

FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

May/June 1988

THE NEW YORK



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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

Published for the New York Forest Owners Association by
Karen Kellicutt, Editor — Noreen Kellicutt, Assistant Editor

Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: Editor, N. Y. Forest Owner, RD #1, Box 103, Lisle, New York 13797. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission is 30 days prior to publication in July and September.

Please address all membership and change of address requests to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 123, Boonville, N.Y. 13309.

President's Message

By the time you read this message, my term as President of NYFOA will be almost over. It seems like only a few months ago that Bob Sand was on the phone asking me to take over as your President but in reality it has been more than four years. It has been a hectic four years but our organization has survived and, in fact, has shown growth in membership during that period. Although there were a few trials and tribulations, we have also had our share of successes.

The very fact that you are again receiving this magazine is our latest endeavor and I am sure we all wish Karen the very best of luck in her efforts to get the press rolling again. At this point, I would be remiss if I did not thank Alan Knight for all of his past help and his continued thoughts toward providing the membership with a quality publication.

Since this is my last chance to express my thoughts to you, I would also like to thank Ruth Thoden for all

of her help during my term and also for providing a newsletter during the past year or so. My gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors for their time and effort at meetings and for serving on the various committees.

As we look ahead to the coming year, it appears to be an exciting one for forestry and the forest owner in New York State. Let's get it started by attending the Annual Meeting on April 30th at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. An interesting program has been prepared by Al Horn and we also will be making our annual awards at the luncheon. The Northeast Loggers Congress is being held at the State Fairgrounds from April 28 - 30, so perhaps you can make both events in one trip.

In closing, let me say that it has been a privilege to serve as your President, and I wish the Association continued success in the future.

— Richard E. Garrett

From Your Editor

Welcome to *The New York Forest Owner*. At the March 5 Board of Directors meeting I was appointed to edit and publish your magazine. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve you and promote the New York State Forest Owners Association.

Your response to my urgent request for material was tremendous. This particular issue was developed quickly, so that it could be published prior to the April 30 annual meeting. It is my goal, that future issues reflect the involvement of ALL the members.

Please remember that this is your magazine and it will only be as strong as

its membership. If you have an idea or suggestion on editorial content, feature stories (either written by me or a member) do not hesitate to send me a note. Articles and photographs from members will always have first priority. Contact me about advertising, either display or classified.

I am professionally honored to hold the position of editor and publisher of *The New York Forest Owner* and I am looking forward to working diligently and responsibly for the betterment of NYFOA.

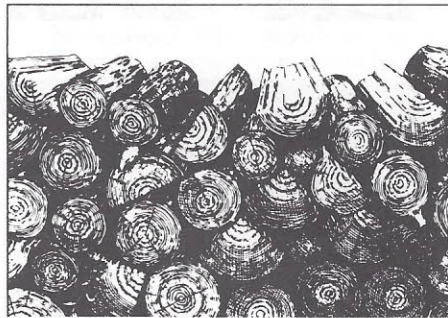
Sincerely,
Karen Kellicutt

WOOD — An Outstanding Material

By HOWARD O. WARD

You, as a Forest Owner, are primarily interested in growing trees for market. What is that market? You'd be surprised! It's more than lumber or firewood!

What are those words that you're reading printed on? Wood! We call it paper, from the original "paper" made from the papyrus reed. Why is paper wood? Pieces of wood, even logs, are ground up until there are only tiny pieces of the wood fiber left. These are put in suspension in water (sometimes with a chlorine bleach added) which is then spread evenly over a felt or cloth belt. This allows most of the water to drain through but leaving a layer of moist wood fiber of uniform thickness. This layer of moist fiber is passed over a series of large steam heated rolls to remove the rest of the water but the layer of wood fibers is bonded together and run through a pair of rollers to give it a uniform thickness. The result is PAPER!



How many different kinds of paper do you think you have in your house? Try counting them up before reading further. What's your answer?

Here are some of the ones in my house. 1. Writing paper. 2. Toilet tissue. 3. Facial tissue. 4. Paper towels. 5. Waxed paper. 6. Paper cups. 7. Newsprint. 8. Wrapping paper of various kinds. 9. Brown grocery bags. 10. Thin carboard boxes (ice cream containers). 11. Corrugated cardboard boxes. 12. Milk cartons. 13. Cheese tubs. 14. Carbon paper. 15. Envelopes both brown or white. 16. Cardboard boxes for games. 17.

Glossy magazine pages — and on and on.

Then there's Masonite hardboard. Here again, the logs are ground into dust. The dust, in a layer about 4 inches thick, is fed onto a number of heated pallets. These pallets, stacked one above another, are then pushed all together so that each 4 inch layer of wood fiber and lignin (I'll explain that shortly) is compressed into a smooth surfaced hardboard about 1/8 of an inch thick. What holds it all together? The lignin I just mentioned.

The tree grows its own lignin which holds the fibers together. If you've ever split wood, you can see the wood fibers along the length of the piece. What did you split? You split the lignin which bands those fibers together.

Probably everyone reading this lives in a house framed by wood, floored with wood, sided with wood (though it may be a chipboard or plywood beneath the clapboards or

(Continued on Page 10)

SPRING — Beginning Tree Planting

Like John Sherwood says, "Spring isn't Spring without planting a few trees", so here we go. Since you probably have already ordered this year's trees, let's start with some general rules. Nearly all trees grow best on the well-drained sites, so plant your slopes first. If you must plant the flat-wet sites, spruces and Balsam Fir will tolerate these areas. Don't forget to plant your trees in full sun and not under existing forest.

Christmas trees are spaced 6 feet by 6 feet, timber trees are spaced 8 feet by 8 feet or wider. (If an acre were square, it would be 208 feet by 208 feet).

As soon as you get your seedlings, moisten the roots, then keep them cool and in the dark until planting. Plant as soon as possible, but your trees may last a week or two in the bag.

While planting, keep the trees in a bucket of water or preferably in wet moss. When planted, the roots should be tight in the soil with no air pockets. You should be able to pull a few needles off the seedling without it coming out of the ground.



Keep the grass mowed in early summer so the mice can't hide from the hawks. Let the grass come up a bit in late Summer if August is dry. This may help to reduce losses to drought.

In planning for next Spring, let's get more technical. Buy an eye-opening soil test from Cooperative Extension. Five dollars for the core test gives you potassium and phosphorous levels as well as the pH or soil acidity. Add two

dollars for nitrate levels. Take samples from the top six or twelve inches of mineral soil, from three or more places in the field to be planted. Mix them together and take about a pint of this mix to your local Cooperative Extension office. You'll find out if the soil needs lime or fertilizer.

Hopefully, you won't need to prepare your site for planting. However, if you have brush or tall grasses, you may need mowing and/or herbicide treatment the summer before planting. Get help from a Forester or long-time Christmas Tree Grower.

What about sources of seedlings? DEC has a nursery in Saratoga Springs which usually starts taking orders in early January. Also, many county Soil and Water Conservation Districts run their own seedling programs through private nurseries. Finally, the New York Christmas Tree Grower's Association has a long list of tree nurseries.

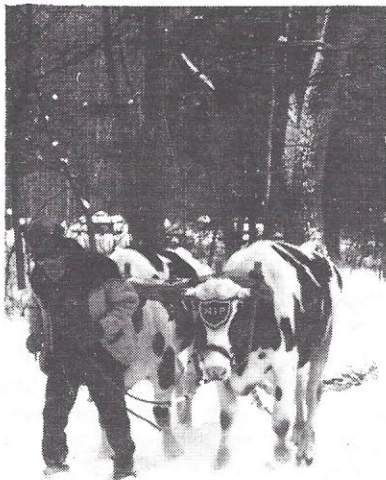
Which species should I choose? For
(Continued on Page 11)

CHAPTER REPORTS

Cayuga Chapter's Woodsmen Invade Tompkins County

After two previous very cold demonstrations on Valentine's Day of 1986 and 1987, on February 6, 1988, the Cayuga Woodsmen were invited to strut their stuff at the 9th Annual Winterfest held at Robert H. Treman State Park just South of Ithaca. It was snappy setting up; but by noon the 'Southern Tier' had become comparatively balmy.

For a crowd of several hundred who were skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, sleigh riding, and just sloshing around, the Cayuga Woodsmen did their thing (even obtained approval for a little management). Tim Roberson and his portable band sawmill colored the snow burgundy and scented the warming air as he sawed paneling from Red Cedar logs. The logs were trucked to the site by harvester Gregg Wellott in his ten-wheeler with mounted knuckleboom loader. Sample chips of the Red Cedar slabs were given to the spectators for souvenirs. Rick Roberson made little ones out of big ones using a flywheel, gear-driven wood-splitter. Alfred Signor manufactured steam in his homemade 'backyard' maple sap evaporator and Bob Hazelton exhibited the very attractive Ruffed Grouse Society Display.



The show-stopper was the young and newly started yoke of oxen trained and handled by Olin Bacon. It was the oxen's special skidding skills that convinced Tony Ingraham and Bob Gonet of Finger Lakes Parks Regional Office and Bob McIlroy and Bill Brown of Robert H. Treman State Park to consider some management. An 18-inch Ash previously felled by Parks personnel (die-back) and lying at the foot of a very steep hill-plantation of Red Pine, after much 'jockeying' of the oxen, was removed a short distance to the demonstration site. The butt log was sawed for boards and the remainder processed for firewood.

A number of other Cayuga Woodsmen served as monitors and provided support for the program (chocolate ship cookies). The idea for the program started as a question from Parks to the DEC Cortland Office. Bill Burlingame, Service Forester for Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tompkins Counties agreed to do a "Woodlot Management For Private Landowners" - program; and suggested Parks contact the Cayuga Chapter of the NYFOA.

The demonstrations were well received and may be repeated in the future with variations trimmed to the special requirements of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation of the State of New York.

By Richard Fox

Catskill Forest Association

The Catskill Forest Association (CFA) sponsored a tour of Mark Syska Trucking & Logging's automatic sawmill and firewood packaging operation in Saugerties, NY on March 19, 1988.

Mr. Syska personally guided the tour through the mill and answered numerous questions from the group. He pointed out that he entered the firewood packaging market late last fall in an attempt to market low grade, small diameter material which he receives from timber stand improvement (TSI) cuttings on private lands.

He packages firewood into one cubic foot bundles and places the bundles on pallets to facilitate handling. Most all of his product is sold in metropolitan areas. This coming year, he hopes to triple his manufactured volume of firewood. His innovative marketing approach will hopefully enable private landowners to be able to conduct more TSI work on their properties by having a market for small roundwood.

The tour was considered a success by all who attended. Our thanks go to Mark for offering his assistance for this program.

By Don Gilbert

Southern Tier Chapter

If attendance at a meeting is an indication of success, then our Chapter has reason to smile. Fifty-eight people attended our last meeting which addressed the treatment of income and expenses of the private or individual wood lot owner. Valuable information was presented to all those in attendance.

Our last meeting was scheduled for April 19. The meeting focused on the plantation management of Red Pine. Our speakers were Jim and Julian Webb. As owners and operators of Lok-n-Log Log Homes, the Webbs have become regional experts in the realm of red pine management and utilization.

Although red pine is a very site specific tree (requiring deep, well drained soils), on the right site it is capable of producing a variety of marketable products throughout its rotation (time between plantation establishment and final harvest). For example, one might harvest christmas trees, fence posts,

landscaping ties, softwood pulp, log cabin logs, lumber and telephone poles in successive thinnings of the plantation. This obviously may provide an economic incentive to establish more red pine plantations throughout New York State.

Julian Webb was recently recognized by the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation with an award for his extensive research with the utilization of red pine.

We also would like to announce the date and location of our summer picnic and meeting. It will be a joint get-together with the Broome County Christmas Tree Growers on August 20, 1988, and will be held at the multi-use farm of R. Dean Frost of Whitney Point. This promises to be an excellent meeting with machinery displays, christmas tree management information and tours, an operating bandsaw and horse logging demonstration, as well as a woodwalk in Dean's recently harvested woodlot. Let's not forget the food and fellowship!

A major objective of this organization is to inform and educate landowners. After some

thought, it seems as though a main activity of many new and long-term landowners at this time of the year is to become involved in reforestation or establishment of a Christmas tree plantation on their "old pasture — brushy land". Of utmost importance in establishing a successful crop of trees is selecting the tree species that are best suited to the type of soil that makes up your land. A wet soil (remains wet/damp for long period of time) would best support a spruce plantation of norway, white, or blue species. The drier, well drained sites are better suited for the pine and fir species. The aspect of slope (north-facing, south-facing, etc.) also affect the species to be chosen. Your local S.C.S. office may be able to assist in choosing the proper trees to plant, as well as your focal D.E.C. foresters. Remember to keep the seedling roots wet at all times and to make holes large enough to allow seedling roots to be placed in the ground straight down with little or no J shaping of the root mass.

By Jim Roberts

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

with Donald Gilbert

The New York Forest Owners Association's Legislative Committee has been closely watching the progress of several bills pending this session in the state legislature. Forest taxation exemptions and the state reimbursement of taxes to municipalities appear to be the most notable issues among these bills for New York forest owners.

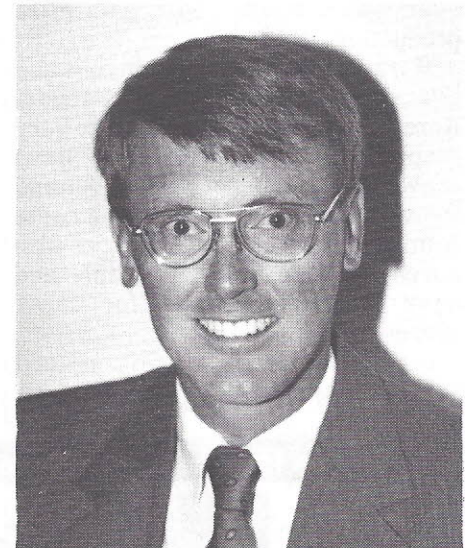
Senator Cook and Assemblyman Parment have recently introduced bills #S.7614 and #A.9924, respectively, to the state legislature for the purpose of creating a New York State forest resource industry council. The council will be charged with targeting and coordinating policies, plans and actions of state agencies, commissions and committees in order to strengthen the forest resource industry of the state. The Office of Rural Affairs shall administer the Forest Resource Industry Council with members consisting of agency officials and public appointees. The bills have been sent to the Senate Committee on Finance and the

Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Bills #S.1944-A, introduced by Senator Lavelle, and #A.2804-A by Assemblyman Hinchey, authorizes DEC to designate and regulate the habitats of endangered and threatened species. NYFOA has opposed this bill because of its vague language. A vote is expected by the Assembly very soon.

Senate bill #S.343-A, introduced by Senator Stafford has passed in the Senate. This bill would require the state to reimburse municipalities for exemptions under the Fisher Act of the Real Property Tax Law, section 480. The Assembly's counterpart to this bill is #A.511 (introduced by Assemblyman Harris) and is currently in the Real Property Tax Committee of the Assembly.

Senate bill #S.3282 has been introduced by Senator Schermerhorn and is currently in the Senate Local Government Committee. This bill addresses state reimbursement to municipalities for forest tax



DON GILBERT

exemptions under 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law.

Other forest product bills pending this session include Senate bill #S.6756, introduced by Senator Farley, and Assembly bill #A.9137, introduced

(Continued on Page 10)

The Hardwood Market

By Jim Peek

The last year brought some of the highest stumpage prices for Oak, Ash, Cherry, and Hard Maple I have ever seen. As you know, we have had strong Oak, Ash, and Cherry European markets for veneer and high grade lumber for years but something special drove up lumber and stumpage prices early this winter. The dollar has not been doing well against many foreign currencies which makes American products cheaper for foreign buyers even at the current prices.

Currency exchange rates drive international trade. Last October the dollar was worth 1600 Mexican pesos; the last time I looked, our dollar could buy 2600 pesos. Mexico is getting a lot more American tourists these days because at that exchange rate you can buy more (even after the locals raise the prices to cover inflation) with less dollars.

Compared to European and Far Eastern currencies, the American dollar has become a bargain (a little like the Peso) and American lumber is in exceptionally strong demand. Some mills went to double shifts and everyone tried to maximize production.

Markets for medium grade (one and two common) lumber to Taiwan, Korea, and Japan have grown to very respectable proportions and have drawn up the prices of this lumber and the value of the stumpage they came from. The Pacific Rim countries also purchase Hard and Soft Maple and have increased prices for these species.

Black Cherry is hitting record stumpage prices in Upstate New

York, but I am told the price increases are due to a reduced volume of Cherry being sawn in Northwestern Pennsylvania. In recent years, bad windstorms have blown down a lot of fine Alleghany Cherry trees and the marketplace has been filled with this salvaged material. The salvaged Cherry has about run out and increased domestic demand for Cherry furniture has driven the price of this species up to hundreds of dollars/MBF over the published "market" lumber price as well.

We all know good times don't last forever and some of the lumbermen I talked to in December thought prices had already peaked out. The one and two common was getting harder to sell and some folks weren't quite so happy at having big inventories of high priced logs and stumpage. What happened?

Our country's domestic economy took quite a shock when the value of stocks fell abruptly last October and left a lot of people feeling shaky about their finances, and people with doubts about their financial future do not buy expensive new homes, furniture, or pianos. Thus the domestic furniture makers, moldings, and door manufacturers don't need quite so much lumber.

By the way, many pianos are made in the Pacific Rim countries these days, so demand for maple action stock weakens when pianos made to export to the United States start to fill up Asian warehouses. The dollar exchange rate that made the lumber so cheap to foreign manufacturers now makes the manufactured product a lot more expensive in the United States and fewer items are imported

and the lumber business slows up a little. Please don't misunderstand — markets are still very good but perhaps we have passed the very peak of stumpage prices.

What's going to happen? Don't ask me to make a prediction — I don't know as much as an economist and that must be just about nothing (to slightly misquote Will Rogers). I do think I know what to look for, however:

(1) Keep an eye on housing starts and mortgage rates. Housing starts are a good indicator of the strength of the domestic lumber market — and I don't just mean softwood construction lumber, they work for hardwood as well.

(2) Keep an eye on currency exchange rates. When it takes more foreign currency to buy a dollar, the export market will slow down.

Like it or not, your woodlot is a part of the economy and these days that means the world economy. Learning to keep an eye on economic indicators will give you hints on how to sell timber.

Woodlot Calendar

April 29 - 30:

Northeastern Loggers' Congress and Equipment Expo, New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, \$5 admission charged.

APRIL 29:

Arbor Day, 100th anniversary.

APRIL 30:

NYFOA's Annual Meeting, 9 a.m., Marshall Hall Auditorium, SUNY ES&F, Syracuse.

JUNE 25:

Annual meeting of Catskill Forest Association. Topic and place to be determined. Contact CFAd at 919/586-3054.

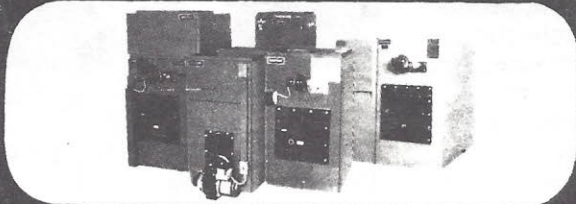
AUGUST 19 - 21:

Woodsmen's Field Days, Boonville. Exhibits, loggers' competitions, parade, seminars. Call 315/942-4593.

AUGUST 20:

Woodswalk scheduled at Frosty Mountain Tree Farm, Bull Creek Road, Itaska, 10 a.m. Visit with owner Dean Frost and his Southern Tier tree farm.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

Marketing with Management in Mind

Most woodland owners realize few opportunities to sell forest products, thus they tend to lack the expertise to effectively market their products. Marketing is said to be the key to a successful business or enterprise. That is ever so true for the forest landowners. Successful businesses make substantial investments into marketing products. Through wise marketing, our forest landowners can increase their profits and enjoyment of owning forest land in both the short term and over the long run of ownership. Wise marketing on the part of forest landowners is very important to the livelihood and continuity of our forest industry.

Many landowners have learned to use the expertise of professionals. Yet a recent survey of sawmills and timber harvesters in South Central New York indicated that less than 40% of the volume of wood harvested was from jobs administered or supervised by state or consulting foresters. That is not to say that the other 60% of the wood cut was from jobs where the landowners got a poor deal or environmental damage was done. But odds are that those landowners were not as well informed as their buyers. Perhaps more attention was paid to the total financial aspects of the sale rather than the real and long term impacts of the harvest.

When a landowner sells an immature, high quality tree before it or the stand reaches financial maturity, the landowner



and timber harvester both lose. The rest of the forest industry community also loses, as that relatively small, quality tree will yield greatly reduced volumes of wood suitable for processing into high value finished products. Worse yet, that short sighted, financially motivated harvesting often is done with little regard for regeneration or the potential of the residual stand. Stand potential is often greatly reduced. Besides the poorer gene pool to regenerate the stand with, the subsequent landowner may be so discouraged with the low return and value of the trees and forest, that the owner may not consider harvesting or investing in a long term improvement effort. Chances are increased for that land to be taken out of productivity because of its diminished returns.

The time to reach the short sighted landowners is when they are thinking of selling. We can then encourage proper forest management and best harvesting practices.

The South Central New York Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) project area Council and Forestry committee have been very active with

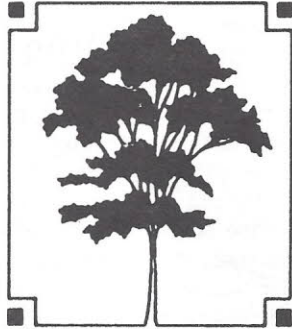
programs and projects to encourage the implementation of proper forest management practices. In recent years efforts have focused on compiling a data base about area forest resources and the forest industry. This data base has helped assess resource use and availability. The data is used to aid decisions of existing industry and to encourage new and expanding industries to use under utilized and exported resources. We now have an ongoing forestry industry economic development effort. These types of projects will generate long term benefits for the region, but the present day to day needs of the landowner and most of industry is not directly addressed. To supplement the data base and industrial development program RC&D is developing a marketing information system that will provide valuable day to day information to our forestry community.

RC&D TREE is a South Central N.Y. RC&D forestry marketing information pilot project. The objectives of the RC&D TREE project are:

- 1) to network and organize forest resource marketing information
- 2) to more effectively bring buyer and seller of forest and wood products together while encouraging proper forest management and best management practices
- 3) to promote the region's resources and industry.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Christmas Tree Pests

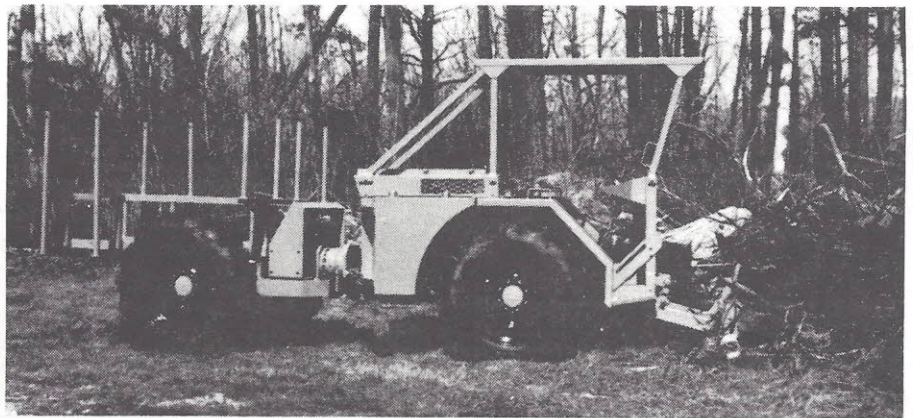
On our 17 acre plantation near Albany, we aeri­ally sprayed Diazinon and Kelthane to control the Cooley spruce gall aphid and the balsam twig aphid. We succeeded with the Cooley aphid but are now ground spraying balsam and Frazer fir with Malathion to stop the balsam twig aphid which the aerial spray did not control. Of course, our idea was to control both insects with one aerial spray. Do you have any idea of what went wrong? Can aerial spraying be effective on Christmas tree plantations? Did we use the wrong pesticides? Should we have let the Douglas-fir suffer the Cooley aphids another 10 days or so until after bud break of the balsam fir, thereby concentrating the balsam twig aphids on the new growth?

Sincerely,

Bill Miaski
East Greenbush, NY

I hope I have your name right, Bill — is that an “a” or “o” in Miaski? To adequately answer your highly technical questions, I consulted a Forest Entomologist, Dr. Douglas Allen from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse). First, he outlines what you should do:

“Cooley spruce gall adelgid infestations can be treated in one of two ways. (1) Use a dormant oil (60- or 70-second) in very early spring (prior to April) or late fall. Treatment is aimed at overwintering insects in bark crevices on terminal twigs and at the bases of buds. (2) Apply Carbaryl or Metasystox-R in late April or early May (just prior to bud break). The balsam twig aphid is best controlled by applying Diazinon in late April or early May, when bud tips first show green. Timing is very critical for both pests, but especially the twig aphid. I suggest that the most effective way to deal with it is to delay treatment for a week or so after optimum timing for Cooley spruce gall adelgid. In a practical sense, however, compromises can be made on both ends and a single treatment in early May should do a decent job on both. I believe both Carbaryl and



Diazinon are registered for both pests and either would do the job.”

But stressing the importance of timing again, Dr. Allen goes on to say:

“For Cooley spruce gall adelgid, chemical treatments must be made prior to bud break. If phenological development of balsam fir and Douglas-fir is substantially different, separate applications may be required. If a single application is desired (understandably so for economic reasons), the chemical should be applied just prior to bud break of the most rapidly developing species.”

From this information, it appears the two pests are best controlled by using different chemicals with different timing, although small compromises can be made. However, the compromise you make on timing indicates to me that, very likely, one or the other pest will not be controlled. Now let’s answer your questions in the order you asked: (1) This is one of the places you “went wrong” — timing: control the Cooley adelgid before bud break and the balsam aphid just at bud break. (2) According to Dr. Allen, “I would not recommend aerial spraying on small areas . . . material applied from the air often does not reach lower and inner branches.” (3) In regard to proper pesticides, Dr. Allen adds, “Kelthane is most commonly used against mites . . . Certainly it is not recommended for aphid control.” (4) If you had done what you suggest here, you probably would have controlled the balsam twig aphid, but not the Cooley adelgid.

You have a substantial investment

with 17 acres of plantation and I’m sure you have a plan for managing the property, but is it integrated to include pest management? The New York Christmas Tree Growers Association can give you advice for planning to combat problems such as this, and detailed information like Dr. Allen has given is available before pesticides are applied by contacting Dr. Lawrence Abrahamson, the extension service coordinator at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (call 315-470-6751). Similar advice can be obtained from your local Department of Environmental Conservation office.

Wishing you many beautiful Christmas trees!

Yankee Ingenuity

It seems that I’ve always got something to say about woodlot tractors. It’s not only that I’m a “nut” about them, without knowing much about them, but the reader inquiries each month are many. In my last three columns, we have discussed the attributes of a good woodlot “meso-skidder” which I would like to own myself, and many of you would too if the machine is versatile and affordable, that is, can be used on both farm and woodlot for a variety of practical projects at an initial investment below \$30,000.

Ideally, for woods work, this tractor description would be great for me: stable (good weight distribution, all tires same size), 4wd, around 40hp (good fuel economy), 7-8000 lb.

(Continued on Page 9)

Christmas Trees Planted in 1978

Plantation-grown Christmas trees planted in 1978 in New York State are likely to become available for market during the next few years. Perhaps some of these trees have already been sold. Balsam fir was the most commonly planted species in 1978, accounting for 43 percent of 1 to 2 million trees planted, according to the New York State DEC's 1981 report entitled, "The Forest Resources of New York — A Summary Assessment."

Douglas fir was the next most popular tree for planting, and it accounted for 23 percent of the Christmas trees planted. After these two species, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of the trees planted in 1978, a variety of species including white spruce, blue spruce, Norway spruce, white pine, Scotch pine, Concolor fir, and Fraser fir all accounted for less than 10 percent each of the Christmas trees planted.

Yankee Ingenuity — *(Continued from Page 8)*

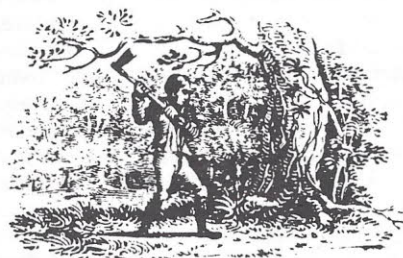
skidding winch, logging blade, about 5' wide, 18" clearance, and it would be great if it could articulate and oscillate to maneuver well around boulders and over irregular terrain. Many times, rather than skid logs, it's faster and more economical for me to haul short-wood in various lengths — in this case I need a dump/trailer body behind the tractor that can be maneuvered as well as the skidding winch. And on the front, at times I would like to replace the blade with a bucket or a fork lift or a snow-blower or a wood splitter or a post-hold drill or If this basic tractor has a standard 3-point hitch with pto front

and back, think of the many options that are possible.

Well, believe it or not, such a unit is being developed by a mechanic-inventor and may be available soon. His name is Maury Collins, Old Stoddard Road, Nelson, New Hampshire 03457 (Nelson Tractor Company). He is still testing his prototype, which is available with either gas or diesel engine, and is interested in your ideas and needs.

For my needs, this appears to be the best meso-skidder around for the price. Maury, I'll see you soon to give it a test drive!

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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 *Forest Owner* magazine, frequent seminars and woodswalks 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.

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New DEC Office Proposed

ALBANY — State Senator James L. Seward has filed legislation that would break up the Department of Environmental Conservation so that fish and wildlife issues are better addressed by the state. Seward's bill would create a new state Office of Natural Resources.

"This bill transfers functions, powers and duties associated with fish, wildlife, lands and forests from the DEC to a new department," Senator Seward said. "Over the past few years, the DEC seems to have spent more time on solid hazardous waste issues than on deer management and fish restocking. As a result, our attention to fish and game concerns has been considerably weakened.

"Hunting and fishing mean a great deal to the economy of our state, providing jobs for residents, income for businesses, and revenues for the state," Seward continued. "A new department will re-focus our efforts on fish stocking, replenishing the state's game birds, deer management, and more attentive stewardship of our forests and water resources."

Seward noted that the DEC would continue to work on environmental regulation, such as hazardous waste. Seward also stated that the new department should not cost more money, because a proportional amount of the DEC's budget would be transferred to the new department.

The bill is being sponsored by Senator Hugh Farley, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation, and in the Assembly by Michael Bragman of Syracuse.

Wood—

(Continued from Page 3)

the brick), and roofed with wood covered by shingles of some sort. Most old houses originally had wooden shingles. These were usually split from chunks of a large cedar log and made a roof leakproof for at least twenty years. You have beautiful hardwood furniture, of oak, cherry, maple, walnut, even teakwood or mahogany. You may also have some cheaper pieces of white pine or Douglas fir. What is particularly interesting about the furniture is that the various pieces are usually held together by glue of one kind or another which does the same thing as the lignin of the original tree. It bonds one piece to another.

I mentioned chipboard and plywood just above. The chipboard is made of large chips of wood pressed together with a glue (somewhat similar to the

hardboard process). Logs of a quality not good enough to be used for fine lumber can be chipped and made into a chipboard sheet four feet by eight feet which can be used as the primary structure of a table top, basic house siding, etc. It is almost universally covered by something else, even a hardwood veneer, to dress it up. What's a veneer? A veneer is a very thin (usually about 1/16" thick) layer of wood that has been taken off the circumference of a log by turning the log in a lathe against a very sharp angled knife blade.

That is how plywood starts, too. You're familiar with 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets of plywood which have about 5 layers of thin (1/8") layers of wood glued together with each layer alternating the direction of the wood fiber. This gives it strength against bending in both directions and prevents it from splitting the way an ordinary board may. Could this unusual strength be used in other than flat sheets? You bet! Let me tell you a true story.

From December 1943 to January 1953 I was a Field Installation Engineer for Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines. It was my job to work with the aircraft manufacturers to design and test the installation of the engines in the various aircraft being manufactured at that time (during the latter stages of World War II). I was stationed in California from 1943 until 1947 and worked with Douglas, Lockheed, Consolidated, and Hughes Aircraft.

You probably don't remember much about Howard Hughes except what appeared in print about the tragic years of his later life. Actually, in his younger days, he was somewhat of a genius. Airplanes were being built of aluminum by the thousands for the military. Consequently, aluminum was in short supply. Hughes convinced the U.S. Government that he could build a huge plane of wood to carry hundreds of troops or great loads of cargo. There was no shortage of wood. The plane was to be a seaplane so it did not need a huge airport. It could land wherever there was a large enough body of water.

After it was designed, I watched the construction of the prototype (actually, the only one ever built) from start to finish. After all, it had eight 3000 horsepower Pratt & Whitney engines mounted on the wings and it was my job to see that

they were installed properly.

The wing span (the distance from one wingtip to the other) was 320 ft., or longer than a football field. The chord (thickness) of the wing was 10 ft. where it joined the fuselage. I could walk erect inside the wing out to the fourth engine nacelle on each side. Yes, there was a wooden frame both inside the fuselage and the wing. However, most of the strength was in the skin, or outer form. How could that be, since it was wood? Because it was "formed-in-place" plywood.

The men building the plane would wrap a thin wood ply around the frame in the shape desired. Then the next ply, with the grain in the opposite direction, was coated with glue and nailed in place over the first ply with hundreds of double headed nails (like the modern plastic headed push pin). When the glue dried, the nails were removed and the next ply, again rotating the grain, was applied in like manner.

As you can see, this took thousands and thousands of man hours. But it worked. The plane was completed and Howard Hughes himself made the successful test flight. By then the war was over and no more were built. That prototype, the "Spruce Goose" is now on display in Long Beach harbor in California.

The point of the story is that wood is a very remarkable material. It is strong, light, workable and is made into hundreds of thousands of products. Aren't you proud to be growing wood? I am.

Legislative—

(Continued from Page 5)

by Assemblyman Bragman. Both bills apply the state sales bidding rules (which currently apply in reforestation areas) to the sales of forest products from state lands devoted to public hunting, trapping and fishing. These bills are currently in the Senate and Assembly's respective Environmental Conservation Committees.

Also, Senate bill #S.1586, introduced by Senator Cook, would require the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to issue regulations setting standards for the burning of scrap wood by sawmills. This bill is also currently in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

Marketing—

(Continued from Page 7)

The project starts April 1. The target area is the project area of the South Central N.Y. RC&D which includes the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Onondaga, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga and Tompkins. As with all RC&D projects, we look to share and expand successful projects; perhaps in a year or two a similar information system will be networked statewide.

As with any information project, there is an initial data collecting period where the system is not quite ready to generate information. We will be compiling information from many of the area's experts. The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forestry program will be the initial source of information. Cornell Cooperative Extension is working closely with us on this project. Certain sectors of the forestry industry have agreed to participate in the initial development aspect of the project. STAND (Southern Tier Association for Natural Resource Development) is providing information regarding its members. Consulting foresters have been receptive to the concepts and intent of the project. The area NYFOA chapters and affiliate being the Southern Tier Chapter, Tioga County Chapter and Catskill Forest Association are supporting the initial development aspect of the project.

RC&D TREE will gather, organize and disseminate information advertising:

- Forest and wood resources for sale such as stumpage, logs, and other forest products along with general information about area mill production, species and products.

- Markets such as timber, log and lumber buyers, wood processing mills, export requests and specialty need requests.

- Services and miscellaneous forest management information such as state foresters, consulting foresters, timber harvesters, mills, truckers, industry and landowners organizations and management program information.

A landowner requesting management advice will be advised to meet with a DEC forester. Along with information about the DEC's CFM (Continuous Forest Management) programs the individual will receive information about the Cooperating Consulting Forester Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension publications and the American Tree Farm Program. Individuals requesting marketing information will receive similar information along with a list of Cooperating Consulting Foresters, literature about timber sale contracts and a list of all likely buyers for the described sale. Along with encouraging the individual to meet with a forester, a recommendation will be made to use those timber harvesters signed up in NYS

DEC's Cooperating Timber Harvesting Program.

Parties making requests of the system will also be listed in the system with their request. Quality sales will be listed till the specified bid date. If no such date is known, the listing will be carried for 30 days. For low quality, generally under utilized resources, the listing will be for a much longer period, perhaps six months. Many of the details are yet to be worked out.

RC&D TREE has good potential to bring economic benefits to our forestry community and region. Its success is going to depend upon participation. The beginning of the project faces a catch 33 scenario. We will get good participation with good information — we can not get good information without good participation! With your participation we can make this system work. We believe a good information system can even help attract new users of our soon to be advertised, under-utilized, forest resources.

For more information about RC&D TREE call 607-674-9034 or write to RC&D TREE, South Central NY RC&D, 9 Maple Street, Norwich, N.Y. 13815. We hope to be receiving an 800 telephone number which will make your access to RC&D TREE easier and help spread the word.

Timber Sale Contract

Stumpage prices and timber sale contracts may not be what they seem. First, as the old saying goes, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Second, the year-after-year productivity of your woodland can be drastically changed by logging that is not silviculturally beneficial. Third, if you just think the price is right but don't really keep current on timber markets, you might be selling at a low price to a good business person who buys low and sells high. Fourth, be sure your contract protects you with a performance bond from the stumpage

buyer, which ensures that what you specify in the contract shall be done, and nothing you don't want will be done.

Obtain professional assistance from a service forester from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, or from a cooperating consultant forester on that department's list of private consultants. By obtaining assistance, you are more likely to get the logging results you want as well as economic profits.

chances are any tree will do well, but if the grasses are thin, don't expect too much without fertilization. This year, on a poor field, I'm going to try the fertilizer tablets available through forestry supply catalogs.

Species planted for timber are Norway Spruce, Red Pine and Larch. Spruce is most popular since it tolerates clay or poorly drained soils, but if I had good drainage and was outside the Scleroderris area, I would

plant Red Pine. It grows fast and straight, and is in great demand when mature. Larch will outgrow Pine on good soil, but industry seems more geared toward the Pine. Don't forget, the U.S.D.A. will pay 65% of the cost to plant for timber on 10 acres or more if the field qualifies. Under a second program, smaller acreages may qualify for cost-sharing, but the acreage limit varies by county.

How do I plant? For hand planting, I like the pointed KBC Bar available through many Forestry catalogs, but there are several tools available to suit your style. For large jobs, on suitable terrain, a planting machine is your best bet. Several consultant Forestry firms provide machine planting services, or ask the NYCTGA for a list of contractors.

Well, as Bill Lubinec used to say "enough of this superfluous persiflage." Old tree farmers never die — if they plant enough trees.

For more information about any aspect or tree planting, ask your local DEC Forester, or drop me a line.

Gerry Kachmor is a Senior Forester with NYS DEC at R.D. 1 Route 11, Kirkwood, New York 13795 — (607) 775-2545.

Spring—

(Continued from Page 3)

Christmas trees, I like to put the more demanding Firs on the better soils. Douglas, Fraser, Concolor and Balsam Fir are very popular when mature. On poor soils, stick to White Spruce, or French-Blue Scotch Pine.

If the hay grows thick and tall,

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Marshall Hall, SUNY - ES & F, Syracuse

Moderator: Allen Horn, Program Chairman

10:00 A.M. - SILVICULTURE FOR THE SMALL PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNER

TREE PLANTING TECHNIQUES & CONSIDERATIONS

Richard Garrett, NYS DEC, Cortland Office

PLANTATION CARE

David Riordan, NYS DEC, Cortland Office

THINNING NATURAL STANDS

John Thorington, Consulting Forester, Tully

**TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT — Some Experiences of the
Catskill Forest Association**

David Hawke, Graduate Student, ES & F, Syracuse

12:00 Noon - BUFFET LUNCHEON - Presentation of Annual Awards

1:45 P.M. - CHEMICAL CONTROL OF VEGETATION AND FOREST PESTS

Larry Abrahamson, ES & F, Syracuse

SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR WILDLIFE & ESTHETICS

Bob Chambers, ES & F, Syracuse