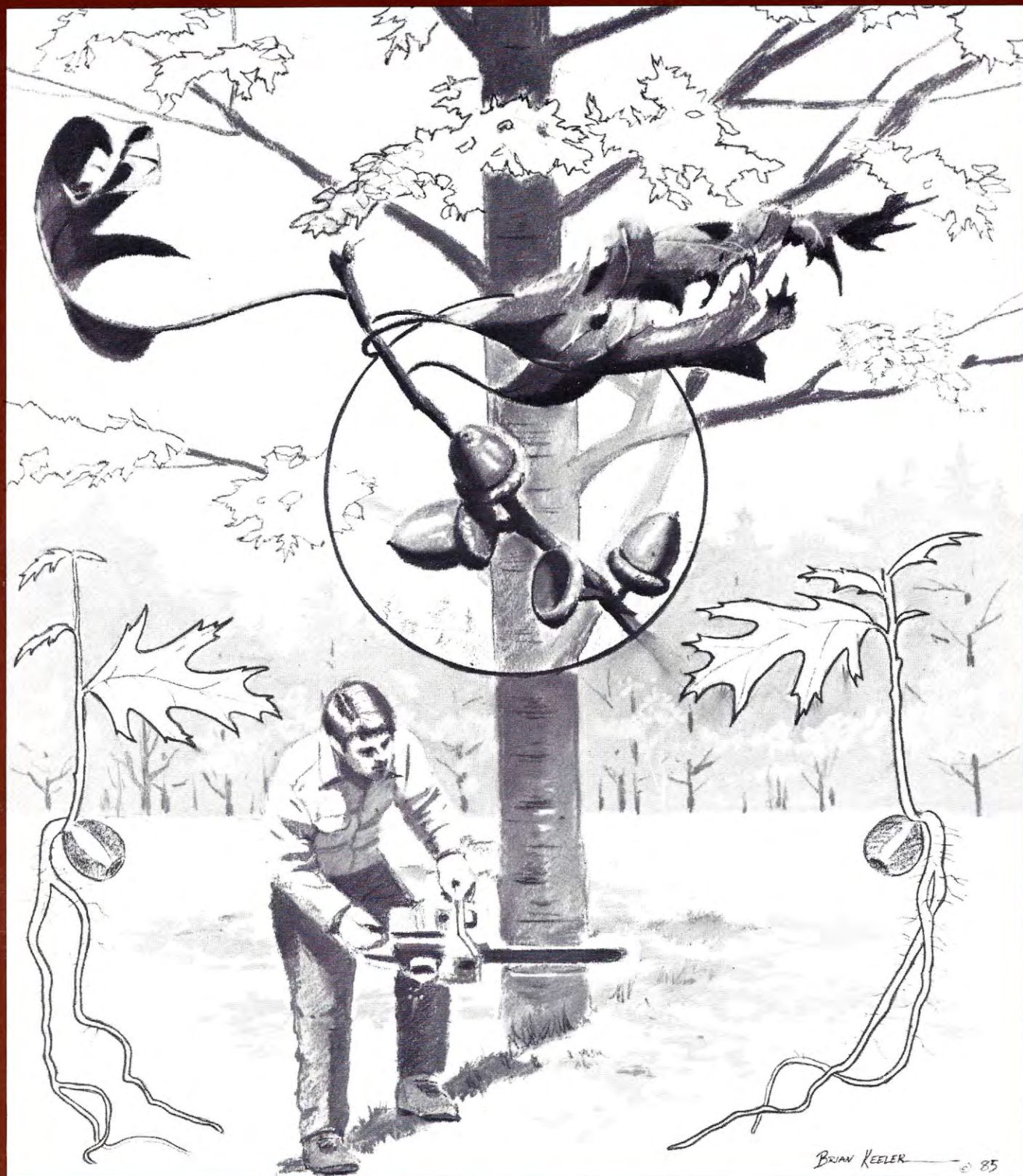


ny. Forest Owner



Is it Polite?

In answer to the question, "Is it polite to ask country people how many acres they own?" Yes. The question is asked because most people are confined to small plots. It is a wonderful thing to think of owning a hundred acres. It is a question borne out of curiosity and interest with no malice or translation into dollar figures. I might, however, be embarrassed if my 103 acres, mostly forest, were posted land.

—Carolyn Lindquist
Cortland, NY

Thank You

The Forest Owner has become very impressive.

— Dorothy Wertheimer
Fayetteville, NY

If You've Got It, Flaunt It

New York Forest Owners might enjoy my recently acquired new license plates. They say "FORESTS" instead of having a number. My father, Fred Najer, always liked to say that money grows on trees. I have been managing the five wood lots he left me for the past three years and have found it both fun and profitable, so I thought I would give credit where credit is due.

By the way, the car is pine green.

— Nancy Najer Brito
Meriden, Connecticut

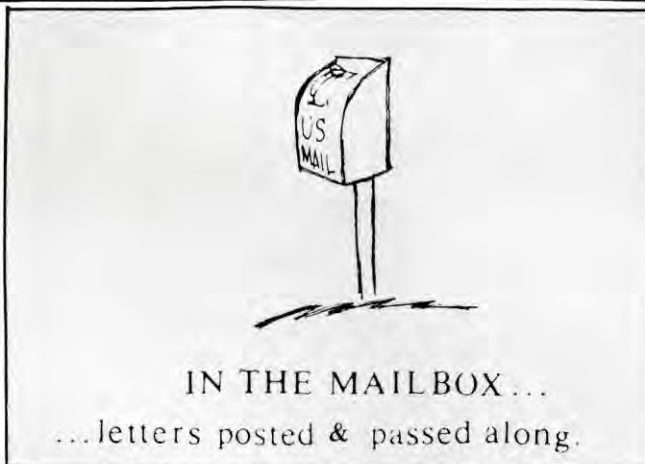
Y'All Come Back

I sincerely hope your members will vote to continue to be an exhibitor at the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days. Our forest industry show is now the largest-attended show in the northeast. According to our survey, 66% of attendees either own woodlands or have parents who own woodlands...just the people your organization wishes to attract as members.

— Ruth Thoden
Executive Vice President
Woodsmen's Field Days
Boonville, NY

The Cover

From little acorns do mighty oaks grow. Ithaca, New York, illustrator Brian Keeler has captured the life of an oak for our cover. Reprints may be ordered from Brian at Agard Road, Trumansburg, New York.



Computer Volunteer

It may be worthwhile to write a short column on forestry — computer benefits. I will try to come up with some possibilities. If you (or the readers) have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please let me know.

— John Gifford
609 Newland Ave.
Jamestown, NY 147001

Send More

I saw a copy of the March issue and was impressed with the articles on the maple industry. I own several acres of woodlot. I would like to learn more about the association and how to get more out of my woodlot.

— T.B. Hobbs
Ellenburg Center, NY

Applause for Mike

Appreciation to the Empire State Forest Products Association and the Tree Farm Committee for honoring Francis A. (Mike) Demeree as the outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for New York for 1984. His accomplishments on his tree farm, impressive at they are, are dwarfed by his contributions on behalf of all forest land owners. He was a charter member of NYFOA and was honored with our prestigious Heiberg Award in 1969. He continues to work diligently for improvement in the state's forest tax law. It is hard to imagine any person more deserving of the national Tree Farmer of the Year award than Mike Demeree.

— Doug Monteith
Skaneateles, NY

Woodlot Datebook

June 1: Log Scaling and Grading Workshop, offered by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the Berlin Lumber Company, Berlin, New York (Rensselaer County). Fee: \$35, first come, first served. Call 315-470-6891.

June 22: Woods walk at woodlands and Christmas tree plantation of Norman Richards, Delaware County, New York.

July 20: Woods walk at Evan James' place, Franklinville, New York

August 9-10: Summer meeting of New York Christmas Tree Growers Association. Ed Duheme plantation, Northville, New York. Contact John Webb at 315-568-8173.

August 17: Woods walk at property owned by Willard Ives, Troy, New York.

September 13-14: Fall meeting of NYFOA, to be held in cooperation with Catskill Forest Association at Frost Valley YM-CA.

October 5: Woods walk at Jefferson County woodlands owned by William Lynch, Jr.

October 13-16: 110th annual meeting of American Forestry Association, Traverse City, Michigan. Theme: Private Forests — Centerpiece of America's Forest Resource. Contact AFA, 1319 Eighteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

March, 1986: NYFOA tour to New Zealand. 607-659-5275 for details.

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Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: Alan R. Knight, Editor, N.Y. Forest Owner, 257 Owego Street, Candor, New York 13743.

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

A Message From the President

Tax time. Annual meeting time. Time to assess the past year's accomplishments and disappointments. It is time to see how well things have gone and where we hope to go.

Some of the goals on my list were achieved: good direction of The Forest Owner Magazine, a fine directory issue as Evelyn Stock's final edition, and now the new look with Alan Knight at the helm...very good indeed! Our finances and membership numbers are going well. Board meetings have been well attended with good participation. The Long Range Planning Committee has done a good job, and we are considering a part time executive to take some of the load off the volunteers.

The fall meeting at Sagamore Conference Center under Doung Monteith's direction was well attended with a good program. Our woods walks were successful under Al Roberts' direction, with help from Alec Proskine. Five walks are scheduled for 1985.

Chapters, which are provided for in the by-laws in order to develop regional get-togethers, are being formed. One is in the Moravia area, under Dick Fox's leadership. Harold Petrie is working on affiliates and we applaud both these moves to strengthen our membership.

Our team effort of Directors will be enhanced by the new ones. I welcome Tom Conklin, Dick Fox, Morgan Heussler, Evelyn Stock, and Wesley Suhr. Dick Garrett and Earl Pfarner are continuing in second terms.

My column would not be complete without talking about trees. My favorite tree is the Canadian Hemlock (*tsuga canadensis*), with the dogwood a close second (*cornus florida*). I'm talking about aesthetic beauty and versatility. Hemlock can be pruned as a hedge or as a compact individual specimen, and also can be a giant in the forest. Both are here at our place. The dogwoods are a delightful promise of spring, lovely in landscape planting, and a sweet surprise in the woodlands. As we drove up from Florida through Georgia and the Carolinas, the dogwood gave us a sense of fairyland amidst the deciduous hardwoods just showing their varied green leaves. The "redbud" or Judas (*cercis*) were not yet in bloom, but the faint pink of the tight buds did show.

We might think of the future of NYFOA like the buds of Spring, with our new team in place making a potential "blossoming" of effort for 1985-1986. I'll keep you informed. Happy spring to all of you.

Mary Soons McCarty

Forest Owner Signs Now Available

These rugged metal signs are ideal for tacking on your barn door or on gate posts by your tree farm driveway. They are twelve inches by twelve inches, bright yellow with green lettering. Cost is \$2 apiece, plus handling.

Send your check, payable to NYFOA, to Stuart McCarty, 4300 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.

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NYFOA Award to Hanaburgh

David H. Hanaburgh, of Buchanan, New York, has been awarded the 1985 New York Forest Owners Association award for outstanding service.

Where the Heiberg Award recognizes outstanding service to forestry in New York State, the NYFOA Award recognizes service to the association. The award was established by the Board of Directors in 1977.

Past winners have been Emiel Palmer, 1978; Kenneth Eberley, 1979; Helen Varian, 1980; J. Lewis DuMond, 1981; Lloyd Strombeck, 1982; Evelyn Stock, 1983; and Dorothy Wertheimer, 1984.

Mr. Hanaburgh graduated from the University of Maine in forestry in 1932 and the Yale School of forestry in 1939. He worked with the U.S. Forest Service from 1932 until 1938. He served with U.S. forces in Europe in World War II before beginning his career as a consulting forester in eastern New York. Dave has served NYFOA from its beginning, holding the office of director from 1964-1974, vice president in 1964, and president in 1965 and again in 1977. He is the NYFOA representative to the Empire State Forest Products Association and has served on many committees, including legislation, condemnation and trespass, accreditation, timber harvesting, awards, nomination and editorial. ❖

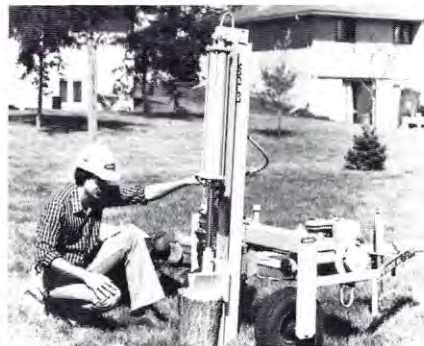


David H. Hanaburgh, winner of 1985 NYFOA outstanding service award

New in the Woodlot

VERMEER LOG SPLITTER

Vermeer Manufacturing has developed what they are calling a low cost, self-contained log splitter that tows horizontally and splits vertically. It is the model LS-150A. It bears a 5 horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine, 2-stage pump, and heavy-duty steel blade that delivers 20,000 pounds of wedge force with a cycle time of 16 seconds. The 360 pound machine uses a vertical splitting action that Vermeer Company officials claim saves the struggle of lifting logs into place for splitting. It will handle logs up to 24 inches long.



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DUO-LIFT

Now you can outfit your truck to be a dump truck (very handy, you say, after unloading your third delivery of firewood the hard way) and a truck with bed-raising capability at the same time. In fact, the Ramar Company says this rig enables you to change truck bodies in five minutes so as to tackle a totally different job. Contact Ramar, 1455 Ridge Road, Albion, New York 14411. Telephone 716-589-4762.



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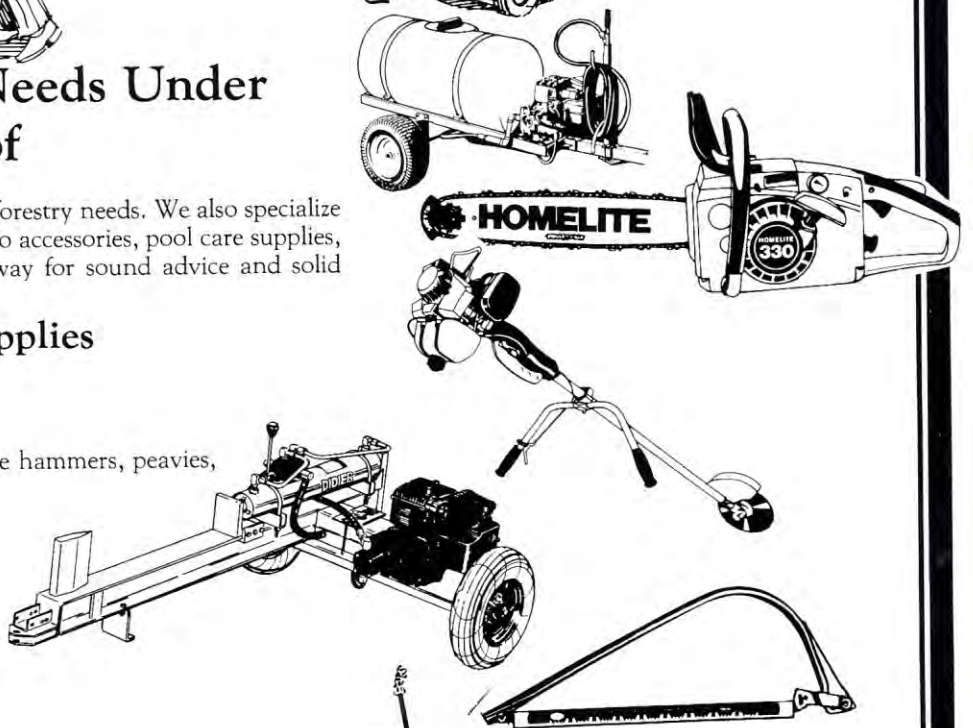


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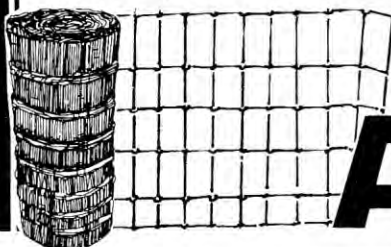
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Trees in a Hurry: Morton Fry's Hybrid Poplars

by Ed Klimuska

In the fall of 1954, the late Miles Fry spotted a notice in a farm magazine that he couldn't pass up.

The federal Northeast Forest Experiment Station offered eight cuttings of hybrid poplar trees to anyone who would give a yearly report on their growth.

Fry, a Pennsylvania farmer with an inquisitive mind, mailed in his dollar and got the cuttings.

Next spring he planted them along the walls of the old smokehouse on his historic Lancaster County farm. His neighbors, the story goes, laughed at him.

Why was this intelligent man planting sticks in some of the country's best farmland? Lancaster County is one of the country's leading non-irrigated farm communities, having very productive, rich soil.

"When I first started the trees," he once said. "I took a lot of kidding from people who told me I ought to plant corn instead of sticks. But I knew the hybrid poplar was going to be an important tree and I stuck with it."

By October, those cuttings grew to the 10-foot eaves of the smokehouse.

"We were sure that we were working with an unusual and good tree," says Morton Fry, Miles' son. "That was the beginning of our hybrid poplar enterprise."

Miles Fry died in 1982.

Around his area, he was known for his generosity, progressive spirit and support for farm education.

But local people will always remember him as the man who put Frysville, the family homestead, on the international map. From those eight cuttings grew the world's largest hybrid poplar tree plantation, now run by Morton Fry. Says Fry, "We're known as the hybrid poplar center all over the world. You can go to Switzerland. You can go to England. You can go to Sweden. Anybody that knows anything about poplar trees and forestry knows about Miles W. Fry and Son."

And anybody who knows anything about Morton Fry knows he's a major source of renewable energy in America. Working with university scientist and researchers, Fry is pushing wood power from his super trees.

More precisely, poplar power.

As he puts it, "We have, through the use of these trees, the potential of replacing all our liquid fuel requirements, replacing all our oil and nuclear power plants, stopping the flow of petrodollars into foreign lands while doing an about-face on our balance of trade.

"The American farmer is not only capable of feeding this nation but of fueling it as well."

Those are mighty words. But the hybrid poplar tree is a mighty tree with many uses, some big, others small. It can be developed into a backyard woodlot for firewood. It's a natural for screening or shade everywhere from industrial parking lots and golf courses to homes and drive-in theaters. It can be planted for the reclamation of coal spoil banks. Or it can be grown for timber on marginal fields and abandoned farmland, giving instant energy farms.

Hybrid poplar trees are called "trees in a hurry" — and they are. They grow very fast, with 20 to 40 feet in four years being typical growth.

Not only do they grow in a hurry but they grow nearly anywhere: in the marshy shores of the Red Sea, on Pennsylvania clum banks, in dry Kansas farmland and in the Pacific Northwest.

Says Fry: "We've got them planted all over the country. We probably have shipped in each of the last five years to a minimum of 100 and maybe 300 customers in each one of the western states. At one time Montana was a very big state for us. The coastal area is excellent for growing these trees. The climate is very similar to our climate in Lancaster County. We've been shipping to the Northwest ever since we got into business 29 years ago.



Morton Fry shows off a hybrid poplar cutting.

"The hybrid poplar is adaptable to practically any area because of the great variety of clones and the origin of the parent stock that goes into these clones. For example, if you go into the Canadian provinces you will find a lot of hybrids that do very well."

With nearly three decades of research in clonal selection, Fry can provide customers with the best trees and the best information about them. People know that. That's why they come to Frysville from Europe, Canada and all parts of the U.S. To them, it's the holy land of hybrid poplar trees. There, on 100 acres of his farm, Fry is taking on OPEC and giving customers a woody alternative to rising energy costs. There, Fry is trying to fashion a new energy order with a very old energy source.

Who is Morton Fry?

And those hybrid poplar trees? What of them?

Fry, 52, is a civic leader and father of four. He's the seventh generation of his family to tend land in Frysville.

He's believer in wood power.

"Petroleum is finite," Fry says. "Nuclear? I really have difficulty believing it will ever recover from the impact of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, the hazardous waste problems and costs. I believe in the long term biomass has the greatest opportunity."

Fry has put his reputation on the hybrid poplar tree and markets them in a big way. In a year's time, he will sell 1.5 million unrooted cuttings, 300,000 rooted trees and 10,000 landscape-size trees. His products are available through a catalog.

And what makes hybrid poplar trees so special? It grows very fast and nearly anywhere. Because of hybridization, the tree develops 6 to 8 feet a year and sometimes double that from a vigorous stump. Such rapid growth allows homeowners to plant seedlings in their backyards and have "instant" shade.

They save precious time in forming windbreaks, natural snow fences and shelterbelts. They are often used for borders for industrial parks, golf courses and schools. They make privacy screens for drive-in movies, swimming pools and driveways. In new and bare subdivisions, they create tree-lined streets within a couple of years.

Not only can hybrid poplar trees be protectors, they can be warmers too. That is, the trees can be harvested for firewood. Fry advises people with a few acres to plant rows of poplar trees in successive years. The trees will grow fast and can be harvested year after year. They will regenerate themselves, too.

"These trees can be planted on close spacings and six to seven thousand trees per acre. They are self-regenerative and can be harvested every two years after the initial cutting. Poplar ranges about

18 to 20 million BTUs per cord. Your average hardwood comes in about 30 million BTUs per cord. If you were burning firewood and using three cords of wood, you need at least five cords of poplar.

"The real advantage of poplar shows itself when firewood is scarce and expensive. It's the only crop you can grow. You can make yourself energy self-sufficient."

In addition to being fast-growing and having many uses, the hybrid poplar tree is tough and lives almost anywhere. Survival rates up to 90 percent are not uncommon even when working with low pH and poor soil. The Frys have grown their sturdy trees on the refuse discharge from a coal mine in Pennsylvania, in all 50 states, and many foreign countries.

Those are some of the homeowner-commercial uses of these mighty trees. But Fry has bigger ideas, too. He wants to grow energy farms all over the United States, make wood our major source of fuel and wean us of the OPEC spigot. That's big thinking, but Fry is an ambitious man.

"In our family, if we needed something, we learned to do it." Fry says. "We never were defeated before we started. In my own life, every mountain is there to be climbed, not looked at."

His vision of growing energy farms on abandoned and marginal farmland was formed during the mid-1970s energy crisis. As he puts it, "We started thinking about a tree as a source of energy. That

came from a phone call. An outfit in Virginia was interested in planting 30,000-acres of trees for an energy plantation in Tennessee. I never thought about an energy plantation. But that started the wheels turning.

With its crushing price increases, OPEC had spun the wheels faster in Fry's mind.

"We began directing our efforts toward the selection of suitable clones for energy farms," he says. "These trees are grown from asexually produced cuttings. Production of these cuttings currently stands in excess of one million per year. Under a crash program, production could be increased to about 25 million in two years and hundreds of millions the third year, with billions by the fourth year."

With hybrid poplar tree plantations, Fry believes "no foreign government is going to cut off our source of fuel or practice extortion. Our dollars will stay at home, with all of us benefiting tremendously. With this approach, we

would balance our budget, strengthen the dollar, eliminate nuclear waste and the danger of a nuclear disaster. We would reduce the chances of building up disastrous levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere, control erosion, help clean up our streams. All of this is a reality within 10 years.

Even with the slight dropping off in energy costs and fading of the energy crisis of years ago, Fry still thinks there is a need to make America energy self-sufficient with his trees. He has no doubts about that.

"I think we're going to go through the ringer again," Fry says. "Yes, we can make America energy self-sufficient. There's no doubt about it."

Editor's note: The address and business telephone of Morton Fry is:

Miles W. Fry & Sons, Inc., Nursery
Frysville
Ephrata, Pa. 17522
(717) 354-4501

*

A New York Perspective on Hybrid Poplars

Edwin White has energy to burn, in more ways than one. A professor of forest soil science at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, New York, he bustles about his cluttered office like a chipmunk looking for sunflower seeds, coming up every so often to hold aloft another morsel of research paper. He exudes energy.

"Here's another one," he says, flipping it onto the stack on his table. This one is entitled, "Whole-tree Harvesting Depletes Soil Nutrients." He published it in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research in 1974.

Another hits the table: "Production of Methane from Fast-Growing Hardwoods." White wrote that one, too. The telephone rings and White is happily arranging another research project and probing for researchers to hire.

He offers one more, this entitled, ▶



*A man of vision, truly planting
Tomorrow's Trees Today: Morton Fry*

"Guide for the Establishment of Hybrid Poplar Plantations in New York State." A couple of days earlier White and his technician Daniel Robison had conducted an outdoor seminar for landowners interested in growing these miracle trees, the ones supposed to grow before your very eyes into "biomass" that can, and does, power a city's electric power plant.

Maybe Not

Edwin White has been messing around with cottonwoods and fast growing poplars for years. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority invested thousands of dollars in his experience on the matter. He remains enthusiastic about field trials and big companies setting out plantations to power their generators and boilers.

But to land owners, his advice is different: "There's a lot of risk, and there's no market yet. If costs you somewhere between \$300 and \$500 per acre to get them into the ground. As long as we have all this junk in the forest to be cleaned out and burned, who needs hybrid poplar?"

White acknowledges that Burlington Electric, of Burlington, Vermont, was paying only \$17 per ton when it started buying wood chips, and has now been pushed by competition from Ticonderoga, New York, to raise that to \$27. And, yes, Clarkson College in Potsdam, New York, and Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, are heating with a central-campus chip burner. Even so, says White, the returns just are not there.

"I think we're 25 years ahead of the need," he says.

Spectacular Failures

Aside from the economic reality, there is the not-so-small matter of cultural difficulties.

"There have been some spectacular failures," says White. "Some of the best known commercially-available stock is full of canker. And there's the question of variety or clone selection. I think it's trickier than picking the right Christmas tree for a given site. The poplars are even more site-specific. Christmas trees could grow on sites where you could never grow hybrid poplars.

White reflects on that for a moment. "Yes. The cost per acre for a plantation is quite comparable to that of Christmas trees, yet there is no return. When you can buy native, wild aspen for \$3 a cord, there's just no market."

But, If You Must ...

Edwin White says he's perfectly willing to encourage landowners to plant hybrid poplars, just as long as they have no false hopes.

"I hate to see people pick up the Sunday paper and see the advertisement that says 'Grow Your Own Firewood in Five Years.' We are at least trying to get people to use methods we can compare and monitor."

White says that expert advice on clone selection for a given site is available from James D. Solomon, Southern Hardwoods Lab, US Forest Service, Stoneville, Mississippi. (601-686-7218) He is secretary of the Poplar Council of America. White says the Council has hopes of developing a sort of certified seed program, much like that offered for most agricultural seed.

One clone that White would like to see "rogued out" of the nurseries is "Northeast 380A."

"It's a piece of junk," says White.

White is establishing a few small trial plots around New York State. If you wish to contact him, he can be reached at 315-470-6774, or by writing to him at the college, Syracuse, New York 13210. ✧



Why Not Sell Small Bundles?

Here's a good idea for marketing firewood. These plastic-wrapped packages of firewood, complete with stapled-on plastic handles, are offered for sale at Dearborn Farms farm market in Holmdel, New Jersey.

The sign tacked on the wall offers these packs of firewood at \$3.99 for three quarters of a cubic foot. Let's see, that works out to \$681 a full cord!

NYFOA Spring Meeting Highlighted Woodlot Opportunities

Spring meetings of The New York Forest Owners Association typically offer land owners a broad range of useful advice and inspiration. The spring meeting of April 13th was right on target, highlighted at one point by a lively interchange between NYFOA veterans Bob Sand and Al Roberts on the prospects for profit from timberland ownership.

Sand, a longtime member and director of NYFOA and chief forester of Cotton Hanlon company, a hardwood milling and timber management company in Cayuta, New York, was one of the seminar speakers.

"There is no market better than the land market or the timber market," Sand told the 100 or so association members in attendance. "The best hard maple in the world grows right here in Onondaga County, and the finest red oak, too. One of the most viable forest products industries is right here in central New York.

"Trees can make you money," said Sand, "or they can make you more money. With no management, you can make 100 board feet per acre per year. I put my children through college with my tree farms."

When Sand had finished, A.W. Roberts, Jr., another longtime veteran of NYFOA and a retired conservation department forester, rose to offer some figures that challenged Sand's contention. After paying for the land at \$400 an acre and paying taxes every year, Roberts contended, you'd be better off putting your money into certificates of deposit. Some people in the audience wondered afterwards if Roberts had been prompted beforehand by Sand to stir up a lively debate, which indeed it was...but all in good spirits and in the best tradition of open discussion of forest-owner issues.

Even aside from income potential, contended Sand, forest land represents one of the best ways to transfer assets from one generation to another.

"I have some grandchildren trees," he said, "ones worth \$200 to \$250 each, ones I can keep to pass assets from one generation to the next with a lot less tax. You can squeeze the value down. You can get any expert to convince the tax man of lesser value."

Property taxes, though are something altogether different, an ever-escalating problem. "There's no logic to it," said Sand. "The assessed valuation in Cortlandville is \$355, but it's only \$4.93 for forestland someplace else. The cheapest taxes Cotton-Hanlon pays for forestland is 72 cents an acre per year in Vestal. But in Lafayette, the taxes are \$14.75 an acre. It just boils down to politics.

"Ten years ago this land was assessed as wild land. Now they call it recreation land. It's made a huge difference.

"On average, we've seen forestland taxes increase 12% in the last four years. There's nothing I can do about it," said the forester. "It's not my fault that the state needs 47 guys to patch a hole in the road."

In the end, though, he resorted to non-economic reasons for his passion for forestland.

"I like to plant trees. At this time of year, I don't know...there's just something that goes on inside me."

Use a Consultant

Frank Rose, a consulting forester from Elmira, New York, area was prominent on the agenda with a speech on "What a consulting forester can do for you." He began with one of those "good news - bad news" stories.

"The good news is that consulting foresters can do great things for the forestland owner. The bad news is that he doesn't do it for free."

In order to put the hired services of a consultant in perspective, Rose first described what a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation forester can do for the landowner.

"In my region, at least," reported Rose, "a state forester can give the landowner one day of free assistance per year. He can provide timber sales marking, up to 25 acres per year of it, at a charge of \$8 per year. You can expect from the department a sample timber sales contract and a forest management plan limited to 200 acres at a cost of \$1 per acre.

"From the federal government, through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), you can apply to receive through the FIP

(forestry incentive program) for a subsidy. In my county the subsidy is \$30 to \$40 per acre for thinning. The cut must be made within 12 months, and you must not sell the cut material.

"Personally," says Rose, "I am not pleased that the government offers such forestry services." His profession of private forestry is testimony to his belief that the private sector can handle it very well, thank you.

What DEC Won't Do

"Section 480a of the New York Municipal law offers frequently substantial tax savings," says Rose. "But a DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) management plan does not qualify a forest owner for this. You'll have to engage a consulting forester for that. Nor will DEC become involved in disputes that might involve

"I recently ran a timber sale that yielded \$43,000. At 10%, that would be \$4,300. But at a per hour rate, my bill to my client was only \$3,000."

There are ways to screen foresters, just as you would any professional that you might hire. Rose points out that the Department of Environmental Conservation publishes a list of cooperating consulting foresters who are supposed to match up to certain standards, "but I know of some foresters on that list I wouldn't hire. I recommend you ask the forester if he is a member of the Society of American Foresters. Is he a member of the New York Institute of Consulting Foresters and the National Association of Consulting Foresters? All these organizations have ethical standards of behavior that their members are expected to follow."



Frank Rose, consulting forester, spoke at the Spring meeting of NYFOA.

court action.

"The state will not perform timber cruise appraisals. It will not put your timber out to bid, prepare a contract, supervise cutting and clean-up, nor become involved in site preparation and tree planting. As a consulting forester, I do these things."

Rose says that a payment of 7% to 15% is common to a forester. "I make it a practice to charge \$25 an hour plus expenses. I can convert that to a per acre fee, but this is more clear.

After asking those questions, says Rose, check references, "and not just a couple. Ask for a list of the last 10 people for whom he has worked. Call a few.

Rose noted that at one sale he put out to bid, the high bid was \$43,555. The low bid was only \$8,000.

"Was it worth it for the land owner to hire that consultant?"

To Frank Rose, the obvious answer is yes. ✦

A FOREST OWNER'S GUIDE TO TREE PLANTING

by Robert Morrow, Lawrence
Hamilton, and Fred Winch, Jr.

Cornell University



In the past, most tree planting proceeded with profit motivation. Now foresters know that tree planting is profitable only under favorable circumstances, such as the use of fast growing trees on good sites, the planting of sufficient acreage (usually at least 10 acres), good follow-up management, and a location near good markets. More and more owners of small parcels of land, especially those who earn their living in the city, are not concerned with profit and plant to enhance the beauty or privacy of their land or simply to be able to watch trees grow. Such owners are not restricted to particular species, good soils, or recommended spacing or other management practices that may prove wise for the owner motivated by profit; they may have better success, however, if they take proper care in selecting species and site, the *purpose* of planting is the first consideration for a successful planting.

If lumber is the product desired, your chief consideration is a good yield per acre, in a relatively short time, of a species with the required wood characteristics. Pioneer species, such as Japanese larch, demand full light and fewer trees per acre; but early fast growth produces large individual trees with a good lumber volume at age 60 in well-managed stands. Shade-tolerant spruces, on the other hand, require bet-

ter soil, grow slowly in youth, and take longer to mature; but eventual volume may exceed that of larch. White pine is intermediate in growth rate, and red pine grows more like larch. Among conifers, the soft, easily worked woods, which hold paint well or finish beautifully, usually bring the highest price. Pines are valued above other conifers for these reasons, and the white pine leads all other pines.

For pulpwood, species that produce a large volume per acre are preferred. Many pulp mills pay a premium for species that have long fibers, low pitch content, and high density. These characteristics are found in the spruces more than in other species. Ordinarily, trees are not planted solely for pulpwood, because pulp prices are low, and thinnings can be sold for this purpose. Remember that pulpwood markets do not exist in some parts of the state.

For poles, fence posts, and grape stakes, the species selected should be those that either have naturally durable heartwood or are easily impregnated with wood preservatives. Black locust has extremely durable heartwood, and the pines are most easily treated with preservatives. Except for black locust, plantings are not usually made for these small wood products alone; thinnings from plantations destined for other uses ordinarily supply them.

For protection from wind

throughout the year, evergreens with fairly dense foliage, such as spruce and cedars, are best.

For reclaiming eroded sites, usually the fastest growing trees and those that can tolerate adverse conditions are planted. Depending on soil conditions, red, Scotch, or jack pine do well. Where erosion is extreme or extensive, use shrubs and other plants recommended by the local Soil Conservation District.

SITE

That trees formerly covered the countryside is no assurance that they will still grow well everywhere. Many years of cultivation and erosion or repeated burning may have reduced the fertility to the point of nutrient deficiency. Friable topsoil may have been lost by erosion so that not enough remains over the clay or rock subsoil for good root development. In addition, the natural drainage pattern may have been upset by road building and agriculture. Soils grade from good to poor in forest-producing ability just as they do for field crops. The least productive are very thin, rocky soils and wet, cold, poorly drained ones. Norway spruce does not grow well on very thin, rocky soils, and red pine dies at an early age on wet, cold, poorly drained soils. Most other trees make poor growth, at best, on such sites.

Choice of site is most important if you plan to grow timber crops. There are numerous examples of the same tree species growing from 200 to 400 percent more lumber on one site than on another in the same length of time. Furthermore, the logs are larger and the lumber more valuable on a good site.

A tree's needs for soil fertility and especially for soil moisture will guide you to choosing species that are suited to your proposed planting site. Trees that need the most moisture usually also need the most nutrients and often are the most tolerant of shade.

Never confuse soil moisture with soil drainage. There is a great difference among trees in soil moisture requirements, but few trees can stand poor drainage. For example, red pine and larch grow well in moist loam or clay loam if the drainage is good. If drainage is impeded at depths of less than 18 inches, poor growth and even death of the tree can be expected.

SPACING OF TREES

After you have selected a species that will yield the end product you want and have found a suitable growing site for this species, then you must consider the outlay of time and money necessary to see the planting develop into a forest. In addition to planting costs, there are costs for thinning and pruning the growing forest. These depend largely on the species, the site, and especially the spacing of seedlings in the plantation.

The spacing of trees is determined by a compromise between the dual objectives of fast growth and high quality wood production. This compromise is influenced by markets for small wood products, the price of high quality wood, and the costs of planting, thinning, pruning, and other management. Trees planted close together yield high quality trees with small knots, little taper, and easily pruned branches; but the costs of planting and thinning can be excessive. For example, trees planted 6 x 6 feet apart may need to be thinned when only 15 years old and 4 inches in diameter. Markets for such small wood are seldom available. On the other hand, extremely wide spacing may not produce enough good trees for the final crop, even though planting and thinning costs are greatly reduced.

The choice of spacing is also influenced by species, site, and products desired. Shade-tolerant spruce can be

planted closer together without stagnation on good deep soil, especially in humid regions, because root competition is less severe. Planting sites directly exposed to strong prevailing winds need somewhat closer spacing to prevent extreme stem taper. If the soil is poor or the field difficult to reach, or if you are not likely to thin as needed, space the trees farther apart.

Note that rectangular rather than square spacing is used. A plantation with trees spaced 6 x 10 feet will grow as well as one spaced 8 x 8 feet, and it is much easier to get a tractor and other skidding equipment between the rows so that future management and harvest will be easy. Occasional wider rows or roadways may be desirable.

SEASONS FOR PLANTING

Spring is the best time to plant forest trees. Planting, especially of larch, should be done as soon as frost is out of the ground and the soil can be worked easily. The most favorable conditions for growth are usually found during the first few weeks of the growing season. At this time, the roots are active and become quickly established. Planting should always be finished as early as possible to have the benefit of spring rains. It should be completed, in most parts of the state, early in May, although in the northern counties it may be carried on successfully during the whole month. The period depends on the location and whether the season is advanced or delayed. There should be no more delay than necessary between the time the trees leave the nursery and when they are permanently established on the planting site. Conifers can stand planting after growth has started, though this may result in breakage of new tips and in high mortality if dry, windy days follow.

After autumn rains have replenished the moisture in the soil, fall planting can be undertaken on well-drained soils and on protected sites where early permanent snowfall is expected. However, heavy, poorly drained soils exposed to alternate freezing and thawing may heave, and many trees may be lost as a result. On exposed sites with little snow, evergreens may be desiccated by drying winter winds. The southern and western parts of the state have many soils subject to frost heaving and sometimes have little snow cover. Fall droughts through October are common. Therefore, fall planting should be undertaken with extreme caution.

REPLANTING

In years of normal weather, the loss of planted trees should not exceed 10 percent if your planting is well done. If losses exceed 25 percent, you should probably replant the failed areas within a year or two. This is especially important if the trees are widely spaced. If, however, most of the losses are in the same part of the plantation, the soil in that area may be unsuitable for the species you used. Larch, because of its fast growth, should be considered for replanting where soils are suitable.

UNDERPLANTING

Planting under the shade of existing forest usually results in failure, especially with the light-demanding larches and pines. Although both spruce and white pine grow poorly under heavy shade, they may do well under very light aspen or gray birch cover. Usually the best way to grow trees on cutover land and grazed woodlots is to fence out cattle, keep out fire, and let nature do the seeding.

INTERPLANTING

In old fields and pastures that are partially but slowly being reforested by natural seeding, you can fill in open areas by planting. This applies in general to areas not more than one-fourth to one-half covered with young trees. Do not plant closer than 10 feet to young trees already present nor closer than 30 feet to the edge of a woodlot. Where the natural seeding covers over half the area, competition of older trees may be too great for planted trees to survive in the smaller openings; let such areas reseed naturally. However, use of widely spaced nurse trees, such as larch or black locust, may improve growth conditions for valuable hardwood seedlings. *



Potter Wins Heiberg Award

Robert G. Potter is the recipient of the 1985 Svend Oluf Heiberg Memorial Award. The late professor Heiberg is regarded as having been the chief founder of the New York Forest Owners Association, and the award is presented to that person "who has conceived and completed a significant project in the field of conservation, land use, land restoration, forest management or other actions in keeping with the aims and purposes of the New York Forest Owners Association."

Potter, a third generation hardwood lumberman, operates a family sawmill near Allegany in Cattaraugus County, New York. Born and raised with sawmilling in his blood, he has been active all his life in the forest products business. His formal education included attendance at both the College of Forestry at Syracuse and Paul Smith's College before



Robert G. Potter, winner of the 1985 Heiberg Award

graduating in wood technology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Robert Sand, who presented the award to Potter at the annual meeting on behalf of the board of directors, said Potter was receiving the award in recognition of his efforts and successes in leading F.I.R.S.T. (Forest Industry Resource Study Team), an alliance of interested people and groups such as loggers, foresters, hardwood lumbermen, retailers, and dimension lumbermen, as well as state and county extension personnel in three counties. The group has provided training for forest industry operators and employees and for forest owners. Training has included log felling and bucking, grading, road building, first aid, supervision, computers, and leadership development. An estimated 10,000 people have participated or have been directly served by these programs, said Mr. Sand.

Mr. Potter served as chairman for six years, retiring in January, 1985. ✱

DAN HUDON SALES

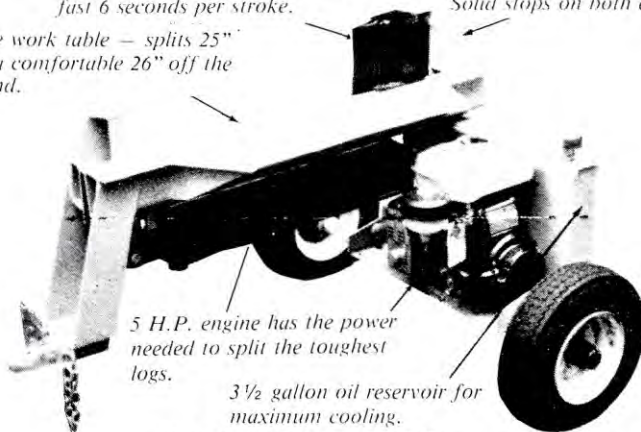
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A hydraulic log splitter which is truly unique, as it splits logs on both the forward and return strokes. One of the fastest and most efficient splitters known. Being a compact with an overall length of 49 inches, it is capable of splitting 25 inch logs.



The "Hole" Idea

Only 11 lbs. of weight makes this a "use anywhere" tool. Adaptable to drill wood, metal or concrete, it has dozens of applications to go with its convenience. High torque gear reduction provides a speed range of 250 to 1000 RPM's.

efficient equipment for better production

In stock, stop in to see us.

Delaware County Scene of June 22 Woodswalk

Pineholm Tree Farm in Delaware County, New York, will be the site for a June 22nd woodswalk. Slated for a 10 a.m. beginning, the woodswalk will be hosted by Norman Richards, who resides in Syracuse.

This old hill farm was purchased in 1954 by Norm Richards in partnership with his father, while Norm was a forestry student at Syracuse. They planted the open fields to about 80,000 conifers for Christmas trees, reforestation, and experimental plantings, including many mistakes. All the woodlands on the farm were cut-over and of low quality, but have been improved somewhat by poisoning low grade trees before there was a firewood market. The property was certified in the Tree Farm System in 1965, and purchase of some adjacent woodlands has now increased it to about 190 acres.

The goal of Mr. Richards in owning the property is family enjoyment and paying its own way from limited inputs of capital and labor. Christmas trees have paid farm expenses for the last 20 years. More recently, these have been supplemented by firewood stumpage sales and one sawtimber sale. A small sugar bush is leased to a neighbor. Some wildlife management is practiced. A meadow is kept open by controlled burning. Several fruit and nut tree species have been tested on the farm.

Pineholm Tree Farm is located at the end of Shaver Road, approximately one mile north of New York Route 23, about four miles west of Stamford and 18 miles east of Oneonta. After passing the Pineholm gate, drive slowly along the private road about a half mile, and park in the open meadow.

July 20 Woodswalk Set for Western NY

The New York Forest Owners Association is sponsoring a woods walk at the property of Evan James on July 20th, 10 a.m.

The farm is located on Clark Road, a gravel road, approximately five miles from the village of Franklinville, which is on Route 16, 55 miles south of Buffalo and 25 miles north of Olean. ❖

NYFOA Treasurer's Report

The report printed below was commented on and accepted at the Annual Meeting on April 13. I point out that the Membership Income was up 9.6% over 1983. *Forest Owner* expense was over budget by \$871 because the *Directory Issue*, distributed in November, was not budgeted. Our deficit of \$826 was within the budget and left us with a net worth or reserve of \$4674. If you have questions, I shall be glad to try to answer them.

— Stuart McCarty
Treasurer



New York Forest Owners Association, Inc. Financial Statment for 1984 and Budget for 1985

	Actual 1983	Budget 1984	Actual 1984	Budget 1985
Income				
Membership	\$7650	\$8000	\$8384.00	\$9000
Interest	515	400	571.33	400
Activities	16	—	431.00*	75
TOTAL INCOME	\$8181	\$8400	\$9386.33	\$9475
Expenses				
Forest Owner	\$6780	\$6500	\$7371.32**	\$6500
Membership Sect'y Expenses	745	850	1038.76	975
Membership Committee	303	600	591.72	150
Liability Insurance	331	350	314.00	325
Printing & Supplies	35	100	525.71***	150
Awards Committee	156	175	146.59	175
Education & Publicity Com.	187	350	—	200
Association Dues	50	50	50.00	50
Dir's Elections & Meetings	13	100	23.00	50
President's Expenses	130	150	71.88	100
Woods Walks	—	50	80.09	100
Directors' Communications	73	—	—	—
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8803	\$9275	\$10213.07	\$9475
Income less Expenses	(\$622)	(\$875)	(\$826.74)	0

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 1984

Assets	
Checking Account	\$ 703.69
Money Market Fund	3800.67
Accounts Receivable	170.00
Total Assets	\$4674.36
Liabilities and Net Worth	
Net Worth 12/31/83	\$5501.10
Income less Expenses '84	826.74
Net Worth 12/31/84	\$4674.36
Total Liabilities and Net Worth	\$4674.36

* Activities Income for 1984 is net of offsetting income (contributions) and expense items of \$234.70 for bumper stickers.

** Forest Owner Expense for 1984 is net of \$625, representing proceeds of ads in *Directory Issue*.

*** Printing and Supplies Expense for 1984 includes \$350 expense for NYFOA signs available for resale.

It Is Not Enough To Own a Forest.



The challenge is to nurture it, to fulfill a destiny of beauty, productivity, and family pride...while turning enough dollars over to hang on to it. But how?

There are no easy answers, only ideas to ponder by the woodstove. That's what NYFOA is all about: ideas, family pride in forest management, and sharing of dreams.

Through regular issues of **The Forest Owner** magazine, frequent seminars and woods walks in one another's woodlots, and extended tours to extend the fellowship and learning in foreign lands, members of the New York Forest Owners Association are growing as surely as the trees in their woodlots.

**New York Forest Owners
Association
Post Office Box 69,
Old Forge, New York
13420-0069**

Yes, I'd like to learn more about The New York Forest Owners Association and how to get more out of my woodlands.

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____



Got a question?

ASK A FORESTER

Long Range Trouble Shooting

My white pines are on a slope above a friend's water source. I want to defeat the white pine weevil but do not want to poison my friend. So, my questions are:

1. Are oxydemeton methyl and Metasystox-R the same thing?

Yes, Metasystox-R is the trade name.

2. Are the spraying dates listed for southeastern NY the same in Steuben County, near Presho?

Yes, they are, but also important is the seasonal variation from year to year.

3. Which treatment is more effective, spraying or removal and burning leaders?

Spraying is more effective.

4. Is there any advantage in doing both?

Some trees may be missed during spraying. If these are at-

tacked, you could clip and burn them. To be effective the clipping must be done before the insect pupates and then emerges as an adult. Clip in late May or early July.

5. Are there alternative ways of dealing with this problem?

I realize it is too late for you, but the best way to deal with the white pine weevil is to plant red pine, larch, etc. You will have to treat white pine every year until the trees are at least 20 feet tall.

6. Would it make sense to cut off the tops of the trees which have already been weeviled down to the lowest whorl of branches? This might produce a longer, straight bole.

No, don't do it. Corrective pruning can be done by cutting back on all branches in the last whorl except one. This one will

then turn up to be the leader. Eventually the resulting crook will straighten up and be unnoticeable in a few years.

— question posed by
James N. Martin

Muenster, West Germany

— answered by A. W. Roberts, Jr.

Darned Mice

Meadow mice or voles girdled several thousand of my best, waist-high Scotch pine trees this past winter. In many cases there is no bark left from ground level right up to the first whorl, say, a foot high. I've heard that Scotch pine might be tough enough to recover. Is there any chance of this? And what do I do to stop this costly damage?

— P.D.M.
Willseyville, NY

Unless there is at least a small strip of continuous bark left, they likely won't survive.

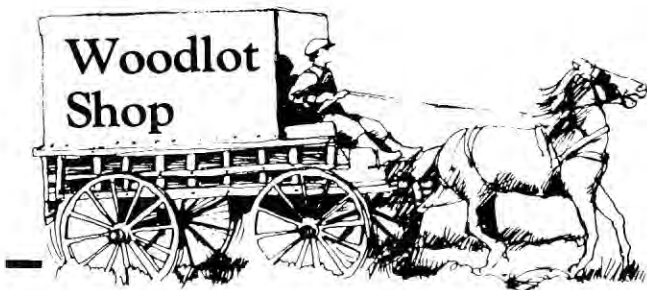
These things are cyclical, and the mouse population did a lot of damage around here this year. It caught a lot of people off guard. I've had several calls on it. The Austrian pine seems especially hard hit, but the Colorado blue spruce and the white spruce seem not to be favorites for the mice.

One way to guard against this problem is to walk the fields in the fall and watch to see if the mice scurry away from you. We are full-time growers and we are in the fields all the time, something a part-time grower is less able to do. I saw the problem coming last fall and put out some zinc phosphide in cracked corn to poison them. You spread it 10 pounds to the acre, just like the orchard operators do. There's no way it will work with only one application. It must be put on several times.

Anybody needing zinc phosphide will probably have to go to a fruit growing area, such as Wayne County, NY, to obtain it. You can probably get it from Sodus Agway (315-483-6817) or Ag Chem (315-483-9146) and you need to be a licensed pesticide applicator to use it, or hire someone who is. Two poisoned apple products, Ramik Brown and Ramik Green, could also be used. Be sure to follow the label instructions for storage and use.

Mowing and herbicides may have some beneficial affect (destroying cover so that foxes and owls can be more effective) in years with little snow cover, but if snow cover is extensive and lasting, mowing won't matter much.

— Ken Franke
Professional Christmas
Tree Grower
Marion, N. Y.



Classified advertisements: There's a simple formula for placing a classified advertisement in *The New York Forest Owner*. Write or, preferably, type your advertisement. Count the words (this ad is 57 words), multiply by 25 cents per word, and send a check for that amount with your ad to: Editor, New York Forest Owner, 257 Owego Street, Candor, New York 13743.

Display advertisements are welcome. They cost \$5 per column inch flat rate. There are three 10-inch columns per page. Ads should be submitted camera-ready or in negative form. Ads can be designed and laid out for advertisers at a flat rate of \$25. Any black and white glossy photo in the ad will cost \$10. Please inquire for circulation and demographic information. Contact the editor, 257 Owego Street, Candor, New York 13743. Telephone 607-659-5275 evenings.

For Sale: 22 acres of forestland near Oxford, New York. Much merchantable timber, borders trout stream, some road frontage but private, very close to state lands. Sugar bush. \$14,500 with terms. Contact Jerry Cibelli, Box 258, RD 1, Middletown, New York 10940. Telephone: 914-386-5394.

For sale: Christmas trees are a good cash crop. We have the planting stock. We also have deciduous shrubs, trees, and ground covers, including nut trees. We do planting in nearby counties, but planting season is now over. Booking orders for spring 1986. W.C. Cottrell, 5577 South Geneva Road, Sodus, New York 14451. Telephone: 315-483-9684.

For sale: Christmas tree seedlings. Special 5-8" woodsplants, \$95 per thousand. Superior Balsam woodsplants 8-15", \$200 per thousand. Balsam woodsplants 8-15" transplanted in trenches at least one year and fertilized, \$400 per thousand (available after 8/15/85). Contact Walker's Tree Farms, East Burke, Vermont 05832. Telephone: 802-626-5276.

For sale: Black walnut tree, 18" diameter at 4 1/2 feet above ground. Twenty feet to first limb. Contact Al Conti, 23 Tall Pines Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma, New York 11779. Telephone: 516-467-6790 evenings.

For sale: Black walnut tree, 18" DBH, 18 feet to first limb. Easy to get to from street. Contact Vincent J. Erickson, 844 Garden Ave., Olean, New York 14760. Telephone: 716-372-6337.

For sale: Luzerne Firewood Processor, capable of producing at least 30 cords of split firewood per day. Contact Kenneth Anderson, 30 North Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701-1301. Telephone: 717-829-8621.

Wanted: Hickory wood, trailer-load quantities, delivered or picked up. Also, all hardwoods, apple and cherry. Call 201-435-1935.

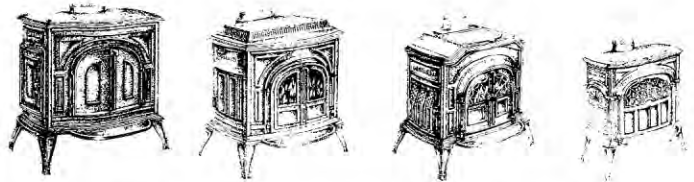
Wanted: Red pine logs, 7-inch and up; 8-foot lengths, delivered to mill at Locke, New York. Red Pine standing timber, 9-inch DBH and up; also accepting white pine, Scotch Pine, Larch, #2 and #3 hardwood logs. We require 2 million feet per year. Contact Pierre Cote, 300 Peru Road, Groton, New York 13073. Telephone: 607-898-3794.

Wanted: Hardwood pallet logs, top price, continuous year-round buying. Contact Peter C. Herman, Inc., Marion, New York 14505. Telephone: 315-331-2850 (days) and 716-223-5191 (evenings).

Wanted: Large and medium-size tracts of mature timber or timberland. Contact Edward Mitchell, Route 1, Box 420, Pawling, New York 12564. Telephone: 212-695-1640 or 914-855-1448.

Wanted: Veneer logs, red oak, prime veneer and panel quality. Cherry in prime veneer and panel quality. White hard maple, 19 inches and up in diameter. For prices and specifications contact Bill Reese at Spartywood Products, Inc., RD 2, Spartansburg, Pennsylvania 16434. Telephone: 814-654-7111.

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Wanted: Red cedar pulpwood, 4-foot lengths at roadside. Any amount. Contact R. Schager, Altamont, N.Y. 12009. Telephone 518-861-6954.

Forest Owners Tour: New Zealand, early March, 1986. Visit other forest owners and Christmas tree growers in this agricultural paradise. Tour arranged especially for forest owners by forest owners. Sponsored by New York Forest Owners Association. Contact New Yorkshire Tours, 257 Owego Street, Candor, NY 13743. Telephone 607-659-5275.



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SMALL KNUCKLEBOOM

The Farmi 1800 is the loader that firewood and pulp producers have been waiting for. The loader is affordable and big enough to get the job done. The loader can be mounted directly on most Farmi winches. The loader can be mounted on other frames. The winch and loader can also be mounted on other frames. The winch and loader combination is a universal machine which can be used for a multitude of jobs. Prebunching, forwarding, loading of pulpwood and firewood can all be performed with this machine combination.



Send us your name and address. We will send you the FARMI TREE HARVESTING METHOD booklet and the name of your nearest Farmi dealer.

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