

**New York**

# **Forest Owner**

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SUNY COLLEGE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
AND FORESTRY



**November-December 1983**



Vol. 21, No. 6

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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



## Contributing Writers

Paul Steinfeld, *President*  
Stuart McCarty, *Treasurer*  
Al Roberts, *Director and Forester*  
Arthur Gall, *Extension Entomologist,*  
*University of Maine*  
Lewis DuMond, *Secretary, Recording*  
Dr. John Hamel

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## Front Cover:

View of the front lawn at the Cum-  
mings Nature Center at the Fall Meet-  
ing.



## A SPECIAL WISH to OUR MEMBERS

*That they may be Blessed  
with  
PEACE, GOOD HEALTH  
and a  
Joyful Holiday Season!*



## Welcome Our New Members

**Mr. & Mrs. G. Burnap**  
Little Moose Lake  
Old Forge, NY 13420

**Terry E. Crast**  
RD #1, Box 23  
Lacona, NY 13083

**John E. Lutz, Director**  
The Pine Lake Environmental Center  
of Hartwick College  
Oneonta, NY 13820

**Norman G. Mibaum**  
RD #1, Stone Rd.  
Prattsburg, NY 14873

**Richard Root**  
Old Route #28  
North River, NY 12856

**Galen Stout**  
Fulmer Valley Forest Products  
RD #2  
Wellsville, NY 14895

**John Zeutz, Jr.**  
Blue Spruce Nursery  
Rt. #1, Box 85  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

## COMMITTEES

### Editorial

Al Roberts\*  
Alan Knight  
George Mitchell  
Ken Eberly  
Evelyn Stock  
Norm Richards  
Bill Lynch

### Woods Walk

Bob Sand\*  
Lewis DuMond  
Claude Le Cours  
Nancy Finnegan

### Nominating and Awards

Dave Hanaburgh\*  
Bob Sand  
Lloyd Strombeck  
Norm Richards  
Al Roberts

### Trust Management

Dave Hanaburgh\*  
Paul Steinfeld  
Lloyd Strombeck

### By-Laws

Lewis DuMond\*  
Nancy Finnegan  
James Lassoie  
Evelyn Stock

### Legislation

James Lassoie\*  
Nancy Finnegan  
Bill Lynch  
Bob Demeree  
Claude Le Cours

### Long-Range Planning

Earl Pfarner  
Mary McCarty  
Stuart McCarty  
Bob Demeree  
Doug Monteith  
Dr. John Kelley  
Harold Petrie

\*Indicates Chairperson



## Better Forest Management Through the New York Forest Owners Association

The New York Forest Owners Association is dedicated to uniting the forest owners of this state in a common effort to improve their forest resources and forest opportunities, and help make ownership of forestland more attractive as an investment.

To maintain a balance between timber growth and cut to assure raw materials for industry and steady employment in forest communities and rural areas, the association encourages education and research in forest management, marketing and use of forest products and services, as well as the management of forest land to enhance its natural beauty for the benefit of the owner, motorist, tourist and for recreation. It works toward an economic climate favorable to a permanent forest industry. The association joins with and supports private, state and federal programs that strengthen forestry, such as the **New York Forest Practice Act, The Tree Farm Program, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Cornell University, and The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.**

To accomplish this the association publishes six issues of the *Forest Owner* each year, holds interesting and helpful Spring and Fall meetings, conducts woods walks and offers many other benefits. The current president is Paul Steinfeld of Halcott Center, New York, who invites you to remember your forest owner friends and neighbors this Christmas with a one year gift membership to the *New York Forest Owner*.

### Steering Clear

I was moaning and groaning about my wife's driving as she hurried me to the airport.

As she drove over an area that had been washed out by heavy rains, she hit several potholes. Even more irritated, I said, "Don't you think you've missed one? Maybe you'd better go back and try again."

Without slowing down, she smiled and said, "That's okay, I'll get it on the way back."

—Valerie Childress



## The President's Message

Under Stuart McCarty's leadership our Long-Range Planning Committee has been activated. Members of the committee are: Alan Knight, vice-chairman; Bob Demeree, Dr. John Kelley, George Mitchell, Douglas Monteith, Howard Ward; and ex-officio, Mary McCarty and Paul Steinfeld. They will critically examine NYFOA's objectives and progress in achieving them. They will recommend whatever organizational changes might be needed to keep us on target and improve our effectiveness. After twenty years it is surely time for this kind of self-review.

In 1981 Jim Lassoie conducted a survey of our members and made available significant information that will be useful to the committee. We are also interested in information about forest owners who are not members. When we take a look at the management or lack of management of privately owned forests, we must be aware that much has to be accomplished before we can say that our association has realized the objective stated in the bylaws of "representing the interests of owners of N.Y. State forest lands."

Recently one of my new neighbors was about to contract for a roadway through his forest in exchange for all the timber on his property the road builder might want. I was able to point out the errors of such a haphazard arrangement, and influence this new forest owner to obtain professional forestry assistance before this kind of invasion of his forest. My experience in the NYFOA helped me in this instance to be a good neighbor and to make a slight contribution toward slowing the deterioration of this neighborhood's forest quality. But how ineffective I feel when I consider the whole Catskill region and our whole state.

Stuart McCarty and his committee members want to hear from you about your definition of our association's mission and how it could achieve this mission. In the words of a Talmudic sage, Rabbi Tarphon: "The day is short, and the work is great; and the laborers are sluggish, and the reward is much; and the Master is urgent. It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Paul Steinfeld  
Gilead Tree Farm



## Help the New York Forest Owners Grow! Give Memberships for Christmas

There are roughly 550,000 forest owners in New York State. Eighty-five percent of their forest land belongs to people like you and me. At present we have about 700 members in the association which indicates that there are a lot of people out there who haven't heard of us and to whom we could be of service. If each member told his neighbors and gave one membership it would be a real contribution to the possibility of having an excellent supply of lumber, firewood, and well-managed woodland for our children and grandchildren.

—To—

### NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 69  
Old Forge, New York 13420

#### Membership Dues:

Individual	\$10.00
Gift \$10.00 value	7.50
Family	\$15.00
Gift \$15.00 value	12.50

( )  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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To: \_\_\_\_\_

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

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To: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Cummings Nature Center Fall Meeting Lunch —

Can you find your picture on the next page? Mary McCarty ordered the weather and the good lunch. The Cummings Nature Center was a fine place for the fall meeting.

After the Friday night business meeting, Karl Wiedeman indicated that the D.E.C. would like to develop an Empire

Forest System administered through the Forest Practice Board by a part-time paid executive director who would coordinate all forest and landowner groups in the state in an attempt to strengthen their voice in Albany. He would like to meet with representatives of the New York Forest Owners to develop details of such an Empire Forest System.

## New York Forest Owners Association, Inc. Financial Report as of September 28, 1983

	Year-to-Date	1983 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Membership	\$6,789.50	\$7,500.00
Interest	376.36	500.00
Activities	16.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,181.86</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Forest Owner	\$5,608.13	\$5,530.00
Membership Secretary Expenses	160.00	720.00
Membership Committee	273.70	800.00
Liability Insurance	331.00	300.00
Printing & Supplies	23.36	100.00
Award Committee	155.78	175.00
Education & Publicity Committee	136.89	425.00
Association Group Meetings	50.00	100.00
Directors' Elections & Meetings	13.00	100.00
President's Expenses	99.43	100.00
Woods Walks	—	50.00
Director Communications	—	100.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,851.29</b>	<b>\$8,500.00</b>
Income Less Expenses	\$ 330.57	\$ (500.00)

### BALANCE SHEET — SEPTEMBER 28, 1983

<b>Assets</b>	
Checking Account	\$ 556.02
Savings Account	607.24
Money Market Fund	6,680.55
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,843.81</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$1,389.75
Net Worth 12-31-82—\$6,123.49	
Income less expenses 9-28-83—\$330.57	
<b>Net Worth 9-28-83</b>	<b>6,454.06</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</b>	<b>\$7,843.81</b>

—S. McCarty, Treasurer









*Tree seedlings at the Jones Tree Farm, Shelton, Connecticut.*

## **X-Mas Trees in the Suburbs of N.Y.C.**

**by Al Roberts**

From September 18 to 23 Alan and Nancy Knight conducted a bus tour of New England for 21 forest owners. The highlight of the tour, for me, was the Xmas tree farm owned by Phil Jones and family.

The farm is located near Shelton, Connecticut, which is about 60 miles from New York City. In fact, from the high point of his farm you can see Long Island. It has been in the family for over 100 years, and Phil's father operated it as a dairy farm.

It is about the most completely used 250 acres I've ever seen. There are about 25 acres that are too low lying and wet for Xmas trees, so this area they ditched and drained. On the best of this they grow U-pick strawberries and blueberries. On the lowest (which is flooded every year), they grow hay which is used to mulch the strawberries. Interspersed are ponds dug into the water table which are used to irrigate the strawberries. This part of the farm is managed by Phil's son.

Another part of the farm — which some might have called useless — is a steep, rocky hillside which was reclaimed from brush and woods. Here the trees grow beautifully, with hardly a skip in the rows due to the boulders. Since it is too rough to mow, competing vegetation is controlled with a herbicide and back-pack sprayers.

To get down to the trees themselves, they are the best looking trees I've ever seen. They grow Douglas fir, blue spruce, white pine, balsam fir and Fraser fir. They grow their own seedlings and transplants, planting them in the field when they are 3 to 4 years old. They use a cable stretched across the field marked in 5 foot intervals to mark the rows and space the trees in the row so all the trees are in rows running in two directions. This gives an extremely neat and orderly appearance to the plantations.

Each tree receives an application of fertilizer every year as well as weed control and, of course, shearing. Shearing

is done by a seasonal crew of 18 people, mostly high school or college students. Each year about one-third of the people are new, and are trained by Phil in the fine art of shearing. For safety's sake, they use hedge shears rather than knives. The rows are marked with different colored plastic ribbons which enable Phil to tell which shearer did a particular row. This way they can correct any mistakes that are being made. The shearers are also used to work in the strawberries and blueberries.

The trees are all sold as choose and cut, and it must be a madhouse. They have three large, strategically spaced parking lots and they frequently have as many as 400 cars there at a time. To take care of people who don't bring their own saws, they have a supply of 400 bow saws to hand out.

The "bottom line?" — 10,000 trees sold each year, and this year's price will be \$25 per tree regardless of size or species. Last year they had to close down Dec. 19 because they ran out of suitably sized trees.

*Phil Jones is also the Editor of the "American Christmas Tree Journal." His address is: Philip H. Jones, Jones Tree Farm, 272 Israel Road, Shelton, Conn. 06484.*

## **In the Woods**

*"In the Woods too,  
A man casts off his years  
As the snake his slough,  
And at what period soever of life  
Is always a child.*

*In the Woods is Perpetual Youth"*

—Emerson



*The two men are spraying to keep the plantation free of weeds.*



## 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 drip at thy  
sharp blue nose,  
Close muffled up, and on thy  
dreary way  
Plodding alone 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 disturbs  
the night!  
Pausing at times to rouse the  
smouldering fire,  
or taste the old October  
brown and bright.

—R. Southey



One cord of 4' wood is stacked in this frame. The chainsaw is drawn down through the center from top to bottom cutting one half the width of the stack and repeated on the other side thereby cutting a cord of wood in a very short time. Seen at Cheever's tree farm.



A view of part of the Jones Tree Plantation.

### Scleroderris Canker Update

Scleroderris canker is "stable to declining" in the Northeast, according to the USDA Forest Service report **Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the United States**.

Two strains of the fungus *Gremmeniella abietina* cause this disease in the United States. The North American strain is present in the lake states, parts of northern New York and New England, and several Canadian provinces. This strain, which kills only trees that are less than two meters tall, became a problem through the shipment of infected nursery seedlings. With the development and routine use of effective fungicides in nurseries, the disease has become much less important. But there are a few areas in the eastern and central parts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula where it has become established and now makes successful regeneration of pine very difficult.

The other strain of Scleroderris canker, known as the European strain, is potentially more serious because it can kill trees of all sizes. It is generally

present throughout northern New York and Vermont, and small, isolated infections have been found in New Hampshire, Maine, and eastern Canada. The known infected area in New York nearly doubled between 1973 and 1980, and increased proportionately in Vermont, due to natural spread. Since 1980, however, the infested area has not increased, and infections in New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec apparently were eradicated.

Future natural spread to the west and south in New York and Vermont, if it occurs, is likely to be slow. Therefore, spread of the European strain to other regions, such as the lake states, will occur only through the shipment of infected nursery stock or Christmas trees. Quarantines against shipment of infected plant material are enforced through inspections. If infections appear in new areas, prompt detection and eradication hold the most promise for controlling the problem.

Further information on Scleroderris canker can be obtained from the Forest Pest Management Staff of the USDA Forest Service field offices at Durham, NH (tel. 603/868-5719) or St. Paul, MN (tel. 612/642-5324.)

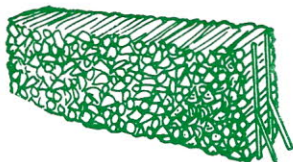


## Are You Sure That's A Cord?

Nature creates non-conforming conditions herself by growing warts and big washer knots on the sides of some sticks, making very few sticks really round, putting a taper of some degree on most sticks, letting unsound wood develop by rot, allowing sticks to have many different diameters, and so on to what may suit her fancy. A variety of pitfalls can be created by man during the putting up of a cord, like piling all of the big ends of the sticks on the face so that the front of the pile will appear higher than the back, placing the pile over a stump or rock, criss-cross piling, sawing off the stick to something other than 48" long, leaving long knots so that the wood will not properly lay together. These are the sorts of conditions that are difficult to identify and list. On-the-spot judgment is the best answer.

The buyer can help insure that he gets a reasonably solid wood content by thinking and acting along these lines. Has it been piled in a manner that allows accurate measuring of the height and length? Check the length of several sticks to see how close it is running to 48 inches long. One inch short on the average means nearly a 2 percent loss in solid wood content, six inches short nearly 12 percent. Is it closely piled? An old rule of thumb is: when a squirrel approaches a pile of cordwood from broadside, expect the holes in the pile to be large enough for him to run through; when the cat gets there expect her to go around.

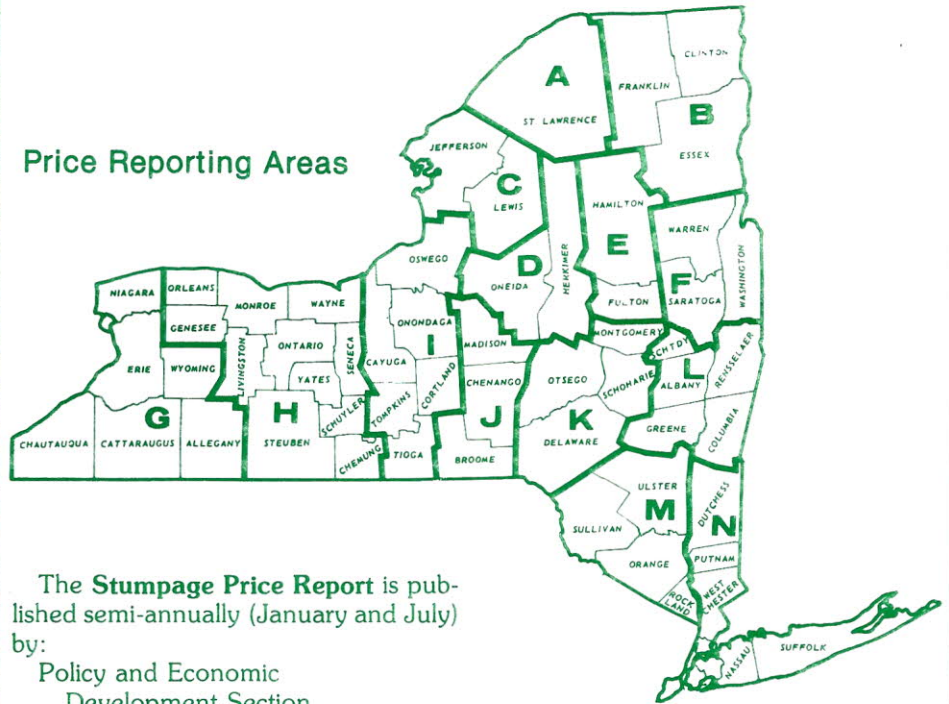
Good firewood, like good hay, has to be made. Trees going into firewood are best cut during the period of the year when the trees are not growing (November through March), junked up and piled with skids under it to allow the air to circulate. A face cord is 4' high and 8' long but the sticks can be of desired length. A full cord is 4'x4'x8'.



Are we nourishing the kinds of talent that will create a great civilization or are we not? In matters relating to talent and society it is The Question.

## Stumpage Price Report July 1983/Number 23

### Price Reporting Areas



The **Stumpage Price Report** is published semi-annually (January and July) by:

Policy and Economic  
Development Section  
Division of Lands and Forests  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, New York 12233-0001  
(518) 457-7431

The prices contained in this publication are collected from harvesters and wood processors in 14 price-reporting areas throughout New York State, and are intended to serve only as a guide in the marketing of standing timber.

The actual value of a specific stand of timber may be influenced by the following factors:

1. Timber quality
2. Volume to be cut per acre
3. Logging terrain
4. Market demand
5. Distance to market
6. Season of year
7. Distance to public roads
8. Woods labor costs
9. Size of the average tree to be cut
10. Type of logging equipment
11. Percentage of timber species in the area
12. End product of manufacture
13. Landowner needs
14. Landowner knowledge of market value
15. Property taxes
16. Capital gains aspect of Internal Revenue Code

Any one of the above factors can have a highly significant effect on stumpage prices for a species in one given area, while it may have a less significant effect in another area.

### Pulpwood Prices

You will find that for the first time we have included stumpage prices for Hemlock pulpwood because several of our field offices have reported a recent market development for this species.

Also, since less than three of our offices reported stumpage prices for Gray Birch pulpwood, we have eliminated this species from the report.

### Roundwood Consumption and Residue Production by

### New York's Primary Wood Using Industry in 1981

Copies of this report containing estimates of the volume of wood processed and residues produced by sawmills, pulpmills, veneer mills, and specialty plants are available from the **Policy and Economic Development Section, Room 404, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001. Telephone (518) 457-7431.**

*Trees are America's  
RENEWABLE Resource*



# Roundwood Stumpage Prices—Sawlogs

Average Price Range and (Most Common Price)/MBF,\* Doyle Rule Except As Noted

## PRICE REPORTING AREAS

Species	A***	B**	C	D	E**	F***	G	H	I***	J***	K***	L***	M***	N***
Ash, White	70-120 (80)	75-100 (85)	70-150 (100)	80-150 (125)	60-130 (85)	70-200 (140)	150-300 (233)	50-200 (125)	115-240 (150)	115-200 (150)	80-210 (125)	35-300 (140)	60-110 (90)	70-150 (110)
Aspen	20-30 (20)	20-30 (25)	20-35 (25)	20-30 (25)	20-35 (25)	20-40 (30)	20-40 (33)	25-65 (35)	15-30 (20)	10-20 (15)	10-25 (20)	10-70 (30)	20-40 (25)	20-50 (30)
Basswood	40-60 (50)	50-60 (55)	40-75 (60)	50-75 (55)	40-80 (55)	20-50 (40)	50-100 (75)	50-150 (100)	60-120 (75)	40-115 (65)	20-70 (45)	20-200 (55)	35-60 (40)	40-100 (75)
Beech	20-30 (25)	25-35 (30)	20-35 (25)	10-35 (20)	30-40 (35)	20-80 (30)	20-70 (45)	25-70 (35)	15-40 (25)	15-35 (25)	10-40 (20)	10-70 (35)	30-60 (50)	30-50 (40)
Birch, White	----	40-65 (50)	30-40 (40)	----	50-70 (60)	20-85 (50)	----	----	----	----	20-75 (45)	15-70 (45)	----	40-50 (45)
Birch, Yellow	60-85 (70)	70-95 (80)	50-150 (75)	55-100 (75)	50-125 (75)	50-135 (75)	25-70 (54)	----	40-60 (50)	40-65 (55)	25-80 (45)	35-200 (75)	40-70 (50)	40-100 (80)
Butternut	----	----	----	40-60 (50)	----	20-95 (65)	40-100 (57)	50-150 (80)	40-100 (75)	45-80 (60)	45-155 (85)	25-250 (65)	----	40-90 (75)
Cherry, Black	105-120 (110)	90-120 (100)	80-200 (150)	100-225 (160)	70-180 (90)	65-200 (155)	170-425 (310)	100-500 (150)	130-240 (175)	115-245 (185)	75-240 (120)	35-300 (155)	60-190 (120)	50-150 (100)
Elm, American	----	30-50 (40)	----	30-60 (35)	----	30-65 (60)	40-80 (64)	----	----	----	40-90 (65)	10-150 (50)	----	30-80 (50)
Hemlock	20-25 (25)	30-50 (40)	20-45 (35)	25-45 (30)	25-40 (30)	30-40 (35)	40-80 (57)	50-110 (90)	20-40 (30)	25-40 (35)	15-45 (30)	10-50 (30)	20-40 (30)	20-30 (25)
Hickory	----	----	----	25-45 (35)	30-40 (35)	20-55 (35)	30-80 (54)	40-125 (70)	25-55 (35)	35-55 (40)	25-60 (45)	10-80 (35)	40-70 (55)	20-50 (30)
Maple, Hard	70-120 (80)	75-110 (90)	55-105 (75)	75-120 (80)	55-100 (75)	50-125 (80)	80-150 (118)	80-125 (100)	70-150 (100)	65-150 (100)	25-100 (60)	35-150 (85)	40-85 (70)	50-125 (100)
Maple, Soft	45-50 (45)	50-80 (60)	30-65 (45)	45-80 (60)	30-80 (50)	20-75 (45)	70-120 (92)	60-110 (70)	30-80 (55)	40-95 (60)	20-75 (45)	20-100 (50)	40-75 (60)	40-80 (50)
Oak, Chestnut	----	----	----	----	----	----	40-80 (60)	30-70 (50)	70-150 (120)	45-125 (80)	20-125 (55)	20-275 (80)	40-110 (85)	80-140 (100)
Oak, Red	----	75-125 (100)	60-150 (130)	100-200 (160)	70-200 (85)	75-260 (175)	150-400 (272)	125-300 (150)	120-245 (175)	130-260 (180)	60-215 (125)	35-350 (195)	60-190 (120)	50-240 (200)
Oak, White	----	----	60-200 (160)	90-200 (160)	----	30-120 (70)	100-260 (168)	80-500 (125)	65-205 (140)	45-190 (85)	30-160 (80)	20-400 (110)	60-180 (100)	80-150 (100)
Pine, Red	25-30 (30)	30-50 (40)	20-50 (25)	30-50 (35)	----	30-50 (35)	20-40 (36)	50-100 (50)	25-40 (30)	15-35 (30)	20-45 (35)	15-60 (30)	----	20-30 (20)
Pine, White	35-42 (40)	40-60 (50)	20-50 (50)	30-60 (40)	35-60 (45)	30-60 (45)	35-90 (63)	50-110 (80)	25-50 (35)	25-65 (40)	15-60 (35)	15-80 (40)	30-60 (45)	20-45 (30)
Poplar, Yellow	----	----	----	40 (40)	----	----	50-100 (74)	50-125 (85)	35-95 (60)	35-75 (50)	15-50 (45)	20-150 (50)	30-60 (40)	50-100 (75)
Spruce, Red	35-42 (40)	35-50 (40)	20-40 (30)	30-60 (35)	25-40 (35)	30-60 (40)	----	----	----	----	25-45 (35)	10-80 (30)	----	----

\*Thousand Board Feet    \*\*Scribner Rule    \*\*\*International 1/4" Rule

## Pulpwood Average Price Range and (Most Common Price) per Standard Cord

Aspen	5-6 (5)	3-6 (4)	5-14 (7)	4-8 (5)	3-6 (4)	2-4 (3)	2-4 (2)	----	1-3 (2)	-(4)	4-7 1/2 (5 1/2)	4-12 (7)	----	----
Birch, White	----	3-7 (5)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	5-10 (5)	4-15 (8)	----	----
Hemlock	5-8 (5)	3-9 (5)	6-10 (10)	5-10 (8)	6-8 (7)	5-8 (6)	----	----	----	----	4-11 (6)	5-15 (8)	----	----
N. Hardwoods	5-8 (5)	3-9 (6)	2-10 (7)	4-10 (6)	6-9 (7)	5-8 (6)	----	----	----	----	5-7 1/2 (6)	3-15 (9)	----	----
Pine	2-2 (2)	3-6 (4 1/2)	3-5 (4)	3-8 (4)	4-7 (5)	3-6 (5)	2-4 (2)	----	----	----	3-11 (6)	4-10 (7)	----	----
Spruce & Fir	6-9 (8)	6-10 (8)	6-12 (10)	4-10 (6)	4-8 (6)	5-8 (6)	2-4 (2)	----	2-4 (3)	-(4)	4-10 (7)	4-10 (6)	----	----

## Fuelwood Average Price Range and (Most Common Price) per Standard Cord

Hardwood Mixed	10-13 (10)	5-10 (6)	4-10 (7)	3-15 (10)	6-10 (7)	5-15 (10)	8-15 (12)	3-15 (10)	8-18 (12)	5-12 (10)	3-10 (7 1/2)	5-15 (9)	4-20 (10)	5-15 (12)
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## Poles Average Price Range and (Most Common Price) MBF, International 1/4" Rule

Pine, Red	----	**40-80 (70)	20-40 (30)	25-80 (50)	-(60)	35-95 (60)	----	----	----	----	--30	----	----	----
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## Firewood and Insects

The ideal way to avoid insects in firewood is to cut living hardwood trees in fall or early spring, when the insects, which prefer to infest freshly cut wood, are in the overwintering/inactive development stage. The sooner the wood is split, the quicker it will dry, and the less attractive it becomes for most insects to infest.

Insects are primarily attracted by the smell of freshly cut, dying or decomposing trees. Therefore, trees cut in the summer are much more likely to be infested with insects! Unsplit wood or wood left outside without covering will surely become infested. Wood with the bark on is also much more attractive to wood-destroying insects and diseases. Many insects will attack only wood with the bark left on.

Some insects live under the bark. Others bore into the wood. Many insects, including flies, mosquitoes, wasps and earwigs, overwinter in spaces under and in bark and logs. Some insect-like animals such as sowbugs, millipedes, and spiders also "hitchhike" a ride on firewood. These hitchhikers can include gypsy moth eggs, the larvae of which can create a nuisance upon hatching.

Most of the insects that get into homes in or on firewood are minor nuisance pests. The trouble they cause happens when the extended period of warmth from the home signals to them that it is time to get spring activities started.

Black and red carpenter ants are nocturnal and are seen in the daytime only when they are searching for food or water, or when the colony is overcrowded. Carpenter ants tunnel wood merely to increase nesting space. The queen will start a new colony only in unsound wet wood. Even though carpenter ants that get into homes in firewood are primarily nuisance pests, they can cause structural damage if the nest/colony is located in the timbers of the home. An Information Sheet on carpenter ants is available from the Extension Service.

Beetles that infest living or freshly cut trees do not infest dead trees or dry wood. However, they can become a nuisance in homes when they emerge from the wood. But, in general, fire-

wood from dead trees is more likely to be infested with potentially destructive insects.

There are three families of destructive beetles that can enter the home on firewood. They are generally referred to as powder post beetles, shot hole borers, and the old house borer. These beetles may infest firewood as well as structures of homes, wooden tool handles, furniture, etc. Their presence is usually verified when flour-like wood dust is found below small holes in wood. If dust continues, then an insecticide needs to be used to kill the active beetles.

We are very fortunate that termites cannot survive Maine winters except under very unusual circumstances. To date, only 12 infestations have been officially confirmed — most of these in southern coastal areas.

The best way to store firewood is the old-time woodshed, where the wood is kept off the ground and protected from rain or snow, and air movement is allowed to aid drying. There are many ways to accomplish this, but too often covers do not stay on and ground moisture prevents the needed drying effect.

Poorly vented basements should not be used to store firewood, especially wood that has not been seasoned/dried. Wood that has been inadequately dried can become moldy, cause unpleasant odors, harbor insects, and the humidity can cause mold or rot on the structural materials in the basement.

It is best to move no more than a 2-week supply of firewood into the home to reduce the chance of insects becoming active. This is especially true with firewood from dead trees. The woodbox should be emptied and cleaned out every 2 weeks.

Firewood should not be treated with an insecticide to control insects. Because of the extended period over which insects can infest the firewood, no insecticide exists with the overall desired effectiveness and safety. However, the question is often asked: "Can insecticide-treated firewood be burned safely?" Good heating systems properly installed and used should burn such wood with safety. However, **all fumes** escaping from any heating system must be considered as being unsatisfactory and potentially harmful.

—Arthur Gall  
Extension Entomologist  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Maine at Orono

## FOREST Bookshelf

**"Venison: Boning, Freezing, and Cooking"** (S-99, \$1.00) explains a systematic method for boning out a deer and preparing the cuts for freezing.

Boning venison before freezing is highly recommended. Removing bones improves the eating quality of the meat and saves valuable freezer space. Cooks also appreciate having deer cuts well-prepared when they come to the kitchen.

"Venison" also contains tips on using the various cuts and several recipes for cooking different dishes.

Copies of "Venison" are available by mail from the Cornell Distribution Center, 7-V Research Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. A \$1.00 charge, payable to Cornell University in U.S. funds only, covers postage and handling.

**Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands: A Landowner's Guide to Planning** (Information Bulletin 193) is a Cornell Cooperative Extension publication, with support provided by the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service.

The 56-page, illustrated guide is intended to encourage landowners to plan for and to more easily practice management for improving both timber and wildlife.

The publication may be purchased for \$3.95 from: Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850. The association is distributing free of charge a factsheet that contains general information about the gypsy moth, including control methods.

Also available are copies of a **Gypsy Moth Workbook** at \$5.95 per copy. The workbook is produced through a cooperative effort between the American Forestry Association and the USDA Forest Service.

Copies of the workbook may be ordered from: American Forestry Association, 1319 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

**Forest Management Chemicals** is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The price is \$10.00 and the order number is 001-000-04324-2.



## Decay and Diagnosis

Dear Timber Harvester:

**Why does dark colored "heartwood" appear** in the center of sugar maple, white ash, beech, yellow birch, paper birch, and red maple?

According to **Dr. Alex L. Shigo** of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, northern hardwoods develop darker wood which is not true heartwood as a result of a discoloration process initiated by injury to the bark and wood.

The process of discoloration by bacteria and non-decay fungi begins after a tree is wounded, resulting in wood that is exposed by a break in the bark. And following initial discoloration, decay may occur.

The wound which allows the discoloration and decay process to occur may originate from insects, birds, animals, logging activities, and branches which die or break off naturally.

Since log values are influenced by both color of wood and amount of decay, it is important to evaluate a woodlot's tree quality based on one's knowledge of the forest stand's history and the indicators of stain and decay which appear on individual trees.

Shigo has determined that stain and decay in northern hardwoods move up and down the tree most easily followed by radial movement toward the pith and then lateral movement to the sides of the wound in a direction which is tangent to the circumference of the tree, with the least rapid movement out toward the bark because the cambium layer seems to make a barrier. This is why one can observe hollow living trees with sound, unstained sapwood next to the bark or sugar maples and ash trees with irregular patterns of discoloration.

Shigo also observed that "the decay process continues as long as the wound remains open." Therefore small wounds such as small patches of scraped bark and small branch stubs which heal quickly tend to result in less discoloration and decay than large injuries.

"Major injuries to the tree," Shigo reported, "such as broken stems and branches — tend to discolor the entire core of the tree that was present at the time the injury occurred. Minor injuries such as small insect wounds may cause localized streaks of discoloration — islands of defect within sound white wood."

**Diagnostic observations** by Shigo are as follows:

1. A canker (abnormal growth of wood on main stem caused by fungus) tends to produce a localized defect with discoloration confined to a region immediately beneath the canker. However, secondary infection due to open wound caused by canker may result in extensive spread of discoloration and decay.

2. Mineral streaks are caused by wounds and these discolorations have accumulations of salts which may be caused by evaporation of liquids.

3. "In general, red maple is considered to be very susceptible to defect. Discoloration and decay advance much faster in red maple than they do in sugar maple. . . Branch stubs on sprout stems of red maple cause more defect than the old parent stumps cause." (Therefore, one can expect to find discoloration and decay which has moved up and down the tree trunk from the branch stub of a red maple which occurs as a sprout stump.)

4. Discoloration and decay advances faster in yellow birch than in the other northern hardwoods; and "in older trees, top breakage accounts for wide columns of discoloration." (Therefore, crown analysis may help you predict tree quality and resulting log grades.)

5. "In ash trees, most of the defect comes from the top downward. Poorly healed stubs in the crown, and broken tops, should be considered important in this species."

Forest management practices affect tree quality and value. The timber you harvest today is the direct result of previous logging practices; and future timber quality will be influenced directly by what happens during current logging activities. If high-grading occurs, the residual forest is comprised of slow growing timber, unmerchantable species, deformed trees, and decayed trees that not only take up growing space which could be better utilized by valuable pole timber and small sawtimber trees, but these poor quality residual trees will be present for future harvests as low value timber.

(Source: "A Photo Guide to the Patterns of Discoloration and Decay in Living Northern Hardwood Trees," by Alex L. Shigo and Edwin vH. Larson, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 1979.)

### Environmental and Economic Analysis

## On The Calendar

### Director's Meetings

**December 10 at Binghamton.**  
**April 28 at Ithaca, Annual Meeting.**

## Waterlogged

Wood pilings have been discovered intact after being under the streets of Venice for more than 1,000 years.

## Effects of Logging in Northern Hardwood Forests

"Effects of Logging in Northern Hardwood Forests" according to a Tappi reprint based on AFRI Research Report 31 provides the following facts.

1. In partial cutting injuries to residual trees appear to be unavoidable. "Some types of injury affected about 40-45% of trees in the residual stands. Injuries having a major impact were noted for 15-20% of the residuals."

2. "Besides injuring trees, skidding removed protective soil organic litter and causes compaction, mixing, and transport of soil material. . . Soil disturbance amounted to about 17% of the total area in the partial cuts and about 28 percent of the cut area in the patch and strip clearcut areas. The degree of disturbance was greatest in the clearcut areas because of greater concentration of traffic on shorter skidtrails. . . Deep rutting that could channelize water occurred on less than 5% of each of the areas, and little soil moved more than a few feet." **NOTICE THE CONCLUSION:** "Potential problems from severe disturbance can be controlled by proper skidtrail location, standard maintenance, and proper post-logging retirement practices."

3. Wood production occurred during 6.5 hours of an eight-hour day (81% of time) for logging crews. "Skidding took about one-third longer than felling. Crew output ranged between 130 and 180 ft<sup>3</sup>/hr when producing sawlogs and 90-100 ft<sup>3</sup>/hr for cutting and skidding in integrated sawlog-pulpwood operations."

4. "Small-tree felling cut back productivity by 20-25% in clearcutting."





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## MATURITY

His weekly work was done. It was his time to wander, observe and admire his years of effort, and enjoy this day, hiking a part of his one hundred ninety acres. It was a warm day in October with the anxious breeze, churning waters of his "Shadowbrook," and the active wildlife making it a truly hilarious experience.

He hiked it twenty-six years before with the seller, when it was a fallowing land of brush, pasture and a neglected woodlot. At that time he had felt the need to possess a large, wild piece of property. Perhaps the seeing of four deer with their white flags up, disappearing into the distance, finally clinched the sale, one that he would never regret.

Noting three choices, he wisely and gladly chose the most prudent. First, he could cut the timber, and rape the soil for a monetary return, a thought quickly rejected. Second, he could just let nature take its course; no harm would be done. His third choice was a challenge to enhance what lay before him.

Becoming a cooperater with his Soil and Water Conservation District was the answer. From them he learned about silviculture and became a charter member of the New York State Forest Owners Association and took one of the first conservation courses at Cornell's Arnot Forest. Later he was elected to membership in the American Tree Farm System.

First, to reverse the trend in the woods, he would thin out competing trees, destroy the inferior ones — the opposite from what many owners have done, who took the best trees as needed and left the poor species. By thinning he would allow new growth, called browse, to spring up, to feed the deer, partridge and the other lesser species, because he realized few birds and animals live in a mature forest.

On the played-out pasture, he planted thousands of evergreen trees and shrubs that held their berries during the winter to provide emergency feed and cover. He even dug two ponds for swimming, fishing, ice skating and, surprisingly to become a haven for migratory geese and a home for muskrat and mink.

The years had passed and the results were beyond his dreams. He had privacy, peace and beauty. Each time he hiked the different areas, he found some new development of nature.

Somehow, on this day as he meandered, strange thoughts were not to be denied. He also had matured! He had come into this world naked and would have to leave it naked. This beautiful land could not be his. It was simply a loan and he was the steward of it, not the owner. As he appreciated how generous nature had been to him, he remembered a line: "Great is the person who plants a tree beneath whose shade he may never sit."

—John Hamel, M.D.

## Board Meeting

The 142nd Board Meeting of the New York Forest Owners Association was held at the Cummings Nature Center, Naples, New York at 9 p.m. on September 30, 1983.

President Paul Steinfeld presided.

The following were present: Robert Demeree, Kenneth Eberley, Richard Garrett, John Kelley, William Lynch, Stuart McCarty, Douglas Monteith, Robert Sand, Evelyn Stock, Lewis DuMond, Nancy Finegan, David Hanaburgh, Alan Knight, Mary McCarty, George Mitchell, Norman Richards, Paul Steinfeld, and Lloyd Strombeck.

The treasurer's report shows a net worth of \$6424.06. President Steinfeld reported that Emiel Palmer has resigned and that he has appointed Harold Petrie of Parish, N.Y. in his place, term to expire in 1984. He also appointed Earl Pfarner to replace Peter Levatich, who also has resigned. Term to expire in 1985.

Stuart McCarty was named chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee, with Alan Knight as vice-chairman. Other members of the committee are: Demeree, Kelley, Mitchell, Monteith and Ward. Steinfeld and Mary McCarty are ex-officio members. This committee was charged with "preparing a plan for the future development and management of the association."

Linda Thorington was named assistant treasurer to replace Peter Levatich.

The annual meeting is to be April 28, 1984 at Ithaca, N.Y. The next board meeting will be December 10 in Binghamton.