

# FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

September/October 1989

THE NEW YORK



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East Aurora, NY 14052

**Allen F. Horn, 1st Vice President**  
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**Southern Tier Chapter —**  
**Donald Kellicutt**  
RD 1, Box 103  
Lisle, NY 13797

**Western Finger Lakes Chapter —**  
**John Marchant**  
45 Cambridge Ct.  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

# 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 November.*

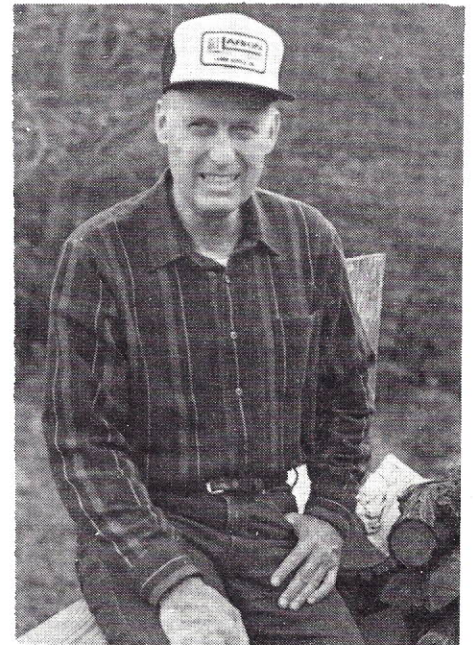
*Please address all membership and change address requests to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 123, Boonville, N.Y. 13309.*

## President's Message

On July 29, John Marchant and George Appleton hosted woods walks at their woodlots in the Wheeler-Avooca area. Their woods are about four miles apart. This was a good thing because forty-four walkers showed up and I, for one, do not ever remember a group this large other than at a Fall meeting. So, half of us walked the Marchant woods in the morning and the Appleton woods in the afternoon. The other half did the opposite thus keeping Senior Foresters Stan Martin and Billy Morris busy at each place. Unfortunately, time only permitted me to join the Marchant group so these comments must be confined to John's lovely, well managed wood lot.

In his TSI work, John has cut the hophornbeam heavily. He likes it for firewood and so do I. It is a weed tree, does nothing for the forest but its hardness makes for long burning fires. We saw a sugar maple stand which is outstanding. The trees grew in competition so they are tall and straight and have no lower limbs. Most are poles but some are sawtimber size. We had always wondered what caused the depressions and ridges in a woods. They make it hard to drive a tractor around. Billy Morris explained that the hollows were caused by trees in the virgin forest uprooting and that the ridges are the decayed root systems. John has introduced some black locust in an aspen stand and it's doing well.

Now, most of you know that John Marchant is deeply interested in forestry applications of the computer and the various software programs



J. Morgan Heussler

that are available. So, it will not surprise you to hear that John has his woods staked off in five acre plots and that each plot has its own computer terminal. He is working now on getting the trees in one section talking with the trees in another section. Our thanks to these two gentlemen for two fine walks. The weather was perfect and so was the hospitality.

Hope to see many of you at the Fall meeting at the Community College of the Finger Lakes on September 22 and 23. Mary McCarty has planned a meaningful program and you should all have the reservation forms by now.

Sincerely,  
Morgan Heussler

# Member Questions 'Plant' That Could Replace Pulpwood

## Letter to Editor

In response to our invitation for suggestions, I have enclosed a copy of an article from the NY TIMES regarding Kenaf, the miraculous plant (?) that is supposed to be able to supplant much of the pulpwood grown in the southern states.

I cannot help but have the feeling that the case for Kenaf is being overstated. But, the subject may be worth an article by an appropriate expert at the College of ESF in Syracuse or at Cornell Those in tree farming should have a chance to learn what impact (if any) Kenaf could have on them and how soon it might happen — and what they might consider doing about it.

There's a lot of questions to be answered: how far north and on what kinds of land can Kenaf be grown? can biotechnology (which NY State is promoting under Agriculture 2000) adapt Kenaf to northern, less productive areas? will it put forest owners and farmers in direct competition as pulpwood suppliers? What does this plant do to the soil, in terms of nutritive capacity?

Anyway, that's it. I hope someone can answer some of those questions in due course. (Assuming of course that other readers would be interested.)

Sincerely,  
Mark L. Johnson

kinds of paper, kenaf itself could be formulated into poultry litter, carpet backing and padding, molded fiber parts for automobiles, cattle feed, roofing, felt, fire logs and cardboard. In Africa and parts of Asia, it is already used to make clothing, nautical rope, twine and cigarette paper.

Until this year, Dr. Kugler said commercial development of kenaf as hampered by the lack of agricultural equipment to harvest, handle and deliver the plant to user industries.

A stand of kenaf resembles sugar cane or bamboo, but the plant is actually a close relative of the hibiscus (it produces similar creamy white flowers) and a cousin of cotton and okra. According to Dr. Kugler, historical data suggest that kenaf was used in Central Africa as long ago as 4000 B.C. by people who through the millenniums have eaten it, fed it to animals and used it for weaving and for staking plants.

Although kenaf was introduced to this country in the 1940's when war cut off the supply of jute for making rope, its full technological potential was only recently recognized through a massive screening program undertaken by Federal agricultural scientists.

In the late 1950's, Federal scientists gathered more than 400 specimens of plants, some woody and some non-woody, in a search for those with pulp and paper-making potential that would grow well in this country. The samples were shipped to Peoria, Ill. where researchers tore them apart to assess their fiber content, subjected them to chemical pulping to test the yield and composition of the fibers and explored their agricultural potential in the United States.

### HIGHEST OVERALL SCORE

Of the 82 most promising plants, kenaf got the best overall score and was singled out for further development, said Marvin O. Bagby, a chemist at the Agricultural Department's Northern Regional Research Center in Peoria.

Mr. Bagby, who directed the assessment of kenaf's fiber potential,

*Continued on Page 11*

## Scientists Eye Ancient African Plant

By JANE E. BRODY

reprinted from New York Times Magazine

Newspapers would be brighter, tougher, easier on the eyes and less likely to yellow or leave ink on the hands if they were printed on paper made from an ancient African plant that is on the verge of commercial production in the American South.

Studies by the Federal Department of Agriculture spanning three decades have shown that the fast-growing kenaf plant can be rendered into high-quality newsprint and many other fibrous products that are now made from trees.

If kenaf (pronounced Keh-NAFF) comes into wide use by the pulp and paper industry, it could help to save forests, reduce dependence on imported newsprint, curb environmental contamination from paper mills and become an important source of income for American farmers, the studies indicate.

Kenaf paper has already been used as newsprint in test runs by seven newspapers, which proclaimed the results as good or better than traditional newsprint made from wood pulp, said Daniel E. Kugler, an economist in the Agricultural Department's Cooperative State

Research Service in Washington who is director of the Kenaf Demonstration Project.

The resulting newspapers were brighter, had high contrast and good color. Less ink was needed to print them and the ink did not rub off on hands and clothing. Even after a year in storage, the kenaf newspapers did not turn yellow.

### OTHER ADVANTAGES OF KENAF

Furthermore, with kenaf, less energy and fewer chemicals were needed to produce the pulp and whiten the fibers, which would mean lower costs and fewer pollutants in the waste water from paper mills.

On an annual basis, kenaf can produce three to five times more paper pulp per acre than trees do, at roughly half the cost, field trials have shown. While a tree takes 7 to 40 or more years to mature to harvestable size, kenaf, an annual crop, reaches a mature height of 18 feet in just 120 to 150 days after the seeds are planted. It can be grown without pesticides throughout the Cotton Belt, and, by using irrigation, in the drier Southern states as well. It can even tolerate some salinity without a major decline in yields, Dr. Kugler said.

While newsprint is the primary focus of the kenaf development program, Dr. Kugler cited several other possible uses for the resilient fibers. In addition to blending kenaf with wood pulps to produce varying

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# New York Forest Owners Association

## Fall Meeting - September 22 & 23 1989

Community College of the Finger Lakes, Canandaigua, N.Y.

The theme is to be how to turn your trees into money in the bank, hearing from those who have done it with their woodlots and from those who have purchased everything from veneer logs to pallet wood and firewood.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 5 to 6:30 p.m. — Registration
- 6:30 p.m. — Dinner — Chicken, Wild Rice, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, Beverage
- 8 to 9 p.m. — Martin C. Dodge, Professor of Conservation, CCFL, talking on Small Woodlot Management and the Community College.  
Jerry R. Miller, Senior Forester, Trathen Logging Co., presenting an "International View of New York State's Hardwood Resources". Jerry recently traveled in the Far East and Italy, visiting present and potential customers.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 8 a.m. — Breakfast — Juice, Fruit, Cereals, Muffins, Danish, Beverage.
- 9 a.m. — Panel of woodlot owners discussing their experiences in selling products from their woods, moderated by David W. Taber, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources.
- 10:15 a.m. — Coffee
- 10:30 a.m. — Panel of businessmen who have purchased products from forest owners, moderated by Billy Morris, Senior Forester, DEC.
- 11:30 a.m. — Update on Governor's Task Force on Forest Industry.
- Noon — Lunch — Vegetable Soup, Sandwich Bar, Fruit, Cookies, Beverages.

Afternoon optional activities: Sonnenberg Gardens, Cumming Nature Center (special exhibit on Yellowstone Fires), CCFL Woodlot Sanctuary.

Accommodations can be made directly by you at the following: (Holding rooms until 9/1, mention NYFOA when making reservation) Econolodge — Rtes. 5 & 20, (716) 394-9000 Rates \$40/45. Best Western Victor, (716) 924-2131 Rate \$59. For others call Chamber of Commerce (716) 394-4400.

Register For The Meeting By Saturday, September 16, 1989. We Can Handle About 100 For The Meetings At The College, So Don't Delay.

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Return this form by 9/16 with check payable to NYFOA.

- 1) Dinner (Friday) @ 10/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Breakfast & Lunch (at.) @ 10/person \_\_\_\_\_
- Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to S. McCarty  
4300 East Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618  
Phone (716) 381-6373

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Map of Canandaigua area will be sent upon receipt of your reservation.

# Chapter Reports:

## Western Fingerlakes

By MARY McCARTY

On a clear day in Wheeler, Steuben County, one can see nearly "forever" from Helen and John Marchant's Farm. About 100 of the 160 acres are in forests of varying degrees of maturity, from scrub to medium saw timber.

Forty six NYFOA members gathered July 29th to experience a special day — sunny, cool and perfect. Sandwiched between hot, humid and wet days, the delightful weather pleased hosts and guests alike.

One half of the group proceeded to Ginny and George Appleton's 170 acre farm about five miles away. Stan Martin, Forester, DEC, Bath office, was our leader. He had marked a stand about sixteen years ago and was pleased with the present condition. An even aged stand of maple, ash, some beech and cherry, it was interesting to see the uneven growth. Some ash were clearly ahead of the other species. After a discussion of the future of this plot we moved on to the fine pond near the cabin, and then to the stream which is becoming a rather large beaver pond. Beaver have built about 2,000 feet of dams and dikes! Ted

Markham added to the history of this spot saying that he had introduced some "brookies" many years ago, and then brought back his young children who had the thrill of catching them a few years later.

Ginny and George Appleton's cabin and hardwood grove presented a lovely setting for lunch. Billy Morris presented John Marchant with his sign and certification as a member of the American Tree Farm System. Sue Keister added appropriate remarks. She is a forester and active in the System.

Each group then proceeded to take the alternate walk. A handout at John Marchant's Farm was presented with the SILVAH computerized stand analysis and prescription. Billy Morris, forester, DEC Bath, led this half of the walk and has worked with John on this plan. Three major stops were made where the acre plot management scheme was graphically demonstrated. Plot centers of 14 acres were used in the computer analysis, and the three that we observed showed one with the marked trees removed (by John and his son) the second with no trees removed yet, and

the third plot a sugar maple stand. The last woods stop was a ten acre popple stand that "just grew" about twelve years ago. Ash and maple are coming along on their own, and there are some fine black locust as well as a few Douglas Fir that John has planted.

En route back to the barn for the band saw demonstration the morning group was treated to some deer in the fields, and the afternoon group saw wild turkeys, with chicks — all orchestrated by Cecil B. de Mille??

Even after that display the band saw demonstration was impressive — minimum kerf, accurate cut, ease of operation, and enviable piece of equipment. As John Marchant said in closing, getting the tree to the saw is the hardest part. From what we could see, he'll have that challenge for years to come, with an impressive supply on the fine Tree Farm that they have. Our chapter is rich in members and their woods. We hope that there will be many more days similar to this to inspire us to pursue our dreams.

## Thrift Chapter News

From Scandinavia to Brazil to Tug Hill — that's the armchair trip taken by THRIFT members at the April meeting as Dick Mark, forestry professor at Syracuse University, treated us to some beautiful slides and fascinating information.

Scandinavia, traditionally the woodbasket of Europe, has a forest-growth climate not unlike Tug Hill's.

For centuries, the Norwegians, Swedes and Finns have built just about everything out of wood — including cathedrals!

Now, their forest growth cannot keep up with their building needs. As they turn increasingly to steel and concrete, they are preserving some significant but aging wooden structures in historical parks.

If the depression had not closed Keystone and slowed some of the other wood-using companies in the area, Tug Hill might well be in the same position.

In Brazil, the climate is tropical to sub-tropical. Rain forests have been systematically stripped to make way for cattle ranches.

None of those trees have been used in construction! The climate discourages the use of wood, because it deteriorates so rapidly in the hot, humid conditions. Stone, stucco, tile and concrete are the prime building materials, with wood used only for decoration.

"Meanwhile, back at the ranch," when the soil loses its fertility, the ranchers move on to clear more forest for more ranchland, leaving behind an almost desert condition.

Researchers saw a huge need for something to save those barren tracts of land. They began importing some species of eucalyptus trees from Australia, where climatic conditions are similar, and growing them experimentally.

The Brazilian researchers carried their experiment so far, they are now competing successfully in Canada's pulpwood market!

All these advances have won the Brazilians the prestigious Wallenburg Prize for technological contributions to the forest industry. The genetic research, including cloning of superior trees, took 25 years to accomplish!

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# Ask a Forester

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

By WES SUHR

In the July/August issue, I outlined the broad scope of silviculture using standard definitions. Near the end of the article, I stated, "In the next few articles, I want to explain how **improvement cutting** and **commercial thinning** have been and are being implemented on my woodlot, hoping this will be of some assistance to you." But to know what treatment was necessary, I had to make a **stand analysis**.

You should take an overall look at your woodland before beginning treatment. In order to decide needs, priority and location for this action, you should divide (map) your woodland into **stands**, areas having fairly uniform species, age, size and crown position. Each stand becomes the basic unit for measurements, record keeping, analysis and silvicultural treatment. To give you a general idea of the process, take a look at my woodland.

When purchased in 1976, the younger stands looked like dense jungles of growth, composed mainly of **two-storied** sugar maple/beech, averaging 6 to 9" dbh (**diameter-breast-high**) in the **overstory**. There were several undesirable species in the understory. The older stands were **fully-stocked, even-aged**, 11 to 18"+ dbh maple/beech, interspersed with smaller-acreage stands or pockets of black cherry/white ash of about the same dbh.

**Market quality-wise**, the average sawtimber stand had about one-third of its stems in the **grade 3** or lower



Improvement cutting and commercial thinning; for a more profitable woodlot.

category (low-quality) with two-thirds **grade 1 and 2**. In other words, there were many defective (damaged, crooked, etc.) stems in my sawtimber stands. The crowns of the larger or dominant cherry/ash trees, even the better stems, showed signs of deterioration (die-back, sparse foliage, etc.), indicating **physiological maturity** and certainly at or past **financial maturity**.

About 20% of the property was (is) **non-commercial** for this landowner's objectives; that is, sites with shallow, bouldery soils and clear-cut areas

with seedlings and shrubs. The **commercial area** of merchantable trees (80%) may be divided into about one-half **high site-quality** (Site Index 70+ and the other half of **medium site-quality** (Site Index about 60 to 69). Black cherry and sugar maple appear to be the naturally **preferred species** on the commercial sites; that is, they are the largest and most vigorous species at maturity on the better sites.

The average market demand, based on **stumpage value** for sawtimber, is highest for black cherry which has

*Continued on Page 11*

## BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT

Stand #/Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Species \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Stand Age/Origin \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Even/Uneven-aged \_\_\_\_\_ Stories (#) \_\_\_\_\_ DBH \_\_\_\_\_ Stocking: BA/RD \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_; Trees/acre \_\_\_\_\_

Crown Quality/LCR \_\_\_\_%/Expanding \_\_\_\_\_ or declining \_\_\_\_\_/Dead \_\_\_\_% Stem Grade (% of stems): Grade 1 \_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_ AGS/UGS \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_%

Site Quality: Ht. of Dominants \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. High \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ Low \_\_\_\_\_ Index \_\_\_\_\_; Advance Regeneration: Stems/AC \_\_\_\_\_ Ht \_\_\_\_\_ Ft

Insects/Diseases (present and anticipated) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred and Target Species: : \_\_\_\_\_

Stand Objective/Prescription: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# On Bartering Firewood

By MORGAN HEUSSLER

If you make more firewood than you can use each year, consider bartering. Start with the knowledge that almost everyone has a fireplace or wood stove and uses it. Then, when you find someone who has something you want, you have the makings of a barter. We will cite a few examples.

I give my doctor a face cord of wood and \$15.00 every year for a physical exam and a flu shot. It's not an exotic physical with an EKG or other fancy test. But it has blood work and all the usual thumping and poking. One year, I got a bill for \$30.00 from the doc's wife. I called and said: "Hey Margaret, what is this bill for \$30.00?" She replied: "Henry has raised his rates." To which I said: "I just raised the price of my firewood." She was furious but Henry told her that a deal was a deal and \$15.00 was all she would get.

A friend of a friend referred me to Isiah Robertson, the big linebacker the Buffalo Bills got from the L.A. Rams. He was building a house in a wooded area and needed seven good hardwood trees removed for the house and driveway. I would do the work and keep all the wood. Isiah okayed the trees we marked when his wife popped up and said: "And I want you to take down all the trees in back of the house". Isiah is a very large black man married to a tiny white wife. He wanted to know why on earth she wanted all those trees behind the house removed. She said she needed the sun on her sun deck. Isiah said: "Hell woman, if you was born like me, you wouldn't need to lie in the sun to get tan." I had NO comment on that remark and the trees stayed.

Isiah sent me to his coach, Tom Catlin, the defensive coordinator and later Asst. Head Coach of the Bills. Tom had two hard maples on his lot that were in trouble. He wanted them felled, made into 24" firewood and he wanted the wood. He asked me what I would charge. I asked him if he had good tickets to the Bills games and he did. So, I charged him one ticket for each hour I worked (the tickets were then worth \$15.00 each). So, Betsey and I went to three Bills games and

sat with Betty Catlin and the other coachs' and players' wives. They know a lot about football so it was fun as well as educational. Our fullback that year was Curtis Brown. The first time Curtis carried the ball, he fumbled. Mrs. Brown shouted for all to hear: "You do that one time Curtis and you get no dinner tonight." Curtis didn't fumble again.

Most of our barterers are made by Betsey. Example: I knew that a friend had a meat packing plant. But I didn't know he had a wood stove and used five or more face cords a winter. She got us together and I gave him 3½ face cords for a loin of beef. That's 45 pounds of strip steaks, cut, wrapped and frozen. A good deal for both of us but then, that's what a barter should be.

Betsey got talking with a friend in her refinishing class. Seems her husband owned Federal Meats. We gave them a face cord for a large standing roast of beef and a large leg of lamb.

The one place I learned not to barter was in a jewelry store. You work hard cutting and splitting and delivering two cords of wood. But you get

precious little jewelry for \$100.00. We got some trinkets for our daughters one year but never again.

Other things we have acquired by bartering are: sharp cheddar cheese, peanuts, clamato juice, a telephone, rototilling Betsey's garden, Buffalo Sabres tickets, wallpapering and car waxing.

Lastly, I went to the East Aurora Art Show one year. I don't know much about art but I know what I like. Michelle Conley Vogel is the official Roycraft artist here. In her booth, I saw a marvelous print of a blue heron standing on one leg and it was in a wood Roycroft frame. I had to get it for Betsey's birthday. So, I asked Michelle if she wanted a check or firewood. When she understood what I meant she said firewood, by all means. I made the barter with her husband and everyone was happy.

Giving credit where it is due, I should say that the idea for this article was not mine but rather, Alec Proskine's. We were talking at Karen Anderson's woodswalk in Machias. I told Alec some of the barter we had made and he suggested that I write it up for the *Forest Owner*.

## Cornell Catalog Available

The 1988-89 Catalog of Cornell Cooperative Extension Publications, which lists more than 500 items for consumers and educators, is now available at Cornell Cooperative Extension offices in every county in New York State.

"Resources listed in the catalog are just one way Cornell Cooperative Extension provides research-based information and helps you put knowledge to work," said Cornell Extension Director Lucinda A. Noble.

Titles such as "Livable Landscape Design," "The Home Vegetable Garden," "Facilitator's Guide to Working with Single-Parent Families," "You, Your Children and TV," "Know Your Trees," "Remodeling and Repair Fact Sheets," "Accessory Apartments," "The Most Asked Questions," "Training and Pruning Apple Trees,"

"Job Express" and "A Guide to Safe Pest Management Around the Home" are included.

Copies of the Catalog of Cornell Cooperative Extension publications are also available from Cornell University, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Enclose a legal-size self-addressed envelope.

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# Support Bill that Encourages Productive Timberlands

Dear "Forest Track" Reader:

Forest landowners now have a rare opportunity to support tax law provisions under consideration by Congress that will encourage productive use of America's private timberlands. The House Ways and Means Committee will soon consider legislation regarding tax legislation in general, and timber capital gains and "passive losses" in particular.

By writing your elected federal representatives or members of the tax writing committees (see attached list), you can document your local support to persuade Congress that little-known provisions of the tax law mean a great deal to Tree Farmers like yourselves.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM

First, regarding capital gains for timber landowners, recall that the 1986 Tax Reform Act eliminated the capital gains differential for Tree Farmers. Unwittingly, Congress deprived some of the nation's most productive forest land of a major and proven investment stimulus. Since 1944, the timber capital gains provision has benefited all Americans by helping to renew American forestlands. President Bush supports capital gains, but not for timber used in a trade or business, and not for corporations, only individuals.

Your congressmen and senators might like to know that capital gains for timber is not a tax break for the rich. It is an important and valuable provision that helps renew forests used by all Americans. Tell your representative in your own words that capital gains is an essential provision for attracting adequate forestry investment to an enterprise with exceedingly long investment horizons and illiquidity.

Regarding "passive losses", the IRS recently proposed regulations to implement portions of the 1986 Tax Act. Unfortunately, these regulations simply don't reflect any understanding of Tree Farming. The IRS would force Tree Farmers to submit to an arbitrary hourly test of "material participation" — as if Tree Farmers spend time each day with their crop. Tell your representative

that H.R. 1086 now under consideration offers a sensible alternative that recognizes the way Tree Farmers really manage their timber crops. This bill would propose a test for material participation based on direct management decision-making — on actual work performed.

H.R. 1086 needs more supporters. Few in Congress understand how Tree Farming is different from row crop

farming. You could tell them in your own words, and urge support for H.R. 1086, a bill which recognizes that difference.

## CALL FOR HELP

If you're interested in writing your congressmen or Senators, but would like more help, call Bill Sellery, Luke Popovich, or Lester DeCoster at 202/463-2455.

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# NYC Adirondacker Is Outstanding Tree Farmer

By **DAVID W. TABER**,  
Senior Extension Associate,  
Department of Natural Resources,  
Cornell University  
Renewable Resources Extension  
Program, Ithaca, NY 14853

Renowned sportsman, conservationist, writer, and tree farmer, William McKee Roden, owner of the Trout Lake Club in Bolton, N.Y., is the 1989 Outstanding Tree Farmer of New York State.

Bill Roden, as he is, and has been known to thousands of readers of his outdoor sports column over the years, and the many recreationists who each summer visit his 150-acre Trout Lake Club, has been honored by the

American Tree Farm System of the American Forest Council in Washington, D.C. He is a New York State Forest Owner member.

For his dedication to wisely caring for his forest land, being active in forestland conservation organizations, and taking an active leadership role in promoting good forestry through his newspaper column writings, and communications with policy makers, Bill Roden has been awarded one of the highest hallmarks of distinction — the 1989 Outstanding Tree Farmer of New York State Award.

From the Harlem River area of New York City known as Spuyten Duyvil in the Bronx, where in the 1930's and '40's his father ran a retail

coal dealership to supply fuel for home heating, Bill took an immediate liking to the Adirondacks when at the age of 6 his father took him fishing at Trout Lake.

But it took a few decades before Bill was able to turn his dream of a rural way of life in the Adirondacks into a reality. Bill served in World War II and climbed mountains from one end of Italy to the other, as a member of the 14th Armored Infantry Battalion. Although Bill once climbed the Adirondacks' highest peak, Mt. Marcy, he prefers to admire the mountains from the pleasure of the lowlands. He refers to himself as an "Adirondack Valley Man."

Bill attended college at Babson

*Continued on Page 12*



Warren County's Bill Roden (sitting in center) in his Trout Lake woods is congratulated as the 1989 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in New York. With him are, Lester A. Decoster (crouching at left), Vice President of Tree Farming, American Forest Council (AFC), WDC; and (from left standing) Andrew (Andy) J. Roden (Bill's son and business partner); Robert S. Stegemann, Executive Vice President of the Empire State Forest Products Association (co-sponsor of the New York Tree Farm Program); John T. Hastings, Senior Forester, Warrensburg, NY, NYS DEC (co-sponsor of NY Tree Farm Program); Stephen H. Satterfield, Chairman, New York Tree Farm Committee, Glens Falls, NY; and Jane Difley, Northeast Regional Manager, American Tree Farm System, (AFC) of Troy, NY.

# Getting Firewood - The Distaff View

By **ELIZABETH DENSMORE**

As a member of the newly-formed Allegheny Foothills chapter of NYFOA I am pleased to discover that the distaff members are — above all — **FOREST OWNERS**. And that their reason for being members is motivated by a sincere, deep interest in forestry.

These women are not a social "auxiliary". They really care about forests. They WANT to tour a lumber mill and understand the operation. They ask incisive questions. They don't mind a woods walk in pouring rain. Listening in on random conversations as they wait for an activity to begin, or during lunch break, the emphasis with these women is on forestry. They haven't gotten together to gossip or indulge in "girl-talk". They are vitally interested in the business at hand. Most of them, like me, get — or help to get — firewood.

On the 448 acres that my husband and I own, about half is forested. Ranging from mature forest to brushland forest beginnings, it provides us with all the firewood we could ever need. I love polished oak floors and wood carvings; I love the smell of freshly split wood, the beauty of the grain. I love the peace and beauty of the forest. I love everything about wood. Wood is, quite simply, wonderful.

Certainly getting firewood is hard work. It can also be cold, wet and dirty . . . but I wouldn't miss it for the world. There are few things more satisfying than neatly split and stacked wood. For me it's a great deal more than that.

We never just go into the woods and cut an appropriate number of trees. Picking out the trees to fell for a winter's wood supply is as good an excuse as was ever invented for a tramp throughout the entire woods. This is also the dog's favorite part. We always chase out a deer or two, some partridge and sometimes turkey. This is also the best opportunity of the year to assess the timber potential of our forests.

Even though the selection process can take two days, we finally settle on specific trees to cut. We have grown cautious in cutting trees. After a few

sad episodes of cutting down trees that were occupied by such various creatures as flying squirrels, bats, chipmunks and bees; we try hard not to cut down trees that are home to someone. Our name is on the deed but these creatures have a more than valid claim on the land. We would like to be a part of the solution of preserving nature; not part of the problem.

While cutting, we always manage to get at least one tree hung up on a living neighbor. We have learned that the danger and aggravation of pulling it to the ground is not worth the effort . . . the wind and time will bring it down.

We prefer to wait till mid-Fall to really begin to cut up the wood and bring it home. I want it to be cold and gloomy when I get wood; if it is nice I will want to wander all over the woods with the dogs. The cold lends an urgency to actually getting something accomplished.

My husband takes the tractor and wagon over to the woods early in the morning. The dogs and I walk over (with lunch) later. Anyone who has ever had a teeth-jarring, spine-wrenching ride in a wood wagon will understand why I prefer to walk. Of course lunch includes dog lunch. Having two pairs of hungry eyes fastened on you during every bite soon teaches you to do this.

My husband cuts the trees into 18" chunks which I split and load on the wagon. I can't split them all, but I try. A few ineffectual whacks of the splitting maul on the toughest ones convinces me that my husband's name is written on them. He knows what that pile of unsplit, gnarly chunks is all about.

We could probably get our wood a lot quicker if we didn't have to have so many "flavors". We want a mix of cherry, beech, maple, ash and odd bits of ironwood (that's Hop Hornbeam to the purist). All of the varieties burn well; it's just the beauty of all the different colors and grains in the finished woodpile that is so appealing. That wonderful woodpile-safe and dry-like money in the bank.

The long days in the woods really build an appetite, too. When we finally get home one of us unloads the wagon and the other goes up to the house to stir up the fire and get it roaring. After a day in the woods, our homefire is down to a bed of coals and the house is cool. It would be nice to come home to a warm house and a nice supper but since the cook has spent the day in the woods only the person who unloads the wagon will come in to a cheery warm house with the smell of freshly brewed coffee and supper cooking.

I'm never the one who gets to unload the wagon.

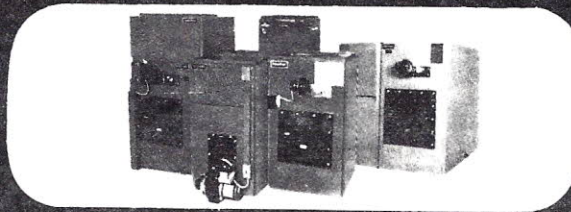
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FURNACES AND BOILERS

## Scientists—

*Continued from Page 3*

explained in an interview that a plant's usefulness for making paper is influenced not just by total fiber content but also by how readily the plant can be pulped, the process in which the cellulose and hemicellulose fibers used to make paper are separated from the lignin that glues them together in the living plant.

Whereas wood chips are pulped by using large amounts of odoriferous chemicals, kenaf can be treated primarily by high temperature and pressure, with only a minor chemical treatment to whiten the fibers.

In addition, Mr. Bagby said, in pulping kenaf "you get back about 90 percent of the original weight as fiber, as against about 50 percent with the chemical pulping process used in wood."

Another winning characteristic of kenaf as a raw material for paper is the presence of long fibers that strengthen the paper and the ability of the fibers to bond together when the pulp, a water-based slurry, is dried and pressed. Kenaf's resistance to tearing is particularly important in making newsprint, which must host up on high-speed presses.

Kenaf contains two types of fibers: long ones of about 2.6 millimeters in the outer bark and shorter ones of about three-fifths of a millimeter in the inner core. The fiber types can be used either in combination or the bark and core can first be separated to produce different kinds of pulp.

The first American kenaf paper milling plant would be built near McAllen, Tex., in a joint project under negotiation by Kenaf International of Bakersfield, Calif., and Canadian International Paper of Montreal, the world's second largest newsprint producer. The \$400 million plant would produce about 215,000 tons of kenaf newsprint a year, or about 1 percent of the amount currently produced in this country. If plans proceed as expected, the plant could be in operation by the end of 1991.

### Kenaf produces three to five times more pulp than trees do.

But Dr. Kugler noted that if kenaf catches on, existing paper mills could

be adapted, with a few modifications, to process it.

In Queensland, Australia, a kenaf mill that should be operating by the end of 1990 will separate the long-fiber bark from the short-fiber core, pulp them and then reblend them in different mixtures to produce tissue and other paper products. And in France, the Institut de Recherche du Coton et des Textiles Exotiques is seeking to produce 100 percent kenaf newsprint to avoid forest depletion and dependence on imported wood pulp.

Dr. Kugler said his role in developing kenaf is nearing an end. He said it is now up to commercial

## Ask a Forester— *Continued from Page 6*

been about 1.5 times that of white ash and 2.5 times that of sugar maple in this area. Unfortunately, the cherry/ash component amounts to less than one-third of the total volume of the merchantable stands.

In the past, there has been serious **defoliation** by epidemic populations of saddled prominent (maple) and the forest and eastern tent caterpillars (cherry). A present problem is the girdling of sugar maple sawtimber stems by the larvae of the sugar maple **borer**. They have seriously weakened larger stems and have even killed some trees. **Disease** or **diebacks** and **wilts** have also affected white ash, yellow birch and presently, sugar maple. The Dutch elm disease has killed all of the American elm in the lowlands, and the beech bark disease is decimating the American beech in the highlands.

So you think you've got problems!

The point of all this detail is to outline some of the basic information that is required before you can adequately prescribe silvicultural treatment for your stands — treatments require prescriptions and prescriptions require plans based on present, expected and desired stand conditions. I'm giving you an actual example of how I approached "practicing silviculture" on my own "forest". You can relate the basic elements (words above in bold type) to develop the plan for your "forest" or stand conditions. Begin your own planning by supplying stand information or data from your forest to the form or guideline below,

enterprises to express a demand for its fibers, which would in turn prompt farmers to plant it. Just last summer, agricultural researchers successfully tested a harvester for kenaf. Not surprisingly, the machine is an adaptation of one used to harvest sugar cane.

Mr. Bagby said that while kenaf could "satisfy many pulp and paper needs without being blended with wood," he does not expect that it will ever replace wood. Rather, he expects it to supplement wood.

The chemist projected that kenaf could eventually replace 10 percent or more of domestic newsprint production.

### "BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT".

And you foresters and silviculturalists out there, give me a break! I know specific examples of how it might or should be done cannot be "all-inclusive"; that is, I may have missed what you consider to be some basic elements or ingredients. As I continue to construct my silvicultural example in future articles, that "missing element" may be presented. But let's have some dialogue on it — the readers and I want to know your thoughts — after all that's how we develop the best guides for the forest owner: through the input of many. I welcome your thoughts or comments in "letters to the editor".

#### STAND TALLY SHEET

The details to "Basic Ingredients" and the tally sheet will be discussed in the next issue of *FOREST OWNER*.



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## Outstanding Tree Farmer

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Institute in Wellesley, Massachusetts. After the War he sought employment in the Adirondacks: Plattsburgh, Glens Falls and Tahawus; but to no avail. He then went to work for 5 years at the National Broadcasting Company in Manhattan, before deciding to fulfill his dream of a life in the Adirondacks. Bill's father had moved to Trout Lake in Bolton, N.Y. in 1950. A few years later Bill decided to leave the City for the Adirondacks. He was able to settle down on a 3 acre Island in Trout Lake, where he built a home with his wife, Hilda, who was originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. On the island they raised their 4 children.

Bill Roden manages a total of some 850 acres of forestland for multiple use purposes including firewood, hunting, income from commercial timber-crop harvesting, scenic beauty, watershed protection, and recreational atmosphere. About every year, services of the NYS DEC forester are used in order to have about 25 acres of woods marked for harvest, natural regeneration, and improvement. Bill notes that he doesn't need to plant trees because abundant regeneration of hardwoods and softwoods occurs naturally in the Adirondack woodlands. By providing young trees with sunlight through the removal of harvested trees, the forest is maintained forever — albeit in an ever changing way. Roden says he

keeps his forest productive on a sustained yield basis by balancing the cutting of trees with growth. Through selectively cutting marketable timber, according to Bill, his forested lands grow trees, bigger and better, for harvesting in 10 to 20 years.

For landscaping purposes, however, near Roden's Trout Lake resort of cottages and valley hiking trails, white cedar trees have been planted by 4 generations of Rodens, dating back to the 1920's.

Having a written contract and a mutual understanding of expectations with a professional logger who harvests the timber marked by a NYS DEC forester, have resulted in "total satisfaction" for Roden, as a conservation minded owner of forestland.

Since 1954, when Bill Roden and his family moved to Trout Lake, Bill has been active in developing and preserving the Adirondacks as an inspirational and recreational retreat for city people, a viable business area for the local economy, a healthy and dynamic forest resource, and a quality year-round place for the full-time residents of the Adirondack Park.

His activities include being a former Executive Director of the Adirondack Mountain Authority that led to the development of a family skiing area at Gore Mountain, and the

construction of a highway to the top of Prospect Mountain in the town of Lake George. He has been active in many associations and organizations that relate to protecting, preserving, and promoting the Adirondacks' wildlife, fishing, tourism, and the forest industry. As a conservationist, Bill Roden's long list of accomplishments over 4 decades symbolize a union of preservation and progress to meet society's ever changing needs.

As part of the year long celebration for Bill Roden, in honor of his commitment and achievements in forestry, he was recognized at the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days on Saturday, August 19, in Boonville. There, in appreciation of his accomplishments, he was presented with a number of items including a chain saw, before a crowd of over 3,000 people.

### Magazine Deadline

Materials submitted for the  
Nov./Dec. issue should be sent to:

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**NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10**