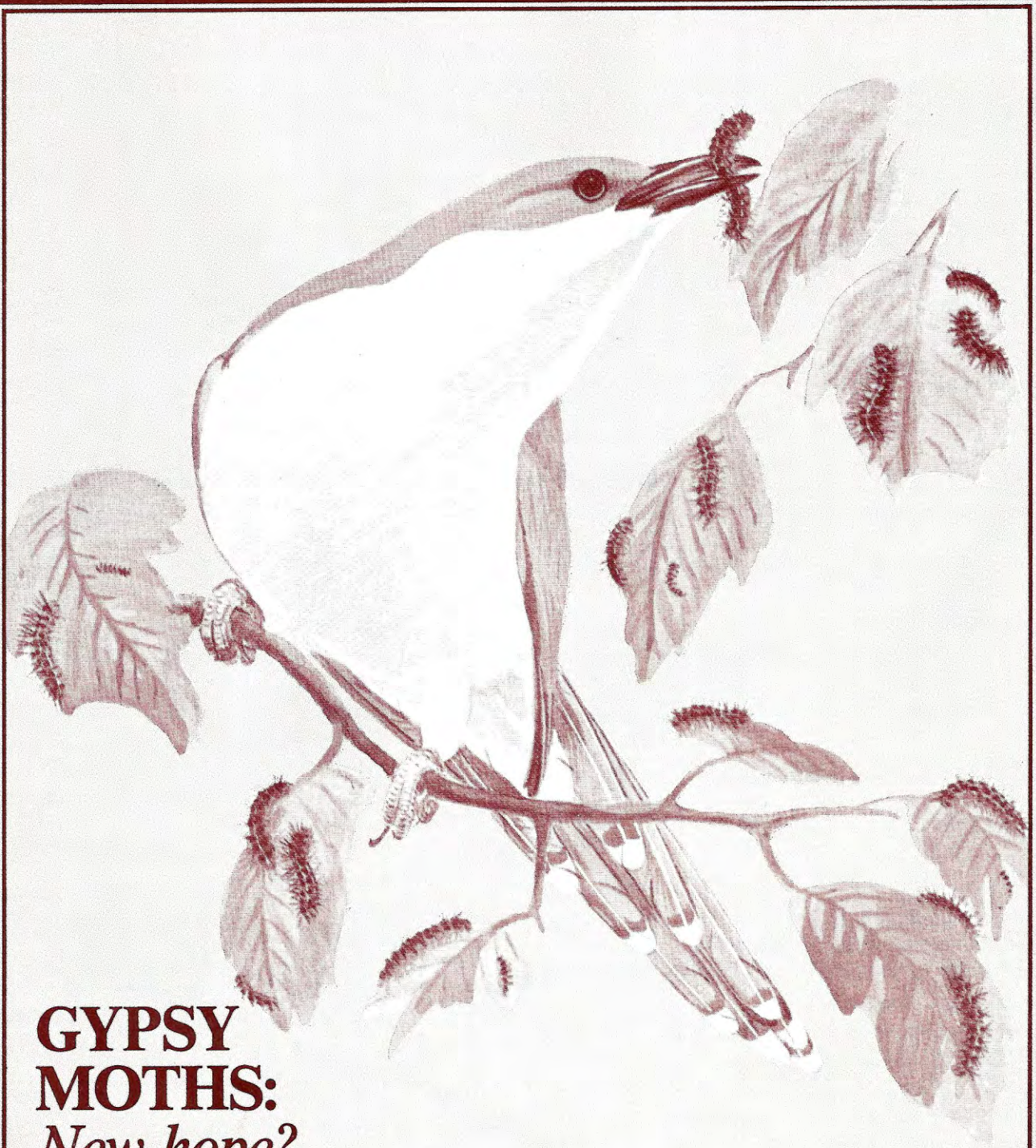


New York

Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

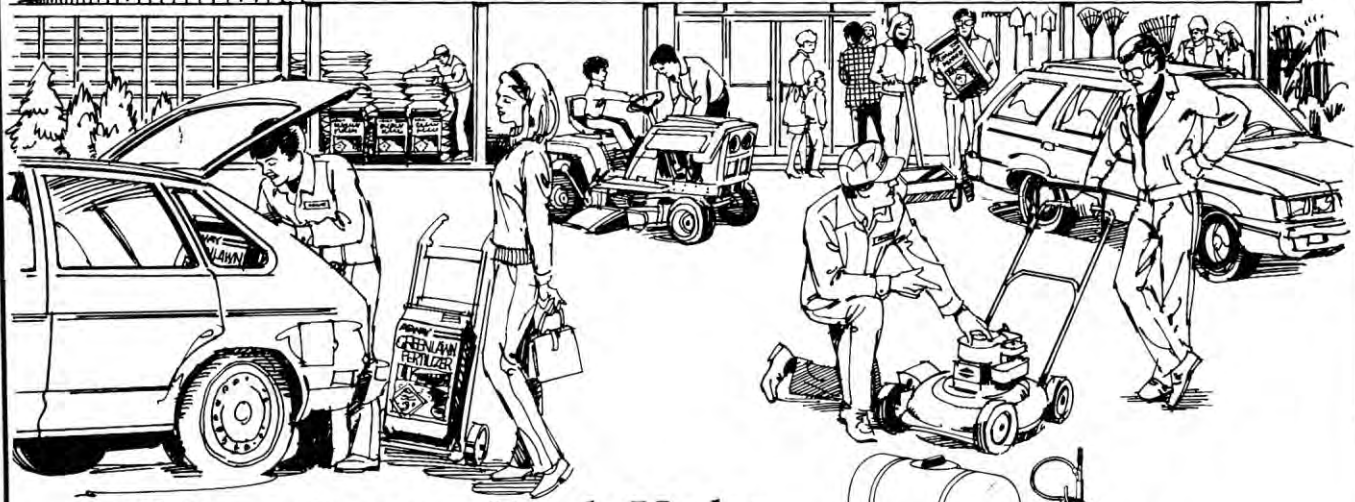
July/August 1986



GYPSY MOTHS: *New hope?*

Illustration by Wayne Trimm

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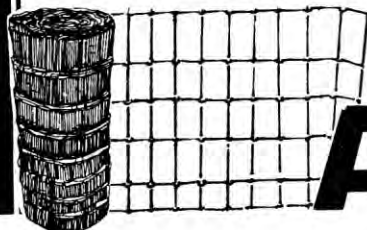
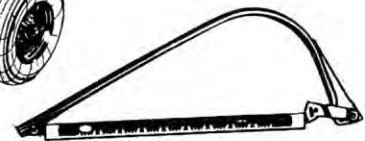
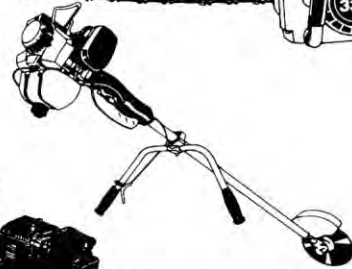
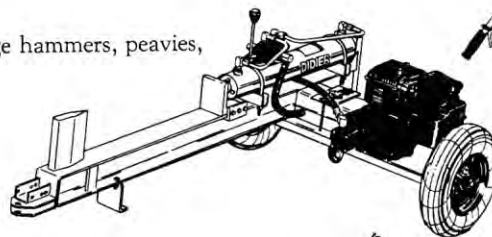
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New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

RIGHT TO LOG?

The NJ Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted unanimously to join an appeal of a court ruling that might test the state's right to farm law. The case involves a Morris County timber landowner who sued Rockaway Township for adopting an ordinance which prohibited him from conducting a normal agricultural practice (timbering). The township, which has admitted publicly that it prefers houses on this 600 acre tract and will not allow farmland assessment qualification, won the Superior Court ruling by Judge Stanton on the basis of home rule. Farm Bureau feels all farmers have a stake in this precedent, which might be construed as allowing municipalities to use zoning powers to artificially restrict a farmer's right to conduct normal, recommended farming practices. The "amicus brief" by Farm Bureau will support member H.J. "Kip" Koehler, III, in his exemplary pursuit for himself and other farmers.

— Peter Furey
NJ Farm Bureau
Trenton, NJ

ROAD TO SUCCESS

When was the last time you were in your woodlot? Last deer season? The one before that? When they logged it?

If your woodlot is only a tax burden that provides infrequent



income, don't you wonder why you keep it?

A number of woodland owners have found that their woodland becomes active, produces continuously, and is a source of personal pleasure once they do one thing: build an access road.

Usually, but not always, the road is constructed: a) during, b) following, c) just before, or d) a combination of the above, a sale of products.

When logs of fuel wood are to be sold, the wood must be removed from the woods over some sort of path or paths. With no prior planting, these paths tend to run straight down the hill. The skidder will go there, so why not?

The only "why not" is that water can't be turned from the ruts, and no other vehicle, and sometimes not even a horse, can

travel there. When the skid roads are planned, the grade can be kept flatter, water can be controlled, and with minor bulldozing. What was a skid road becomes an access road you can drive your pickup on, ride your horse on, ski on, walk on, feed your partridge chicks or your turkey poults on, graze your rabbits and deer on, or sell fuel wood that will thin your woods.

The single most important thing, after your decision as an owner to manage your woodlot at all, is the construction of a usable access road!

How much does a road cost? The figure usually is between 50 cents and 75 cents a foot. I've worked on extremes in both directions, but I think that is the ball park.

Treat yourself to a personal inspection of your woodlot, complete with a line of ribbons on a suggested route for your access road. A bit more curious? Look at some roads near you that your neighbors have built. Seeing is believing.

— Thomas Bahre
County Forester
Addison County, Vermont

DIRECTORY ISSUE

I hope you plan to keep up the practice of publishing a directory issue every two years. I think the list of members, the historical information, and the bylaws are all very useful. With the turnover on the Board and in our membership, it's especially important that this type of information be put in front of all every two years.

— Stuart McCarty
Rochester, New York

WOODLOT CALENDAR

July 18-19: NYFOA Woodwalk at Wanakena, New York. Lodging available at Ranger School both nights.

July 21-22: NY Maple Producers Tour, Washington and Warren Counties, New York. Call

Lewis Staats at 518/523-9337.

August 1-2: Summer meeting of NY Christmas Tree Growers Association, Ferguson's Plantation, Warsaw, New York. Call 716/786-5081 for details.

August 12-14: Empire Farm Days, Palladino Farm, Pompey, New York.

August 15-17: Woodsman's Field Days, Boonville, New York.

August 16: NYFOA Woodwalk at property of Dr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, Wayland, New York.

September 12-13: Fall meeting of NYFOA, Sardinia (Erie County), New York. Slide show, woodwalks, beaver dams, maple syrup operation, sawmill, etc.

September 27-October 15: NYFOA Tour to New Zealand. Call 607/659-5275.

Published for the New York Forest Owners Association by American Agriculturist, Inc.
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Through regular issues of *N.Y. Forest Owner* magazine, frequent seminars and woodwalks 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.

Join!

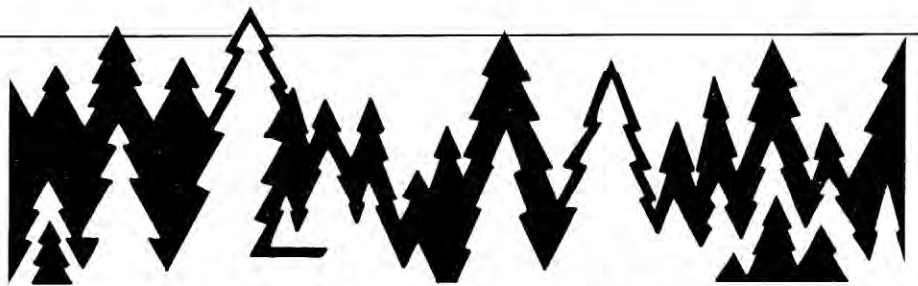
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YOUNG TREE FARMERS

MATTHEW and Sandra Critz operate a multi-faceted farm business located near Cazenovia, New York. The busy young couple is involved in Christmas trees for retail and wholesale market (60 acres), custom-shearing and planting Christmas trees, making 7,000 to 8,000 wreaths annually for Yuletide sale (wholesale and retail), pick-your-own small fruits — eight acres each of strawberries and blueberries, plus five acres of raspberries, growing conifer seedlings and transplants for sale to growers of Christmas trees (selling a quarter-million of them annually).

Seeds of conifer trees are gathered in the Adirondack Mountains, and on the Tug Hill Plateau, then sold to nursery operators or used to start seedlings at the Critz farm.

They also maintain a greenhouse for growing vegetable and flower plants for roadside sale, plus three acres of pumpkins.

Matt is a forestry graduate from the university at Syracuse, and is fully aware of the soils needed for a successful tree-seedling nursery. Palmyra gravelly loam is just the ticket, and there are eight acres of it on the 150-acre farm. Cazenovia silt loam is the major soil — only moderately well drained, but okay for most small-fruit and vegetable crops. Perhaps most important, there is a good site for a pond that offers indispensable irrigation.

"Irrigation," Matt says, "is a must for a tree nursery. An inch of water goes on the transplants and seedlings every week from a pump, or from the sky, or a combination of both. It's also essential for frost protection for strawberries in the spring, and pumpkins in the fall."

Sandra heads up the at-farm production and sales of pumpkins, berries, wreaths, and other products outside the forestry realm. Matt takes a crew on the

road early to custom-plant Christmas trees, and then to continue a complete custom service that also includes herbicide and/or insecticide applications, shearing, mowing, harvesting, and baling. He expects to shear 500,000 trees in 1986.

Hedge shears are used for shaping until trees are waist high, then the preferred tool becomes a light steel knife with an 18-inch blade and 10-inch handle (and a razor edge).

"At Cazenovia, there are two weeks of the best time to trim Scotch pine, but across the entire region where we do custom work, the period is seven weeks," Matt says. "The trimming crew operates a bit like the wheat harvesters in the west. We start in Virginia and work north with white pine and Scotch pine, then go south again to work our way north with the firs and spruce.



An inch of water goes on the transplants and seedlings every week from a pump or from the sky.

"Growing Christmas trees is a professional business now, requiring good seed to start with, herbicides and mowing to control vegetation, skillful trimming as the trees grow, and a marketing strategy that maximizes profit. In selling real estate, the saying is that the value of a property depends on three things — location, location, and location. With Christmas trees, value depends on quality, quality, and quality."

At the Critz farm, seedling trees include Douglas fir, balsam fir, white pine, white spruce, and Scotch pine. No blue spruce is grown because it is an alternate host for the Cooley gall aphid, and Norway spruce is avoided because of its inclination for needle-drop. "Fraser fir is

by Gordon Conklin

not included because the deer love to chew them," Matt says. Cone collecting to gather seeds for the nursery begins in mid-August.

"Our custom work in Christmas-tree plantations is a market niche for us," Matt says. "As far as I know, we are the only northeastern outfit offering such a service from planting to harvest. The at-farm sales of small fruits, Christmas trees, vegetables, and wreaths are also market niches somewhat uncommon in our immediate area, offering more adequate and relatively stable margins, as contrasted to selling everything wholesale."

He figures on sales averaging 2,000 Christmas trees annually, part of them at the farm (the trees are displayed in the haymow floor of what was once a dairy barn at the homestead). The rest are sold at three locations in the nearby city of Syracuse. Matt cautions would-be growers (dazzled with the numbers generated when multiplying 2,000 by \$20) to remember that it is 8 to 10 years after planting before salable trees are ready — and the investment in taxes, trimming, mowing, and so on mount up year by year.

But he's bullish about the industry generally, saying, "About seventy percent of the Christmas trees used in New

York State are imported from outside its boundaries, so there is room for growers of quality trees. Let me lean on that term again — quality trees."

When Matt began looking for a place to relocate (from the Watertown, New York area), he had some specific objectives:

- population density nearby to provide sufficient customers for at-farm sales;
- soil with adequate water-handling capacity for a nursery, and lower-quality (but still adequate) soils for small fruits, vegetables, and Christmas trees;



"Our custom work in Christmas-tree plantations is a market niche for us."

— Matt Critz

- location on a heavily traveled, all-weather road that offered easy access to the farmstead;
- aquifer and soil characteristics that would make irrigation-pond construction both feasible and productive.

All these things are available to the

Critz at their present location. It is unusual for people to be so specific and scientific in searching for a farm, but such an approach can pay big dividends. ■

DR. WILLIAM HARLOW

Well-known forestry professor and former Heiberg Award winner Dr. William M. Harlow, 85, died recently. He was a life-long Syracuse resident.

Harlow authored seven books including *Textbook of Dendrology* which focuses on tree identification and characteristics. The book is now in its sixth edition.

Harlow is best known, perhaps, for his photography which appeared in the *Life/Nature* library book, *The Forest and the Scientist*, and McGraw-Hill's *The Life of the Forest* and *The Life of the Marsh*. Harlow produced films for Walt Disney Studios and Encyclopedia Britannica. His work includes a total of 28 16-mm films for which he won some 13 national awards.

A professor at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse from 1928 until 1965, Harlow won the prestigious Svend O. Heiberg Award from the New York Forest Owners Association in 1980. ■

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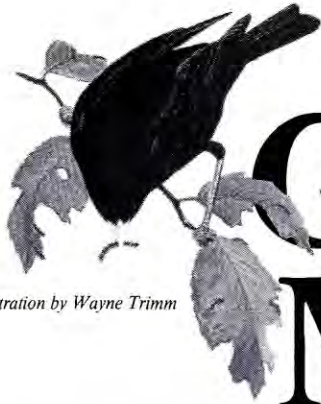


Illustration by Wayne Trimm

GYPSY MOTH

GYPSY moths carry a deadly biological "time bomb" waiting to be detonated. And scientists at the Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI) for Plant Research at Cornell University are trying to find the trigger mechanism to set off the explosive on command.

Large tracts of northeastern forests have been severely damaged by hungry gypsy moth caterpillars in recent decades. Now scientists find that large numbers of gypsy moths are infected with a peculiar kind of virus. It produces no recognizable symptoms at first, but for reasons not well understood, the virus becomes destructive to its host when activated, much like the herpes simplex virus that causes cold sores in humans. Such a virus, if activated by forest managers, could wipe out the pesky gypsy moths, which, scientists say, are the most serious insect pests affecting the nation's hardwood forests.

"When this virus becomes activated, it's lethal," says BTI virologist Alan Wood. "That explains why gypsy moth populations, after several years of rampage, crash practically overnight."

At least one in every 10 gypsy moths is infected with this virus, which is ready to seize an opportune time to become virulent, a phenomenon not previously seen in the world of caterpillars and moths (lepidopteron), according to Wood.

In his most recent study, Wood has made another major discovery. He found that infected gypsy moths pass on the virus to their offspring. This makes scientists even more convinced that they may be able to turn this virus into a killer at the right time.

Brought into Massachusetts from Europe more than a century ago, gypsy moths have since stripped millions of acres of forests in the Northeast. A leading defoliator of hardwoods, especially oak, the critter is known to attack more

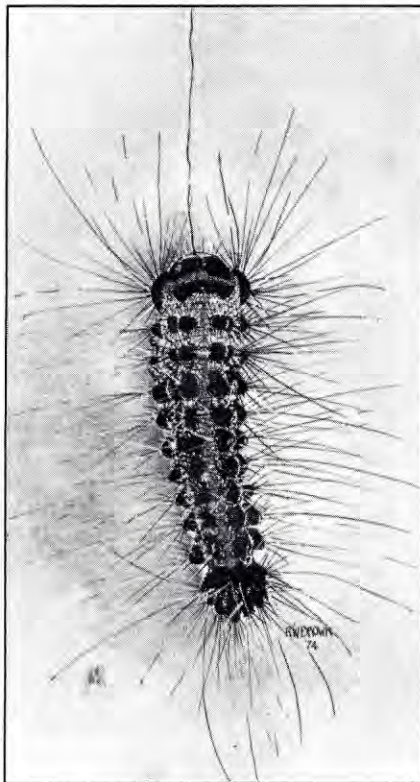


Illustration by R. W. Brown

This young larva has spun a silken thread from the tree crown. This thread will probably break as he drops, and the wind may carry him to another location . . . possibly as much as 20 miles away. The many long hairs on his body increase his airborne buoyancy.

TIME BOMB

by Yong Kim

than 100 species of trees, shrubs, and ornamentals.

Still on the march, the gypsy moth is expanding its range. Pockets of infestations now exist throughout the Northeast, in parts of the Midwest as far west as Wisconsin, and on the Atlantic seaboard as far south as South Carolina. Gypsy moths are now showing up in the northwestern United States, including northern California, Oregon, and Washington.

Within infested areas, gypsy moth populations fluctuate widely in almost unpredictable fashion. BTI's Wood is convinced that gypsy moth population crashes that occur usually several years after boom periods are due to the epidemics caused by the so-called latent virus infections in gypsy moths.

When the virus is dormant, causing no visible damage, scientists call that behavior the latent or persistent state. When the latent virus becomes activated and destructive, that phenomenon is called the productive state.

What prompts the latent virus to become deadly remains a scientific mystery. Wood believes that when gypsy moth populations undergo physiological stress, such as food scarcity or seeking out new food sources beyond the infested areas, the virus transforms itself into a lethal one.

"People carrying the herpes simplex virus develop cold sores following a stress, such as fever," Wood explains. "The gypsy moth virus acts up whenever the insect is stressed."

"If we can find out what turns the virus against its host, we would be able to destroy the insect before it causes unacceptable levels of damage," Wood points out.

Based on this hypothesis, Wood plans to establish in his laboratory a large gypsy moth colony infected with the latent virus. These infected insects will be put through a variety of stresses to see which one makes the virus become destructive.

"We plan to put the insect through every conceivable kind of stress to pinpoint which stress serves as the trigger," Wood says. "We hope to find the one that is environmentally safe as well as economical."

In Wood's view, mixing the insect's food with certain kinds of chemicals produced by trees or shrubs that are not pre-

ferred as food by gypsy moths may be one possibility to induce stress. For example, tannin, a natural chemical found in pine needles, may be a good candidate.

"We could set off such a chemical trigger just before insect damage becomes serious," Wood says. "We want to have those viruses turn against their hosts when we want them to, rather than waiting for Mother Nature to do it."

Discussing another way of pitting the virus against its host, Wood says that live viruses could be sprayed just before gypsy moths lay their eggs late in the season. Because the viruses are now known to be transmitted through the eggs, many of the young larvae emerging from the eggs in the following spring would be infected.

Scientists have found that large numbers of gypsy moths are infected with a peculiar kind of virus.

"Then we could throw the chemical switch to activate those viruses," Wood says.

The same virus as a living insecticide has been employed by professional foresters to control gypsy moths in heavily infested areas. Results have been unpredictable because this practice depends on nature to turn those viruses into killers.

Woods' discovery that gypsy moths harbor such a potentially deadly virus and transmit it to their offspring opens up new avenues of research. The Boyce Thompson Institute scientist suspects that other kinds of insect pests affecting important agricultural crops also may carry latent viruses.



Illustration by Wayne Trimm

Predaceous ground beetles kill gypsy moth larvae. Most important is a large iridescent green importation from Europe called *Calosoma sycophanta*. Pictured here, one of the native ground beetles, *Calosoma frigidum*, attacks a gypsy moth caterpillar.

The Douglas fir tussock moth that attacks all types of fir trees in the Pacific Northwest, cotton bollworm, and cabbage looper are among serious insect pests that may be carriers of such viruses, Wood speculates.

"If our idea of wiping out gypsy moths by coaxing those latent viruses to attack their hosts is successful, it could serve as a model to develop a new strategy for biological control of insect pests," Wood says.

Working with Wood on this research are insect physiologist Patrick Hughes and research associate John Burand, both at BTI, and Grieg Steward, an undergraduate majoring in neurobiology in



Photo by Alan Wood, Boyce Thompson Institute

Oak trees, if defoliated three or more consecutive years by gypsy moth caterpillars, may never recover.

the College of Arts and Sciences, and entomologist Warren Johnson in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, both at Cornell.

Wood's research is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Cornell Biotechnology Program, which is comprised of the Center for Advanced Technology in Biotechnology (Agriculture), funded by the New York State Science and Technology Foundation, and the Biotechnology Institute, funded by Eastman Kodak, General Foods, and Union Carbide. The project is also supported in part by the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation in New York City. ■

WOOD PRESERVATIVES

"Bibliography of Wood Preservative and Use" is the title of a new *Conservation Circular* by W. Shoales, G. Goff, and N. Tammi, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University. This 15-page publication contains annotations, prices, and ordering information for 28 references on the following topics: physical properties of woods, drying wood, protecting wood from decay, and building with wood.

Farmers, homeowners, wood workers, and others who use wood around the home, farm, or estate will find this bibliography full of general information on wood preservation and an excellent source for publications.

To order, mail \$1.50 per copy (\$1.05 each for 10 or more copies) to: Extension Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001. Make checks payable to Cornell University. A free directory listing 19 bulletins and 26 conservation circulars for forest owners can also be ordered from the same address. ■

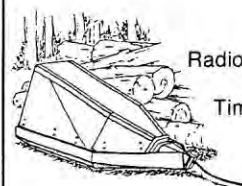
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NEIL Wright says he didn't even tap the trees in one of his Oneida County, New York, sugar bushes last year. He says he was too busy trying to install his reverse osmosis (RO) machine.

It didn't bother him much. His sap averaged only 2.1% sugar content in 1985.

"If ever there was a year to miss, last year would have been it," says Wright with a knowing laugh.

He knows that low sugar content across much of the Northeast the past couple of years makes his decision look smart, and makes syrup prices attractive to producers. Those prices may account for the big attendance at this year's annual maple tour, a traveling educational event organized by New York's Cooperative Extension Service that takes producers and would-be producers to visit one another. Almost 300 enthusiasts registered each of the past two years.

Because of its \$22-a-gallon retail price, pure maple syrup is laughingly called liquid gold. As with mining gold, the trick is to extract the high-value sweetener for less than the going price. With maple syrup that can be a challenge, considering the fuel cost to boil, typically, 40 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup. In 1983, Neil Wright needed only 36½ gallons of sap per gallon of syrup, but in a bad year, it might take 42 or more.

Therein lies the maple producer's science: use the sweetest sap; use the least and cheapest fuel; find the best price. Much of Neil Wright's management revolves around such principles. His trees are drained with plastic tubing that draws sap to the roadside. That way, no trucks have to leave the paved road during sug-

aring season, says Wright. That suits principle two: use the least fuel.

He culls trees, cuts them down, according to sweetness tests. That's principle one: use the sweetest sap.

"We did notice an increase in the sugar content in this bush after it was thinned six years ago," says Wright. "With thinning, it takes fewer years to reach tappable size because the trees grow faster."

Another factor affecting sweetness is the maple leaf cutter. Extension Service maple specialist Lewis Staats observes that this leaf-chewing insect hurts sweetness, largely by reducing the surface area of the leaf, the photosynthesis factory.

It is sometimes said that the only way to become a farmer is to be born one or to marry one. Neil Wright is living evidence that this isn't so of a maple producer. He worked three years in a lumber camp before deciding, he says, there had to be an easier way. He went to sea in the Merchant Marine for 10 years, then returned to Oneida County to enter the grocery business. He moved into plumbing and heating and, eventually, started selling coal.

He boiled enough sap his first season to make 33 gallons of syrup. He burned that coal and claims he could make syrup that way for half his neighbor's cost (principle two: cheap fuel).

"I sold all I had," says Wright, "so, I made some more the next year."

He kept that up until 1970, when he had trouble finding the right size coal he needed. It was a problem born in America's conversion to oil. Neil Wright was forced to go along, just in time for the Arab oil embargo. Now, he averages \$2.20 expenditure for oil for every gallon of syrup he makes.

In 1984, he boiled 36,000 gallons of sap. He says he sells about 100 gallons of syrup a month right at the sugar house in Camden.

Much of that syrup is sold on the pancake. The Wright family operates a small (roughly 50-seat) pancake restaurant at the sugar house. Neil Wright says a visitor was impressed with an addition he built on the sugar house to house a bathroom and a place to have lunch.

"You ought to make pancakes and sell

Neil Wright (c) traded up from the Merchant Marine to this Oneida County, New York, sugar bush. With him are (l) Oneida County agent Bruce Field, state forester Al Brown, and (r) extension maple specialist Lewis Staats.

B Y A L A N K N I G H T

'em right here," the visitor suggested.

"Well, there went my wife and there went my bathroom," jokes Wright.

The pancake kitchen operates 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The Wrights' daughter returns each weekend from Syracuse to help operate it.

Neil Wright says he spends about \$600 a year on advertising, and he has strong ideas on what works and what does not. One idea he likes very much is the daily door prize. People who come to the pancake kitchen can fill out a card and put it in the box to be eligible for the daily drawing for a small jug of maple syrup. That is a small price for the Wrights to pay for what they really want: a mailing list.

Everybody who fills out the card is, in effect, entering his name on a customer mailing list. Each customer receives a card in the mail in late winter reminding them to "come get some pancakes" (principle three: get the best price).

Neil Wright is high on reverse osmosis, the idea that kept him from tapping more trees this past spring while he wrestled with the machine.

"My RO machine?" he says. "It's a great machine. All it lacks is a book that tells you how to operate it."

Reverse osmosis is hi-tech in the bush. By using new membrane technology, a maple producer can separate sap from water without resorting to expensive boiling (principle two: least fuel). It's much like separating apples from cider, only more sophisticated and much more expensive.

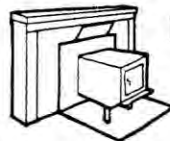
One serious operator who visited Neil Wright admitted to having spent \$20,000 on his own reverse osmosis machine before sending it back to the factory because of gradual loss of filtering ability. He said it was almost as though it clogged up.

But Neil Wright loves his.

"We leave it going, go home and have supper, then go to bed and come back to all that concentrate," he says, apparently not missing those all-night boiling sessions and companion fuel cost. The RO machine handles 300 gallons of sap per hour.

Neil Wright also likes and recommends to others the battery-powered alarm system that sounds if the sap level in the evaporator boils too low.

"It cost me less than \$100," says Wright. "I don't know how people are coming up with these \$1,000 and \$1,500 alarm systems." ■



FIREWOOD SALES RULES

Whenever firewood is sold, a detailed receipt is now required by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. This rule became effective on July 24, 1985, says Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist David Taber.

"A delivery ticket, sales invoice, or receipt shall be presented by the seller to the buyer whenever any unpackaged wood for fuel is sold," according to the rule change.

Every delivery ticket, sales invoice, or receipt must state the name and address of the seller, the date of the sale, the quantity or dimensions of the wood sold, and the price of the quantity sold.

Additional information about the New York State regulations covering the sale of firewood can be obtained from your county Bureau of Weights and Measures or the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Bureau of Weights and Measures, Building 7A, State Campus, Albany, NY 12223 (telephone 518/457-3452). ■



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ASK A

FORESTER

SICK BEECH

On our 30-acre hardwood lot, much of the beech is covered with white fuzzy patches. At first I thought this was snow, but on closer examination realized I was mistaken. Is this something I should be concerned about? We have been taking firewood annually from this land by cutting only the defective and dying trees.

— B.J. Sullivan
Cortland County

You bet you should be concerned. You may have heard about the beech bark disease that has decimated stands of beech throughout New England and has scattered infestations over New York. The killing disease is a canker fungus (*Nectria*) whose spores are able to infect the inner living tissue of beech through bark openings initiated by the beech scale, a tiny insect with a sucking beak that penetrates the thin bark to feed on sap. When in high or epidemic population, thousands of scale insects are feeding on one beech stem, and the bark will die and crack with so many incisions, allowing the canker spores to enter. It is this fungus that finally kills the beech. You will first note the presence of the scale insects, as you have, by the “fuzzy” white protective covering they produce by their own excretions. With high populations of the insect, the lower portions of the stem will appear white-washed. Within one to two years, you should notice an “orange glow” on the dead and dying moist bark (crusty orange-brown when dry). This is the *Nectria* fruiting body and a sure sign of death.

What to do? There is no known economical method of controlling the disease. Select the over-mature or oldest trees first which are apparently heavily infested and cut or utilize for firewood before the stems begin rotting. If it's more than you can handle, I am sure you could contract a firewood sale in your area. As you probably know, beech is excellent firewood whose heat-yield per unit volume even exceeds hard maple.

Although the disease may eventually

kill all of your pole- and sawtimber-sized beech, I would advise you to leave a few of the best (straightest and longest stems with healthy or full crowns) pole and young sawtimber-sized trees (6-14") which appear to have a low level of infestation. Who knows? The disease may pass and spare a few.

THAT NATURAL LOOK

I own a 100-acre hardwood lot that has an all-aged, wilderness appearance. There seem to be few seedlings and smaller trees but many in the middle-range, 6 to 10" in diameter, and a smaller number of really big trees. I detest the one-storied look of so many woodlots, it's just too artificial for me. A botanist friend told me that the species are mostly sugar maple and beech in the smaller size and yellow birch, black cherry (with a few red spruce and hemlock) in the larger size. My question is how can I maintain this natural appearance and increase the cherry-birch trees in the 6 inch category of my woodlot?

— A wilderness lover
St. Lawrence County

Well, a forester can maintain that all-aged or uneven-aged structure of your stand with a carefully controlled marking and cutting plan. In fact, I bet that all-aged spread can even be improved by applying the single-tree selection system of silviculture. If you are not opposed to making a little money by harvesting some of your trees, this could pay for the expertise of a good forester who can, in time, give your woodlot a wider distribution of diameter classes. There may be a void of seedlings and saplings in your stand and these can be stimulated or released by a partial removal of the overstory (larger trees). Do not be alarmed because, most likely, just removing diseased, dying and low-quality trees in the pole and sawtimber classes would be adequate release. During the same harvest or treatment, you would have to decide whether it's best to utilize the biggest and most defective cherry, birch, hemlock, and spruce, or let them remain to rot and be windthrown.

(continued on next page . . .)

by Wes Suhr

ASK A FORESTER . . .

(continued from page 10)

With this single-tree selection system, the shade-tolerant trees in the understory will thrive and persist to eventually become the climax forest type (sugar maple, beech, hemlock and red spruce). So, in answer to the second part of your question, the cherry and birch component will eventually disappear (the cherry first), by allowing either nature or the forester to maintain that all-aged structure. Yellow birch may be regenerated and maintained in a heavy partial cut, but black cherry requires full sunlight to survive after the seedlings are established. It is a shade intolerant species and cannot be regenerated successfully with the single-tree selection system or in the all-aged stand.

As you can see, this is complicated business. I strongly suggest that you contact a forester to evaluate your woodlot in terms of those objectives with you desire that are also achievable.

Questions should be addressed to:
Wes Suhr, Ranger School, Wanakena, New York 13695. ■

WOODSWALKS

WAYLAND AUGUST 16

Wayland, New York, and the tree farm owned by Dr. and Mrs. John Hamilton will be the scene of this mid-summer woodswalk, and a fascinating one it sounds like, too.

The Hamiltons' tree farm consists of 330 acres, 200 of which are wooded. Mrs. Hamilton's father started it in 1933 with a 90 acre purchase of scrub land. As years went by, he, his daughter and her husband have been able to add contiguous acreage to round out the tree farm.

They have planted more than 100,000 seedlings of softwoods, including a variety of pines and spruces. Until 1974, the land was used only for recreation, but in that year they built a new home and took up residence on the site.

The Hamiltons are in the eighth year of a ten-year F.I.P. (Forest Improvement Program) project under the supervision of a state employed forester who cites it as a good example of what people can do on their own without outside workers.

The Hamiltons have planted in recent years locust and Christmas trees for family and friends, and are also very involved in efforts to restore the American chestnut. They have set out their own *Castanea* seedlings.

Mrs. Hamilton writes that she and Dr. Hamilton delight in watching the wildlife, such as opossums, skunks, and even bobcats and black bears that share the tree farm with them. They make frequent use of the acreage for skiing, hunting, fishing, and hiking.

To find the farm, turn north from route 21 (which connects Wayland and North Cohocton) onto county route 37, which intersects Route 21 exactly 3.7 miles from North Cohocton. Proceed north on county route 37 until you come to a second left: Schribner Road, a dirt road that goes steeply up hill. Proceed on Schribner Road for 0.8 miles to the house with the Tree Farm sign, and you're there.

Activities begin at 10 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch and appropriate dress for the weather. ■

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NEW IN THE WOODLOT



CROSSBOW HERBICIDE

Effective weed and brush management often must begin with controlling unwanted plants in fencerows, roadsides, and other non-crop areas. Crossbow weed and brush killer from the Dow Chemical Company is now available for such non-cropland uses. Company spokesmen say that no permit or certification is required to buy and use Crossbow.

The herbicide controls a wide variety of woody plants including multiflora rose, hawthorn, and blackberry, as well as many broadleaf weeds such as Canada thistle and ironweed. While the product is highly active against many weed species, it is selective to most grasses.

Crossbow is applied any time plants are actively growing as a wetting spray with 1 to 1½ gallons of chemical per 100 gallons of water on woody plants. To control annual and perennial broadleaves, apply as a broadcast spray at a rate of 1 to 2 quarts per acre in enough water to provide uniform weed coverage. For spot treatments, ¼ pint of herbicide should be mixed with 3 gallons of water.

TRACTOR-MOUNTED TREE SAW

Worksaver, Inc., Litchfield, Illinois is now offering a tractor-mounted rear saw they say is capable of felling a 20" oak tree in approximately 20 seconds. The saw can be used with any Category II tractor having at least 75 hp, a 3-pt. hitch, and pto. When the saw is in position, a spring-loaded pusher bar contacts the tree high on its trunk to provide safety and direct the fall. A rotating 54" circular blade is then pushed through the tree by a hydraulic cylinder. The blade's replaceable teeth are made of durable carbide steel.

The rugged, heavy-duty saw allows trees to be cut at ground level, eliminating stumps and increasing timber harvest. Trees up to 24" in diameter require only a single cut while larger trees may be felled with multiple cuts.

To find out about the tractor-mounted saw or any of Worksaver's 3-pt. attachments, contact: Worksaver, Inc., P.O. Box 1000, Litchfield, IL 62056 (telephone 217/324-5973).



NEW WOODS MOWER

Woods, Division of Hesston Corporation, Oregon, Illinois, announces the Model F35, their latest undermount mower designed for compact tractors rated from 14 hp to 30 hp.

The model F35 is adaptable for use with Ford, Kubota, John Deere, International, Mitsubishi, and Yanmar tractors.

Complete information and specifications on the Model F35 are available from Woods, Division of Hesston Corporation, Oregon, IL 61061. Please include the manufacturer's name of your tractor when requesting literature.



WOODCHOP'R

New for the woodcutter is 3L Co.'s WOODCHOP'R, an innovative tool that, according to the company, allows the woodcutter to work safer, faster, and easier than ever. WOODCHOP'R is a high quality steel stand to which your chain saw is easily mounted. At last you can cut long pieces of wood single-handedly eliminating the need for a second pair of hands. The job will be faster and safer because kickback is eliminated and vibration non-existent.

The WOODCHOP'R is constructed of steel, yet weighs less than 14 pounds. It is compact so you can transport it to any site, and it is easily stored. Company officials say their tool is great for the woodcutter eager to get the job done in the quickest, most efficient manner.

WOODCHOP'R sells for \$32.95. For further information, write to 3L Co., 226 S. Dunton, E. Patchogue, NY 11772.



WOODLOT SHOP



Classified Advertisements:

There is a simple formula for placing a classified advertisement in the *N.Y. Forest Owner*. Write or, preferably, type your advertisement. Count the words (this ad is 53 words), multiply by 25 cents per word, and send a check payable to the *n.y. Forest Owner*, 710 West Clinton Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

For Sale: Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) seed from superior Christmas tree type on Tug Hill, Lewis County. Bill Ballagh 315/376-7281.

For Sale: 90 acre hardwood & softwood woodlot on blacktop road near Lake Ozonia, St. Lawrence County; including lovely 5 room cabin; spring outside cabin door; brook crosses property; several woodroads on property; excellent deer hunting. \$22,000, with owner financing. Write Box 223, Norwood, NY 13668.

Travel: Forest owners' tour to New Zealand, September 27-October 15, 1986. Visit other forest owners and organizations in the country where forestry is a kind of farming and farming is king. Sponsored by the New York Forest Owners Association. Contact New Yorkshire Tours, 96 Targosh Road, Candor, New York 13743. Tel. 607/659-5275.

For Sale: Christmas trees are a good cash crop. We have the planting stock. We also have deciduous shrubs, ground covers, and trees, including nut trees. We do planting in nearby counties. W.C. Cottell, 5577 South Geneva Road, Sodus, NY 14451. Telephone 315/483-9684.

For Sale: Christmas tree seedlings. Special 5-8' woodplants, \$95 per thousand. Superior balsam woodplants 8-15', \$200 per thousand. Balsam woodplants 8-15' transplanted in trenches at least one year and fertilized, \$400 per thousand. Contact Walker's Tree Farms, East Burke, VT 05832. Telephone 802/626-5276.

Classified advertisements

Services: Custom kiln drying and export service, high quality drying at competitive rates. Write or call for services and price list. Northeast Kiln Drying, Inc., P.O. Box 800, Plaistow, NH 03865. 603/382-9271.

For Sale: JD540B skidder, approx. 4,000 hours, one owner, well-maintained, ready to work for you. Log Loader-Tree King Model 8000, mounted on R200 International. Lovelace Lumber Co., P.O. Drawer 17, Rossa Gap Road, Summitville, NY 12781. 914/888-2580 after 8 p.m.

Wanted: Red pine logs cut to length and delivered to Manassas, VA area. Specs: unpeeled, minimum 13-14" at butt, 9-10" at top; straight with little taper; majority of lengths 36'-40'. Rob Krieger Log Homes, P.O. Box 1275, Manassas, VA 22110. 703/698-1529.

For Sale: Number 8 Ireland sawmill complete with diesel engine 4-71, clutch & V-belts; 1965 International flat bed Model 201-A, 36,000 gross; 1965 F750 Ford, flat bed dump; Farmall H tractor. Lawrence Newport, RR #1, Box 223, Equinunk, PA 18417. 717/224-4686.

For Sale: 6 Walnut trees, 20", 20", 19", 17½", 17½", and 17" diameter at breast height; 33', 31', 24', 31', 22', and 24' respectively to first limb. Several smaller trees, 11" to 15" diameter at breast height. John Peters, 35 Turkey Lane, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724. 516/367-8061 or 201/632-6231.

For Sale: 1 native American Chestnut tree (alive but failing), 16" DBH, approx. 40' to an 8" top. Thomas Grasso, RD2, Rt. 50, Ballston Lake, NY 12019. 518/885-6078.

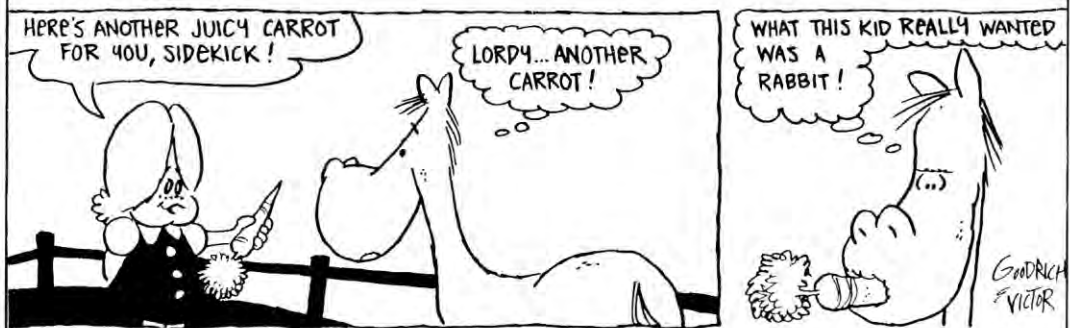
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For Sale: Buy a Cardinal Mobile Sawmill and "Take it to the woods!" From basic manual to fully automatic your best dollar value in commercial sawmill equipment today. Sawmill machinery of all kinds, specializing in pallet manufacturing equipment. R.A. Montgomery & Co., RD#1, Box 330, Wernersville, PA 19565. 215/678-5703. Call anytime.

Wanted: Hardwood veneer and sawlogs. Specializing in tulip poplar, ash, white oak, and red oak from localities in Southeastern/Southcentral New York and Eastern PA. Pomeroy Lumber, Inc., River Road, Nineveh, NY 13813. 607/693-2690.

For Sale: Case 450B dozer with winch, 2 yrs. old, \$32,000; Case 825 Skid King power shift log skidder, turbocharged 108 HP, Model 20 - 40,000 lb. winch, \$25,000; Clark 667D log skidder, 152 HP turbocharged Cummings, 2 yrs. old, \$49,000; Kent 1984 double bunk log trailer, original tires, \$9,000; Trailmobile 40' drop frame shop van, \$6,000; Wausau snowplow, 11' wide x 42" high, \$500. Ronald Ville-neuve, RD 2, Box 480-1, Underhill, VT 05489. 802/899-4952.

SIDEKICK



CLASSIFIED ADS . . . BEST WAY TO BUY AND SELL

WOODCUTS

Chestnuts

It's no secret to most readers now that the *New York Forest Owner* is edited and published by *American Agriculturist* magazine for the New York Forest Owners Association. *American Agriculturist* goes back a long way, clear back to 1842, making it, arguably, the oldest farm magazine in the country.

There's lots of forestry in that heritage. One of the best remembered editors of years ago was Ed Eastman, who wrote a series of rural yarns called Eastman's Chestnuts. In one of his Chestnuts, Eastman told the story of cutting down a huge tree for firewood with his dad. As the big two-man saw worked its way endlessly back and forth, the Eastman boy got mighty tired.

The elder Eastman worked on, but, by and by, had to say, "Look, son, I know you're tired, and you've got a right to be. If you need to rest that's all right, but must you drag your feet so as you ride?"

Times change. The old two-man saw that Ed Eastman used is long gone, relegated to the role of cocktail lounge decoration. Take a look through extension service forestry bulletins of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s and you'll find frequent admonition to keep livestock out of the woodlot because they trampled roots and ate valuable hardwood seedlings.

Take the Forest Owners Association trip to New Zealand and you'll find farmers and researchers seriously trying to re-integrate grazing with woodlot management. Research foresters and economists there have decided that sheep and radiata (Monterrey) pine together, on the same acreage, yield more profit than either would alone. They've figured out optimum stocking rates for the sheep, stocking rates for the fast-growing trees, and whether it's worthwhile or not to remove pruning slash (it isn't . . . in fact, the slash shelters new-born lambs).

Large and small commercial ventures called "two tier" farms are developing across New Zealand as farmers and forest owners alike attempt to wring profits from a beautiful land but unforgiving economy.

But they're doing something we have long been taught not to do. Who's right?

Post-Packwood

Forest industry associations have been

cranking out press releases and letter writing campaigns to protest possible changes in income tax codes. One association even offered its members a fill-in-the-blank letter-to-the-congressman that said "I will have to go out of business."

That was all pre-Packwood. Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon and his congressional allies have come up with a radical change of income tax rules. I will try to locate someone to write an in-depth analysis of it, but from what I have seen and read so far, I like it.

In agriculture, at least, many have come to blame the cock-eyed tax codes for much of the surplus problem. The tax codes have encouraged non-farm money to seek tax shelter through cost (versus accrual) accounting, investment tax credits, and depreciation. If those tax-shelter farmers weren't there, critics argue, much of the surplus production wouldn't be, either.

Perhaps this could also be said of the feared over-production of Christmas trees.

And who would miss the demise of a profession grown up merely to help citizens figure out their taxes?

Your neighbors

The title of this magazine implies that it is about people more than about forests. If you know of an interesting forest owner, why not take some time to scribble down your observations? Why not share with other readers what it is that makes your forest-owning neighbor so interesting? Maybe he's ingenious in building gadgets that make his woods work easier. Maybe she knows every mushroom imaginable. Maybe the family has a unique approach to involving the children in the Christmas tree plantation work.

A man once said that he was a little bit of everyone he ever knew. Why not share those little bits with us all? Write to us at 710 West Clinton Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

— Alan Knight, editor ■

Woodcuts is a page of editorial and reader opinion. Short essays on topics of interest to forestland owners may be submitted to The New York Forest Owner, 710 West Clinton Street, Ithaca, NY 14850.

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Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: Editor, *N.Y. Forest Owner*, 710 West Clinton Street, Ithaca, New York 14850. Unsolicited articles, artwork, and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission is 60 days prior to publication date. Published January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Please address all membership and change of address requests to Executive Secretary.

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Tractor size	15-30 HP	20-40 HP	40-60 HP	60 HP and up	100-200 HP
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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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