

*magazine*

# FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1989

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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 September.*

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

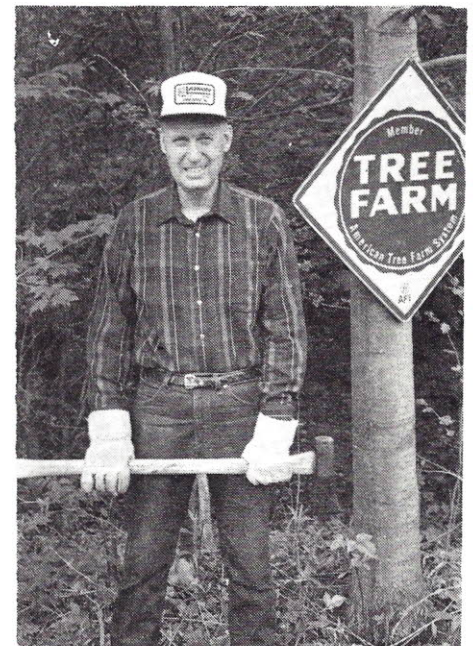
## President's Message

### A TRIBUTE TO EARL PFARNER

Earl Pfarner of Allen Rd., Chaffee, Erie County, is a charter member of NYFOA. He attended the first Annual Meeting in 1963 at ESF (it was probably called the College of Forestry then) and he has attended every annual meeting since. He has also never missed a Fall meeting in the eleven years I have been a member.

When I first became a director of NYFOA, Earl had been on the Board for several years. I noticed that several meetings went by at which he said not one word. I soon found out that Earl only talks when he has something to say. If more of us had that attribute, the Board meetings would be shorter by about half. After six years as a director, Earl has recently retired from the Board as prescribed by the By-laws. We will miss him. I first heard him talk when he was asked to run the Fall meeting three years ago with me. It was to be at the County Forest in Sardinia and we would stay at the County 4H Camp across the road. While we were Co-Chairmen of that meeting, Earl made all of the arrangements for the program, housing, food at the K of C in Yorkshire, even clocking mileages from here to there and drawing maps for attendees. He told me my only job would be Chairman of Weather. It rained on Friday and was sunny for our outdoor events on Saturday.

Earl works two woodlots for firewood. One is 50 acres and the other, 28. He makes 200 face cords of wood by himself every year. If you



J. Morgan Heussler

know him, you wonder how a guy his size can do it. Earl volunteers at Beaver Meadow, a nature paradise supported by the Buffalo Audubon Society (no tax dollars go to it). He takes school kids on hikes to teach them tree identification and characteristics. Earl has a collection of 400 wood samples, all different and he does a slide show based on them. He trades these samples with other collectors but says when he sends his West, he sends them oversized because they shrink in dry climates. And coming East, they swell.

This quiet, modest gentleman is and has been, our friend and we hope he will be coming to meetings and woodwalks for many years to come.

# NYFOA's 1989 Annual Spring Meeting Report

By **DICK FOX**

The following quotes and observations are submitted for the benefit of the members who were unable to attend this particularly fruitful meeting:

Program Chairman Professor ALLEN HORN — The program was designed to explore several compatible uses that can be enjoyed by New York forestland owners. Timber production is rarely the sole or dominant reason for land ownership. Our members use their land for a number of purposes and with some planning and foresight these uses can be made to harmonize rather than interfere with each other. Planning for these desired uses is the key to success and landowners should

be cautioned not to overlook the importance of planning in their haste to get something started on the ground.

**How Multiple Use Applies To The Small Landowner** BILL BETTS, DEC Forester, Sherburne Office — "Forests in Transition" favor wildlife management and provide the best in multiple use values. While reviewing the past, present, and future, Bill offered that the Northeastern Forest may be the basis of the economic future of the region and, further New York State is moving aggressively to that end by "putting it all together."

**Farming Alternatives — How To Reach Decisions On Land Use** Natural Resources Cornell Extension Specialist DAVID GROSS

— David reminded landowners of the necessity to balance nonconsumptive uses such as aesthetics and family activities with economic considerations that may be competitive or conflicting. A careful analysis of the many options from both aspects will be preliminary efforts well invested.

**Managing The Forest For Wildlife** DEC Wildlife Biologist (Cortland) WARD DUCKFLOW — The primary reward of a wood product from the forest is not incompatible with directed efforts for wildlife management. A simple guideline for preliminary consideration: specie specificity requires specificity in habitat management; variety in

*Continued on Page 11*

## The 1989 Heiberg Memorial Award to Willard G. Ives

By **Robert Sand**

This presentation of the HEIBERG AWARD for 1989, is a pleasant privilege for me. Today's award is the 23rd. The first presentation to Dean Hardy L. Shirley was made at the 4th annual meeting in this same room on April 30, 1966.

It is in recognition for outstanding contributions in the fields of FORESTRY and CONSERVATION in New York State.

Past Recipients:

THE HEIBERG AWARD:

1967 David B. Cook

1968 Floyd Carlson  
1969 Mike Demeree  
1970 No Award  
1971 Fred Winch, Jr.  
1972 John Stock  
1973 Robert M. Ford  
1974 C. Eugene Farnsworth  
1975 Alex Dickson  
1976 Edward W. Littlefield  
1977 Maurice Postley  
1978 Ralph Nyland  
1979 Fred C. Simmons  
1980 Dr. William Harlow  
1981 Curtis Bauer  
1982 Neil B. Gutchess

1983 David W. Taber  
1984 John W. Kelley  
1985 Robert G. Potter  
1986 Karyn B. Richards  
1987 Henry G. Williams  
1988 Robert M. Sand

Svend O. Heiberg, a renowned Professor of Silviculture, devoted much of his dedicated career at the N.Y. College of Forestry. Dr. Heiberg first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in

*Continued on Page 11*

## The Outstanding Service Award to Alan Knight

By **HOWARD O. WARD**

Today we honor the 12th recipient of this award. It is recognition for OUTSTANDING SERVICE to the New York Forest Owners Association, and affords me the opportunity to make this presentation to my CANDOR, Tioga County, N.Y. neighbor — Alan R. Knight — who joins an ever-growing list of those who have been awarded tangible recognition for dedicated service to our membership.

Here is a review of past recipients:

1978 Emiel Palmer  
1979 Ken Eberley  
1980 Helen Varian  
1981 J. Lewis DuMond  
1982 Lloyd Strombeck  
1983 Evelyn Stock  
1984 Dorothy Wertheimer

1985 David H. Hanaburgh  
1986 A.W. Roberts, Jr.  
1987 Howard O. Ward  
1988 Mary and Stuart McCarty  
When Lloyd Strombeck was President of NYFOA in 1975, he asked me to serve on the Editorial Committee and to accompany him to a meeting with the editor, Merle Wilson, a free lance journalist in Binghamton. On the way home, because I had been bothered by the editor's attitude more than anything else, I said to Lloyd "We've got to have a new editor. Why don't you ask Alan Knight in Cooperative Extension?"

You see, I was a County Legislator at the time and one of my committee duties was to work with Cooperative Extension. I had gotten to know Alan

and knew what a great job he had done in starting the magazine "Country Living", a monthly newsletter of Cooperative Extension.

Alan agreed and he and his wife Nancy put together the Forest Owner's Magazine as we know it today. In 1978 he decided to move up in the world and became a Public Information officer at the University of Rhode Island.

At Christmas time in 1979 I received a letter from Alan saying that he and Nancy had decided they'd like to return to Tioga County to live. Did I have any suggestions as to how he might make a living? I forwarded his letter to Gordon Conklin, Editor of the American Agriculturist in Ithaca and Alan became Associate Editor and he

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# NYFOA Chapter and

## Catskill Forest Association

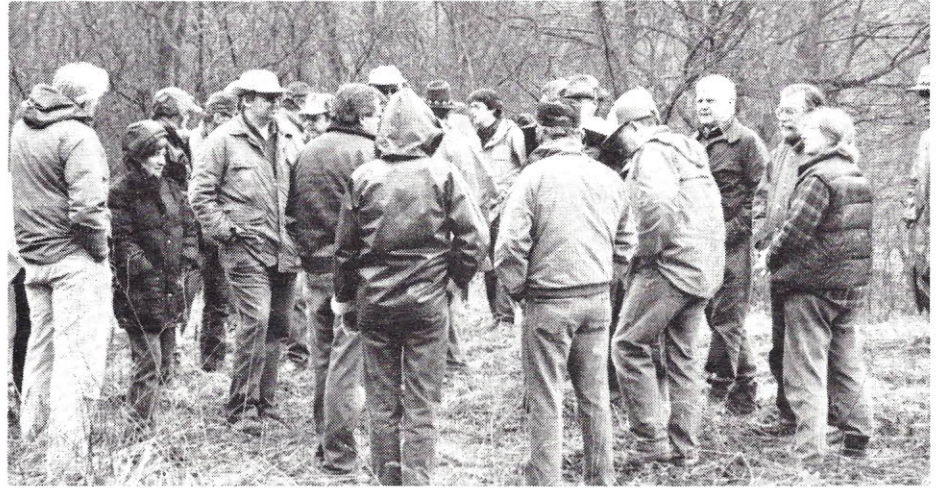
### WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

An outdoor educational meeting was held on Saturday, April 15, at the Bear Spring Mountain State Wildlife Management Area located in Walton, NY.

In cooperation with the Region 4 office of the NYS DEC, CFA members, family and friends were treated to a tour of the areas intensively managed for wildlife. John Herron, principal fish and wildlife technician for Region 4 office of the DEC, provided a brief presentation that highlighted the basic principles of wildlife habitat management. Following several questions, he then led the group through management areas which included an area that had been clear-cut and later burned to promote new growth for browse and cover. John pointed out that although the site may not look very appealing to the human eye, it did have qualities that are highly desirable from a wildlife standpoint. The clearing provided a good degree of edge, offering an abrupt change in vegetation. The area had a much wider variety of plants, shrubs, and grasses which provide valuable browse and cover for deer, turkey, and other animals. Also discussed were different plantings that would attract more wildlife to a given area, and tips for pruning wild apple trees.

John monitors and assists in coordinating various management activities which include timber harvesting, thinnings, and tree planting on the state owned management area. He welcomed questions from the group, and also offered a personal visit to landowners in the DEC's Region 4 area (Catskill counties of Greene, Schoharie, and Otsego).

Since many landowners share a common interest in wildlife, this was a great way for them to learn more about what they can do to improve the quality of available food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife species. The area offered several excellent examples of forest management applications which seek to improve the diversity and quality of wildlife



habitat for many animal species. CFA is pleased to sponsor programs of this type, and encourages members to offer suggestions as to the future meeting topics and locations.

With some 40 people attending, CFA is extremely pleased with the outcome of this meeting. Educating the private forest owner is becoming increasingly more important. How private landowners manage or mismanage their lands can have a significant impact on the environment.

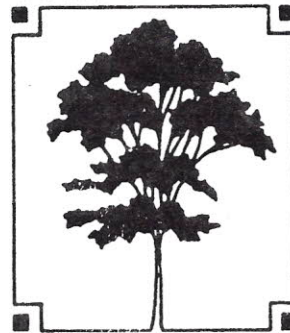
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# Affiliate Reports

## SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER

Our June meeting was held at Don and Kate Greenmun's Christmas tree farm located south of Whitney Point on Route 26. We toured the Greenmun Christmas tree plantation and saw demonstrations using both hand and mechanized methods. It was a good opportunity to see how the "pros" care for their trees!

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry held a seminar in May dealing with the subject of Sugar Maple decline. Scientists from many of the departments at the school were involved in the exchange of information and ideas. The first point made was that no one is exactly certain as to what really triggers declines (roughly defined as general malady of all or part of a forest stand that leads to a weakening of the resistance of trees, sometimes causing mortality). All of the scientists agree that there is not any

single agent that is responsible. Rather, it is a combination of several factors. Some of the factors cited were drought, defoliation, chemical, other insects, fungus of many types, soil compaction and disturbance due to logging operations, silvicultural techniques employed in harvesting and soil nutrient imbalance. It was made clear that when a tree is repeatedly affected by any of these factors, its ability to recover from other agents is reduced, thereby a decrease or decline in stand health sets in. Interestingly, none of the scientists placed much if any of the blame on the highly maligned acid rain theory... a hotly debated theory in many areas.

Pear thrips were also discussed at the meeting. Again, there were no clear answers or solutions to this increasing problem in our maple forests. Although Vermont is in the limelight of the media concerning their loss of maple syrup production and fall foliage tourists, Pennsylvania

has been having thrips defoliation for ten years on the northern tier counties. Up to this year only one area has been reported to have mortality associated with the thrips, and that was on a dry ridge... contributing factor? Apparently the thrips defoliation is somewhat hard to predict. PA foresters stated that some areas would be moderate to heavy in defoliation one year, and have relatively no defoliation the next. The problem is so new to foresters and researchers that we do not know what to recommend for management of sugar maple stands. One important fact relayed was that the thrips do serious damage to the maple reproductive cycle by feeding heavily on the spores of the male flower. This results in little or no regeneration of maple. With that in mind, we need to be sure to reserve maple of good health and form so that the forest has a good seed source for the future.

Jim Roberts, Secretary

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## CFA Awarded Project By DEC

The Catskill Forest Association (CFA) has been awarded \$18,998 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct an "Early Successional Stage Woodland Wildlife Demonstration" project. The project is funded by the Return a Gift to Wildlife program.

The two-year project entails identifying recent even-age timber sales on state wildlife and reforestation lands in eight of DEC's regions throughout the state. It also involves interpreting the values and benefits of even-aged forest management on wildlife to the general public, and in particular, private nonindustrial forest landowners by constructing a sign at each location.

Ten thousand tri-fold brochures will also be designed, printed and distributed to advertise the location of each of the demonstration areas. The brochure will also as well as summarize the project and the benefits of even-aged forest management.

If forest lands are left unmanaged, they begin to lose the qualities which had made them appealing to various species of wildlife. Even-aged forest management harvesting techniques

can maintain, enhance and improve diverse wildlife habitats by providing vigorous growth of desired tree species and a broad selection of food and cover for many wildlife species.

CFA Woodlands Manager Louis Tirrito and Field Manager Dave Ramsey will carry out the project while overall supervision will be the responsibility of Executive Director Don Gilbert. Jim Glidden of DEC will be acting as project manager on behalf of the Department.

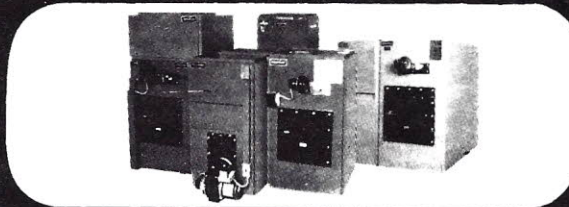
A Return a Gift to Wildlife Program is funded by voluntary contributions obtained by checking a box on the New York State personal income tax form. All revenues donated go into the Conservation Fund which is dedicated exclusively to fish and wildlife management. Since its inception in

1982, Return a Gift to Wildlife has funded more than 100 projects related to and benefitting New York's fish and wildlife.

CFA is a nonprofit, member-supported association of people interested in forest management in the Catskill Mountain region. It was formed in 1982 in response to the many issues surrounding the practice of forestry in the Catskill region and to promote better forest management. CFA's educational programs are designed to inform members, landowners and the public about forestry issues and enhance their knowledge of forestry.

For more information concerning this project or for membership information, please contact CFA at (914) 586-3054.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

# What Is a Consulting Forester?

By ANTHONY DEL VESCOVO,  
President, NY Institute of  
Consulting Foresters

A consulting forester is a technically trained forester whose services are available on a fee or contract basis. Although a license is not necessary to practice consulting forestry in New York State, there are standards by which a forester can be measured.

A professional forester usually has graduated with a bachelor of science in forest or resource management from a college accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and is a member of SAF, which is the most recognized forestry organization in the country. Another organization a serious forestry consultant in New York State may belong to is the New York Institute of Consulting Foresters. A nationally recognized consulting organization is the Association of Consulting Foresters. Membership in one or all of these organizations tells a landowner that the forester is bound by a code of ethics set forth by these organizations. These codes of ethics mandate that the forester abide by and practice forestry with honesty and integrity, while proficiently using his or her skills as a forester with their client's sole interest in mind.

According to statewide statistics, it is not often enough that a forest landowner asks himself "Why do I need to hire a consulting forester?" Apparently, few who could benefit from a consultant's services even know that such a thing as a consulting forester exists. There are far too many acres of forestland being cut by loggers with the primary incentive of cutting as many trees of high-value as is possible in order to generate the most profit. This can be accomplished

in a neat fashion which may look fine to the untrained eye. However, this practice is commonly known in the industry as high-grading. I do not mean to stereotype or patronize loggers by my statement above because there are many excellent professional timber harvesters in business, but there are also many who will take a woodlot for all it is worth given the opportunity.

The incentive of a qualified consulting forester is to satisfy the needs of his forestland owner-client in the hopes of becoming a long-term advisor to the client. The consultant helps owners identify their ownership goals and effect a plan to maximize the benefits of forestland ownership.

Consulting foresters provide a wide variety of services to the general public, many of which are not readily thought of by most forest landowners. The following are some of these services.

\* **Recreational Development** — Foresters can develop a trail system for hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and generally improve access for any outdoor activity.

\* **Watershed Protection** — Some foresters have expertise in managing forests for increased quantity and quality of water from a given area.

\* **Wildlife Management** — Any parcel of land can be made to attract more wildlife by managing its vegetation to enhance the food and cover for desired wildlife species.

\* **Boundary Line Maintenance** — Foresters can re-mark boundary lines which have been established from previous surveys, and in some cases

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor and Fellow Members:

I am writing to you in hopes that I may enlighten not so few members of this **EXTREMELY** important organization. My husband and I are fairly new to NYFOA, we have attended several meetings and are pleased to be a part of NYFOA.

During the April 29th meeting in Syracuse it was brought to our attention that NYFOA could use more funds in order to enable our organization to be present at legislative meetings and such. Also during the meeting I personally questioned several people as to who would be the best person to speak with about possible Fund Raising. Well, I will tell you now that I met with quite a resistance!! What I finally came up with was to write to the editor of our magazine and hopefully she would publish my letter.

My fund raising suggestions is this: There are 1100+/- members in this organization, of which at least half could contribute a very small amount of time to help raise money. My husband and myself are raising a two year old daughter as well as starting a new business, however we are willing to work with others who also have limited time, to organize some Fund Raising Activities (such as Calendars, Raffles, etc.). As members of this organization we need to have Board Members and other qualified parties actively involved in the legislature. This is only on a voluntary basis since no member of NYFOA is a paid employee. What I am asking, in essence, is for members of NYFOA to put together ideas for Fund Raising to enable us to send our 'voice' to the New York State Legislature, AND BE HEARD.

Sincerely,

Dana K. Pollock  
NYFOA Member since 1987

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# Ask a Forester

Send Questions to: Wes Suhr, R.R. #1, Box 59B Oswegatchie, N.Y. 13670

Occasionally it is necessary for all of us, the “experts” and the laity, to acquaint ourselves again with the basics of practicing forestry. This allows us all to start on the same track, to concentrate on standard definitions, to communicate more effectively with each other. In this case, I had to do it when asked for “. . . a series of articles on timber stand improvement.”

Just what is **timber stand improvement (TSI)**? We might say that it is any vegetative treatment designed to improve a stand of timber, but the science of silviculture defines it differently as “tending operations that involve outright investment without any harvest of wood” (*The Practice of Silviculture* by D.M. Smith). TSI is treating young or old trees in a stand with the object of increasing the future value of the remaining trees or stand. Money is expended to perform the operation (invested), but no money is gained immediately from that operation. Examples of TSI would be pruning branches from young stems (poles or 6” dbh and larger), removing undesirable or dense saplings to favor the more desirable trees (release operations or cleaning/weeding) and removing young stems below the commercial diameter limit to increase the growth on the remaining trees or residuals (precommercial thinning).

TSI is only a part of the tending operations or the **intermediate treatment** of a stand — treatments designed to culture the developing stand to maturity or final harvest. In this and future articles, I would like to discuss this broader aspect of silviculture, that is, intermediate treatments aimed at producing more wood of the type or tree species that are demanded by the market or Society. After all, this is one of the primary ways we forest landowners have to pay our expenses, including taxes. From this standpoint, I can dispense with “TSI” very rapidly — it is best practiced while you are carrying on your **commercial** intermediate operations, mainly

improvement cutting and commercial thinning.

If your woodlot is dominated by pole- and young sawtimber-sized trees (6 to 12”+), properly designed improvement cutting and/or commercial thinning are the most valuable practices you can perform to improve the vigor and growth of your future stands. You can make a profit now, reduce the intensity of insect/disease attack, decrease mortality, and have bigger/better trees for the future final harvest.

“**Improvement cuttings** are made in stands past the sapling stage for the purpose of improving composition and quality by removing trees of undesirable species, form, or condition from the main canopy” (Smith). So you’re removing the trees you don’t want in the future stand, the ones with poor form, low vigor and low-value species — and they’re big enough to use or sell for firewood, pulpwood, etc. **Commercial thinning** removes trees past the sapling stage, reducing the density of competition in the stand, thus improving future growth of residual trees — again, most of the cut stems can be utilized. Both practices may be done with

chainsaw or chemical, and I apply some cleaning/weeding and precommercial thinning to the same stand as I’m swinging my chainsaw.

Of paramount importance is to recognize these treatments require **prescription** — you should know what you’re doing before you do it! You might be able to recognize poor form, undesirable species and low vigor, but how many trees should you remove per acre or in the stand for your management objectives? Too few or too many may be removed — what is the proper density or stocking for each stand or site? And, for that matter, what is the best species for the site? Is there a disease or insect in the area that will decimate even a vigorous stand? Would it be to your advantage to practice even-aged or uneven-aged silviculture? These are some of the questions that should be answered by a qualified professional **before** treatment begins; once the trees are marked by a qualified person, you can have confidence in the treatment.

In the next few articles, I want to explain how improvement cutting and

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*Improvement cutting and commercial thinning — the most valuable intermediate practices for your forest stands.*

# Woods Wisdom Woodland Management

A guest Editorial

By GREGG WELLOTT

(Gregg is a logger and a member of the Cayuga Chapter of NYFOA. The following is from an article in that chapter's newsletter.)

The percentage of forested land in New York State is supposed to be increasing each year. As a logger, I find this encouraging. But, how much of that increase will be quality timber?

Management steps taken by the forest landowner are going to determine whether this increase is just in numbers of trees, or in valuable timber.

I work mainly in Cayuga County, in small farm woodlots, usually 10-25 acres in size. Roughly 70% of the work done is in thinning for woodlot improvement. The other 30% is cutting for saw timber sales.

I have seen the effects of a wide range of management plans, but usually along the line of "no plan". The woodlots which have had good forestry practices under some type of management plan have shown impressive results.

I believe the landowner has a moral obligation to take care of the resource, and not just strip it for every available dollar, or allow it to grow weedy from neglect. We have an obligation to provide for the future.

And if you don't buy the moral stance — try this one — A managed woodlot will give you a higher economic return over the long run.

Good management does not mean "high grading". I would not advise selling timber to someone who just wants the sawlogs unless you have a sale lined up to remove the low quality material later. There are good markets for both high and low quality timber.

I prefer to work in marked woodlots. It takes a lot of extra time on my part making cut decisions if the job is unmarked. This is especially true in thinning, where the decisions made now will affect the woodlot's growth for a long time.

I would prefer that a professional forester do the marking for me. He has been trained for this. Having the marked trees clearly visible also makes it much easier for me to decide where to lay out skid trails and set up cutting patterns.

The forest may be a renewable resource, but it's not limitless. There is a need to be concerned about what type of forest crop we are going to renew. Haphazard cutting with no management plan is only going to perpetuate low quality timber and woodlots.

Responsible management is a must. I would rather invite professional help in management now, to help develop a long-term plan, than have the State or community come in later to enforce regulations brought on by the neglect of our woodlands.

If you have comments on managing your Tug Hill resources, write to the editor. Your input is welcome. If you have questions, ask — maybe another THRIFT member will have the right answer for your situation.

What does this have to do with Tug Hill?

"We don't do this kind of genetic research because we don't need to," said Dr. Mark. "Our soils are rich and our trees are plentiful. But if we wait until the need is here, we'll find ourselves behind the competition."

"Times are changing," he said. "They always did. But forests haven't changed that much. We still have good conditions on Tug Hill for growing black cherry. Maybe we should be developing a better black cherry — one that's disease resistant, fast growing and of uniform quality."

Although the local market for cherry is a little soft right now, Elaine Clark noted that Taiwan currently is paying \$1000 per 1000!

Dr. Mark pointed out that Harden Furniture has been seeding cherry in experimental clear-cut plots along the McConnellsville-Blossvale road.

He challenged THRIFT members to start their own experimental plots. "Clear cut an acre in your woods and

plant it with seeds from some of our outstanding trees," he urged. "Then we can share information on our experiments."

He noted that hay-scented ferns are a common enemy of cherry trees, robbing the seedlings of sunlight, and might have to be cut until the seedlings grow above them.

Members interested in trying this kind of experiment should contact Dr. Mark at the Syracuse University College of Environmental Science and Forestry if they would like some seed from his healthy seed trees.

Other members who have exceptional trees, and who would be willing to share seed for experimental purposes, are invited to let other members know.

## Increasing Membership; Top Priority - NYFOA

The importance of trees to our environment and society has never had a higher profile than it does today. Real concern over issues like the "GREENHOUSE EFFECT" and "ACID RAIN" are becoming commonplace topics, and people in general are more receptive to discussions and actions concerning the health of trees throughout the world.

This situation suggests that it is a very good time to interest new people in our organization. We, as New York Forest Owners, can influence the general health of thousands of acres of high quality deciduous forests, a goal with both personal and social benefits. However, our ability to accomplish that goal is very dependent on our size. We must reach more people, communicate more information and provide better membership support.

*Continued on Page 9*

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OUTSIDE WITH FLOYD KING

## Safe Canopy

*A beech offers shelter from lightning*

On May 15, New York had its first lightning fatalities of this season.

Probably thinking it was a freak storm and not dangerous, six members of a softball team had huddled under a tree for protection from rain.

A lightning bolt hit the tree, killed two young men and sent the other four to the hospital. This happened at Randolph, a small village about 50 miles south of Buffalo.

The Associated Press, which reported the tragedy, failed to mention one vital thing: What kind of tree was it under which the six had sought shelter?

That might not seem important, but it is very important. We're just entering our season of electrical storms, and outdoors folks are apt to be caught afield when lightning cuts its jagged paths to earth and thunder booms. Knowing where to seek shelter could be the difference between life and death.

If this should happen to you, run as fast as you can for the nearest beech tree and stand close to the trunk. You may get wet, but you'll be safer there than in your own home.

Just to the east of our Rochester home, a wild cherry tree and a white oak are dying as a result of being hit by lightning. On our east lot line is the skeleton of a yellow pine, the victim of a lightning bolt. On the lawn of my immediate neighbor to the north, a sugar maple is slowly succumbing to a lightning scar.

Twenty feet from the front of our Livingston County farmhouse, a huge sugar maple was struck by lightning two summers ago. The bolt seared a 6-inch-wide path from top-most branch to roots and dug a foot-deep crater into the ground. The tree is dying from the top down this year.

People have been struck by lightning while sitting on the ground in the open to avoid it. In contrast, there is no record of anyone having been killed by lightning under a beech tree.

An article some years ago in the *New York Conservationist* magazine titled "Lightning and the Beech Tree" skirted the question of whether a beech has ever been struck by lightning but agreed that there had been no report of anyone ever being killed while standing under one.

The article did say, "It is a tradition long standing among American Indians, woodsmen and farm people both here and in Europe that the beech is immune to lightning strokes."

Foresters disagree about why the beech appears to have this immunity. In fact, most have no explanation. Some attribute it to the fatty content of the wood and others believe it is because the beech has a widespread but shallow root system with no tap root.

Reinforcing this tap root idea is the fact that the trees most frequently struck have the longest tap roots. In fact, there is one tree to stay away from in an electrical storm: an oak.

As a reporter, I was covering a glider meet on Harris Hill in Elmira some years ago when an electrical storm hit suddenly. Everyone sought

shelter under the wings of the gliders.

Suddenly there was a blinding flash of lightning almost simultaneous with a tremendous clap of thunder. A huge oak on the brow of the hill simply disintegrated. Full-size limbs were blown a half-mile away. It was the only time I have ever seen a tree totally blown apart by lightning.

The National Shade Tree Conference reports some interesting data on tree species most frequently struck by lightning: oak, 31 percent; elm, 18 percent, poplar, 11 percent; tulip tree, 7 percent; pine, 6 percent; ash, 5 percent; maple, 4 percent; and all other species, 18 percent.

So it's a good idea when on a hike to just casually spot a beech. You never know when you'll need one.

FLOYD KING's column appears weekly in the *Democrat and Chronicle's* upstate magazine.

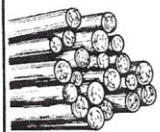
## Membership —

*Continued from Page 8*

If each of you could encourage just one person to join NYFOA this year we could take a giant step toward becoming the stronger, more effective organization we need to be. It's not hard to do, it can be done with sincerity since our cause is of real value, and it can even be fun. Give it a try, PLEASE.

Although it's only a small token, we are making up some special lapel pins of New York State forestry symbols embossed with our organization acronym NYFOA. These pins will be given to everyone getting three or more new members by the end of the year.

The Membership Committee



*If You Own Woodlands You Should Attend N.Y.S. Woodsmen's Field Days*

## WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS

**August 18, 19 and 20, 1989**

**Boonville, New York**

LARGEST ATTENDED FOREST INDUSTRY PROMOTIONAL SHOW IN NORTHEAST

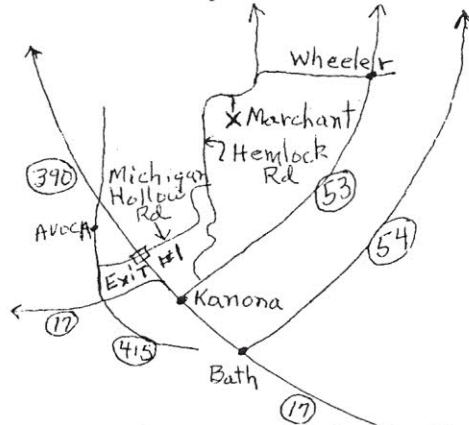
- ★ Latest in Industry Equipment, Tools, Technology
- ★ Latest in Woodland Management for Woodland Owners
- ★ Tours of Wood Industries - make reservations early
- ★ Loader-Skidder Competition By Timber Harvesters
- ★ Loader Skill Games
- ★ Open Championship Lumberjack Competition Featuring: Log rolling, one and two-man crosscut, bow sawing, horizontal log chop, standing block chop, axe throwing, Jack & Jill crosscut, tree felling, open class and modified stock chainsaw
- ★ Open Championship Women's Competition Featuring: Log rolling fire building, pulp throw, axe throw, two-woman crosscut, splitting, bow saw, and horizontal log chop
- ★ Skidding Competition Using Horses
- ★ Wood Craftsmen's Demonstrations
- ★ Canoe Races
- ★ Beards Contests

FOR INFORMATION: N.Y.S. Woodsmen's Corporations, PO Box 123, Dept. F, Boonville, NY 13309, 315/942-4593

## Summer Woodswalk In Wheeler, NY

Steuben County - 10 A.M., July 29

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn East on Michigan Hollow Rd. at the AVOCA EXIT (#1) on 390. Continue climbing up (about 2 mi.) to a T intersection with Hemlock Rd. Turn North (left) and follow NYFOA signs to Marchant farm, (2 more mi.). OR: Turn West off Rt. 53 in Wheeler and follow dirt road (about 1.5 mi.) to T intersection with Hemlock Rd., turn (left) and follow NYFOA signs (1 mi.) to Marchant farm.



### INTERESTING FEATURES

**Appleton Farm (170 acres) Guided by Senior Forester Stan Martin.**

1. The results on 35 acres of typical mixed hardwoods which were marked and culled about 16 years ago.

2. A 15 acre stand of "natural" white pine (tall, straight and 40 years old).

3. A working beaver pond with 2000 linear feet of dams and dikes.

**Marchant Farm (160 acres) Guided by Senior Forester Billy Martin.**

1. Demonstration mixed hardwood plots of before, during and after marking and thinning.

2. Resident sawmill (bandmill) demonstration showing possible value added wood products from raw materials produced by harvesting and TSI.

The walks will start at 10:00 AM sharp from the Marchant farm. The Appleton farm is about 4 Mi. away with transportation by car. Lunch will be at about 1:00 PM, with sheltered areas available in case of bad weather. Be sure to **BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**. Coffee and lemonade will be provided.

## Computer Workshop For Foresters

SUNY ES&F, Syracuse, will be hosting a "hands-on" workshop to demonstrate various computer softwares available to professional foresters.

This one-day workshop will be held Aug. 26, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will include the demonstration of a number of software packages used for forestry applications. A tentative list of programs to be demonstrated includes Itworks, Silvah, Twigs, Fiber, Crustali, Omnitali and possibly some Tennessee Valley Authority programs, according to Horace Shaw, associate for Continuing Education at the college.

He added that a demonstration of System Forester is also planned. "The workshop is really designed for consulting or industrial foresters," he said.

The workshop is co-sponsored by New York Institute of Consulting Foresters and software programs are for IBM P.C.s. Registration deadline is Aug. 18 and for information about the cost of the program and additional information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 315-470-6891.

## Chapter Reports *Continued from Page 5*

### Western Finger Lakes Chapter Meeting

On May 17, the WFL Chapter held its fourth meeting of the current season with fifty-one members in attendance.

The program was called "A FORESTERS FORUM" which consisted of a panel discussion with six of our local area foresters, all of whom are NYFOA members. Each member of the panel gave about five minutes of description concerning their immediate responsibilities and areas of concern within the forestry community. They then formed a panel and answered questions from the floor. A wide variety of subjects were raised and discussed. Topics such as TAX LAWS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION, STATE SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE BUDGET CRUNCH, TIMBER EXPORTING ACTIVITIES BY SPECIES AND GRADE, THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT CUMMING NATURE CENTER, CURRENT

SPECIES OF HIGH COMMERCIAL VALUE IN THIS AREA AND last but not least, the APPROPRIATE USE AND ROLE OF NYFOA IN THE OVERALL FORESTRY PICTURE.

The discussions were spirited at times and lasted well into the coffee hour. WFL would like to express sincere thanks to each of our panel members and suggest to our sister chapters that this idea makes for a very valuable, well received meeting topic.

Special thanks to: Vince Chebetar, Office Manager and Forester for FORCON, Avon; Kathy Gilda, Forester, Cumming Nature Center, Naples; Mark Keister, Senior Forester DEC., Avon; Susan Keister, Mines Land Reclamation Specialist, DEC, Avon; Jerry Miller, Senior Forester, Trathen Logging Co., Mt. Morris, and Billy Morris, Senior Forester DEC, Bath.

J. Marchant

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RUTH EBERLEY  
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VERNON DIXON  
VINCENT VACARRO  
WILLIAM GAUPP

## Heiberg Award —

*Continued from Page 3*

N.Y. State. He enlisted the efforts of Dean Shirley, and together they initiated this successful Forest Owners Association.

This award is presented in his memory.

Today we reflect on the considerable accomplishments, recognizing the concerned involvement through countless hours, miles and near unlimited energies personified by Willard G. Ives of Rensselaer County.

He presently is Chairman of the State Forest Practice Board, now serving his second term. He was Chairman of Region 4 F.B.A. Board for five years. He is Vice-Chairman of the EMPIRE FOREST SYSTEM, established in 1984 to develop and foster an understanding and appreciation among NY Citizens, of the value and benefits of N.Y.'s forests and trees, and the important contribution of wise management of those resources.

Willard owns and manages a successful cut & choose Christmas Tree operation on his 170 acre dedicated American Tree Farm. In 1984 his property was selected as New York's TREE FARM OF THE YEAR. He also won the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tree Farm award that same year. Willard Ives is a Master Gardener and an expert Nurseryman for Cooperative Extension. He also devotes time each year as a Trainer for the Hunter/Sportsman's program. His initial reforestation began in 1946 with RED PINE. As the years passed and he became involved with Christmas trees he planted mostly Scotch Pine, though he does grow Douglas Fir, White and Norway Spruce and some White Fir and Blue Spruce, now totaling 70 Acres. He has made five selective improvement cuts on the 40 acres of natural hardwood sites.

In reviewing these many accomplishments, I want to make special note that I personally feel is outstanding — both of his sons are professional foresters.

We today, by the presentation of this 1989 Heiberg Memorial Award, acknowledge his dedication to Forestry and Conservation in New York.

## Spring Meeting —

*Continued from Page 3*

resident wildlife requires variety in habitat types. Non-Industrial Private Forest Owners with careful planning and suitable management practices may obtain both specificity and variety in wildlife, in addition to the wood products. RICHARD PANCOE's "Project TREE" was an enlightening program on the use of computers to facilitate marketing by providing a data bank of buyers and sellers of wood products. The South Central New York Resource Conservation and Development Project in cooperation with the US Forest Service was the lead agency through which the hi-tech forestry effort was funded. It is a disappointment to learn of the loss of these funds in the light of the demonstrated need and the promise.

The final segment of the program, **An Update On Wood Energy** by JAMES PEEK, DEC Utilization Forester (Cortland) was a high note trumpeting the success of wood energy to the management of both timber and wildlife. There were two sounds of dissonance in Jim's tune: 1. The wildlife biologist's wolf trees are not popular with foresters. 2. Some 60% of the homeowner harvested tree stems were dead and may well be counter-productive for timber growth and many wildlife species. Removal of certain competitive stems, culling; leaving a residual stand of superior stems, is the path for wood energy utilization. Currently, there is a preferred interest in waste wood (what's left after wood processing) for fuel instead of low grade utilization, culls. An example is afforded by New York State Gas and Electric in their efforts to mix wood chips and coal in generating electricity. Efficiency of Oxygen take-up in the boilers and stack emission pollutants are both favorably affected.

If the other Regions of the state are served by talent such as this meeting's DEC Region 7 representatives, New York State Forests and all that can be, will.

## Ask a Forester —

*Continued from Page 7*

commercial thinning have been and are being implemented on my woodlot, hoping that this will be of

some assistance to you. In the meantime, take a broad view of **silviculture** as the art and science of regenerating and culturing a stand of trees for the ultimate objective of the landowner, with the proviso that the forest productivity of that site must be maintained or enhanced to sustain a healthy environment for future generations of landowners.

### A BROAD VIEW OF SILVICULTURE Maintains/Enhances Site Productivity

Regenerate Stands:	- to -	Culture Stands:
Even-aged Methods		Precommercial Treatment
Uneven-aged Methods	*Cleaning/Weeding — TSI *Thinning — TSI *Pruning	Commercial Treatment *Improvement *Thinning *Salvage

## Outstanding Service Award —

*Continued from Page 3*

and Nancy moved to Candor almost across the street from me.

In 1986 he was successful in convincing American Agriculturist's Publisher that they should publish the Forest Owner magazine as an additional means of reaching of farmers and landowners in the Northeast. Alan was again our editor.

Unfortunately, the American Ag advertising department fell down at the job of soliciting ads for the Forest Owner and American Ag terminated publication. To make matters worse, they told Alan that he could no longer edit it even as a sideline at home.

Over the several years of Alan's editorship of our magazine it served to bring in new members and keep existing ones. Thus, Alan has contributed greatly to our association. He will now continue to contribute as a Director.

For his excellent service since 1975 it is my honor to present him with this award for outstanding Service. It states -

CONGRATULATIONS ALAN.

Howard O. Ward

May 1, 1989



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## Consulting Forester? —

*Continued from Page 6*

eliminate the need for costly new surveys.

**\* Tax Management** — Many foresters can aid landowners in taking advantage of the tax law pertaining to forest ownership. Upon purchasing a wooded parcel, it is important to establish a tax base, which a consultant can accomplish by inventorying and appraising the timber.

Some of the timber related services which consulting foresters provide are as follows:

**\* Timber Appraisals** — This service tells the owner or interested party what the value of the timber is on a given property. Real estate appraisers often incorporate timber appraisals into their land appraisals.

**\* Timber Sales** — Foresters can mark forest products to help a landowner attain management goals while insuring that the trees are removed in the least harmful manner. They can see to it that top prices are paid by selling the timber products in the best available markets.

**\* Forest Management Plans** — Plans should be in a category of their own because they are the most useful tool used in accomplishing any of the above listed items. Management plans combine the owner's objective

for the property with the land's potential for growing trees in an attempt to satisfy the landowner's goals for the property.

**\* Tree Planting** — Most foresters handle tree planting plans for any size planting ranging from small Christmas tree plantings to large tree plantations. Some consultants provide the actual tree planting service, while others refer this work to those with planting expertise. In any case, it is advisable to have a forester determine what type of tree is best adaptable to a particular area and its soils. Wasted dollars and effort can be eliminated by careful planning before the planting is begun.

**\* Timber Trespass Appraisals** — Services which relate to trespass include the estimation of the value of stolen trees based on stump cruises, and expert witness testimony in court for timber theft cases.

Other miscellaneous services consultant foresters can provide are sugar bush management, environmental impact statements, urban tree care, and other "special area" service.

Of course, a consulting forester's fees vary depending on the individual consultant or consulting firm. As with the economics of any service oriented business, a consultant generally charges according to the demand for his or her services, which often reflect the quality of the service. However,

the element of competition tends to group prices for similar services.

In a sense foresters are free! Just as an income tax specialist is hired to take advantage of the tax laws to save the client money, a consulting forester takes advantage of the skills of managing forestland, marketing forest products, and forest tax laws thereby making their clients money or increasing their personal pleasure derived from forestland ownership. Two of the fee structures commonly used are based on the amount of time and expense required to complete a job, and a percentage of the total revenue realized from the sale of forest products. Last, but certainly not least important, is the fact that trees grow slowly! It only makes good sense that we be careful about activities and woodland operations because the effects are long-lasting. We should look past our short-term needs and think about the quality of life in the future, which is closely related to the health of our forests and its effect on our whole environment.

If you are the owner of a parcel of forestland, or know of someone who is, why not call a forester? No matter how large or small a landholding, every piece is needed to complete a jigsaw puzzle. You are part of the big picture and what you do on, and to, your forestland is what counts.

*From Spring CFA Newsletter*