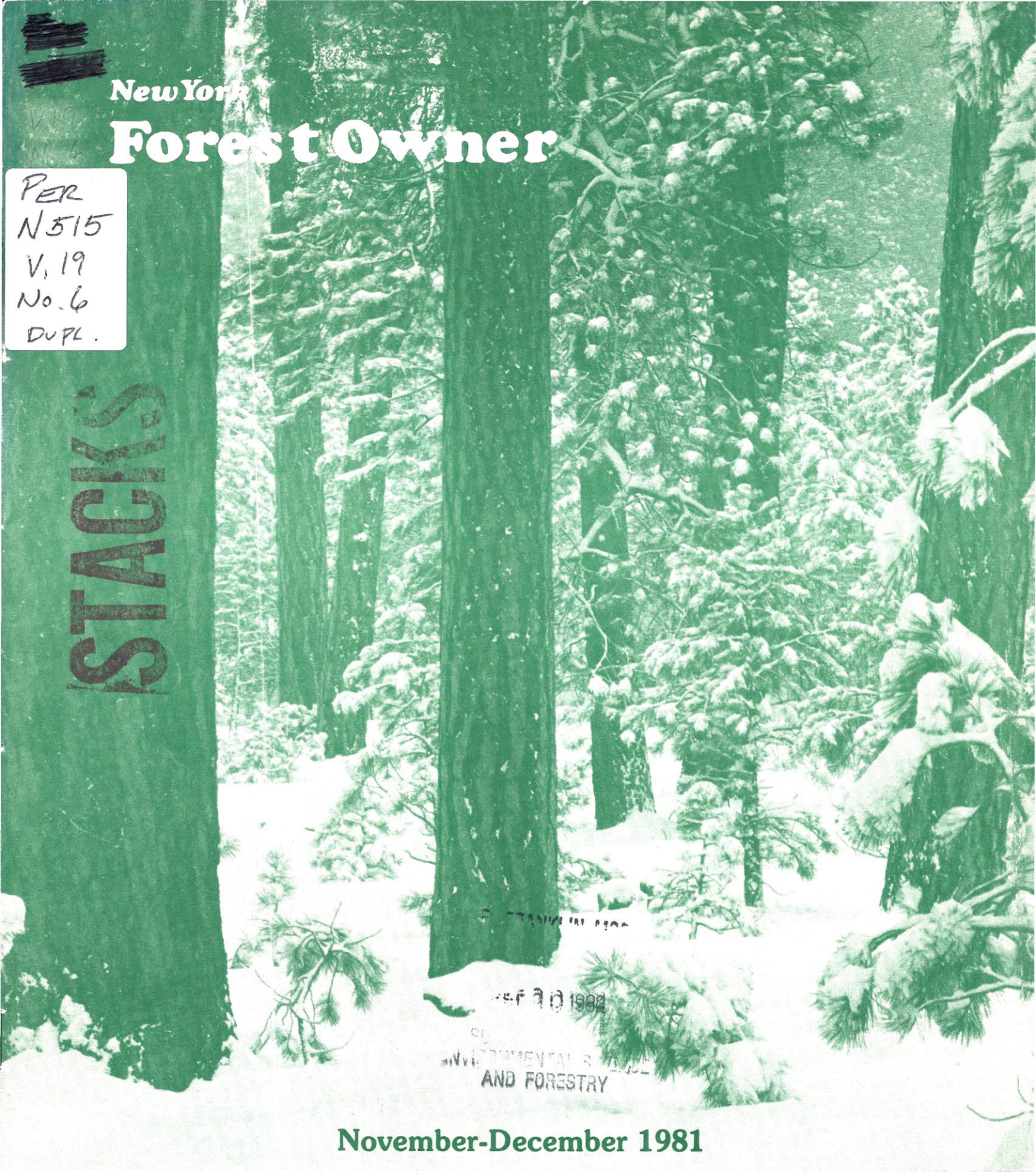


New York Forest Owner

November-December 1981

A Great Gift Idea
Memberships for Christmas

Vol. 19, No. 6

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

In This Issue

Sounds of the Wilderness

Listen . . .
With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break
from the trees
And fall.

Front Cover

Christmas in the forest.

Welcome Our New Members

We have thirty new members this month — a gratifying response from our members in our effort to build the membership.

Our fiscal year starts in January. This is our last chance to give gift memberships ($8.). We have about 700 members now and if everyone would get one new member we would go over our goal of 1000 by January first. We can then better serve the cause of good forest management.

Seith Allt
P.O. Box 175
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Frank Bell
P.O. Box 308
Herkimer, NY 13350

Zolmon Benin
Pokey Moonshine Hollow
Wayland, NY 14572

Eric C. Brown
66-07 Clinton Ave.
Maspeth, NY 11378

James W. Brown, Jr.
Box 51
Riparius, NY 12862

Asa Cheney
RD#1
Bemus Point, NY 14712

Clyde E. Cottrell
Budzinski Rd.
Dryden, NY 13053

David Elmore
Davenport, NY 13750

Warren M. Emlen
1725 N. James St.
Rome, NY 13440

Johnathon Fyock
Star Rte. #2, Box 69
Owego, NY 13827

Published by the
NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS Association

Editor
Evelyn Stock
5756 Ike Dixon Rd.
Camillus, NY 13031

FOREST Bookshelf

Planting Forest Trees: Why, When, How

ITHACA, NY — If you are considering planting trees for wood production, for the control of soil or wind erosion, for game cover, or simply for natural beauty, the new Cornell Cooperative Extension publication — **"Planting Forest Trees in Rural Areas"** (IB 174, $1.25) — contains practical information for property owners.

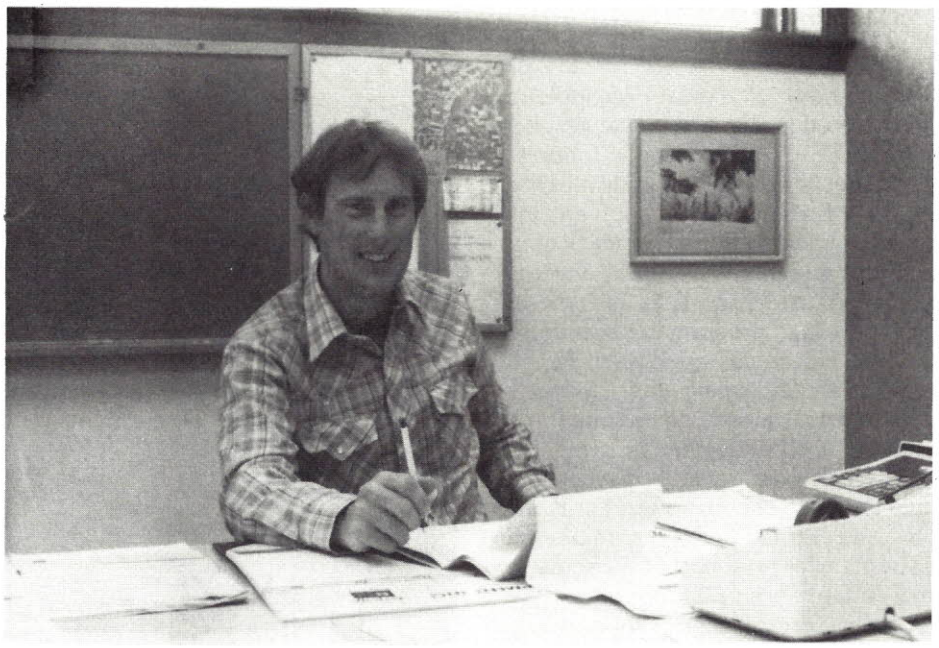
With the amount of forest land increasing in certain areas of the Northeast, particularly in New York State, "Planting Forest Trees in Rural Areas" would also be of interest to government officials.

Trees selected for plantings must be effective for the purpose intended, disease and damage resistant, and suited to the conditions of the site. Spacing of trees, soil conditions, drainage, the pros and cons of pure and mixed (species) plantations, seasons for planting, preparation of the site, source of planting stock, care of the trees before planting, tree alignment, and planting techniques — replanting, underplanting, interplanting, and care of the plantation — are included. A section on tree species and their major enemies will help you make sound decisions on what to plant.

Tables classify the types of trees which should be planted for lumber, pulpwood, posts and poles, windbreaks, cover for eroded sites, and Christmas trees, and they show soil moisture requirements and list markets for species. Pictures and illustrations demonstrate the correct way to plant and care for the trees.

The 16-page publication was written by Robert R. Morrow and Lawrence S. Hamilton, professors, and Fred E. Winch, Jr., professor emeritus, in the department of natural resources in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

"Planting Forest Trees in Rural Areas" (IB 174, $1.25) may be obtained by writing to: **Cornell Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. Copies are also available at county Cooperative Extension offices in New York State;** prices there may vary.



NOTES FROM THE NYFOA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members,

As we head into the holiday season, it is time that we begin to think of the extra nice things we would like to do for people.

Here is an idea for a nice thing you could do for a friend who is an owner of forest land, or who is just interested in the forest resources, or who simply likes being in the woods.

Introduce him to the Great People who make up our organization. Bring him or her to our meetings. There is no doubt that your guest will feel right at home with our group of friendly people. The problem might be trying to get a word in edgewise — our members seem to be super enthusiastic about their forests and their friends in the NYFOA.

When we count our blessings this holiday season, among them will be our love of the forests and the fellowship which we enjoy with one another when we get together to share our forest experiences.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Bob Edmonds

What's The Wanakena Campus All About?

The School of Forest Technology (SFT) located in Wanakena, New York, is one of ESF's five academic schools. For most of its years it was known as the New York State Ranger School, and informally is still called the Ranger School by current students as well as by alumni. Established in 1912, it is the oldest forest technician program in the country (the next oldest was established in the mid-1930's), indicating the College's early and sustained commitment to technician-level education.

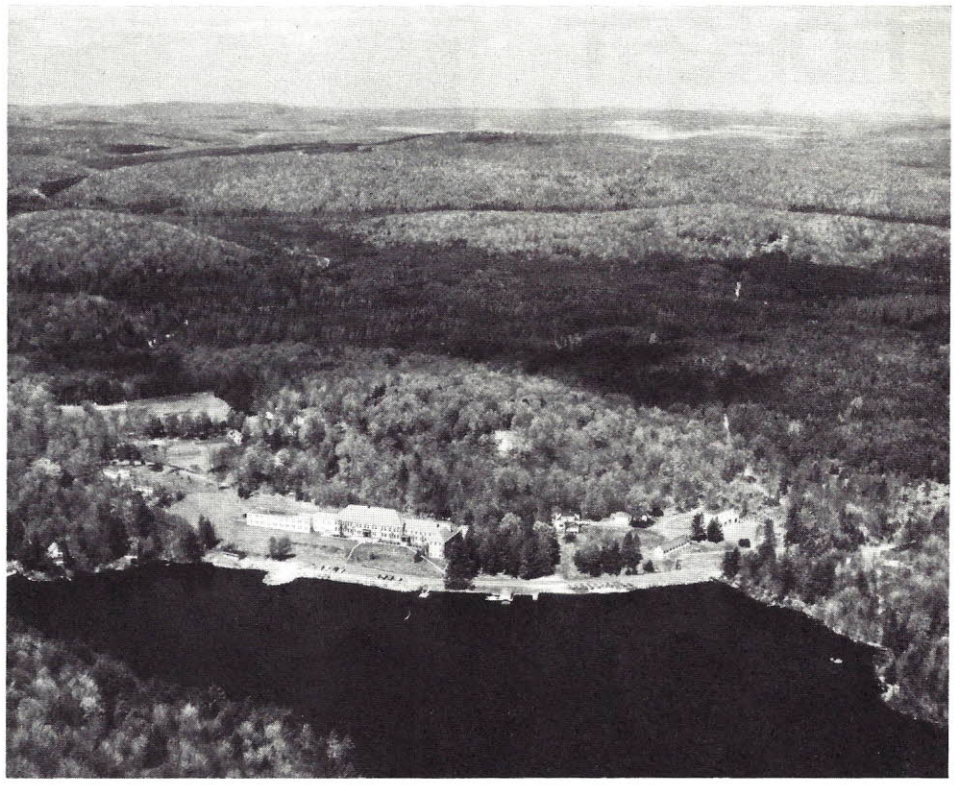
The SFT has several distinctions. While the main campus offers the B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. level programs the SFT, 140 miles northeast of Syracuse in the Western Adirondacks, offers the A.A.S. in Forest Technology and is a one-curriculum campus, which is unusual.

The location of the SFT is also unusual; it is a forestry school *located in the forest*. The forest is not only an outdoor laboratory, but a source of inspiration. As one recent staff retiree said, "How could we not be better people when the view outside our window reveals trees shrouded in green, vivid with fall foliage, or stately with glistening snow; rippling water; and a sky of varied moods."

A student does need to be self-sufficient in terms of making his or her own entertainment, because Wanakena is the nearest village, 1.7 miles from the School, and its total population is about 100. But the Oswegatchie River is just 200 feet from the Main Building, and the School forest is surrounded by forever wild land of the Adirondack Preserve. There may be no intercollegiate sports or organized social clubs, nor even any movies or taverns handy, but fishing, swimming, canoeing, hunting, camping, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking are literally just outside a student's window.

Sometimes students look out their window at the surrounding wild forest with great longing, however. Unlike most colleges, the SFT has a 40 hour per week scheduled course load for every student every week. The pace is fast academically and intellectually, and the program is physically demanding.

The general pattern is for students to spend 20 hours each week in typical college lectures, recitations and discussions. The other 20 hours are spent in the field learning the methods, techniques and skills of field forestry under supervision and in conditions simulating a job situation.



Wanakena campus of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry on the banks of the Oswegatchie River near Wanakena, New York.

Another different feature of the SFT's curriculum is that it is designed as a one plus one program. A student takes the first year of designated liberal arts courses at a college of his or her choice. Only the second year is spent at Wanakena, thus cost can be kept down by attending a local college for the freshman year. Seniors in high school can apply and be guaranteed a spot in the second year contingent upon passing the first year. Students in college or with college background can also apply.

The program is small, with about 100 students, and with seven faculty who also live on campus. The SFT program stresses the development of a professional attitude, and because of this, plus the intensity of the program and the close living conditions, there is more emphasis on self-discipline and imposed order than in many colleges. The total package pays off. A 1974 graduate, employed by a large forest industry said he has come to realize, "...that the most valuable lesson the Ranger School can teach a student is: Discipline and Perseverence. Students can learn honesty and good behavior at home; the latest planning techniques can be experienced on the job; but the ability to take responsibility and discipline yourself to perform well . . . are qualities too often ignored by today's educational institutions. The . . . Ranger School . . . is to be commended on maintaining a high level of discipline at the School."

Employers also feel this way. One recently wrote, "Generally, the ranger techs are superior to graduates from other schools. Most importantly, aside from technical competence, the ranger techs are superior in overall attitude and *work discipline*."

The SFT is unique in several ways. But if one wants an intense education in field forestry, and is willing to make the necessary effort, it generally proves to be a rewarding experience.

Woods Walk at Wanakena

Jim Coufal met us beside the lake at the Forest Technician School at Wanakena (formerly known as the Ranger School) on what promised to be a very rainy Saturday morning. The rain probably kept some people from coming, however, fifty people turned up. It cleared off and we started out.

Our first stop was at a logging place. The trees had been marked and cut,

(Continued)

and were natural old sugar maple. Jim's goal is to create an all aged site in this area. There were only a few veneer quality logs. It had been mostly firewood, and 68% sugar maple, about 9000' per acre. The Ranger school income was $2000 and the logger received $8000. The stumpage price was $65 per 1000 board feet. Dr. Coufal had charged a little less for stumpage price and required a better than average job done by the logger. They had a legal contract with the logger.

The cutting regulations in the Adirondacks state that clear-cutting can be done on anything under twenty-five acres in a block and only 10% along streams.

Stop two was in an area where people can come and cut their own firewood. The school charges $6 a cord stumpage price and provides a "Mom and Pop" contract whereby the buyer signs the contract and pays for the wood at the same time that they get it. Although the person cutting the wood must sign a waiver, the school has insurance but in the 50-60 year existence of the school there has never been a claim.

The school property may be used for hunting, fishing and trapping. For the most part people have respected the property. Most of the timber cutting has been done in the last ten or twelve years.

The most valuable species of tree that Wanakena has is their beautiful yellow birch which of late years is subject to dieback. They do not know for sure what causes it. Dieback is not caused by a disease organism, they think it may be climactic.

Their main goal here is to eliminate junk. There are 900 acres of plantations on which they plan to plant hybrid poplar, hoping to use it for energy production.

At stop #3 — they are converting this site to hard woods after cutting $20,000 worth of red pine poles. The large equipment that was used here did some damage. However, red pine heals itself easily.

Forestry was started in 1911 on their 3000 acres. At stop 4, they had clear cut and had had a controlled burn.

At stop 5, they had had a saddled prominent problem. In 1967 and 1968 the leaves had been stripped from the trees. In 1969 the DEC sprayed the plantation and the trees made a remarkable recovery. Carbaryll sevin was the spray used.

At stop 6, they were starting a sugar bush. There had been a firewood sale there 3 months before. At stop 7, they had clear cut and planned to plant the whole area with hybrid poplar.

The weather had turned sunny and we had a socializing lunch break in their picnic area. Jim Coufal and his Forest Manager, Jim Crevelling had gone all out to make our day interesting and pleasant. We had had an opportunity to see how our tax dollars are spent at the Ranger School as well as learn about different forest management practices.

On our way out, Jim Crevelling showed us the work of an eager beaver who had built a dam which would cause a flooding problem. Jim had removed the dam the night before and already there was another one built in the same place.

There had been so many interesting things to see that we had stayed longer than expected — but it had been a good day.

THE LAW

(In a manner of speaking)

By Harold Faber

Acheson's Rule of Bureaucracy: "A memorandum is written not to inform the reader but to protect the writer."
—Dean Acheson

Ironclad Rules for Successful Administration: "1. If a program does not work, expand it. 2. The bigger it gets, the less notice anyone will take that it isn't working." *—Robert Schrank in "Ten Thousand Working Days"*

Hendrickson's Law: "If you have enough meetings over a long enough period of time, the meetings become more important than the problem that the meetings were intended to solve."
—E.R. Hendrickson quoted in "Malice in Blunderland"

Metz Law: "Being the boss doesn't make you right, it only makes you the boss." *—Milton Metz in a letter to the author*

Billings' Law: "Live within your income even if you have to borrow to do so." *—Josh Billings quoted by Laurence J. Peter*

Ms. Peters' Law: "Today if you are not confused, you are just not thinking clearly." *—Irene Peters*

Heiberg Memorial Award

The Award Committee of the New York State Forest Association is requesting Statewide nominations for the 1982 Heiberg Memorial Award.

Any person over 18 years of age with a forest interest in New York State who, in the judgement of the Award Committee, has during the preceding year, brought to fruition, conceived and completed a significant project in the field of conservation, land use, land restoration, forestry management or other actions in keeping with the aims and purposes of the New York State Forest Owners Association; or who has made any other significant contribution to the general welfare in the field of forestry and conservation, be it on the land, in the laboratory, or by means of any other directly related activities, may be a candidate for the Heiberg Memorial Award.

Anyone can make a nomination.

Please send nominations to:

David H. Hanaburgh, Chairman
Award Committee
New York Forest Owners Assn.
Box 122
Buchanan, New York 10511

George Mitchell New Membership Secretary

George Mitchell of Old Forge has been appointed our new Membership Secretary. Henceforth any new memberships or changes of address are to be sent to him directly at the following address: New York Forest Owner, P.O. Box 69, Old Forge, NY 13420.

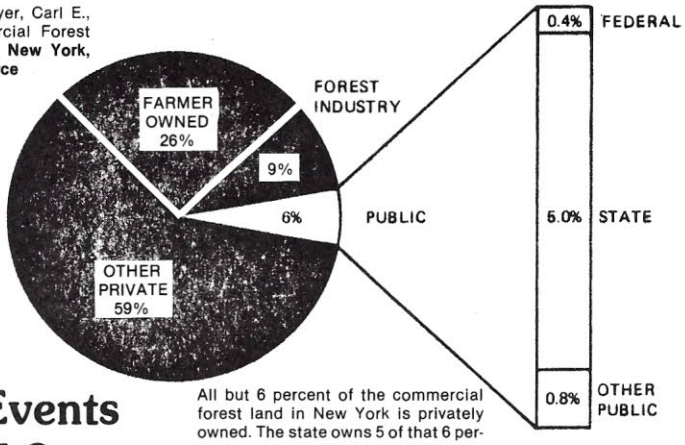
* * * * * * * *

ANNUAL DUES

(Please underline choice)

Junior Member (under 21)	$ 3
Regular Member	$10
Family Membership (husband, wife)	$15
Contributing Member	$ 12—$ 29
Sustaining Member	$ 30—$ 99
Supporting Member	$100—$499
Sponsoring Member	$500 and up

[1]Ferguson, Roland H. and Mayer, Carl E., Chart of Ownership of Commercial Forest Land, **The Timber Resources of New York, U.S.D.A. Forest Service Resource Bulletin NE-20 1970, pg. 17.**



All but 6 percent of the commercial forest land in New York is privately owned. The state owns 5 of that 6 percent.

Current Events

S.N.I.P.F.O.

The impressive string of letters listed above stands for Small Non-industrial Private Forest Owners. This term will probably come more and more into the forefront in the future, if the anticipated increase and demand for forest fiber truly materializes.

Recent years have seen a marked increase in the use of forest fiber, particularly for fuel. At one time it was felt that competing resources such as steel, aluminum and plastic would push wood products aside in the marketplace as these products were more easily constructed, more uniform and easier to erect. I remember talk of steel and aluminum 2x4's, plastic pallets and a host of other products originally made from wood that were to be replaced. Certainly, many have been replaced. While I was manning the Forest Owners Booth in the Harford Farm Show I couldn't help but notice the plastic yardsticks that were being given away. Yardsticks were for many years made exclusively of wood.

Although some wood products have been replaced it now appears that lumber will be continued to be used as prime construction material. This is due to the sharp increase in petroleum which is almost universal and is the fuel used to manufacture or convert construction materials. The conversion rate of energy in material production favors wood. It is much lower than that of steel, aluminum and plastic. Add to this the intense use of wood for fuel and you have a sharp increase and demand for forest products that we have experienced. It is further anticipated that this increase will continue. While very few are predicting the timber famine that people spoke about at the turn of the century there is concern that our forest resources will be strained, that harvest may exceed growth and poor management practices will reduce the productivity of our forests.

What has all this to do with the Small Non-industrial Private Forest Owner? They are the last remaining source of increased production of forest fiber. Let us deal with New York State exclusively, although national figures are somewhat similar. In New York State 85% of the resources are owned by the smaller non-industrial private owners probably in lots that average less than 50 acres in size. The chart reveals that the Forest Industry owns 9% and the public owns 6% so it is easy to see that the private owner holds the vast majority of the forest acres. Current management practices have put public forest lands and private industrial lands into production that pretty well equals their growth. While changes in the marketplace have allowed different types of trees to be harvested, particularly for fuelwood, there is not going to be much increase in production from these two sectors. If additional wood is needed it will be necessary for it to come from the private ownerships.

Fortunately, there is room for vast improvement in the management levels and production in the smaller private forests in New York. The small private forest generally is an outgrowth of agriculture — land that was not cleared because it was too steep, too wet or too inaccessible. On many occasions it was the back 40 that was left to heat the house and grow enough wood to replace a barn. By and large these woodlots have been and still are very poorly managed. Up until the 1950's they were almost universally grazed. Then more by chance than by planning it became uneconomical for the farmer to chase his cattle over large areas and he removed them from the woodlots. Grazing of forest land is virtually no problem in New York today. Cutting in these woodlots was again in almost all cases high grading. **The good trees were taken out** for what they could yield in either product or dollars and the poor trees were left to grow, and grow they did. This left us with several million acres of poorly stocked, low value, small private forests producing a fraction of their potential. **If additional wood is to be produced in New York State, this is where it will have to come from.** Fortunately, today the picture is not all that bleak. It is surprising how quickly a woodlot will respond if cattle are excluded and the poorest trees removed. Mother Nature quickly restores the area and in most cases to valuable vigorous species such as ash, maple, oak, cherry and basswood. The tremendous use of wood for fuel is ideal in this work. The poor trees that clog our woodlands make wonderful fuelwood and people are quick to realize this fact. Unfortunately, not all people realize that good trees are far more valuable for lumber and veneer than they are for fuelwood and there are some misuses in the forest. Small diameter trees with high potential for sawtimber or veneer are often cut and shoved through the stove door. It does surprise me that in my travels around my district working with woodlot owners that this practice is not as prevalent as it might be. It seems that most people just have too much common sense to cut down their good trees for fuel.

Now is the time for the person who owns forest land to take advantage of the current situation, inform himself on forest practice services, do the work necessary to put his forest house in order and see that his woodlot is in good condition to grow a crop of high value sawtimber for tomorrow's market. It is very possible, if things continue as they are, and as they are expected to be, this would be the wisest single investment that a person could make. Very high prices are being paid for high quality sawtimber and veneer and as markets for forest products expand they could become even higher. No other part of the world produces the type and quality of hardwoods that New York does. We have seen a strong export market for our high quality lumber which will no doubt continue to expand. The opportunity is here for the Small Private Non-industrial Forest Owners to practice the mangement on his forest land that is required to perpetuate the wonderful renewable resource that is our forest. *—Robert L. Demeree*

September 15, 1981

Evelyn Stock
Editor
New York Forest Owner
5756 Ike Dixon Road
Camillus, New York 13031

Dear Ms. Stock:

The September-October issue of **New York Forest Owner** contains an article on a Tug Hill Commission report dealing with forest management, and includes some comments which I am concerned might be misinterpreted by forest landowners and others. For the benefit of your readers, I wish to clarify my position regarding the removal and use of wood for fuel on Tug Hill as a forest management tool. The commission and myself do not at this time unconditionally support whole-tree harvesting and selling of wood chips for energy use. Before any such endorsement of such projects can be made, extensive analyses of potential environmental impacts and economic feasibility need to be conducted. It remains to be seen if whole tree removal, even practiced as a means to thin and improve the residual forest stand, has more benefits than drawbacks.

Environmental impacts which need to be assessed include the possible loss of site productivity resulting from the removal of whole trees (e.g., nutrients) from Tug Hill sites. Also, the supplies of wood available for long-term use without forest degradation need to be determined. The economic feasibility of removing the wood supply at a profit, when all costs are considered, and while maintaining other landowner objectives also needs to be evaluated. Because of these uncertainties, I cannot now give my unconditional support for whole tree harvesting and selling of wood chips for energy use.

The Tug Hill Commission is presently studying some of these questions in an effort to obtain sufficient information to assess the costs and benefits of whole tree harvesting for energy as a forest management tool. This information should begin to be available this Fall.

I hope this letter clarifies my position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Mark
Chairman,
Tug Hill Commission

Log grading students including Alan Scouten, forester from Lyons Falls, and J. Claude Lecours, timber harvester from Old Forge (both standing in front row near center between Burry and Niskala) learn how to grade logs from Prof. Harry W. Burry (left front) and George Niskala (holding tape to log) as yard superintendent, Ken Lawson of Boonville Division, Ethan Allen, Inc. prepares to roll log with peavey.

Log Grading Workshop

Boonville — Seventy forest industry representatives from throughout New York State participated in a Log Grading and Scaling Workshop at Boonville Division of Ethan Allen, Inc. on Saturday, September 19. The all-day training program which taught participants how to scale logs for lumber volume and evaluate hardwood logs for grade was conducted by the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in cooperation with the New York State Timber Producers Association and Ethan Allen, Inc.

Instructors for the workshop were Professor Harry W. Burry from the School of Forestry, SUNY ESF; George Niskala, Wood Processing Specialist from the USDA Forest Service in Broomall, Pennsylvania; and David W. Taber, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Wood Utilization and Marketing from Cornell University.

According to Professor Burry, the gross volume of saw timber logs needs to be reduced for such things as crook, sweep, rot, and splits. Therefore, buyers and sellers must be able to understand the principles of log scaling in order to determine accurate volumes.

George Niskala explained the USDA Forest Service's log grading procedures which statistically relate lumber recovery to log quality based on log grades #1, #2, and #3. Niskala noted that growing trees which are free from knots from branches produces logs of high value.

Cooperative Extension Specialist David Taber **explained the need to favor genetically superior trees during timber harvesting. He noted that selective cutting by definition is nothing more than high grading which reduces the quality of woodland in comparison to selection cutting which is a recognized silvicultural tool.** Taber also explained the progression of decay which occurs after a tree is wounded by having a branch broken or the bark removed by abrasion. He said that according to the USDA Forest Service's chief pathologist Dr. Alex L. Shigo, the northern hardwood trees comprised of maples, ash, beech, and birches develop a discoloration called "heartwood" due to viruses, bacteria and fungi which enter a wounded tree.

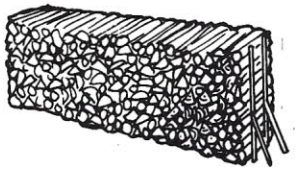
Additional forest management and timber harvesting information can be obtained from many sources including your local NYS DEC forestry office in Lowville; the School of Forestry, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210; and the Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

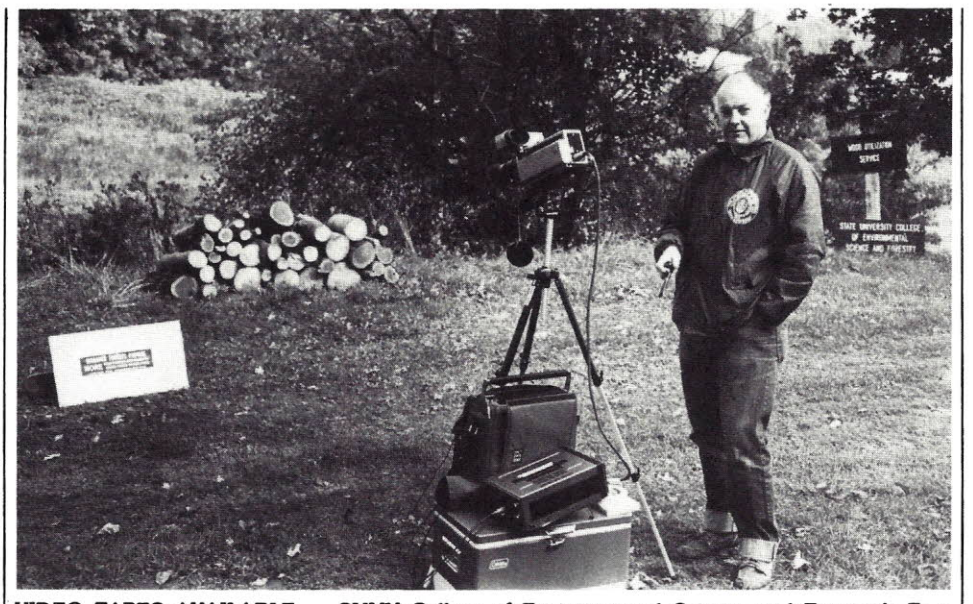
FIREWOOD SALES TAX

Firewood for residential home-heating is exempt from the **statewide** portion of the N.Y. State sales and use tax, but **county, city, and school district (locality) taxes still remain in effect.**

Seventy-three localities impose a sales tax on firewood for residential home-heating according to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance's June 10, 1981 TSB-M-80 (1.2a)S bulletin.

Therefore, businesses selling firewood must collect and remit sales tax when firewood is sold (delivered) in any of the 73 jurisdictions which include counties and towns throughout the state. If you need a list of the localities, let me know.





VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE — SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Tom Reagan of the Department of Educational Communications prepares to videotape a new "firewood harvesting" program which Dave Taber, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Wood Utilization and Marketing, is producing. The taping of "firewood harvesting" is being done at the farm and woodlot of your editor, Evelyn Stock. A loaning library of videotapes in ¾ inch color Umatic-Format on a broad range of forestry topics is being assembled by Taber; and some cassettes on such subjects as tree felling, firewood, chainsaw maintenance and filing the chain on a chainsaw are already available to be borrowed. For more information, contact David W. Taber, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210. (Tel. 315/470-6739).

November

These early November hours
That crimson the creeper's leaf across
Like a splash of blood, intense, abrupt,
O'er a shield; else gold from
rim to boss
And lay it for show on the
fairy-cupped
Elf-needled mat of moss.

—R. Browning

* * * * * * * *

The year lies dying in this evening light;
The poet musing in autumnal woods;
Hears melancholy sighs
among the withered leaves.

Not so — but like a spirit glorified
The angel of the year departs,
lays down
His robes, once green in spring
Or bright with summer's blue;

And having done his mission on
the earth,
Filling ten thousand vales with
rosy corn,
Orchards with rosy fruit,
And scattering flowers around,

He lingers for a moment in the west,
With the declining sun sheds over all
A pleasant, farewell smile
And so returns to God.

—from the German

Deer Management

Deer management is important to forest management because excessive browsing by deer herds can prevent natural regeneration of valuable hardwoods from surviving. Commonly eaten deer foods include the following timber species: **sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, oaks,** and **white ash.**

Harvesting of the deer herd has increased from 48,290 in 1971 to a high of 136,255 in 1980. The five year average for 1976—1980 amounted to 97,855 deer which included 59,432 bucks according to the DEC. But in some woodlands, new trees are prevented from becoming established because of deer browsing.

If you or the landowners with whom you deal know of excessive deer browsing on forest land, you can report the situation to the DEC. Although you may not get a reply, the DEC is interested in receiving verification of forest regeneration problems caused by deer so the DEC can develop deer management strategies.

If you wish to help document the significance of deer browsing problems, report them to **Gerald Rasmussen,** Sr. Wildlife Biologist, Big Game Unit, NYS DEC, Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, NY 12054, (tel. 518-457-4214).

—From Timber Harvester August 18

Stream Crossing Correction or Update

DEC Regional Forester **E.A. Karsch, Jr.** advised me that the Part 608.2 I quoted in the July 24, 1981 newsletter is obsolete. He also noted that it is not law but DEC Rules and Regulations.

Section 608.1 of the DEC Rules and Regulations which Karsch provided me includes the following statement:

"Banks means that land area immediately adjacent to, and which slopes toward, the bed of a watercourse, and which is necessary to maintain the integrity of a watercourse. For purposes of the Part, a bank shall not be considered to extend more than 50 feet (17 meters) horizontally from the mean high-water line."

Karsch says that loggers should check with the local DEC office before crossing any stream or stream bed to determine the classification of the watercourse. And he notes that according to the Stream Protection Unit, "there are a number of streams which are protected all the way to their source though the upper end of the stream may dry up mid to late summer."

ARTICLE 15 (Stream Protection) — For classified streams as mentioned in the July 24 letter, a stream crossing permit is needed; and as noted by Karsch, **portions of a classified stream may be dry for part of the year.**

Vandalism-Burglary

By Howard Ward

Do you have trouble with either? I do and have. I have a rough cabin at the Christmas Tree farm. (I don't live there, but eight miles away). From the time it was erected in 1960 I maintained to my partner and family that I did **not** want to lock the doors for fear that "visitors" would break the doors or windows to get in. This theory has been proven many times in many places.

A friend of mine, the Tioga County N.Y. Treasurer, had a cabin. He kept reinforcing his break-in protection with blinds, double locks, etc. to the point where it was fully secure. Because "they" couldn't get in, "they" burned it to the ground.

I bought an aluminum rowboat and chained it with a padlock to the dock on the pond. The chain was cut and the boat disappeared.

We had an old dresser and four good chairs purchased from a church which had replaced them with folding chairs. Gone. A Coleman lantern — gone. It appeared that any item worth anything disappeared. We stopped leaving valuable items in the cabin. My wife was upset because an old, huge teakettle and a Dutch oven were gone.

Shortly after all of the above happened, we learned that a gang of four to six people had been using the place as a hangout and we suspected them of taking the things to get money for drugs. One day I was called by a neighbor of the farm and advised that someone had drowned in the pond. I went to the farm to find sheriff's deputies there with wet suits and scuba gear trying to find the body. A young girl, age 16, had tried to recover the swimmer but couldn't and was giving the divers directions on where to look.

They soon recovered the body from about 12 ft. of water. The Deputy Sheriff suggested that I file a complaint of trespass against the surviving members of the group, which I did. They were fined a minimal amount and released. After that we had a minimum of problems for a couple of years.

Prior to that, we had also had problems with vandalism and littering. The refrigerator door was gashed with an axe, the dining table had a tree planting spade stuck in its top, the wood fired kitchen range had lost several of its lids (presumably as discus weights on the pond ice), several chairs had been broken, and ceiling tiles had been removed and broken. In addition to the vandalism there were frequent "messes" left consisting of dirty dishes, beer bottles, and the general mess of a party. We even encountered a family living there who left all their dirty dishes and cookery.

On two recent occasions on succeeding days, when we were at the farm early in the morning we surprised couples in bed. One gave the lame excuse that he was having car trouble. Those weren't the only occasions, either.

I should explain that the farm is at the end of a town road which then connects to a truck trail through the State Forest, which borders the farm on two sides. People can get to the cabin through the State land without being seen or heard by anyone.

Even more recently, a farm neighbor phoned me that there was to be a "pot" party at the cabin that night, Saturday. I phoned the Sheriff's office and asked that a Deputy meet me there at 8:30 P.M. I was there at 8:30, but no Deputy had arrived. I found two carloads of young people down by the cabin. I waited out of sight for awhile waiting for the Deputy. Finally, one of the cars tried to move but couldn't in the soft, wet turf. I drove down in my four wheel drive pickup and pulled them both out and onto hard driveway and sent them on their way. On the way out I met the organizer of the party in a pickup. Since the road is one lane, he had to back up to a turn off, and there I instructed him that there were to be no more parties on my farm.

That helped! It hasn't put an end to the unwanted visitors, but they are less frequent and less damaging. No trespassing and Keep Out signs get taken down.

I don't have any recommendations on how to reduce these problems other than to make visits to your farm or plantation at times when visitors might be there. We've asked the Sheriff to have his men make periodic visits, but this doesn't seem to happen, at least not at the right time.

In conclusion, don't leave anything of any value at the plantation if it's remote from your house. Make fairly frequent visits at odd hours and don't let anyone, friends included, stay there unless you are there. The pot party group told me they had permission to be there from the owner and were taken back when I told them I was the owner and had given no one permission to be there.

It's a sad commentary on present day society that these things happen!

December

A wrinkled crabbed man they
picture thee,
Old winter, with a rugged beard as grey
As the long moss upon the apple tree;
Blue-lipt, an ice drop at thy sharp
blue nose,
Close muffled up, and on thy dreary
way
Plodding along through sleet and
drifting snows.
They should have drawn thee by the
high-heapt hearth,
Old Winter! seated in thy great
armed chair;
Watching the children at their
Christmas mirth,
Or circled by them as thy lips declare
Some merry jest, or tale of murder dire,
Or troubled spirit that distrusts the night;
Pausing at times to rouse the
smouldering fire,
Or taste the old October brown
and bright.

—R. Southey

Wood Stoves

The following is an excerpt from a thirty page book entitled **Burning Wood** that was published by the **Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service.** If you are, or plan to, burn wood you will find this book a great help in having a fully safe operation. **It is available from your local Cooperative Extension office or write NRAES, Riley Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 NE-191. The price is $1.00.**

Some of the topics covered are: **Wood as a Fuel; Obtaining Fuelwood Supplies; Fuelwood Dealers; Cutting Your Own Wood; Characteristics of Wood; Seasoning Wood; Solar Wood Dryer; Storing Wood; Ash Disposal; Causes of Creosote Formation; Chimney Fires; Chimney Cleaning and Inspection; Fireplaces; Stove Types; Furnaces; Cutting Fuelwood with a Chainsaw; Axes and Splitting Wood; Burning Coal** as well as the **Stove Installation Checklist** which follows, and a list of twenty-six references such as a **Wood Stove Buyers Guide** by A.A. Barden III, 1977. Northeast Carry, 110 Water St., Hallowell, ME 04347.

Installation

Many house fires occur when stoves are improperly installed or incorrectly connected to the chimney. Before installing a stove, seek advice from the local building official or state fire marshall. As you are changing the method of heating your home it may be necessary to notify your insurance agent to maintain fire insurance coverage on your home.

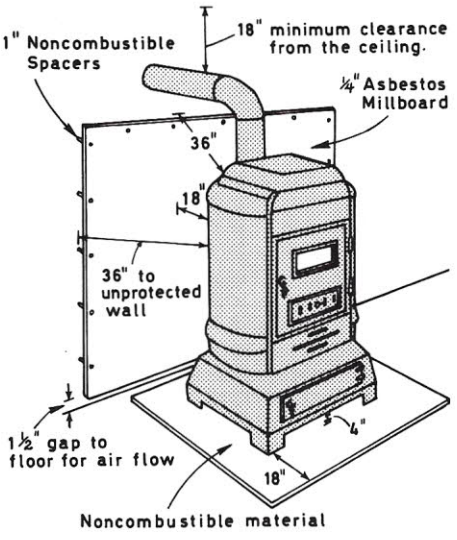
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed standards that are the basis for many local building codes. **For maximum safety locate a stove or heater at least 36" from woodwork, other combustible materials or furniture. A stove pipe should not be closer than 18 inches from the ceiling.** These distances are important because wood that is continually reheated will ignite at much lower temperatures than fresh wood. A new wall will start to burn at between 500—700°F. If this wall is continually heated and dried out over a period of time the ignition temperature can drop to 200—250°F. For this reason an improper installation becomes a time bomb.

Minimum Clearances from Combustible Walls and Ceilings*

	Stove Type		
Type of Protection	Radiant	Circulating	Stove Pipe
None	36"	12"	18"
¼" Asbestos Millboard, spaced out 1"	18"	6"	12"
28 gage sheet metal, spaced out 1"	12"	4"	9"
28 gage sheet metal on 1/8" asbestos millboard, spaced out 1"	12"	4"	9"

*From National Fire Protection Association No. 89M, 1971

Stove Clearances



Wall Protection

The recommended clearances can be reduced considerably if combustible walls and ceilings are protected with asbestos millboard or 28 gauge sheet metal spaced out 1 inch from the combustible wall. The spacers should be constructed from a non-combustible material. Provide a 1 inch air gap at the bottom of the asbestos millboard or metal panel. Air circulating behind the panel will cool the panel and the wall.

Asbestos millboard is a different material from asbestos cement board. Asbestos cement board (transite) is designed as a flame barrier; it provides little in terms of heat resistance — it will conduct heat to any combustible surface to which it is attached. Brick or stone also provide little or no protection for a combustible wall because they are good conductors of heat. To be effective, bricks must be spaced out an inch from the wall with air gaps at the top and bottom. This can be accomplished by using half bricks in the top and bottom rows.

A dry wall (gypsum wall board) over studs is considered a combustible wall. Heat is transmitted directly through the dry wall to the studs.

Floor Protection

The material used to protect the floor should extend 6 to 12 inches beyond the stove on three sides and 18 inches beyond the side where the wood is added.

All floors on which stoves are set, except concrete, must be protected from both heat of the fire and hot coals falling out when fuel is added. Metal with asbestos backing and asbestos millboard are non-combustible materials used for floor protection. Slate, brick, marble chips and colored pebbles can also be used; but, unless they are mortared in place with no gaps, metal or asbestos millboard must be installed between them and a wood floor. A two inch layer of sand or ashes, or bricks laid in the bottom of the stove help prevent overheating of combustible flooring.

Stove Installation Checklist

Before starting the first fire in your stove use this checklist to be sure that it is safely installed.

☐ 1. The stove does not have broken parts or large cracks that make it unsafe to operate.

☐ 2. A layer of sand or brick has been placed in the bottom of the firebox if suggested by the manufacturer.

☐ 3. The stove is located on a non-combustible floor or an approved floor protection material is placed under the stove.

☐ 4. The stove is spaced at least 36 inches away from combustible material. If not, fire-resistant materials are used to protect woodwork and other combustible materials.

☐ 5. Floor protection extends out 6 to 12 inches from the sides and back of the stove and 18 inches from the front where the wood is loaded.

☐ 6. Stove pipe of 22 or 24 gauge metal is used.

☐ 7. The stove pipe diameter is not reduced between the stove and the chimney flue.

☐ 8. A damper is installed in the stove pipe near the stove unless one is built into the stove.

☐ 9. The total length of stove pipe is less than 10 feet.

☐ 10. There is at least 18 inches between the top of the stove pipe and the ceiling or other combustible material.

☐ 11. The stove pipe slopes upward toward the chimney and enters the chimney higher than the outlet of the firebox.

☐ 12. The stove pipe enters the chimney horizontally through a fireclay thimble that is higher than the outlet of the stove firebox.

☐ 13. The stove pipe does not extend into the chimney flue lining.

☐ 14. The inside thimble diameter is the same size as the stove pipe for a snug fit.

☐ 15. A double walled ventilated metal thimble is used where the stove pipe goes through the interior wall.

☐ 16. The stove pipe does not pass through a floor, closet, concealed space or enter the chimney in the attic.

☐ 17. A UL approved ALL FUEL metal chimney is used where a masonry chimney is not available or practical.

☐ 18. The chimney is in good repair.

☐ 19. The chimney flue is not blocked.

☐ 20. The chimney flue lining and the stove pipe are clean.

☐ 21. A metal container with tight fitting lid is available for ash disposal.

☐ 22. The building official or fire inspector has approved the installation.

☐ 23. The company insuring the building has been notified of the installation.

Wood Stoves, *continued*

1. If no thimble is used the stove pipe must be securely fastened to the chimney with a high temperature cement. Combustible material within 18" of the pipe must be removed. For a 6" diameter pipe, this requires a 6" + 2 × 18" = 42" diameter hole in a combustible wall. The hole may be closed in or covered with non-combustible materials such as masonry, asbestos millboard, or sheet metal.

2. Use a metal thimble or a burned fireclay thimble and surround it with at least 8" of fireproofing material such as fiberglass insulation or brick. Cover the opening with non-combustible materials such as asbestos millboard or metal. A small gap should be left between the thimble and the covering material to allow either the house or chimney to settle slightly and not crack the thimble. The gap can be covered with a stove pipe flange.

3. Install an insulated ALL FUEL chimney pipe as a thimble. Then only a 2" clearance between the chimney and combustible materials is required. Cover the gap between the wall and the stove pipe with a stove pipe flange.

Two or More Connections to One Chimney

National Fire Protection Association Standards state that a stove chimney connector is not permitted to be connected to a flue serving a fireplace — a fireplace must have its own individual flue. Franklin stoves have an open front and should be treated as fireplaces in this respect.

Wood stoves should not be connected to the same flue as a gas or oil fueled furnace for three reasons. First, each time the furnace shuts off a small amount of unburned fuel enters the chimney. A spark from the wood stove could ignite the gas and cause a small explosion. Second, the chimney is often not large enough for proper operation of the two heaters. Third, gases from one unit may come into the house through the other unit so that dangerous fumes may accumulate in the house.

If two or more stoves, such as a room heater and a cook stove, are connected to the same chimney flue, despite the recommendations against doing so, the connections must enter the chimney 18" to 3' apart with the principal stove connected to the upper opening. A common flue must, of course, be of sufficient size to provide an adequate draft for all the stoves connected to it.

Chimney Caps

A chimney cap is sometimes used to help prevent down drafts where the chimney's top is subject to wind turbulence caused by roof shape, trees, terrain, or other buildings and to keep out rain and snow. Any cap adds resistance to the system and reduces the draft. Mechanical turbines, revolving ventilators and other mechanical devices are subject to failure from creosote buildup and weather. Often the disadvantages outweigh advantages and caps are not used.

If a cap is necessary, a removable flat disk cap is simple and slows gas flow very little.

Chimney Height

A chimney should extend at least three feet above flat roofs. On pitched roofs, chimneys should be two feet higher than any point within ten feet, to prevent down drafts caused by wind being deflected from the roof.

The flue lining of a masonry chimney is extended four inches above the top course of brick or stone and the top of the chimney capped with cement mortar. The mortar is two inches thick at the outside edges of the chimney and sloped up to the flue lining to direct air currents upward at the top of the flue and to drain water from the top of the chimney.

Smoky Fires

One of the most common problems of wood stove installations is smoky fires. Smoke may come into the room through the openings in the stove or the fire may not burn properly because it lacks an adequate draft. Six main causes and cures are:

(1) **Wet wood.** Green or wet firewood causes smoke problems as much of the heat of the fire is used to dry the wood. The cure is to keep a hot fire going and to use seasoned dry wood. If green or wet wood must be burned, split it finer and mix it with dry wood. Soft wood may cause smoky fires because of the resin in the wood.

(2) **Flue too small.** The stove pipe and chimney flue must be large enough to carry the smoke and gases outside. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for stove pipe size. Do not reduce the pipe size between the stove and chimney connection. An 8" x 8" or 8" x 12" chimney flue is usually the minimum size for a chimney. If two wood stoves are connected to one chimney, a larger flue may be needed.

(3) **Flue too large.** Many older houses have a large central chimney with several fireplaces and flue openings. If this chimney is used with only one stove or heater there may not be adequate draft to keep the column of smoke rising. By reducing the cross sectional area of the top of the chimney or installing a stove pipe through the center of the flue, the smoke problem should be solved.

(4) **Obstructed flue.** Often stove pipes or flues become partially filled with soot and creosote, especially with small or slow fires. Cure this problem by checking flues and stove pipes once a month during the heating season and clean them when a buildup starts to occur.

(5) **Downdrafts.** Nearby trees, buildings or roof projections often cause downdrafts during windy periods. Raising the height of the chimney, removing the obstruction or placing a cap on the chimney may correct the problem.

(6) **Lack of oxygen.** A fire needs oxygen to burn properly. In a tight, well insulated house, infiltration has been reduced to a minimum. This lack of air can sometimes cause smoke to be pulled back into the house through an adjacent flue. . . . .

New Members . . . . . .

Richard Ganz
RD#1, Box 94
Bernhards Bay, NY 13028

Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Hazard
RD#1
Tully, NY 13159

Charles W. Higgerson
The Evergreen Farm
Clinton, NY 13323

Mary Ann James
8156 Thompson Rd.
Holland Patent, NY 13354

Mrs. Sally Johnson
Whallons Bay Rd.
Essex, NY 12936

Frank E. Keim
P.O. Box 671
Candor, NY 13743

Peggy Kells & Allan Goodman
RD#1, Box 357
Keeseville, NY 12944

Jan Klapetzky
7348 E. Townline Rd.
Williamson, NY 14589

Caroline & Martin Liquori
RD#3, Rte. 11
Lafayette, NY 13084

Orin B. MacMurray
RD#1, Dixon Rd.
Camden, NY 13316

Sharon A. Moon
Box 205D, RD#1
Westerlo, NY 12193

Fred Palmer
3072 Ridge Rd.
Williamson, NY 14589

John S. Patane
222 Prospect St.
Canastota, NY 13032

Alec C. Proskine
9370 Congress Rd.
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Mrs. Anne Prouty
USDA-ASCS
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Canton, NY 13617

William M. Roden
Trout Lake
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John Van Cladel
193 McKay Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Karl VonBerg
Rochester Museum
657 East Ave., Box 1480
Rochester, NY 14603

Horst G. Weitzel
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Jamesville, NY 13078

Peter W. Zubak
RD#2
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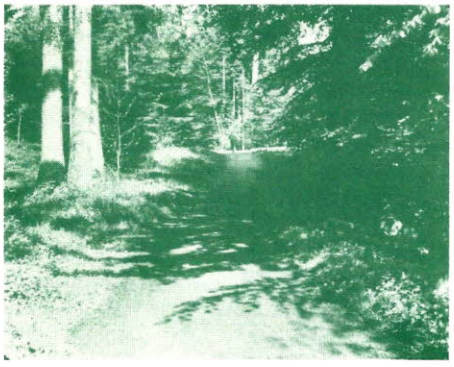

The Saga Of My Woodland

By Evelyn Stock

We had long felt the urge to live in the country so that our six children could grow up with plenty of space and we could be more self sufficient, growing our own food, raising some cows and chickens, having our own water supply and using the trees in our own woods for fuel.

In 1946 we finally found a rundown 85 acre farm, about ten miles from Syracuse. It had a twelve room house with no plumbing, a dilapidated barn, a 10 acre woodlot and the rest was weeds.

We soon found that there was a great deal of hard work and expense involved in raising all that "free" food. As nearly everyone had already changed from coal or wood to oil, wood stoves were hard to find. But we finally found a firm in Massachusetts that had wood burning, forced air furnaces. From then on for 15 years the wood from our woodlot provided all of our fuel. We had spent every weekend cutting wood so that when the furnace rusted we changed to oil.

About five years ago, the spiralling price of oil made us decide to use wood again. By this time I belonged to the NYFOA, (having always loved the woods,) and had heard of the **Timber Stand Improvement program (TSI) which was administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests.** I had been on woods walks in several forests where the benefits of culling had been demonstrated. The DEC sent a forester who marked the trees, five acres in two successive years. They were cut on a cost sharing basis, with the government paying a certain percent of the cost. The culls from these cuttings kept three houses warm for two or three years. (By now my son and a daughter had houses and stoves on the farm).

During the years between 1946 and 1969 the woods were "logged off," probably netting altogether about $4000. We also made enough lumber from the trees in the woodlot to remodel my mother's house.

Bob Demeree, of the DEC, and Al Roberts, a consulting forester, tell me that although there are now many marketable trees, in another four years the market may be better and the trees will have added growth and market value.

In 1947, we started to plant evergreens on the steep hillside near the hardwoods. Each year for awhile we planted a thousand scotch, white, and red pine. We did not make a business of selling Christmas trees, however, our numerous relatives, the children's schoolrooms, the church and neighbors all had free trees for years.

The red pine have nearly all died and never did grow very well. The forester says the soil is not right for red pine.

The remaining trees are 20-30 feet tall, and my son has built a two story log house in the middle of them.

The market for scotch and white pine is nonexistent I hear. However, if the pines never are salable, they are lovely to walk through, and make a good nurse crop for the hardwoods that have come in. Nothing grew on that hillside before we planted the evergreens, but now there are a great many sugar maples and white ash growing there which are already 15-20 feet high, although probably only six inches or so in diameter.

The trees in the hardwood stand are a mixed lot of maple, cherry, ash, and basswood.

The DEC forester has continued to mark the trees each year for firewood. This planned cutting lets in sunlight and air, and the trees with greater potential are able to obtain more nutrients from the soil.

As for the economics of my firewood, during the winter of 1980-81, I burned 12 face cords of wood. Neighbor boys helped me with the cutting, splitting and stacking. The labor involved cost me $26.50 a face cord.

Dave Taber, the Wood Utilization Specialist from S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry feels that he can relate to some of the forest owner's and logger's problems better if he himself gets in the woods with a chain saw. My woods are fairly close to his office for this, so he uses my trees to practice on.

Dave and Tom Reagan have produced a new videotaped program on "firewood harvesting" in my woods (another use for them). More on this elsewhere in this issue.

In the spring there is nearly every type of spring flower in the woods. The deer and birds are there all year long. In the fall the leaves are a panorama of color, and for future generations beautiful, well shaped trees will be there to enjoy and use.