff, mycologist of the Cary Arboretum in Millbrook, N.Y., grew the fungus in culture from the tops of 50 to 60 foot tall red and Scotch pines in 1974, proving beyond a doubt that this was Scleroderris.

At Meacham Lake State Campground in Franklin County, in 1970, the disease invaded, killing large red and Scotch pines for the first time in North America. Since the 1970 discovery, roughly 60 percent of the original pine stand at Meacham Lake has died and the remaining trees are in various stages of decline.

Cool temperatures and high humidity created ideal conditions for Scleroderris to spread during 1974 and 1975, resulting in a substantial increase in the disease. Tree mortality is now advancing in 40 year old plantations in Oneida, Lewis and Franklin Counties. The potential threat to these large

continued page 12

**at a glance...**

**SCLERODERR**

**an**

**RED PINE SH**

North Central Fore
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U.S. Department

Two branch diseases of pines have become increasingly serious in recent years. These diseases - Scleroderris canker and red pine shoot blight - attack red pines, particularly young ones. Both occur in the Lake States, the Adirondacks region of New York, and Canada.

Scleroderris canker is caused by the fungus **Scleroderris lagerbergii.** It usually kills small trees and the lower branches of larger ones (5 to 10 years old). Once the disease is established in a plantation it is almost impossible to control. So be careful not to use infected nursery stock or to start a new plantation near an infected one. If infected areas **must** be replanted, all remaining red and jack pines should be removed and the area burned to eliminate infected slash.


*NY Counties known to have Scleroderris Canker.*

# IS CANKER

# d

# OOT BLIGHT

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All evidence indicates that red pine shoot blight is caused by the fungus **Sirococcus strobilinus.** This disease kills only the current season's growth, but the damage is usually cumulative and eventually the entire tree may die. Seedlings die quickly; larger trees may take several years to succumb. No control is yet known. There is evidence, however, that infected overstory trees are the main source of infection for younger trees, so new plantations should not be established beneath older trees.

Because the symptoms of these diseases are so similar and because both may infect the same tree at the same time, it is difficult to distinguish between them.

## BRANCH DIEBACK STAGE

*Scleroderris*

*Look for: Dieback on lower branches. Infection is seldom found higher than 4 feet from the ground.*

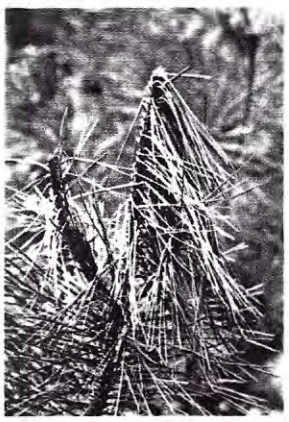
*Shoot Blight (Sirococcus)*

*Look for: Shoot dieback anywhere on the tree. Trees of all ages may be affected.*

*Look for: Orange discoloration at base of needles in early May. This is the result of last summer's infection. By July needles and branch tips will be brown; eventually entire branch will die.*

*Look for: Browning of new needles and shoots. Infection probably occurs whenever there is wet weather during the growing season.*

*Look for: Green discoloration beneath the bark of dead branches.*



*Look for: Wilting and drooping of dead needles.*

hard pine plantations is extreme, especially in those where the fungus has already established itself.

Detection surveys, conducted in 1975 by DEC, revealed many new disease locations, scattered throughout Franklin, Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, and Herkimer Counties, influencing a total acreage of 3,000 to 4,000. It has been estimated that 500 acres of large pines have died. A revision of the 1973 survey is now underway to determine the severity of this buildup.

No commercial Christmas tree growers have yet experienced the devastating effects of this pathogen, according to Paul Leonard, president of the New York Christmas Tree Growers Association. The Department of Environmental Conservation and Forest Service survey show that the major impact has been on the non-commercial or small lot growers who have planted under less than ideal growing conditions and have not practiced intensive tree management.

### Interagency Research

A Forest Service research team, led by Dr. Darroll Skilling, the principal researcher, is working on a cooperative study of the disease as it occurs in New York with DEC's Bureau of Forest Insect and Disease Control. The intergovernmental team is investigating Scleroderris in New York by studying its hosts, temperature and humidity requirements, spore germination and growth, and possibility of the New York disease being a new strain. The fungus in the Lake States only infects young trees and many of these trees can grow out of the lethal grip of the disease. But in New York, as in Europe, both young and mature (40' - 50') trees succumb.

Forest Service researchers at the North Central Forest Experiment Station in St. Paul, Minnesota, have recommended seven sprays of chlorothalonil to prevent the disease in nursery beds. No techniques are recommended for forest or Christmas tree plantations to prevent infections or retard it once it has begun.

The management plan for our northern pine plantations must be modified to cope with this virulent fungus. The land manager, presently having no control technique available, is faced with a severe alteration in his management plans, being forced to harvest trees earlier than he might desire.

Devastated plantations or parts of plantations can be left to natural restocking, or can be artificially planted to native hardwood species, or planted to Scleroderris resistant softwood species. Each individual area has to be judged according to its existing potential for multiple land use. For instance, one location might be more suitable for wildlife forage than forest tree growth. Perhaps soil conditions might not be adequate to support hardwoods, so a resistant softwood could be selected for reforestation.

The forest products market could dictate salvage of dying trees in some localities, while not in others. The damaging economic impact will eventually center on the Christmas tree, pulp and paper, and the ornmental tree industries.

While some northern counties have been severely hit, the majority of New York State is fortunately unaffected by this disease. It prefers colder climates and becomes established in frost pockets.

*Representatives of DEC's Bureau of Forest Insect and Disease Control Jim Sullivan and Jim Beil and Forest Service pathologist Darroll Skilling examine dead red pine in Franklin County.*

If you plan to plant red, Scotch or Austrian pines in any of the previously mentioned counties, you should contact a local Department of Environmental Conservation office for advice. They can tell you, judged on the planting location, of the probable success or failure of this crop. There are areas of Lewis, Jefferson and Oneida Counties where the planting of such species is not recommended.

Once additional information is gained on the biology of **Scleroderris lagerbergii**, it is hoped that controls can be developed. In the meantime, careful detection, timely harvest and wise planting practices will go far in reducing the adverse impact.

*A U.S. Forest Service publication on "How to Identify Scleroderris Canker and Sirococcus Shoot Blight," by Skilling and O'Brien, is available through the Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Forest Insect and Disease control, Room 504, 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, New York 12233; and through the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, 638 Federal Courts Building, St.Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

*One of Charlie Prenis's finished cabins, situated in the rolling hills of Chenango County.*

# *Rebirth of an Industry*

## Return of the Log Cabin

by A. DeForest Marsters
Suny College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse

During the last few years there has been a rejuvenation of interest in the building of log cabins. Many permanent homes and camps are being built from logs. Little wonder that this is happening with the cost of materials and with the critically low supply of natural gas and fuel oil. What better way to fight this situation than to build a log cabin, with thick logs for insulation and a wood-burning stove for heat and cooking?

We Americans may be seeing an end to our centrally-heated homes, vast and wasteful in size, but 72° from wall to wall.

Unless we develop solar heat or some new type of heating - we will have two choices of fuel to heat our homes. Coal or the renewable resource wood.

In the central New York area - around Sherburne and Earlville - a man has been involved in building cabins for the past 40 years. This man is Charlie Prenis. He has built 30 cabins in those years, ranging from small, 7' x 9' trappers cabins - to large homes - (50' x 26'). The logs used in these cabins include Hemlock, Red Pine, Larch, Oak, Maple, Aspen and about any other species wood found in the woods.

Some of the other cabin builders use pre-cut logs to build their cabins. Charlie uses the whole round log. Some of the most abundant and commonly used species are Red Pine and Larch. These species have had little commercial value in the recent past. Many hundreds of thousands of acres of abandoned fields have been planted to these species from the CCC Days up to the present. These trees grow fast and develop straight stems, ideal for building cabins, so Pine about 10" x 12" in diameter, somebody might be able to use them to build a cabin. A great many Red Pine logs are being cut on state land during thinning operations and are for sale.

As I sit in my log cabin and write this article I think "What is life all about?" I remember reading an article about a woman who was gazing out the window at the beauty of nature around her. She came to her "senses" and thought to herself, "I'd better get busy and stop wasting time." Was she wasting time (her life) or is the executive who is finishing up a million dollar 'deal' while scheduling his next ulcer operation?

The log cabin you build back in the woods may give you a new outlook on life, if you can learn (justify to your self) to enjoy what the quiet and peace has to offer. Many people today have lost track of what life is all about and don't enjoy "it," and we Americans have the opportunity to. Many people of the world "really" have to worry about the next meal.

If "it" suits you, build your log cabin (house) in the woods and do your "thing" and enjoy a cabin away from what we have come to know as the hectic American Way of Life. I will admit I have had an advantage in knowing woodman Charlie Prenis for the past twenty-five years.

*Charlie Prenis sits in front of his 7' by 9' trapper's cabin as he contemplates his next cabin project.*

# The Value of Your Woodlot

by Hugh Canham

College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse

How much is your woodlot worth? What is the value of your land? These and related questions often arise when two or more forest owners get together. And as we ponder the future for our own little piece of land the question often arises: Is it worth it?

A woodlot, or any other piece of rural land, can have many different kinds of value yet on further analysis it becomes evident that these many different kinds can be thought of as just three kinds: value to the owner, to the region and to society. Let us explore some of the values of your woodlot.

Every year the tax bill comes due and if you want to keep your property, you pay the bill. Thus, in one sense, the property is worth at least the annual dollar tax amount paid. Somewhat related to this kind of value is the market price of your land. If you do not sell your land, or more properly speaking do not offer it for sale, then the property is worth at least what you could receive for it in a sale. A third kind of value is reflected somewhat in the purchase price. The acquisition of the property required, in most cases, an outlay of money. Money that could have been used for other purposes but which was invested in the purchase of property. Again, the property must be worth at least what you paid originally for acquisition.

Your land be it forest, field, wetland or marsh is an active dynamic producing ecosystem. The amount, kind, and value of the output from these ecosystems are other measures of value. An acre of forest land in New York State can produce annually between 50 and 500 board feet of timber. Alternatively it can produce ½ to 2 cords of wood. These products can be exchanged -- sold -- for money. If left to accumulate in the forest, then they can be sold at a later date. Thus, the value of the property can be expressed in terms of the annual potential wood value grown.

The output from the ecosystems on your land are not restricted to wood. Often owners sell, or lease, the hunting rights, others charge for camping. Of course, agricultural food crops are directly salable. You may well ask however: What is the value of a walk in the woods on a crisp wintry day with the hush of a new fallen snow blanketing all nature? How does one measure the beauty of an autumn hillside that defies even the most skillful artist to capture on canvas or film? And surely the service performed by plants in cleansing the air and holding soil and water on the land have a value. How does one measure these so-called "intangibles".

As this point we need to consider why one might wish to determine the value of something. Aside from idle curiosity the only reasons are either to decide how much this land, or other property, might yield in an exchange, or to decide if some improvements or other change in the condition of the property is worth undertaking. For purposes of valuation such as these it is not necessary to know the total worth of the property but only a minimum level--"Is it worth at least $ _____."

We come back to the first point made in this article. Any time a landowner pays out money to acquire or hold his property he is saying, "It is worth at least that much to me". This worth, or value, is not necessarily in timber yield or land sale but in the things, often "intangibles", that the owner receives from his property. And, when an owner undertakes any action to decrease the direct money income from his property in favor of some other product or value he is saying, "I am willing to forego the opportunity of income for this other service of my land."

As long as the owner knows what his property can produce he can make wise decisions based on the above. The problem is that many owners do not know what can be obtained. We operate in ignorance thinking that some action such as logging will decrease wildlife habitat or aesthetic enjoyment. Adequate information on the various possibilities is always needed.

Quite apart from the value so far discussed is the value of your wood lot to the local region: Hunters using your property spend money in local stores. The Sunday-afternoon driver enjoying the autumn colors of your woods may stop and purchase gasoline or a snack. The storage and amelioration of water supply may provide drinking or fishing water downstream. These and other benefits, or costs, to the region are very real. They must, however, be accounted for in a separate ledger. The regional values of your woodlot should not be added to your own. A separate group is receiving them.

In a like manner, society as a whole has a stake, albeit small, in your property. And these values must be accounted for in yet a third ledger. The hunter who uses your property derives benefit; likewise for the Sunday driver. Their benefits, often considered intangible, are quantifiable to a degree by the same logic as above. The value of the experience is worth at least what was spent to get it. However, these are values to users other than the owner and as such must not be added to your own in determining the value of your property to you.

In summary, a piece of rural property provides values to at least three distinct groups: owner, local region, society. Many of the values to the owner cannot readily be equated with a monetary price. The minimum value however can be set as an "opportunity cost" of income given up or as the amount paid out to continue ownership.

Does the conclusion developed here give the tax assessor a free hand for establishing the assessed value and tax level on rural land? No, not at all. The landowner may well pay a tax in excess of the property's ability to produce direct revenue from timber but he will stand for only so much. Beyond some point his satisfactions -- values -- from services other than timber are not worth at least the annual cost of obtaining them. The owner then either sells to someone with the interest and ability to sustain high values or he seeks ways to produce income: liquidating all the timber, subdividing and selling summer home lots. And the complications begin. All values to all parties -- owner, region, society -- now change. The nature of these changes is another topic, but in determining the changes the values must be kept separate. "Don't add apples and oranges."

# Who Belongs to the NYFOA: A Membership Profile 1977

by James P. Lassoie
Extension Forester
Cornell University

| *ACRES BY CLASS* | *NUMBER OF OWNERS (NEW YORK)* | *NUMBER OF OWNERS (OUT OF STATE)* |
|---|---|---|
| *zero* | *43* | |
| *1 - 10* | *10* | |
| *11 - 25* | *14* | |
| *26 - 50* | *27* | *1 (ME)* |
| *51 - 75* | *19* | |
| *76 - 100* | *35* | |
| *101 - 150* | *37* | |
| *151 - 200* | *27* | *1 (IL)* |
| *201 - 250* | *14* | |
| *251 - 300* | *12* | *1 (VT)* |
| *301 - 400* | *15* | *1 (MA)* |
| *401 - 500* | *11* | |
| *501 - 600* | *4* | |
| *601 - 700* | *4* | |
| *701 - 800* | *4* | |
| *801 - 900* | *3* | |
| *901 - 1000* | *4* | |
| *1001 - 2000* | *10* | |
| *2001 and up* | *5* | *(NH & VT)* |
| *TOTAL 72,852 acres* | *225 owners* | *7,833 acres 5 owners* |

Last September, after being at my new job for only a couple of days, I asked Lloyd Strombeck for any information he might have concerning the membership make-up of the Association. I rightfully thought that this would give me a cross-section of those owning forest lands in New York State. I was rather shocked soon after our conversation when over 225 "GETTING TO KNOW YOU ——" questionnaires arrived along with a note of encouragement from Lloyd. In keeping with a professorial tradition, I procrastinated the inevitable for awhile before attempting to summarize the results of these questionnaires. I finally reported this summary at the January executive meeting in Syracuse. Some of the findings were quite interesting and I thought I would share them with the general membership. Of course, you know who you are, but hopefully my comments will yield a general membership profile which will be helpful and informative to us all.

To start with, I tallied the total amount of acreage owned by the membership. I examined all the questionnaires I had and excluded the 17 that reported company ownership. This left 231 which represented a little less than half the current membership of 517. The results below indicate that the average ownership in New York State was about 350 acres but that half those tallied owned 75 acres or less. Of the 72,852 acres owned by 225 members, 6,388 acres were in need of reforestation.

I was quite surprised to see that about 15% of those tallied owned **no forest land!** I guess these individuals, like myself, are interested in forestry and forest land use even though they are not actually owners. That is a very healthy sign I think.

Exhausted by all the numbers, I then limited the scope of my investigation by randomly choosing 106 questionnaires which represented about a 20% sample of the entire membership. I found that 26 of these reported no forest land ownership. Within New York State, most counties were represented but the heaviest membership seemed to come from Onondaga, Erie and Broome. About 2/3 of the members owning land resided in the county in which the land was located. Fifty owners were Cooperators under the NYS Forest Practice Act, 11 were Certified Tree Farmers, and 7 were members of the NY Christmas Tree Grower's Association. Most owners read at least one publication related to forests and forestry with the "Conservationist," "American Forests," "Journal of Forestry,"

and "Northern Logger" being the most popular. The 106 members tallied seemed to be well educated with 46 having at least some college and 34 having advanced college degrees (M.S., M.A., Ph. D., M.D.). The occupations of the membership reflected this and a wide variety of "white and blue collar" professions were represented. To name a few, they included farmers, foresters, students, engineers, cooperative extension personnel, doctors, businessmen, salespersons, mechanics, and college professors. Concerning people's interest in various aspects of forestry, recreation, and wood use, representation of all 62 choices was noted. However, three general interests seemed to dominate: (1) forest management (sales, harvesting, taxation, thinning, pruning, etc.) (2) recreation (wilderness, nature study, bird watching, etc.) and (3) wildlife management.

Well, I hope this profile does not leave you with the idea that a "typical" NYFOA member is an over-educated person who reads the "Conservationist," is interested in everything having anything to do with the forest, and doesn't own any land! I know it hasn't me. It has been interesting meeting so many of the members on paper.

*Jim Lassoie, Cornell's new Extension forester and author of this article, was also co-chairman of the NYFOA spring meeting.*


**Wanted**: Classified and display ads for Forest Owner magazine, circulation 500. Ads appropriate to forest owners most welcome. $2.50 per column inch for display ads (there are 3 ten inch columns per page) or 10 cents per word for classifieds. Chain saws, wood stoves, land, consulting services,...you name it.

**For Sale**: What have you got to sell, swap, or donate? Use this space. Submit ads with proper amount of money to Editor, 526 Anderson Hill Road, Candor, NY 13743.

**Wanted**: People to sell ads for Forest Owner magazine. Commission basis. Decent arrangements. Contact Editor at 526 Anderson Hill Road, R.D. 2, Candor, NY 13743.

**For Sale:** 550 acres of forest land, Boylston, N.Y. Will swap for 250 acres tillable farm in Auburn area or will sell for $165,000. Call 212-949-7775.

**Wanted**: Original art work or photographs suitable for use on cover of Forest Owner magazine. Illustrations capturing forest, nature, or rural themes desired. No payment offered, just the free advertising such use affords budding artists.

**For Sale**: Back issues, Northern Logger to 1961; American Forests, some 1922; full set Journal of Forestry to 1934, few earlier issues. Offers invited. Allen W. Bratton, RD 1, Box 253, Cooperstown, NY 13326.

## Sawdust for Cattle Feed

Seventeen pounds of hydrolyzed sawdust produces the same results as ten pounds of grain in a growing, finishing beef cattle diet.

This replacement equation is true when, in weight, up to 40 per cent of grain is replaced by sawdust.

"So check the prices and make your choice," says Dr. Robert C. Albin, professor of animal science at Texas Tech University.

Sawdust is hydrolyzed by injecting steam and acids under pressure into it. The complex carbohydrates, that cannot be digested by ruminant stomachs, are broken down into palatable components by this process. The bark of a tree is formed of lignin, one of the complex carbohydrates.

Albin examined the grain replacement value of hydrolyzed sawdust in a finishing ration for feedlot cattle during a 117-day comparative trial with 342 feeder heifers.

# Editorial

When you read this I will be, most likely, in Austria on the Forest Owners Association Tour. As I write this, I just can't believe it. Anticipation is getting the best of me . . . half excitement, half fear that I've tackled something bigger than I can handle. "Relax," I tell myself!

* * *

I'm seriously tempted to try some special issues on the forests and forest owners of different regions of New York. For example, I'd love to do a special issue on the Adirondacks, then the Tug Hill area, then the Southern Tier, and so on. But this is a part time operation, mind you. Your response, your submitting articles and photos and local art will tell me how feasible this is. Target: September - October, 1977. Theme: The Adirondacks. Go to it, you North Countrymen! Send it in.

* * *

It seems to me there's a bit of dilemma about people affording forests. Letters I get and people I see tell me that taxes on forest lands make it unfeasible to own forest land. Forest owners would like to get out from under the tax load.

That's odd. I'd love to buy forest land but fall far short of affording it. I guess there must be plenty of people around who can afford to buy and who can afford the taxes.

Am I misunderstanding something?

* * *

We've had inquiries about the Tree Farm System. If interested, contact F.A. Umholtz, Chairman, NY State Tree Farm Committee, 3 Parkwood Drive, Cortland, NY 13045

Allen R. Wright

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FORESTRY ROOTS

The forest industry has a film "Roots," too, but this one is entitled "Roots of the Nation." Prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, it deals with the growth of the United States from early settlement to the present through the use of forest products. It's a 16 mm color film, beautifully photographed, and available at: Film Library, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853. Rental fee is $7.50 (postage included) for two consecutive days.

Wood is currently enjoying a massive upswing in use as a fuel in New York State, and a growing number of people are becoming aware of the fact that forests are endlessly-renewable resources. Against a backdrop of dwindling fossil fuels, and soaring prices for those fuels, forests take on new significance.

The film will make a timely program for service clubs and other organizations.

Gordon Conklin



"Did you hear about the circus tragedy? The elephant ate the clown who was dressed up like a peanut."

"Tragedy? I'd say it was good luck. You know how hard it is to stop after you've eaten one."

*THE COVER*

*Thanks to Howard Miller*
*SUNY College of Env. Science & Forestry*
*Syracuse*

# N.Y.F.O.A. in Review –
## Message from the President

This issue of **The Forest Owner** marks the end of one administration of the organization and the beginning of another. It is appropriate to take stock of the results of our program.

**Membership** now stands at 531, a net increase of 64 over last year. We had 91 new memberships this year, thanks to the leadership of the membership committee under the co-chairmanship of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Eberley.

**The Forest Owner** now has 20 pages. I'm certain you must agree the quality of appearance and content is quite professional and has been a considerable factor in encouraging forest owners to join us. The credit goes to Alan Knight our Editor and Evelyn Stock, the editorial committee chairman.

**Increased committee work** has been implemented by scheduling meetings for an hour previous to the regular Board meetings. The land use and natural resource committee under Al Roberts has provided a series of articles for The Forest Owner. The legislative committee under Dave Hanaburgh was active in its support of the Forest Practice Board version of Section 480a of the State's General Tax Law and of the


National Forest Management Act as well as appearing at hearings of the Assembly Sub-Committee on Forest Preserve Lands and the Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation. The Board of Trustees of the Board of Directors activated under the chairmanship of Dave Hanaburgh directs its work toward preparation to supervise land trusts under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Woods Walks sponsored by that committee at Dean Hardy Shirley 's and at the Eberleys were outstanding, planned by Bob Morrow, the chairman.

**Spring & Fall meetings** - Our spring and fall association meetings have been well received and have been the responsibility of Bob Sand and Gene Farnsworth.

**Finances** are much improved because of increased membership. We have a balance, $1000 more than last year this time. I hope to see the Board of Directors expand its services to the Membership in furtherance of its educational purposes by considering the publication of a new membership directory and by-laws, setting up exhibits at fairs and field days, conducting regional seminars, etc.

I have enjoyed fine co-operation the past two years from the Board and other Association members. I wish the new administration every success and offer my assistance when needed.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd.

Lloyd G. Strombeck
President, N.Y.F.O.A.

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# Notice!

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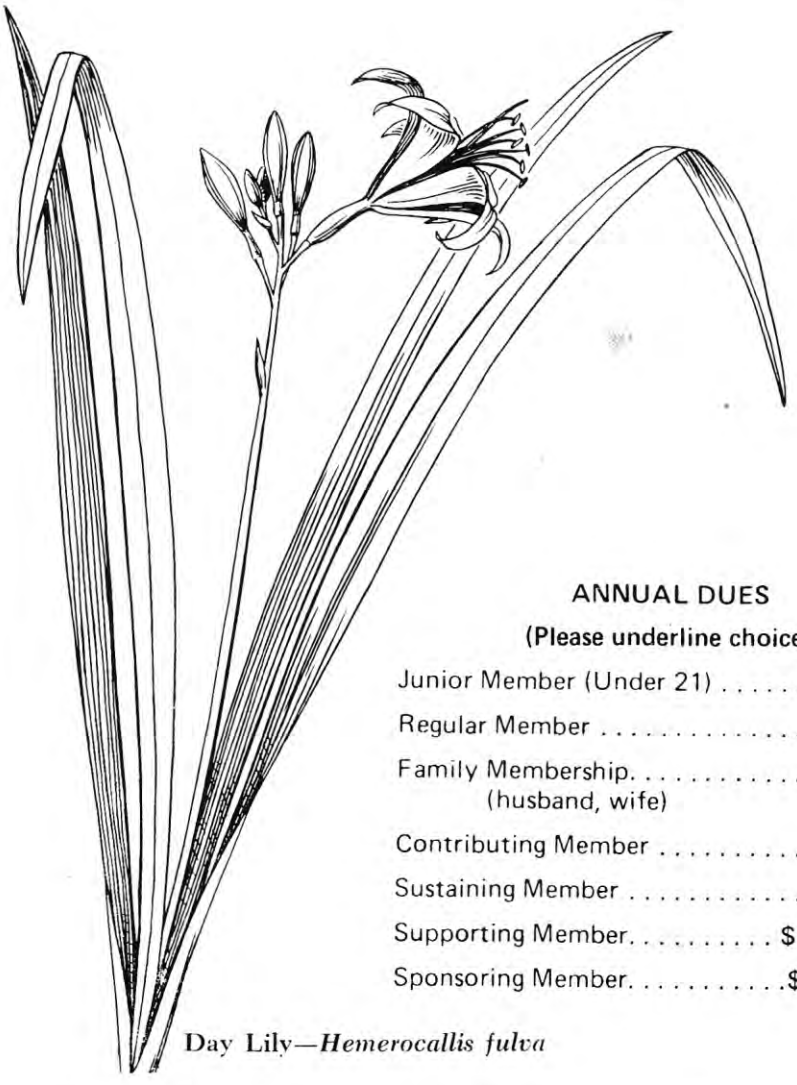

Day Lily—*Hemerocallis fulva*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**(Please send to:)**

Mrs. Helen Varian, Membership Secretary
204 Varian Rd., Peekskill, N.Y. 10566

I would like to help advance forestry in New York State. I enclose my check payable to the New York Forest Owners Association, Inc.

( ) I own ___ acres forest land in _____ County, N.Y.

( ) I do not own forest land but I support Association's objectives.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

ANNUAL DUES

**(Please underline choice)**

Junior Member (Under 21) . . . . . .$1

Regular Member . . . . . .$7

Family Membership. . . . . .$12
(husband, wife)

Contributing Member . . . . . $12 – $29

Sustaining Member . . . . . $30 – $99

Supporting Member. . . . . $100 – $499

Sponsoring Member. . . . . .$500 and up

**May Apple—*Podophyllum peltatum***