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New York

Forest Owner



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March-April, 1982

Vol. 20, No. 2

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION



In This Issue

- P. 2** New Members, Officers, Front cover
- P. 3** Minutes of the 128th Board Meeting; Notes from the NYFOA President
- P. 4** How Does Your Forest Grow, by Al Roberts; Medical Profession
- P. 5** What Makes You Tick, A Study... Landowner Motivation, W.M. Ferretti
- P. 6** New York Forest Owners Trans-Canadian Tour, by Alan Knight
- P. 7** Annual Meeting; Forest Bookshelf
- P. 8-9** Gilead Tree Farm, by Paul Steinfeld
- P. 9** In Memoriam, Alfred Najer
- P. 10** Energy Project Probes. Causes of Wood and Coal Stove Accidents, by J. Lassoie
- P. 11** SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Conference and Short Course Calendar; Forest Land Manager's Information Exchange; Live Feed Show; NYFOA Calendar
- P. 12** CHIN UP WEARY WOODSMAN! by Rick Marsi; New Members, continued.

Front Cover

Bloodroot: found in the woods on a spring walk. Photo by Evelyn Stock.

Welcome Our New Members

- Ronald Bennett**
1870 Strong Rd.
Victor, NY 14564
- Donald Blernaster**
R-1 Box 605
Gowanda, NY 14070
- Timothy J. Brudz**
Fox Track Rd.
Bridgeport, NY 13030
- George R. Cataldo**
Box 143
Glenfield, NY 13343
- Mr. & Mrs. Delmar Feathers**
92 Cranston Hill Rd.
Stephentown, NY 12168
- Kenneth Feathers**
92 Cranston Hill Rd.
Stephentown, NY 12168
- Fred Hartman**
100 Beekman St.
New York, NY 10038
- Walter S. Hayes**
4 South Court
Scotia, NY 12302
- Ray McMullen**
10383 Prospect Rd.
Forestville, NY 14062
- Charles A. Miess**
9808 Crump Rd.
Glenwood, NY 14069
- David L. Naetzker**
RD#2, Box 53
Ashville, NY 14710
- Bryan W. Nicholson**
RD#3, Box 159A
Corning, NY 14830

Published by the
NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS
Association

OFFICERS

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4 Northway Drive
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J. Lewis DuMond
9 Grand St.
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Membership Secretary
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P.O. Box 69
Old Forge, NY 13420

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

Continued

MINUTES of the 128th Board Meeting

The meeting of the NYFOA board of directors was held in the Department of Environmental Conservation office in Cortland, January 7, 1982. Robert Edmonds, President, presided.

Those present were Gordon Conklin, Lewis DuMond, David Hanaburgh, Emiel Palmer, Evelyn Stock, Lloyd Strombeck, Peter Levatish, Robert Demeree, Robert Edmonds, Richard Lea, Al Roberts, Paul Steinfeld, and Howard Ward.

The following were excused: James Lassoie, Stuart McCarty, Robert Morrow, Mary McCarty, and George Mitchell.

The minutes of the 127th meeting were approved. Richard Lea, Assistant Treasurer, reported having received a check for \$250 from Cotton-Hanlon. President Edmonds will write thanking them.

An advertisement in the American Agriculturist was discussed. The purpose of the advertisement was to solicit new members.

Gordon Conklin, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that the work on nominations for the spring meeting was proceeding well. David Hanaburgh, Emiel Palmer, Gordon Conklin and Robert Edmonds were appointed to the nominating committee as officers for the coming year.

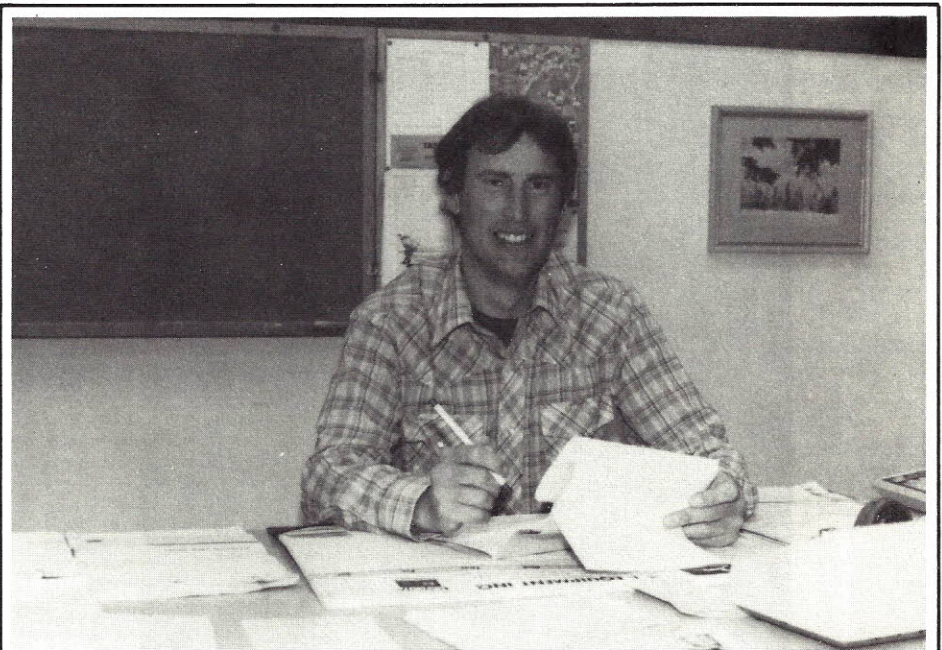
Robert Demeree, chairman, reported that the Spring Meeting will be April 17th, 1982 at the Rockefeller Plaza, in Albany. The registration will be \$12.50 and the theme will be "Know Your D.E.C." Richard Lea reported that the Fall meeting will be at the Pack Forest in Warrensburg, New York and the date will be September 17-18.

The next Board meeting will be Saturday, February 27, 1982 at 10:00 a.m. in the D.E.C. office in Cortland, New York.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. Respectfully submitted by J. Lewis DuMond, Secretary.

Board Member Resigns

It was with deep regret that the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Fred Umholtz, one of its members. Fred had been an enthusiastic supporter of the New York Forest Owners Association.



NOTES FROM THE NYFOA PRESIDENT

The Tree Farmer receives publications from the American Forest Institute, such as **Tree Farm News** and **Green America**, as well as the **New York State Tree Farmer**. These are mailed at no cost to the recipient. The certified Tree Farmer also receives at no cost the large Tree Farm sign to display on the property for the world to see that forest owner cares about the forest and practices good forest management.

From what I have observed, being active in both the N.Y.F.O.A. and the Tree Farm program, if one is an interested member of one, he or she would be an interested member of the other. I would personally recommend both programs for the forest owner in New York State to round out his woodland activities.

If you are not a certified Tree Farmer, and own 10 acres or more of forest land in New York State, I would urge you to write Mr. H. W. Milliken, Chairman of the New York Tree Farm Committee, Finch, Pruyn and Company, 1 Glen Street, Glens Falls, New York 12801.

As a Tree Farmer and a N.Y.F.O.A. member, you'd be a proud part of TWO GROWING ORGANIZATIONS!

The Tree Farm program and the New York Forest Owners Association go hand in hand in New York State.

No dues. No meetings. What a strange kind of organization the Tree Farmers have!

The Tree Farm system was started 40 years ago to promote good forest management on privately owned, tax paying forest properties. Now it is active in all 50 states, and is especially active in New York State. It is sponsored nationally by the American Forest Institute, Washington, D.C.

When the diamond shaped green Tree Farm sign is placed on a piece of forest land, it is identical to a merit badge being placed on the chest of the forest owner. Becoming a certified Tree Farmer is not automatic. A forest owner must have a management plan and practice good forest management. A volunteer forester will visit the property and will talk with the woodland owner. He will make an inspection and, if the management property meets the goals of Tree Farm ideals, the forester will recommend that the property be certified as a Tree Farm.



How Does Your Forest Grow?

By Al Roberts

Do you know how fast the trees in your woods are growing and how fast they are producing wood for you? **Would you like to know?** In my case the answer to the first question was no and to the second question, yes. So I set up some growth plots in our woods, and I've recently taken the fifth year measurement, and I'd like to tell you what I found out.

In the fall of 1976 I measured out quarter acre plots, three of them, and painted numbers on all the trees in the plots. I measured the diameters of all the trees and recorded them by species. I could then look up their volumes in cords according to a volume table which gives the volume by diameter and average height. I remeasured the trees in the Fall of 1981. During the five year period the woods in which the plots are located was thinned...the plots right along with it.

This is what I found out. 95% of the trees are sugar maple and the remainder are cherry. The average diameter of all the trees was 10.5 inches, and although all the trees are about the same age they vary in size (dominants and co-dominants) from seven inches, to a cherry which is 16.8 inches. The few cherries in the stand average 15 inches. The stand in 1981 has 120 trees per acre for a total volume of 20.8 cords per acre. **The growth for the five year**

period was 4.6 cords per acre, or a little over 9/10ths of a cord per year. Diameter growth turned out to be, in general terms, about one inch in five years for the better hard maple, and two inches for the black cherry.

For comparison I checked with Dave Riordan, a DEC forester who owns some woods near Cortland and his came out to be a little over 8/10ths of a cord per acre per year. Dave says that on State land it runs about half that. This can be expected as the state bought mostly run-down hilltop farms, the poorest in the State.

Growth plots are an important management tool on larger, well regulated forest properties as they help determine how much timber can be cut over a period of time. In my case it was more curiosity, but not entirely. Since I'm 64 years old I wondered if any of my trees would be of harvestable size in my expected lifetime. I found that by the time I'm 75 I will have some cherry trees 18" to 20" in diameter, and big enough to cut. (They would pass the hug test). On the other hand, hardly any of the maple trees will be big enough. Too bad. However, if I cut half of our growth in thinnings for firewood we can cut 45 standard cords a year off our 100 acres. That's too bad too, as the 45 cords have a stumpage value of \$450 and the taxes are \$650 (to say nothing of the interest

on the investment).

The other half of the growth gradually accumulates on the better trees and at about 85 years of age (40 more years for our woods) they will be cut for sawtimber. When I measure my plots in another five years I will be able to look into the future a little better because as the size of the trees gets bigger, the number of trees per acre gets smaller and the ratio of sawtimber to firewood trees as well as the growth characteristics change. But I would expect there would be at least 600,000 board feet of sawtimber worth at least \$120,000 at today's prices. Unfortunately, I will be 104.

How can you use all this information? You will have to try to make a judgment about the quality of the site in your woods, and compare the site, and the species with our woods. Also, our woods is kept well thinned for maximum growth on the better trees. You can get a pretty good idea of the site quality by just looking around. Other things being equal, a North or East exposure is better than a South or West exposure. Woods where the land has never been plowed is better than where all the nutrients have been farmed out. A well drained soil is better than a soggy one. A deep soil is better than where the hard pan or bedrock is near the surface (18" or less). A good site has trees that just look nicer, tall and slender rather than stubby, with a sharp taper. Our site is an East slope, has never been plowed, is well drained and has a deep soil. The trees, to me, look beautiful.

Perhaps the most important thing for you if you are going to be able to cut a lot of timber from your woods is to be a lot younger than I am.



Medical Profession

A nurse in the maternity ward asked a young medical student why he was so enthusiastic about obstetrics. He said sheepishly, "When I was on medical rotation I suffered from heart attacks, asthma and itch. In surgery I was sure I had ulcers. In the psychiatric ward I thought I was losing my mind. Now, in obstetrics I can relax."

"What Makes You Tick?" A Study of Forest Landowner Motivation

By William M. Ferretti

Consider the following:*

Projections

—By the year 2000, national demand for hardwood sawtimber and roundwood is expected to increase by approximately 82% over 1976 levels.

—By the year 2000, the north central and northeastern regions of the U.S. are expected to account for 38% of the hardwood sawtimber and roundwood supplies.

Constraints

—70% of the north central and northeastern forestlands capable of producing timber crops are owned by non-industrial private forest landowners.

—Studies have shown that perhaps as little as 10% of that nonindustrial private forestland is actually managed for timber production.

—53% of the nation's population resides in the north central and northeastern regions, creating heavy demand for land uses other than timber production.

Given such constraints, can the northeastern and north central states be expected to increase the amount of land dedicated to timber production, enough to meet their share of the projected supply and demand? Can such an increase be accomplished in a manner that is respectful of the rights of private landownership, is equitable to landowners, and is environmentally sound? Agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service believe that the answer to both questions is "yes!"

One mechanism for fulfilling those future needs is the bolstering of government assistance to landowners, assistance that may take the form of technical advice or economic and legislative incentives. To that end, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, has undertaken a unique research project.

The focus of the project is the nonindustrial private forest landowner and the factors that influence his/her forest management activity (or inactivity). In essence, we would like to find out what makes you tick. It is our belief that effective assistance to landowners can only



be provided once we have obtained a clear understanding of the landowner decision-making process.

Specifically, the research has three objectives. First, we wish to identify the subjective criteria that individuals use in making forest management decisions. "Subjective" refers to an individual's beliefs, attitudes, and intentions regarding forest management. The second objective is to identify those institutional mechanisms (eg. market, legal, or educational) that encourage or impede landowners in making management decisions. Finally, the research will analyze existing forestry promotion and assistance programs by soliciting landowner opinions regarding those programs.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this research are landowners such as yourselves. The information gained from this project is expected to guide public officials in formulating programs and legislation that accurately address your concerns and goals regarding your woodlands.

Members of the New York Forest Owners Association, as well as other forest landowners across New York State, are being asked to participate in the project. The first step is your cooperation in completing the questionnaire enclosed in this month's **Forest Owner**. The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain your perceptions of a variety of forest management activities. This information will be incorporated into landowner interviews that will be conducted later this Spring. The inter-

views are the core of the research as they will delve into the factors that motivate landowners to manage or not manage their woodlands.

Your completion and return of the enclosed questionnaire will be appreciated. For further information on this project contact:

William M. Ferretti,
Research Assistant
343 Bray Hall
SUNY College of Environmental
Science & Forestry
Syracuse, NY 13210

*Data source: USDA, Forest Service, 1981. *An Analysis of the Timber Situation in the United States, 1952-2030*. Draft.

"What Makes You Tick?" Questionnaire

Consider the following management activities:

- planting trees
- harvesting for commercial purposes
- harvesting for firewood
- stand improvement
- insect & disease control
- wildlife habitat improvement
- recreational development

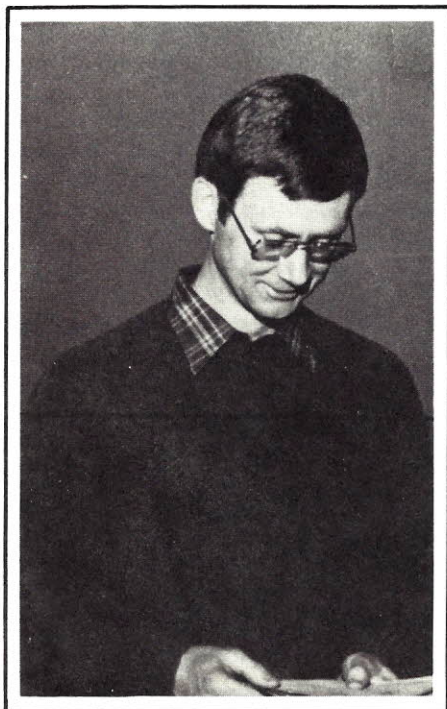
1. List as many distinctive features of each activity as possible. (Example format: Harvesting for firewood is characterized by)

2. List as many consequences of performing each activity as you can. (Example format: Stand improvement results in)

3. Assume that you are going to perform each of the activities noted on the previous page. List some goals that you might set for each activity. (Example format: My goals for planting trees are)

Please return completed questionnaire to:

William M. Ferretti,
Research Assistant
323 Bray Hall
SUNY College of Environmental
Science & Forestry
Syracuse, NY 13210



Alan Knight, Assistant Editor of the *American Agriculturist* and our tour guide.

Come Visit Canadian Forest Owners

The New York Forest Owners Association invites you to join them for a memorable 2-week train trip across Canada. Convening in late July in Toronto, the group will visit privately-owned woodlots and Christmas tree plantations in Ontario before taking the trans-Canadian train west. Next we'll stop to visit farmers actively involved in their northern Saskatchewan woods.

We'll visit Banff and the Canadian Rockies for a couple of days before visiting the large industry-owned forests of Victoria, British Columbia. The tour ends in Seattle just in time for the national convention of Christmas tree growers, where we have 30 rooms reserved.

NYFOA has successfully conducted similar forest-owner tours to Scandinavia and the Alpine countries.

Contact Alan Knight, 257 Owego Street, Candor, New York 13743 (telephone 607-659-5275) for details and names of previous participants for your reference.



New York Forest Owners Association TRANS-CANADIAN TOUR ITINERARY

As of December 14, 1981

Wednesday, July 28, 1982. Convene in Toronto. Evening briefing and get acquainted gathering at Royal York Hotel, right in the heart of downtown. Overnight there.

Thursday, July 29. Private bus takes us to visit forestland owners north of Toronto. We expect to visit producers of fuelwood, Christmas trees and maple syrup.

We'll probably have time to poke around Toronto shops in the afternoon and evening before going to bed on board a Winnipeg-bound train.

Friday, July 30. A day for a game of scrabble, writing postcards, reading "Murder on the Orient Express," or watching the world go by as your train roars on to Winnipeg. Overnight on board.

Saturday, July 31. Arrive in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at 10 a.m., change trains and depart at 11 for Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Arrive there at 10:15 p.m. and spend the night at the Sheraton Cavalier.

Sunday, August 1. Early departure. Private bus takes us 3½-4 hours north to visit forestland owners near Prince Albert and Nipawin. Farmers here grow grains, nursery stock, and seed for hay crops. One has his own sawmill and produces planed lumber from his 2,300-acre farm, "the last farm," he says, "from here to the North Pole."

Overnight in Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Monday, August 2. Private bus takes us a bit south to visit a forestland owner or two on the northern edge of the prairies, then back to Saskatoon to the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel.

Tuesday, August 3. Catch an 8 a.m. train to Regina, Saskatchewan where you'll have a day to explore the provincial capital on your own. Catch a 10:15 p.m. train for a hard-earned sleep.

Wednesday, August 4. Arrive in spectacular Banff, Alberta, seat of one of the most beautiful, mountainous national parks in the world. A bus will meet the train at its noon arrival and take us for an afternoon of guided sightseeing. Then, it's up into an alpine meadow to Sunshine Village, a fully equipped resort (horseback riding, hiking, white water rafting, pool, sauna) for

a good night's rest. All meals here are included.

Thursday, August 5. A free day to hike, climb, walk, ride, tour, sleep, write or drink it all in. Transportation for private jaunts available.

Overnight at Sunshine Village. All meals included.

Friday, August 6. Pack up and head back down to Banff, but take your time. Train leaves at 12:50 p.m.

Overnight on board the train.

Saturday, August 7. Arrive in Vancouver at 7 a.m. A guided-tour bus will meet us at the station and show us the sights of Vancouver. In late afternoon we (and the bus) will ferry across to Victoria, that most-British of Canadian tours, and take us to our hotels. We'll be split between the Empress and Delta's Laurel Point Inn.

Sunday, August 8. In the morning a bus will take us out into the forests of Victoria Island to visit a demonstration forest and company-owned forest operations. Small, private forest operations like those of our own northeast are rare here.

Overnight in your Victoria hotel.

Monday, August 9. Practically all day free for shopping and individual sightseeing in Victoria.

5 p.m. the Princess Margaret takes us from Victoria on a 4-hour cruise to Seattle, where you'll be taxied to your hotel.

Either the Washington Plaza or Mayflower Park.

Tuesday, August 10. Now you're on your own! You can either take part in the 4-day national convention of Christmas tree growers or fly to Alaska or home.

TRANS-CANADIAN TOUR DETAILS

(As established December 17, 1981. There will almost certainly be some refinements and small changes in coming months.)

- **Accommodations:** two people per room in high quality hotels. Singles are welcome (and have happily participated in previous trips) and will pay more for overnight accommodations.

You probably will be able to choose from 3 categories of sleeping quarters on the train and your price will reflect your choice.

- **Meals** are not included except at Sunshine Village, Banff. All meals are included there.

• **Price increases** will be avoided if humanly possible. I've tried to anticipate them in the price quoted here. But if they do occur it will be largely because of the necessity of spreading the cost of private tour buses across, say, twenty people instead of thirty.

• **Air fare home** is not included in this price, nor is the cost of getting to Toronto to join the tour. Competitive one-way air fares from Seattle quoted to me today were:

To NYC — \$248/person

To Boston — \$225

(TWA has a special for \$195)

To Toronto — \$304

(TWA at 284 or 253,

depending on routing)

• **Price** per person is quoted here in American dollars, not Canadian.

• **Individual side trips** to visit Aunt Susie in Calgary, etc. are fine and even encouraged, but it's up to you to figure out how to rejoin the tour. I'll be happy to help you pull it off. Some folks really like to do this.

• **Refunds:** You can get a complete refund up until June 1, 1982. After that you'd get back all but 10% of your payment.

• **Deadline:** If you'd like to go, please send me a \$250 deposit per person (check payable to NYFOA) by April 15, 1982. Full payment is due on or by July 1, 1982.

1982

ANNUAL MEETING

The 1982 Annual Meeting will be held April 17 at the Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York. The theme of this meeting will be "Knowing Your DEC." While the final agenda is not completely set, we will be hearing from officials from the Divisions of Lands and Forests and Fish and Wildlife. The New York State Forester, Norman VanValkenburgh, and New York State's Chief Forester, Dan Weller, will be addressing us; and strong indications are that Commissioner Flacke will be available, as well as Assistant Commissioner Herb Doig, along with a representative from Fish and Wildlife. These people will be addressing us on New York State DEC's goals and procedures in the area of land resource management.

As usual, our Annual Meeting will start with registration and coffee from 9:00 to 10:00. We will have our business meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 and a speaker, or speakers, from 11:00 to 12:00. We will then have lunch and our awards ceremony. From 1:30 to 3:00 we will again be hearing from more DEC speakers.

This should be a very interesting meeting, offering a chance to you, our

members, to become informed on DEC's activities and hopefully have questions answered.

Empire State Plaza is an absolutely beautiful place to hold a meeting, with ample parking and convenient hotel accommodations close by for those who plan to stay overnight. There is much to see and do in the Albany area. The New York State Museum is adjacent to the Conference Center and will be open.

An agenda and registration forms for the meeting will be sent at a later date to the membership. A map and directions will accompany this information, along with a list of hotels convenient to the Plaza. The registration fee will be \$12.50 which will include coffee and lunch.

Remember, this is April 17 — keep this date open. If you have any questions about the meeting before you get your registration information, feel free to contact me. See you in Albany!

Program Chairman

Robert L. Demeree

4 Northway Drive

Cortland, NY 13045

Home: (607) 753-0497

Office: (607) 753-3095

Please reserve _____ places on the NY Forest Owners Assoc. Trans-
(No.)
Canadian Tour, July 28-August 9, 1982.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Our (my) choice for sleeping accommodations on the train is:

___ To sleep in coach chair (like an airline) \$ 902

___ A "Section" (fold-out bunk beds) \$1,125

___ A "bedroom" (beds plus sink, toilet, small closet) \$1,210

___ A "roomette" (like a bedroom but for one person only) \$1,632

(Also means single accommodations in hotels)

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SEND TO: ALAN R. KNIGHT, 257 Owego Street, Candor, NY 13743
by April 15, 1982

FOREST Bookshelf

"The Timber Owner and His Federal Income Tax," Agricultural Handbook #274, USDA Forest Service. \$1.40. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C.





Gilead Tree Farm

Halcott Center, New York

GILEAD TREE FARM— A Twenty-Three Year Perspective

By Paul Steinfeld

The November, 1965 issue of **Forest Owner** contained my first description of Gilead Tree Farm, its special personal significance, management goals, and forestry activities. It's time to update the story of our adventure with 194 hilly acres of forest, old pastures, and meadows.

About a year ago we retired and moved to full-time residence here in the town of Halcott, Greene County. For 22 years before this, we commuted to Gilead weekends and holidays. Our gratitude for this opportunity of full-time residence in our forest-farm is accompanied by awe, reverence, and desire to make the most of this opportunity. We continue to rely on NYFOA to help realize that desire. Our spring and fall meetings, woods walks, **Forest Owner**, and informal guidance from fellow members are deeply appreciated.

Our 127 acres of northern hardwoods have been roughly estimated as containing 2 MBF (thousand board feet) per acre of merchantable saw timber. We have waited for this period of our lives for the second harvest of our saw timber, but find ourselves in no rush. We keep exploring the possibilities of specialized markets and specialized activities with friends and neighbors to

enhance the values of our saw logs.

I refer to "values" in the plural, since we think not only of immediate personal income, but also of possible ways to enrich the lives of neighbors and friends along with our own. We've thought about a local wood-using industry, about special pieces of wood for sculptors and craftsmen, about developing our own skills in woodworking. All of this is very tentative, but we are discovering the talents and interests of our neighbors.

Probably the best use of our sabbath is to enhance the productivity of one neighbor who knows more about maple-syrup production than we could ever learn. It would seem mutually advantageous to aid his efforts, rather than attempt to go it alone.

Last month we found that helping an absentee neighbor market his Christmas trees brought a new market for our own trees, wreaths, and firewood. We begin to see possibilities for marketing our saw timber and other forest products in both conventional and unconventional ways.

Wood for fuel has modified our practice of timber stand improvement. Formerly, we used to poison cull hardwoods and let them decay. Most recently, 10 acres were thinned by felling, bucking into 4-foot lengths, and stack-

ing a quantity at roadside. We use seasoned hardwood to heat our home, and are also learning to market firewood. We have bartered a share of the firewood stumpage for the labor of felling, bucking, and stacking this renewable source of fuel. Cull removal will probably continue indefinitely as a major activity.

In 1973, the DEC forester cruised 3 separate hardwood stands. He estimated 50% culls in one 40-acre stand, 30% culls in a 30-acre stand, and 13% culls in a 15-acre stand. Demand for firewood appears to offer the major economic incentive for cull removal, especially since prospects for ASC (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program of US Department of Agriculture) cost-sharing diminish. Currently, the local hospital plans a wood-gasification heating unit.

We've planted about 21 acres of old pasture with Scotch pine, red pine, Austrian pine, larch, and a few white spruce and Colorado blue spruce. We've tried balsam and other firs with no success. Hindsight tells us that we should have planted fewer evergreens, because we could not find time to shear many of those intended as Christmas trees, and because soft and hard maple were soon competing with them. Nature would have filled the old pastures with no help from us.

Yet we did raise and sell several hundred Scotch pine and some spruce as Christmas trees, and we did find a special market for evergreens not suitable for Christmas trees. We sold several tons of green boughs for thatching of the traditional booths, or "Sukkot", erected by observant Jews as part of the Tabernacles festival in the early fall. Now, with more time for management, we continue to plant seedlings, mainly Colorado blue spruce, for Christmas trees. The red pine and larch are reaching pole size, and with continued thinning should soon be marketable as log cabin material.

Construction of a gazebo over the pond outlet was one of the dividends of thinning some 6-inch diameter larch poles. This project helped forge a great friendship with one of our neighbors. The gazebo is an eye catcher in every season, but when decorated as our family "Sukka" it's breathtaking.

Our 1/2-acre fish pond's gravelly bottom would not hold water for some

years. Harrowing tons of bentonite into the coarse gravel failed. Ultimately, 40 truckloads of clay soil, hauled from 15 miles away, sealed the pond. We say the pond was sealed with dollars, at a time when the dollar held water. But the investment has paid fantastic dividends. Aside from its potential for firefighting, the water outside our windows is a mirror for every nuance of weather, sunlight, and moonlight. Aquatic plant and animal life have attracted sandpipers and waterfowl. Our visitors and we enjoy swimming and fishing. Twice so far we have stocked brook and rainbow trout, which have thrived on natural food. Unfortunately, the trout are very hard to catch after their first two years of rapid growth. They prefer the pond bottom and refuse every offering from hook and line. The fish pond has not provided as much food for the table as anticipated. We should learn more about fish farming — especially harvesting.

The deer harvest has been much more successful, yielding income from hunters who come regularly, and also contribute to nature's balance by helping slow down that "collision course" between deer population and forest growth. We recall the excellent exposition of this problem at last fall's meeting at the Arnot demonstration forest. Our experience poses this question for anti-hunters: How come the best and most experienced hunters we meet are also among the kindest and most humane people? This winter we've seen more wild turkey than ever before. Flocks of 5 to 15, young and old, have come down to the roadsides. We wonder how much they compete with deer for food in a year without the usual abundance of wild and domestic apples.

Apple-grafting, taught by one experienced neighbor, has yielded outstanding fruit without the use of chemical sprays. Pruning is our sole cultural activity after grafting scions of native varieties: gravenstein, yellow transparents, northern spy, strawberry. These are grafted onto stocks of the many wild trees growing at the edges of meadows and pastures.

About ten acres of meadow are kept in hay for use of one of the few dairy farmers remaining in Halcott. For a few years he had lost interest in our hay, and during that interval we practiced strip mowing with ASC cost-sharing. But now the cost of cattle feed has in-



Gazebo

Gilead Tree Farm

duced our neighbor to grow and harvest as much as possible on his own and his neighbors' meadows. Control of the woodchuck population is part of the life of this community.

No statement about the use and enjoyment of our hardwood stands, softwood plantations, water, and meadows should omit certain social and personal facts. The most important resource of any community, urban or rural, is people. Wise use of natural resources is good for the resources, and good for the people who use them. It has certainly been good for us, our family, and friends. We hope to enhance the values of Gilead Tree Farm for this community and for people outside of this community. In this process we develop our own humanity and security. We are happy that a recent meeting in our home of the Halcott Methodist Church Bible study group inspired this poetic expression from a member of the group:

*The mountain fastness is all around
As far as one can see
And we meet to seek more knowledge
Of the One who made it be*

*As we read His word together
We find a common ground
That should bring all men together—
Make love and peace abound.*

Gilead Tree Farm
Halcott Center, N.Y. 12437
January, 1982

In Memoriam

The New York Forest Owners Association was saddened by the death in January of Alfred (Fred) Najer of Chestertown (NY), and 620 Buttonwood Drive, Longboat Key, Florida.

Mr. Najer, a former member of the Board of Directors was a strong advocate of leaving forest lands in trust, to be managed for the heirs by organizations such as the NYFOA thereby perpetuating and ensuring good management for the benefit of posterity.

Mr. Najer came to the United States in 1920 from Osijek, Austria. He developed the Panther Mountain Tree Farm in Chestertown, New York, operated the Pleasant Valley Lumber Company in North Creek, and a veneer business in Queens. Fred was a member of the United Methodist Church in Chestertown, and Longboat Key.

Our sympathy goes out to Fred's family and his many friends.

ENERGY PROJECT PROBES CAUSES OF WOOD AND COAL STOVE ACCIDENTS

By James Lassoie
Cornell University
607-256-2114

Albany, N.Y., Jan. 14 — A statewide home survey is now underway to determine the reasons behind the increase in wood and coal stove-related fires in New York State, James L. Larocca, Chairman of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority announced today.

"Despite the fact that the major causes of stove-related fires are well known and have been publicized," the Chairman said, "the number of such fires remains disturbingly high."

"A wide variety of sources and services exist to provide homeowners with information and assistance pertaining to the safe use of wood and coal stoves, and yet during the 1980-81 heating season, some 4,000 severe fires occurred among the estimated 800,000 residences using wood or coal stoves," Chairman Larocca said.

The project, sponsored by the Energy Authority and being conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, has three principal components. A statewide phone survey, expected to reach 4,500 to 4,800 homes and now underway, will locate residences using wood or coal stoves, and will serve as a means of gathering basic information from owners regarding stove type, fuel usage, and certain aspects of operation and maintenance practices.

A detailed field inspection survey of 700-800 of the homes contacted in the phone survey will identify potential stove safety problems and determine the reasons why these problems occurred. The home survey will also include an evaluation of the types of safety services and informational sources utilized by homeowners and of the usefulness of these aids in the installation, operation, and maintenance of safe stove systems.

Finally, the field survey will examine the records of local fire departments with regard to suspected causes of stove-related fires; some homes where fires have occurred will be inspected. The local availability and effectiveness of stove installation and inspection services will be determined.

"The causes of the fires are varied," Larocca explained. "Stove owners may

not fully understand or appreciate potential safety problems. They may also lack correct information on safe installation, operation, and maintenance of stoves and associated equipment."

In addition, many homeowners cannot afford, or have little knowledge of, the costs associated with the upgrading of installations and proper stove system maintenance. Many times homeowners fail to obtain necessary fire detection and fighting equipment, and do not plan a safe course of action in the event a fire does occur.

Consumers may also fear insurance policy cancellations and rate hikes as well as potentially restrictive actions on the part of fire and building departments should they seek safety inspection services. Personal indifference and carelessness on the part of stove users to potential fire hazards in their homes is also a factor to consider.

Chairman Larocca said that the extent to which these reasons are directly related to the causes of wood and coal stove fires will be determined as part of the project.

Changes in legislation regarding installation and inspection services and requirements, changes in governmental and private sector policies and requirements, and the manner in which stove safety information is disseminated may also be recommended based on project findings. The potential development of new financial systems to upgrade stove system installations will be explored; and cost estimates for upgrading typical stove installations will be generated.

The project, funded by the Energy Authority in the amount of \$102,385, is expected to be completed by September 1982. A final report will be published at that time and will serve as the basis for a statewide campaign aimed at encouraging wood and coal stove safety.

As people installed more wood- and coal-burning stoves or furnaces to beat the energy crunch, Lassoie says that fire hazards have been on the rise.

He reports that there are about 800,000 residential wood and coal stoves and furnaces in use in New York. In 1979, some 2,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by stove-caused fires. The figure soared to about 4,000 during the 1980-1981 heating season.

"This rapid increase in the number of stove-related fires has developed despite the existence of a wide variety of informational sources and services pertaining to the safe use of wood and coal for fuel," Lassoie points out.

Taking note of factors contributing to the increase in the number of fires, Lassoie cites, among other things, a lack of understanding or appreciation of potential safety problems due to a lack of information, incomplete information, or inaccurate information regarding safe installation, operation, and maintenance of stoves and related equipment.

In addition, many homeowners lack the financial resources for, or have little knowledge of, the costs associated with the upgrading of installations and proper stove maintenance. Often, homeowners fail to obtain necessary fire detection and fighting equipment and do not plan a safe course of action in the event a fire does occur.

Consumers also may fear insurance policy cancellations and rate hikes, as well as potentially restrictive actions on the part of fire and building departments should they seek safety inspection services. Personal indifference and carelessness on the part of stove users to potential fire hazards in their homes also are factors to consider.

Lassoie says the extent to which these reasons are directly related to the causes of wood and coal stove fires will be determined as part of the Energy Authority-Cornell project.

Changes in legislation regarding installation and inspection services and requirements, changes in governmental and private sector policies and requirements, and the manner in which stove safety information is disseminated also may be recommended, based on project findings.

The project is scheduled for completion by September 1982. A final report will be published at that time and will serve as the basis for a statewide campaign aimed at encouraging wood and coal stove safety.

Key members of the Cornell team are Lassoie, Tommy L. Brown, and Gary R. Goff, all in Cornell's department of natural resources.

A detailed field inspection survey of 700-800 of the homes reached in the phone survey will identify potential stove safety problems and determine the reasons why these problems occurred. The home survey also will include an evaluation of the types of safety services and informational sources utilized by homeowners and of the usefulness of these aids in the installation, operation, and maintenance of safe stove systems.

The local availability and effectiveness of stove installation and inspection services will be inventoried.

**State University of New York
College of Environmental
Science and Forestry**

**CONFERENCES
AND
SHORT COURSES**

231 Baker. Tel. 470-6891

**March 12
ESF Campus**

**New York Land Institute Seminar
"Minimizing Municipal Friction:
Meshing State Environmental Laws
into Local Land Use Process; Up-
dating Planning and Zoning Powers
and Procedures"**

Coordinator: G. Bowers, NYLI

**March 31
ESF Campus**

**Instructors' Training for SEQR
Role Playing Workshop** (*Training for
workshop instructors on initial steps in
the SEQR (State Environmental Quality
Review) process.*)

Coordinator: L. Monostory, OCEMC
(Onondaga County Environmental
Council)

April 11-13

**Hyatt Sarasota,
Sarasota, Florida**

**Third International Symposium on
Chemical Signals in Vertebrates**

Coordinators: D. Muller-Schwarze &
R. Silverstein, ESF

April 26-28

**College Park,
Maryland**

Urban Forest Soils Workshop

Coordinator: P. Craul, ESF

April 27-May 22

ESF Campus,

Syracuse area field trips

**Identification of Spring Wildflowers
Shortcourse**

Coordinator: J. Lowe, ESF

April 30-May 2

Provincetown, Mass

**Whale Watching and Ecology Field
Study**

Coordinator: K. Layer, ESF

May 24-27

ESF Campus

Ninth Cellulose Conference

Coordinator: A. Sarko, ESF

June 22-23

ESF Campus

**Assoc. of Official Analytical Chem-
ists**

Coordinator: A. Gardner, AOAC

July 6-8

Forestry Congress

ON THE CALENDAR

April 17

Spring Meeting of the New York
Forest Owners Association in Albany.
The theme is "Your DEC"

July 6-8

Forestry Congress; in Syracuse. The
purpose is to provide a forum for
organizations interested in forest land
management to jointly discuss priority
issues

September 17-18

Fall Meeting at the Pack Forest at
Warrensburg

September 16-17-18

Live Forestry Equipment Exhibition
and Demonstration at South Glens Falls

**Forest Land Manager's
Information Exchange**

The School of Forestry at Syracuse
will soon begin publishing a newsletter
which may be of interest to some New
York Forest Owner Association mem-
bers. The purpose of the newsletter is to
provide people interested in forest land
management problems with a conve-
nient way to communicate with the net-
work of others having similar interests.
The intended audience for the newslet-
ter is:

industry foresters and land managers
consulting foresters
public foresters and land managers
timber harvesters
landowners of large (more than 500
acres) parcels.

The **Information Exchange** news-
letter will consist principally of requests
for information, comments, and
responses from people in the network.
We hope that it will provide a useful
means of gaining access to the best ad-
vice sources of information available on
forest land management in the North-
east. Members interested in being plac-
ed on the mailing list should send their
name and address to:

School of Forestry
Forest Land Managers
Information Exchange
SUNY College of Environmental
Science & Forestry
Syracuse, New York 13210

LIVE FEED SHOW

On September 16, 17, 18, 1982
Glens Falls, New York Professional
forest industry organizations are
scheduling technical meetings for the
LIVE FEED Show according to Alfred
E. Ostrander, President, New York
State Timber Producers Association
(NYSTPA) of Boonville, New York.

"LIVE FEED" (LIVE Forestry Equip-
ment Exhibition and Demonstration),
says Ostrander, "appears to be timely
and important to the forest industry in
the Northeast." And he went on to say,
"The NYSTPA has already learned that
the following forest industry groups
have scheduled meetings in the Glens
Falls area so they can take advantage of
the LIVE FEED Show in September: (1)
Northeastern Technical Division of the
American Pulpwood Association, (2)
New York Society of American For-
esters, and (3) New York Forest
Owners Association."

"Equipment dealers and manufac-
turers interested in reconnoitering the
1,000 acre logging-show site in Glens
Falls, New York may make arrange-
ments to see the area by contacting
Richard 'Dick' Nason, Woodlands
Manager, Finch, Pruyn & Co., Inc. at
518-793-2541," Ostrander said.

Ostrander, who noted that Nick Tip-
ple of Ghent, New York is General
Chairman of LIVE FEED, went on to
say that Bill Buckingham of Logger's
Equipment Sales in Glens Falls, a Tree
Farmer, skidder dealer, and associate
member of the NYSTPA, is Chairman
of commercial exhibits at the show. Per-
sons wishing equipment demonstration
information should contact Bill Buck-
ingham at 518-793-9688, or LIVE
FEED Chairman, Nick Tipple at
518-828-5684.

Any organized group or non-profit
professional association wishing to
schedule a meeting in conjunction with
the LIVE FEED is urged to contact
David W. Taber, Cooperative Exten-
sion Specialist, Wood Utilization Ser-
vice, SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY
13210, (tel. 315-470-6739, mornings).
Taber will be glad to provide informa-
tion about accommodations in the
Glens Falls, NY area; and he would like
to know about all professional groups so
he can include their names in program
publicity.

David Taber
Cooperative Extension Specialist
Wood Utilization Service
LIVE FEED Committee



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Permit No. 57

The Great Outdoors

By Rick Marsi

Split remains of tough, heavy shag-bark, when pressed to the nose, possess the damp freshness of saddle soap and bridles, of horsebarns, hay and oats — the smells of youthful summers. A white ash log flies apart with a decisive snap of encouragement as the descending wedge cleaves its light brown heart-wood.

Those are the good times.

On other occasions, when the wood-pile bristles with forked branches and buried knotholes, man's reverence for wood may not provide adequate inspiration. At that point, it's best to step back, revive drooping spirits and absorb an outdoor world that rustles with the impatience of a changing season.

Overhead, blue sky wisps struggle through rolling, foggy swirls. Freed from hard frost imprisonment by the slanting rays of a weakening sun, leaves flutter from trees and drop silently toward a compost fate.

Along the wood's edge, several tattered mourning cloak butterflies flutter by in weary search of a hibernation resting place. A bluejay, quiet for a change, gorges on white oak acorns. Cardinals dash among half-bare branches, their sharp calls muffled by the stillness of thick mist.

And, inside the house, black cherry burns, hissing in smoky surrender and finally prepared to warm a weary woodsman for the second time.

CHIN UP, WEARY WOODSMAN!

Whoever said "Splitting wood warms you twice" certainly knew how to make hard work sound like fun.

The tongue-in-cheek woodsman could have said, "Splitting wood gives you aching forearms and a sore back," but that wouldn't have been nearly as clever, and no one would have remembered it. So he stuck with the euphemistic approach, and, as a result, millions of latter-day Paul Bunyans are woefully unprepared for that first mighty swat at a stone-hard chunk of knots and twisted grain they envision as stacked firewood.

As ax bounces off defiant hardwood, handle vibrating like a divining rod gone mad, a recent convert to wooden ways may wish he hadn't gone quite so far back to nature. Thoughts of oil trucks and coal bins creep from exile in his subconsciousness. He becomes a victim of dwindling resolve.

For that poor soul, the following words are designed to highlight the positive side of wood chopper's madness and reinforce a decision to follow the splintery road toward a warm winter.

There is a lot of darkness but no dawn as our dauntless outdoorsman stares at the work that lies before him. Huge cross sections of ash, beech and hickory lie in a jumbled pile, waiting in quiet and ponderous defiance for their rendezvous with maul and battered wedge. They promise to warm the winter

hearth, but not without a fight that will see them struggling all the way to their fiery reincarnation as smoke and hot coals.

Once the battle begins, however, there are as many close-grained victories as gnarled defeats. Blocks of beechwood, boasting steely and imperious veneers, quickly are transformed into cleanly cut wedges of cherry-colored pie.

— *The Evening Press*
Binghamton, N.Y.

New members, continued

Bernard F. Reagan
1529 Lancaster Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13210

Earl P. Robinson
Box 22, RD#1
Lowman, NY 14861

Emil H. Schoch
19 Jane Drive
Scotia, NY 12302

Dr. & Mrs. William Stute
1404 S. Montesano St.
Westport, WA 98595

Philip M. White
East Hill
Mecklenburg, NY 14863

