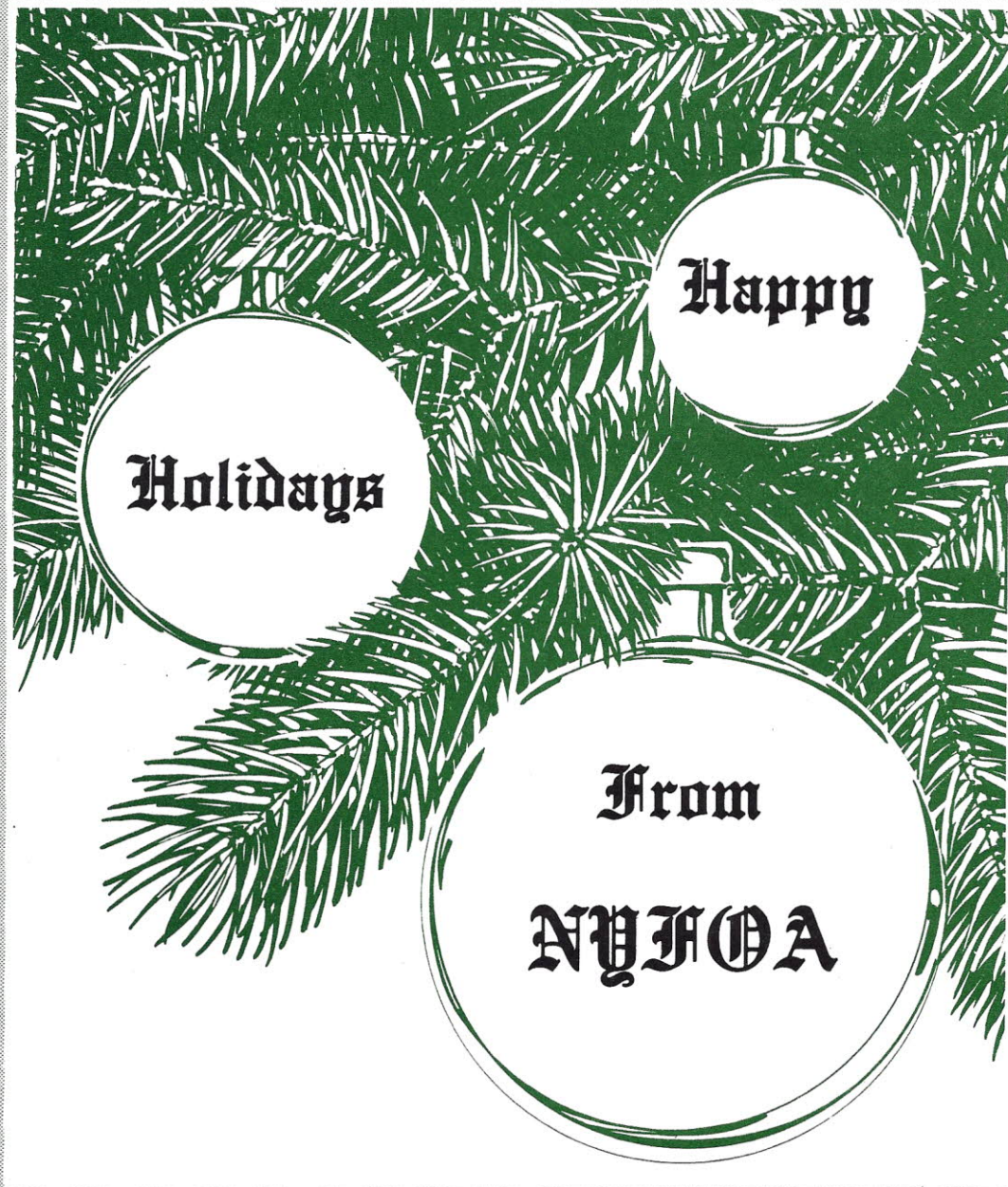


# FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

November/December 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

*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 January.*

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

## President's Message

### Reflections on the Fall Meeting

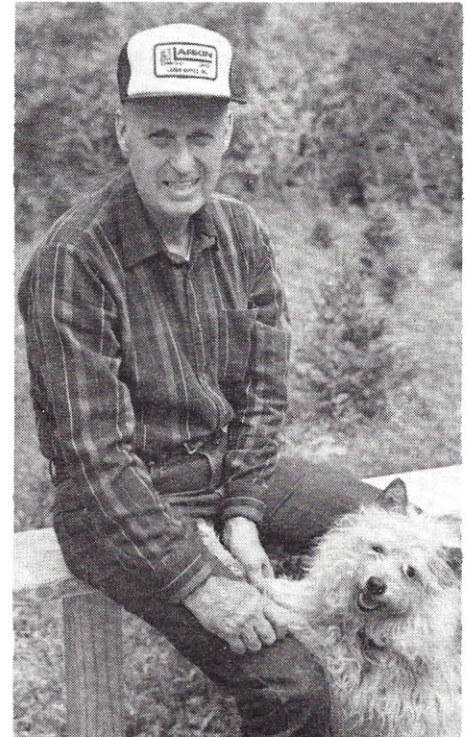
We have just returned from a successful meeting at Croton Point Park chaired and arranged by Bob Sand. The point sticks out into the Hudson River in a lovely setting in Westchester County about 30 miles from NYC. The foliage was at its height although rain persisted most of the time we were there and that detracted from its enjoyment.

Bob had arranged for a catered dinner Friday night, breakfast on Saturday and, after breakfast, we helped ourselves to a bag lunch to be eaten in the field. All were ample and of excellent quality.

We had a memorable program Friday night. Westchester County Forester Ted Kozlowski welcomed us. He told us that yes, they did have trees in his county and that he was responsible for some 16,000 acres of forest. A good part of this is in New York City's watershed and other publicly owned woodlands.

Dr. Ross Whaley, President of ESF and Chairman of Gov. Cuomo's Task Force on the Forest Industry came all the way from Syracuse to make his third speech of the day to us. He discussed the work of the Task Force to date, gave us some upbeat and surprising statistics on the percentage of forested land in our state and who owns it and made an optimistic prediction for the utilization of wood in the future as compared to other construction materials. We greatly appreciate Dr. Whaley's efforts in joining us. He left on a train for Albany immediately after his talk. Busy guy.

Finally, John Marchant, President of the newly formed Western Finger



J. Morgan Heussler

Lakes Chapter, gave us an intriguing and challenging presentation of the possible uses of the computer by the small woodland owner. He did it in his usual modest and self-effacing style so that no one felt he was being told to go out and buy a computer next day. John has spent a lot of time working with Cornell, the Forestry College and others on their software programs and we are in his debt.

Later, at the Board meeting, I was sad to have to announce Kathryn Whitehorne's resignation as Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and from the Board. She cited medical problems in her family as the reason and we hope that these will not be of long duration. We are pleased to

*(Continued on Page 10)*

# Christmas Wreaths

By PAULA WESCOTT  
John's Trees & Wreaths

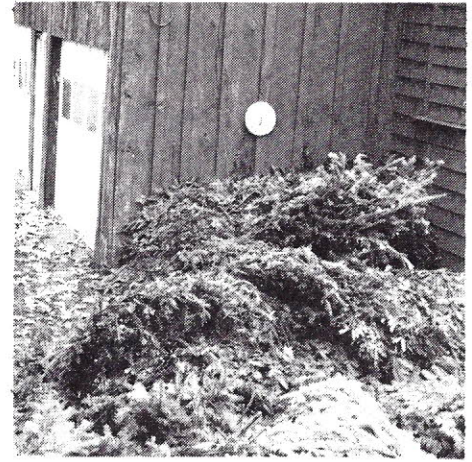
"Like the evergreen wreath at Christmas, may your life be fresh and new" is the blessing of the Christmas wreath. More and more folks are discovering the blessings of producing Christmas wreaths for an ever increasing market.

Wreath making has come a long way from Mom wrapping some greens around a coat hanger for the front door. Not only has the equipment and methods of wreath making become more sophisticated, so has the customer. With the resurgence of 'back to nature', the real tree and the live wreath are more in demand than ever. Today's sophisticated shopper

no longer wants a flat, styleless clump of greens hanging on their front door. The wreath greets every visitor to a home and the consumer wants, and will pay for, quality.

The benefits of making wreaths can be substantial and it is one of the few businesses you can get started in for a minimum investment of time and money and see an immediate profit. For example, we start people for an investment of \$200.00 which enables them to produce 150 wreaths. Another benefit of wreath making is it an excellent way to use and make money from boughs which many just throw away.

To make a wreath you require greens or boughs or brush, as it is

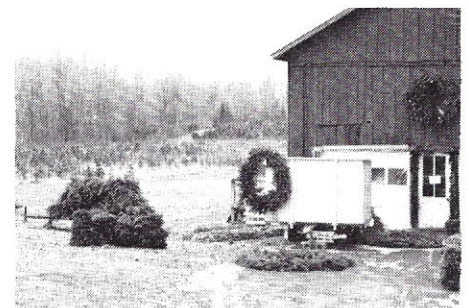


*Tons of boughs arrive weekly to insure freshness.*

called, and a ring to fasten the greens to. Hand wiring involves placing bunches of greens on a ring, using a thin wire on a roll to tie around the bunches, placing another bunch on, etc. Hand wiring has the least cost investment, but, it is harder to learn, tiring, fatiguing, much harder to teach and requires more greens to produce a full, thick wreath.

The other extreme is an electric wreath machine. These machines are expensive (\$1,400.00 & up) and require extensive training to master. They are definitely not for the faint hearted or inexperienced.

The easiest method and the best alternative, we feel, is the crimping machine. The crimping machine sets into a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood and is manually operated with your foot to close the clamps on the rings which hold the bunches of greens in place. This method is very easy to learn or teach, safe and because each bundle is held individually, you can stop at any time. There are a number of models on the market. We use the Hillman



*Wreaths of all sizes ready for delivery.*

## Message from the Editor

At the NYFOA fall meeting, it was recommended that I continue as editor of *The Forest Owner*, following the three issue trial period. For that, I thank the board of directors.

So, this seems like a good opportunity to introduce myself and discuss the future plans for this magazine.

I will say that it has been an interesting and learning experience. During the last four years, I have worked as editorial coordinator for the Independent Newspapers, formerly of Marathon and now of Syracuse. We produce three weekly newspapers covering parts of Broome, Cortland and Onondaga Counties. I continue to maintain that full-time job.

Upon learning that NYFOA was in need of an editor, I decided it would be a chance to expand my base of experience and a challenging opportunity.

I was anxious to continue with the magazine to improve upon what we have already accomplished. I say "we" because I am grateful to the support I've received from Ruth Thoden, Don Gilbert, Dean Frost, Howard Ward, Wes Suhr, Allen Horn, Richard Garrett and Morgan

Heussler. It is no easy task to design a magazine from scratch, especially for this forestry novice. I decided I would be learning about this industry along with the group's new members.

What's planned for future issues? Now that I have the approval to produce a full year's worth, I hope to obtain more editorial input from the board. Specifically, what subjects interest our readers in January, February, March and so on. What information would you like to see in this magazine that currently is not offered? This is your magazine and its contents should reflect your interests and concerns. I am not a mind reader. If you have an interest in writing, submit your work. I would like to see the section on Chapter Reports expand.

When a magazine is being prepared, material submitted from members always receives first priority, before I go on to other sources. If you have an idea, talk to another member, your chapter president or call me.

This, then, is an open invitation. In order to make this the best possible magazine for all NYFOA members your input is vital.

Sincerely,  
Karen Kellicutt

*(Continued on Page 11)*

# Chapter Reports: Directional Timber Felling



## Cayuga Chapter

July 14, 1988 the Cayuga Chapter of NYFOA used its meeting as a means to combine both work and pleasure.

Through the efforts of Dave Tregaskis, arrangements were made for a picnic supper/workshop at Fillmore Glen State Park. Members brought a dish to pass while Dave served up some delicious hamburgs and hotdogs.

A brief business discussion focused on the Chapter's plans to honor the CCC's work in the area during the '30's. Alfie Signor exhibited a plaque design to be displayed at the State Park. Strategies to involve the county

and/or state in monument programs were explored.

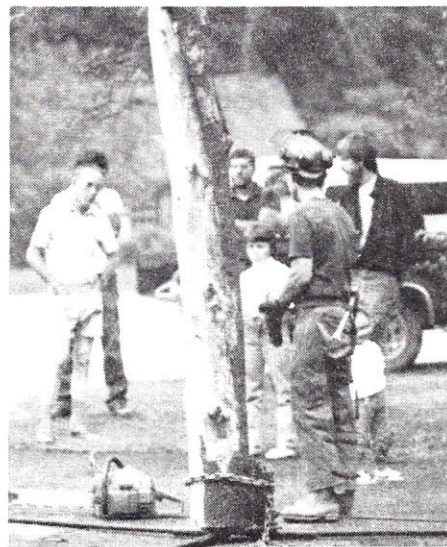
After the meeting, the 34 people in attendance adjourned outside to the parking lot where Bill Millier and Gregg Wellott, logger/members, put on a demonstration of chainsaw maintenance and directional timber felling.

Bill covered the basic maintenance procedures and demonstrated saw chain filing techniques. Questions were fielded on particular problems that members encountered in saw operation and maintenance.

The workshop also focused on the basic requirements for safe felling in the woods. Gregg displayed the necessary safety equipment and accessories and showed different methods for making felling cuts, both in normal and problem trees. Coverage included notch cuts and backcuts, with discussion and demonstrations of each and their variations.

The onset of darkness brought an enjoyable and informative Chapter meeting to a close.

Submitted by Gregg Wellot  
Photographs by Jerry Tomenga



## Woodlots and Wildlife

*From Cayuga Chapter*

**Question:** "Which tree in my woodlot will produce the most wildlife?"

**Answer:** "The one on a log truck on its way to the mill."

With that exchange, on 12 September 1988, Bill Hunyadi, Wildlife Biologist and Regional Director of the Ruffed Grouse Society, summed up his presentation to the group gathered to hear a presentation sponsored jointly by the Cayuga Chapter, New York Forest Owners Association and the Central New York Chapter, Ruffed Grouse Society on the subject of "Timber Management & Wildlife in Private Forests".

When you view a woodlot as habitat for wildlife, rather than only a stand of trees, the management of that woodlot takes on a new meaning and direction. The cutting (harvesting) of trees, for whatever reason, has a direct effect on the numbers and diversity of the wildlife species that will be able to occupy the habitat that you create.

Using a series of slides to illustrate that point Hunyadi showed how owners of woodlots can ensure a continuing harvest of trees and an abundance of wildlife. Managing timber and wildlife are investments that pay a return to the investor over time. In order for an investor to protect oneself, it is best to diversify. According to Hunyadi that approach is also the key to protecting one's investment in trees and wildlife. Encourage a variety of tree species and manage (cut) those trees so as to have a mix of age classes and you will have a more dynamic habitat and thus a healthier crop of trees and wildlife. If you have a particular bird or animal that you want in greater numbers you can manage your woodlot habitat to emphasize the plant life that will be most specific for the species you desire to increase, e.g. increase Aspen (*Populus tremuloides* or *Populus grandidentata*) if you want

*(Continued on Page 11)*



Henry answers questions about TSI work he's done.

## Legislative Update

By **DON GILBERT**  
 NYFOA Legislative Committee  
 Chairman

NYS Governor Mario Cuomo recently vetoed a bill to create a permanent Forest Resource Industry Council (S.7614-B; A.9924-B). The bill was passed by the Senate in June and the Assembly in August.

The governor's veto message expressed two main reasons for vetoing the bill: (1) the desire to allow his Forestry Task Force to complete their deliberations and (2) concern that the proposed Council may be duplicative of existing state committees, principally the State Forest Practice. His veto message also stated that the proposed Council has merit: "We may wish to return this proposal when my Task Force's report is in. At that same time, we can also seek to adjust the responsibilities of, or consolidate the existing forest industry boards and commissions," stated the Governor.

According to Senator Charles Cook, sponsor of the Senate portion of the bill, the Governor's veto apparently "is not a renouncement of the need for a permanent body bringing together the various public and private groups associated with the State's forest industry."

# CFA Fall Woodswalk in South Worcester

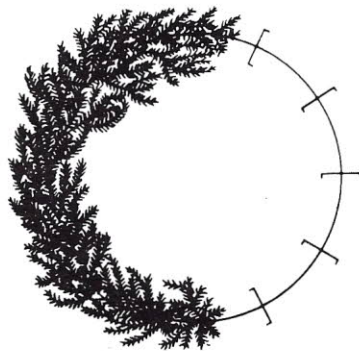
By **LOUIS TIRRITO**  
 CFA Woodlands Manager

The Catskill Forest Association (CFA) sponsored its fall woodswalk in South Worcester, NY on the property of Henry Kernan. The walk took place on Saturday, September 17, and began just shortly after 10:00 AM, and featured timber stand improvement (TSI) work done by Henry. Although skies were rainy, and the air a bit cool, the event was very well attended by a group of about 40 people.

The walk presented the group with a unique opportunity to view the results of the careful long-term forest management practiced by Henry Kernan. After a brief presentation, Henry led the group through different stands that have received TSI. In explaining some of the important points of TSI, Henry explained what decisions he used in selecting trees to remove. The group was quite inquisitive, and asked questions on numerous topics ranging from wildlife habitat, to forest ecology.

Many of those in attendance were forest owners themselves, and were encouraged by Henry's hard working ethic and the enthusiasm he has for managing his woodlot. It wasn't

difficult to see that the TSI Henry completed has given him a woodlot with better spacing, trees of superior form and vigor, improved wildlife habitat, and plenty of firewood to heat his home.



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# The Economics of Wood Fuel Heat

Different species of wood provide different amount of heat when burned because they have varying densities (weight/cubic foot). In addition, because species differ in percentages of moisture content when green (freshly cut), identical volumes or weights of green wood have different amount of water that must be evaporated during combustion. This reduces the heat available for useful purposes.

For a freshly cut hickory tree, the moisture content of heartwood — the dark-colored inner cylinder of wood in a tree trunk — is about 75 percent. Therefore, a 50-pound piece of freshly cut hickory firewood contains about 21.43 pounds of water (2.57 gallons). In contrast, a 50-pound piece of freshly cut white ash firewood, with its moisture content of 45 percent, contains only 15.52 pounds (1.86 gallons).

After seasoning, fuelwood of all species is easier to burn in more efficient combustion that produces less smoke, less creosote, and more useful heat. Seasoning wood, therefore, is important because it removes the water that otherwise would consume heat from the fire. Combustion of unseasoned wood sends water vapor up the chimney along with smoke from unburned gases and wood particles.

A standard cord of firewood contains about 80 cubic feet of solid

wood, when the wood is well ranked and stowed with the length of the sticks parallel. A standard cord of 4-foot-long sticks of wood is a wood-pile with a face (ends of cross-sections of sticks) that measures 4 feet high by 8 feet long; and it contains 128 cubic feet of wood and air space. Note, if the sticks of wood were only 16 inches long, for example, the 4 ft. x 8 ft. "face cord" would contain one-third of a standard cord (the length of wood being one third of a standard cord's 48-inch-long sticks). When buying a "face cord", the wood may be cut into any specified length.

One standard cord of shagbark hickory with its 24.6 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) of available heat, is equivalent in heat production to 251 gallons of No. 2 fuel oil and 308 100-cubic-foot units of natural gas. This assumes a wood-burning unit's efficiency of about 55 percent, meaning that about 55 percent of the heat produced in combustion is available for use; No. 2 fuel oil combustion efficiency at 70 percent; and natural gas efficiency of combustion of 80 percent.

Based on "Efficiency of Using Solid Wood Fuels" by Lawrence D. Garrett of the USDA Forest Service, which uses the same bases as given for shagbark hickory, the heat values for some common species are listed here with the amounts of fuel oil and

natural gas needed to provide the same heat.

Based on these heat values and combustion efficiencies, in conjunction with prices of \$100 per standard cord for wood, \$0.85 per gallon for No. 2 fuel oil, and \$0.59 per 100 cubic feet of natural gas, it would require the following oil or gas expenditure to provide the equivalent of \$100 worth of wood by different species.

Species 1 standard cord	BTUs Millions	No. 2 fuel oil gallons	Natural gas 100 cubic ft.
Shagbark	24.6	251	308
White oak	22.7	232	284
American beech	21.8	222	273
Sugar maple	21.3	217	286
Red oak	21.3	217	286
White ash	20.0	204	250
Red maple	18.6	190	232

Species 1 standard cord at a cost of \$100	BTUs millions	No 2 fuel oil equiva- lent - cost of wood	Natural gas equivalent- cost of wood
Shagbark hickory	24.6	\$213.35	\$181.72
White oak	22.7	\$197.20	\$167.56
American beech	21.8	\$188.70	\$161.07
Sugar maple	21.3	\$184.45	\$167.74
Red oak	21.3	\$184.45	\$167.74
White ash	20.0	\$173.40	\$147.50
Red maple	18.6	\$161.50	\$136.88

(Continued on Page 12)

## On Splitting Wood — Dispelling Some Myths

By MORGAN HEUSSLER

That thing you are pounding on is variously called a log, a billet, a block, a chunk and, in Western New York, we call the ornery ones mothers. Don't ask me why we call them mothers; it's just a local colloquialism. (Now say local colloquialism three times, fast).

We learned the basics of splitting wood about fifty years ago from an old part time stock broker, part time woodcutter who had studied physics. We did it all with a sledge and

different weight wedges. When we cut the trees, we did it with a two man crosscut saw because, if the chain saw had been invented then, it was not commercially available. We still use an eight pound sledge for splitting and start with a four pound wedge. We may have to follow the four pounder with a six pound wedge on a larger log. Sometimes the four pounder just won't go into the log but rather, bounces back at us. We then try a three pound wedge and you can usually sneak its thin body into your log. Follow it with larger wedges.

We have tried a lot of splitting tools but our favorite is the go devil or splitting axe or Allen axe or splitting maul. Ours is an eight pound head and it goes thru ash, red oak and cherry like a knife through butter. Exception: the knots or twisted pieces.

Some veterans we know can split straight grained wood with no knots with an axe. They give the head of the axe a little twist just as it enters the log and this pops it apart. We never

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# Ask a Forester

Send Questions to: Wes Suhr, Ranger School, Wanakena, N.Y. 13695

"My son is about to sell some timber, plus cordwood to eliminate the weed trees. Walking through the woods with the forestry agent and well known consultant, I asked a question as we came to a soft maple sprout group with 4" diameter stems: 'Will the cordwood people take the larger stems (three of the group)?' The reply was that they would all be left! I asked the same question to another group. The answer was to cut all four stems since possible rot from the stump will invade one or all of the sprout growth!

"Have times changed? Do we know better now? That same section was weeded years ago and all but one of multiple stems, sprouting from any stump, was frilled and poisoned. We are confused. Can you help?"

F.M. Johnson,  
Delmar, NY

Actually there is some merit to both answers, depending on whether this is a cordwood or chipwood sale. If this is a standard cordwood sale, the minimum merchantable stem (standing) is usually defined as an 8-foot length with a 4" top, which would make the lower diameter (dbh) about 6". Many foresters will not mark a cordwood stem for cutting until it is 8" in diameter, feeling that this is the commercial limit for the logger. Of course, you can set your own limits in the sale contract — if the logger wants the sale, he must abide by the contract limits. So the forester giving you the first answer feels your sprout stems should grow a little more to become commercial for a cordwood sale.

It is possible the second answer was based on the assumption that all stems would be chipped, with even small 4" stems to be cut, but you would have to stipulate this limit in the contract. Again, 4" stems are below the commercial limit for most loggers — they would lose money cutting and skidding them out, even for chipwood sales.

If you have mainly a coppice-stand, that is reproduction (second growth)

"I am trying to regenerate black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) by natural seeding among my conifers, but I have a hard time trying to distinguish them from the other wild cherries. There is a seed source for all and the seedlings are all mixed together. It is very important to separate the black cherry because a good deal of work goes into these plantations. I have heard that only *P. serotina* has the hairy midrib on the underside of the leaf, but almost all of these seem to have it, and it seems unrealistic for all of them to be black cherry. Would greatly appreciate any help you can give."

Bob Davidge,  
Oriole Hill Tree Farm,  
Rhinebeck, NY

The leaf characteristics (especially size and shape) of seedlings and sprouts for many tree species can be highly variable, and we may have to identify them in the winter. For this reason, it's best to know twig characteristics, and we should identify on the basis of at least two features to reduce error. I have found the following features to be the most useful (choke cherry, *Prunus virginiana*; fire cherry, *Prunus pensylvanica*):

SPECIES	TWIG COLOR	LENTICELS	BUD TIPS
BLACK	Green-brown to brown	gray dots	pointed
CHOKE	green-brown to gray-brown	elongated, gray or light	pointed
FIRE	red-brown	red-yellow to yellow dots	rounded

mainly from stump sprouts, then the recommended thinning or cleaning operation would begin when most of the sprouts are 4 to 6" in diameter. At 4" and less, this would be considered a precommercial operation; at 6"+, it could be a local firewood sale. In any case, you should leave one or two stems per stump: **leave the largest and straightest stems that are lowest on the stump (or closest to the**

For these twig characteristics, check the current year's as well as last year's growth. Unless it's winter, twig color is most characteristic on last year's growth on the "sunny" (up) side of the twig (in winter, current year color has matured and is ok to use). Look at current year growth for lenticel shape: circular for black and fire, but elongated (with the direction of twig growth) for choke cherry. You may need a 10X handlens to see this feature clearly on seedlings. Look at the terminal buds for bud-tip shape; fire cherry will also set two or more buds at end of twig (clustered), where this is rare with the other species.

As you have noted, there is usually some pubescence (short, fine hairs) at the base of the midrib on the underside of black cherry leaves; however, it is not always there. This hair is white on young leaves and turns to a rusty-brown on older leaves. And, yes, you may occasionally find a few hairs in this area on choke and fire cherry, but it is uncommon, at least to the extent where the lines of hair can be readily observed without a handlens.

ground). Upper stems on the stump will have a greater chance of contracting rot from the stump, as compared to lower stems. Possibly this is what they were trying to do when the "... section was weeded years ago and all but one of the multiple stems was frilled and poisoned". But the poison could spread to the entire root system, killing the one untreated stem as well;

# Christmas Trees

## A CHRISTMAS CIRCULAR LETTER

### ROBERT FROST

The city had withdrawn into itself  
And left at last the country to the  
country;  
When between whirls of snow not  
come to lie  
And whirls of foliage not yet laid,  
there drove  
A stranger to our yard, who looked the  
city,  
Yet did in country fashion in that there  
He sat and waited till he drew us out,  
A-buttoning coats, to ask him who he  
was.  
He proved to be the city come again  
To look for something it had left behind  
And could not do without and keep its  
Christmas.  
He asked if I would sell my Christmas  
trees;  
My woods — the young firm balsams  
like a place  
Where houses all are churches and  
have spires.  
I hadn't thought of them as Christmas  
trees.  
I doubt if I was tempted for a moment  
To sell them off their feet to go in cars  
And leave the slope behind the house  
all bare,  
Where the sun shines now no warmer  
than the moon.  
I'd hate to have them know it if I was.  
Yet more I'd hate to hold my trees,  
except  
As others hold theirs or refuse for  
them,  
Beyond the time of profitable growth—  
The trial by market everything must  
come to.  
I dallied so much with the thought of  
selling.  
Then whether from mistaken courtesy  
And fear of seeming short of speech,  
or whether  
From hope of hearing good of what  
was mine,  
I said, "There aren't enough to be  
worth while."  
"I could soon tell how many they  
would cut,  
You let me look them over."

"You could look.

But don't expect I'm going to let you  
have them."

Pasture they spring in, some in  
clumps too close  
That lop each other of boughs, but not  
a few  
Quite solitary and having equal  
boughs  
All round and round. The latter he  
nodded "Yes" to,  
Or paused to say beneath some loveli-  
er one,  
With a buyer's moderation, "That  
would do."  
I thought so too, but wasn't there to  
say so.  
We climbed the pasture on the south,  
crossed over,  
And came down on the north.

He said, "A thousand."

"A thousand Christmas trees! — at  
what apiece?"

He felt some need of softening that to  
me:  
"A thousand trees would come to  
thirty dollars."

Then I was certain I had never meant  
To let him have them. Never show  
surprise!  
But thirty dollars seemed so small  
beside  
The extent of pasture I should strip,  
three cents  
(For that was all they figured out  
apiece) —  
Three cents so small beside the dollar  
friends  
I should be writing to within the hour  
Would pay in cities for good trees like  
those,  
Regular vestry-trees whole Sunday  
Schools  
Could hang enough on to pick off  
enough.

A thousand Christmas trees I didn't  
know I had!  
Worth three cents more to give away  
than sell  
As may be shown by a simple calcula-  
tion.  
Too bad I couldn't lay one in a letter.  
I can't help wishing I could send you  
one,  
In wishing you herewith a Merry  
Christmas.

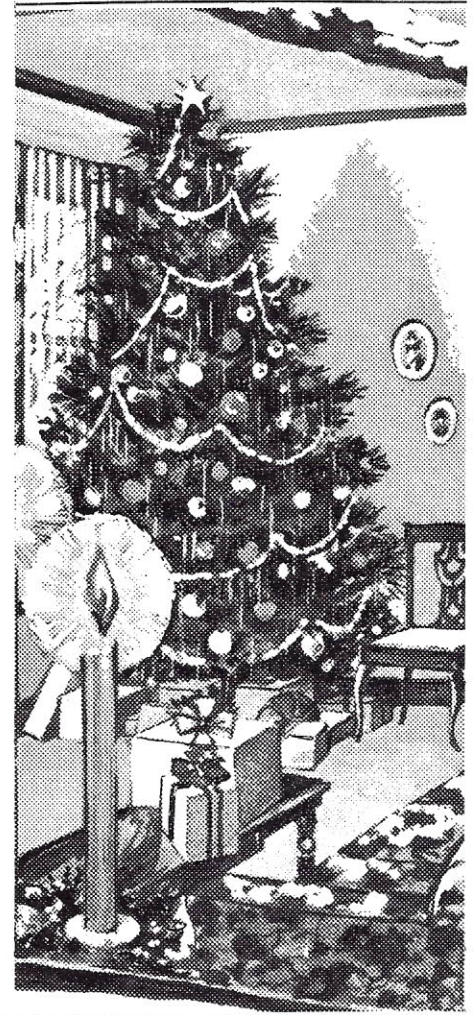
## REFLECTIONS BY HOWARD WARD

After reading Robert Frost's poem  
"Christmas Trees" I had the  
following reaction.

Yes, I grow Christmas trees with  
the intention of making money from  
the operation. However, I get the  
biggest kick out of having a class of  
second graders come up to the farm  
just before Christmas to go sledding,  
have cocoa and cookies in the cabin  
warmed by a wood fire, and pick out a  
tree for their school room.

Getting a tree for the church is  
another thrill. Our church ceiling is  
about eighteen feet above the floor. I  
have some Douglas fir trees that are  
25 to 30 feet tall. I pick one that has a  
good shape and nice top, cut it, cut off  
six to ten feet from the bottom and  
take it to the church.

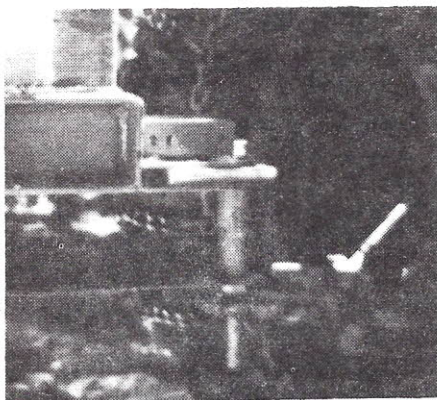
When the volunteers erect the tree,  
they usually have to cut more off the  
bottom and prune the top. Once  
erected and the ornaments and lights  
are hung, it's beautiful! A tree that  
didn't make it as a Christmas tree for  
a house has made it as a Christmas  
tree for the House of the Lord!





# SOUTHERN TIER PHOTO REPORT:

## Woodswalk at Frosty Mountain Tree Farm



### Letter

13349 Allen Road  
Chaffee, N.Y. 14030  
Sept. 8, 1987

Dear Editor:

Am enclosing two slides you may want to use in the "Forest Owner" sometime. I finally started using a wood-splitter this year, but as the beam of the splitter was only ten inches off the ground, I knew it would be a killer to use. For \$500 more, there was a splitter available on which the beam was eighteen inches off the ground, but not high enough to suit me. In my opinion, it is stupid to stoop over if it isn't necessary.

It is no problem for me to lift the wood to a convenient height, because if the wood blocks are too heavy to lift easily, I reduce them where the tree fell with sledge and wedges so I can haul them with tractor and trailer to a woody rd.

Firs I tried auto ramps, but that was not enough height, so I built two ramps about five feet long and also a three-legged bench two feet by three feet to catch the wood as it fell from the beam so I would not have to pick it off the ground, as I work alone.

The splitter sure takes the hardest work out of making firewood.

By using a piece of inch pipe over a long three-quarter inch bolt, almost any desired height can be acquired to level the beam, which stays attached to the tractor drawbar.

Yours truly,

Earl Pfarnar

P.S. A chain or metal ground from drawbar can prevent static electricity build-up which could cause a spark when adding gas to splitter motor.



## Wood Myths —

(Continued from Page 6)

learned how to do this but admire those who can.

For many years, we followed the advice of our first mentor who said "Split your wood from the top down". You set the log up the way the tree grew and split it from the top down. Sometimes it was hard to tell which end was the top if you had left the work site for several days and then returned. We suspected it didn't make much if any difference. Then we read an article in *American Forests* by David Tresemer and that did it. He had timed 1000 splits, half from the bottom and half from the top. He was careful to use the same species, diameter and knotty quality for each group. He found that he saved 10 seconds by splitting from the top. There went that old adage.

We also were told that wood splits better when it is frozen. All green wood contains a lot of water and, when it has turned to ice, the log is supposed to be more brittle and will split easier. Mr. Tresemer conducted another experiment on this theory. He let 25 logs freeze. He took another 25 logs into his house to be sure they would be thawed. He does not say what his wife thought of all those logs in the house. Then he split them all and found absolutely no difference in the time or ease of splitting between the two groups. Rather surprising as we think it makes sense that the frozen logs would split easier.

We have heard conflicting opinions about which splits best, green wood or dry wood. It's true that you can get a nail into green sugar maple and you can't get one into dry maple. But splitting it makes no difference in our experience. We split a lot of wood just after it comes in from the woods. Reason: the wife doesn't like the big pile just off the driveway. On the other hand, when we are bucking tops, they have often been there for a year or two. So, when we go to split these logs, they are quite well seasoned. Makes no difference in the splitting time or ease.

We tried a thing called a monster maul. It weighed fifteen pounds or just a pound less than our saw. After swinging this well named tool overhead for a half hour, we were completely exhausted. We also tried a gadget called a Chopper 1. It is an

oversize axe with little thingies in the head which pop out when the blade enters the log and thus, the splitting action. This tool is not too bad as long as there are no knots in sight. But we can do the same work with a go devil which we prefer.

Two years ago, the physiotherapist said: "If you don't buy a power splitter right now, I'm not going to be able to fix that back muscle you pull several times each year." We were unconvinced until she said: "Hey, you can split the ash and cherry by hand but put the beech and maple on the power splitter". We respected her for knowing the difference and did get a power splitter. It's a great tool but there is still a lot of work in splitting with one. One has to bend over to put the log on the rail and then bend over further to pick up the split pieces. Ours does not have a lifter on the side so we have to lift the log onto the rail also.

We enjoy the whole process of felling, topping, limbing, bucking and splitting so much that we do a lot of it and count ourselves fortunate to have the health required.

## President's Message —

(Continued from Page 2)

tell you that Sandy Vreeland has accepted this committee chairmanship.

Saturday, Bamber Marshall, our local host, had arranged four sight-seeing trips for us to choose from. Some of us went to nearby West Point and had a tour and a movie. It was stirring and interesting. At noon, we met at Guy Cockburn's Christmas tree plantation in Garrison, ate our lunch and then learned from the master how he grows those magnificent Douglas firs from seed.

Bob was embarrassed about the cabins most of us slept in and the rather spartan bathrooms, everything being unheated, but Bob did a great job for us and Betsey and I, to name two, are grateful to him. We were a bit unsettled at a sign on the bathroom door which stated that ticks may be found in this building. I really wanted to call my dog, Willie, and ask him how one knows when one has a tick on his body. But Willie was jailed in a kennel at home and could not be called to the phone.

# IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO OWN A FOREST



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

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

Through regular issues of *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! -----

Check your preferred membership option:

- Regular - \$10     Family - \$15
- Contributing - \$16-\$99
- Supporting - over \$100

Send checks payable to:  
New York Forest Owners Association  
P.O. Box 123  
Boonville, NY 13309

Yes, I'd like to join the New York Forest Owners Association and get more out of my woodlands.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Christmas Wreaths —

(Continued from Page 3)

exclusively because it is so durable it is guaranteed for life and has many features other machines are lacking.

Wreath rings are available in a variety of sizes from 6" to 48", depending on the supplier, and usually come in cartons ranging from 50 to 100 rings. Regardless of where you purchase your supplies, look for quality, guarantees and service just as you would when making any other investment. Some suppliers may do as we do and invite customers to pick up their first order so we can show them the different methods of making a wreath, go over setting up the machine and answer those many questions that are so important when starting a new business.

Obtaining your greens can be a money making operation. Those of you who have access to overgrown stands of evergreens, land to be cleared, cull trees or basal pruning to be done — this is a way to obtain your greens and make money from what was to be thrown away. If you do not have these available yourself, first check with local growers and farmers in your area for all these things. You can always purchase greens from suppliers like ourselves or the wholesale florist supplier in your area.

What greens are best? Whatever is the least expensive! Almost any evergreen will make a beautiful wreath but you will find local preferences. Balsam Fir, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Scotch Pine and Princess Pine are some of the most popular. Blue Spruce makes a beautiful wreath along with Concolor, Nobel and Frasher and command a premium price, if you can obtain the greens. Almost all evergreens will have a good needle retention if the boughs are cut properly and that means two good hard frosts to set the needles. The one exception is Norway Spruce and we do not recommend using Norway until after Dec. 1st and not at all for indoor use.

The large branches of trees can be cut and tied into bundles or bales as we call them. Most suppliers have bales that average 50 lbs. each and boughs can be purchased by the pound

or (usually cheaper) by the ton. Further trimming of these long branches will be necessary to prepare them to put into a wreath. All the trimming should be done at one time and then use that amount for wreath making. It is not time efficient to go back and forth.

Now, who is going to do all this? One of the nicest things about getting started in the wreath business is that you can go slow, at your own pace and family is usually all you need to get started. Where? Wherever a little space is available — the garage, barn, or basement.

Practice is how you learn to make a full, beautiful wreath and you will be amazed how quickly you will learn the knack. Our new people train for just three hours and by the end of that time are producing salable wreaths. Quality is very important! We guarantee every wreath we make and teach our wreath-makers to make each wreath as if it were going on their own front door.

Once you have that beautiful wreath — add a bow and it is ready to go! However, remember that the bow should be of the same high quality as your wreath. There are dozens of types of ribbon on the market but many are not waterproof or only water resistant. We only use and recommend Veltex ribbon which is 100% waterproof and will hold its shape under the harshest conditions.

Where do you sell your wreaths? You may have a ready outlet at your own home or farm but, if not, many markets are available. We recommend you practice until you are making the type of wreath you wish and then take that wreath to prospective buyers in your area such as farm stands, nurseries, florists, Christmas tree outlets and even the corner grocery store. Let the potential buyer see exactly what your product is like and do not be disappointed if you receive some small orders at the beginning. Remember, you and your product are not a proven money making commodity to them yet. Weekly deliveries insure a fresh supply for your customer, enables them to reorder and helps spread out your wreath making. Several of our customers started with only a few dozen the first year and are now selling hundreds.

What do I sell my wreath for? Check the prices in your area and be

competitive. If you are producing quality — your wreaths will be in demand! Do not undersell your product! Labor will be your biggest cost and if it is you or family and free right now, it should still be added into the costs. Oh, do I remember making all the wreaths myself! Now we employ a large team to produce the thousands of wreaths.

Decorations add profits! One way to start is by collecting your own pine cones. Three clusters of three pine cones and some holly berries is an inexpensive way to start decorating. We wire all the decorations on the wreaths rather than using picks. Remember to keep the decorations at the same high quality as your wreath and make sure they are waterproof. Imagination is the only limit so don't be afraid to be creative.

Wreath making can be very profitable, but must be treated as a business, not a hobby. It is a fun business, but also requires hard work. It is short season, so you can hang in there for six weeks. It is a growing business, demand exceeds availability. It is a fulfilling business! You never lose the wonderful glowing feeling of pride as you drive down the streets of your town and see your wreaths decorating the houses . . . bringing families the "Blessing of the Christmas Wreath!"

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## Woodlots and Wildlife —

(Continued From Page 4)

greater numbers of Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). If your goal is more wildlife in general then you need not increase any single species of plant. To increase the numbers of all wildlife in a woodlot you need only to cut (harvest) so as to provide many small blocks of trees having a mix of age classes represented in those blocks. Disturb the woods by harvesting and you will diversify your investment and the wildlife habitat, thus providing wildlife to enjoy as you gain revenue from your tree harvest.

If you would like to have information about how to manage your woodlot so as to increase the populations of wildlife it supports, contact the Central New York Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society via Robert Hazelton Jr., Evergreen, RD 3, Box 219, Moravia, NY 13118.

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## Economics of Wood Heat —

*(Continued from Page 6)*

Analysis of this economic data shows that red maple has 75.6 percent as much heat value as shagbark hickory - 18.6 million BTUs compared to 24.6 million BTUs. And the energy cost of No. 2 fuel oil at 85 cents per gallon for the heat equivalent of a standard cord of red maple would cost 61.5 percent more than the wood; in other words, \$61.50 more than the standard cord selling for \$100. If the standard cord were of shagbark hickory, with its high amount of BTUs relative to other species, the cost of an equivalent amount of heat from No. 2 fuel oil would be more than twice as much at \$213.35, and for natural gas the cost would be \$181.72.

Another way of looking at this data is that one could pay 32.10 percent more for a standard cord of shagbark hickory than for red maple (\$132.10 in contrast to \$100) and be paying the same amount \$5.37 per million BTUs of heat. Based on the same procedure, in comparison to red maple, white oak would be worth 21.10 percent more,

American beech 17.07 percent more, and white ash 7.40 percent more.

Of course, "woods run" firewood (mixed as it comes from the woods) in any particular area may consist of a variety of species from timber stand improvement, salvage of low-grade dead and dying trees, or commonly abundant commercially harvested species.

By David W. Taber, Department of Natural Resources, New York State College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Cornell.

## Ask a Forester —

*(Continued from Page 7)*

therefore, I would recommend cutting alone if you want to stimulate the remaining one or two best stems. I would not cut all the sprouts on every stump — on moderate - to high-quality sites where the former trees were vigorous (healthy root systems) — the best stems should continue growing to become merchantable timber, if they are thinned properly when young.

Well, I guess this is a third answer, but I hope you are not as confused. To be more specific, I would really have to see your stand.

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the January/February issue should be sent to:

The Forest Owner  
Box 103  
Lisle, N.Y. 13797

**NO LATER THAN  
DECEMBER 6.**