THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 1990

THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNER

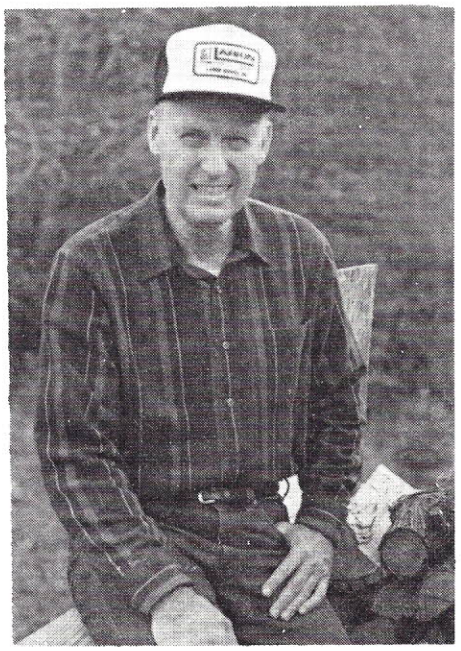
Published for the New York Forest Owners Association by
Karen Kellicutt, Editor

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 March.
Please address all membership and change of address requests to Executive Director, P.O. Box 360, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

President's Message

It will be January when you read this but, as we write it, it is late November and we are getting ready for Christmas. Here's how:

We were fortunate enough to be able to buy a 180 acre woodlot in Holland last February. On Bob Sand's recommendation (it was more like a command), we took a consulting forester through it. Before one gets to the big woods, one passes stands of red and white pine and a large stand of mixed white and Norway spruce and balsam fir. These trees were planted about thirty years ago and have never been thinned. The forester advised me to lop the boughs off the firs as they were desirable for Christmas wreaths. He said the price I would be paid was 10¢ a pound. Didn't seem like much but being a firewood man, what did I know about fir boughs?



J. Morgan Heussler

In the Fall, I asked our DEC forester if he knew who would buy these boughs. He did — the guy inspected the trees, said they were of good quality and that he would pay me 8¢ a pound. He took 200 pounds or so. I wasn't the price that bothered me, it was the fact that he left three quarters of the boughs as waste and took only the best. That did it. Now I have always thought foresters were small gods so, imagine my surprise at what happened next. I made up several bundles of boughs using new trees and mixing in what the first guy left on the ground. Went to a guy who has a large cut and choose operation as well as wholesaling Christmas trees and wreaths. He looked at my bundles and ordered 500 pounds at 25¢ per pound. He also told me to look up the horticulture teacher at McKinley High School in Buffalo. He looked at my boughs and ordered 500 pounds at 30¢ per pound.

So, I finally found something neither the DEC nor the consulting foresters know — where to sell balsam fir boughs by eliminating two middlemen. A belated Merry Christmas to you all (including the foresters.)

Marchant Named Executive Director

As you know, Ruth Thoden, our dedicated and efficient Executive Secretary, resigned effective October 15, 1989. Shortly after the Fall meeting, I named a "Secretary Search" committee composed of Stuart McCarty, John Marchant and myself. Most of our conversations and phone interviews centered around Boonville since Ruth had also resigned her job as Executive VP of the NYS Woodsmen's Corp. We thought we might be able to share the time of her replacement there and that of Ruth's secretarial assistant, as well as the computer.

Just prior to our October 21 Board meeting, John Marchant called with a truly astounding suggestion for Ruth's replacement. He offered to become our Executive Director with duties covering all of what the Executive Secretary did plus heavy emphasis on increasing our membership, monitoring legislative matters, keeping in close contact with other forestry related groups and much more. He would also communicate closely with the President, the Treasurer and with Karen, Editor of this magazine. He would do all this on a volunteer basis and his wife, Helen, would take minutes and do the other clerical things, also on a volunteer basis. John would put our membership list into his own computer, also at no cost. Needless to say, the Board accepted John's offer at our October meeting. The only expense to NYFOA would be phone and postage and we did vote a maximum of $2,000 for a copier, computer printer and software. The office will be operated out of the Marchant home. The address is PO Box 360, Fairport, N.Y. 14450 and the phone is 716/377-6060.

Who is John Marchant? Most of you know that he founded the Western Finger Lakes chapter in 1987 after having been a member of NYFOA only a year. That gives you an idea of his drive and intensity. John was born in Kalamazoo, Mich., grew up on a farm in Lewisburg, Ohio and took his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Miami Univ. of Ohio. He taught Physics there for one year.

John began his career at Eastman Kodak Co. in the Research Laboratory in 1955. While working as a photographic scientist, he developed a photographic plate for astronomical photography which gave him the opportunity to work at Mount Palomar on the 48" and 200" telescopes. Impressive?

John Marchant

His work as Director of Color Photography led to new color films and papers . . . John ended up as Associate Director of Kodak's Photographic Research Laboratory which was composed of 800 scientists and technicians. He retired in 1987 at a young age.

In 1970 John and Helen bought 160 acres in Wheeler, N.Y., 100 of which are wooded. They put up a log cabin kit and built a pole barn to store hardwood cabinet stock cut off the property. Just this past summer, John hosted a woods walk on his property and I don't ever remember seeing more people in attendance. It's a lovely property and is certified as an American Tree Farm.

MARCHANT FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Leave the entire property in better condition than when I acquired it in 1971.
2. Provide a life style which is as self sufficient as possible in the following characteristics.
   - A. Shelter
   - B. Fuel
   - C. Building materials
3. Achieve the above by a multiple use management program, with a balanced emphasis. Most materials to come from TSI thinnings.
4. Emphasize wood products with add on value compared to raw material for external sales.
   - A. Produce smaller sizes and types of high grade cabinet materials for specialty markets.
     1. Quarter sawn cabinet lumber
     2. Turning squares. (Hornbeam mallets)
     3. Carving blocks
   - B. Real (1/16" to 1/4") veneers from local hardwoods.
   - C. Excess firewood.

We must stress that John has taken on the Executive Directorship on a trial basis for one year. We hope it will last much longer, not just because he's working gratis, but because we need people of John's character, ability and dedication. He's already feeling some work overload. One might say his head is bloody but unboughed. Go to it, John, we're with you!

Magazine Deadline

Materials submitted for the Mar./Apr. issue should be sent to:

THE FOREST OWNER
BOX 103
LISLE, N.Y. 13797

NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 10

Chapter Reports:

Western Finger Lakes Chapter

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter held its first general meeting of the current season on November 15, with a record turn out of 59 attendees. The program was presented by Mark and Susan Keister who are both professional foresters and members of the local chapter. The Keisters visited Germany and Scandinavia this past summer and gave an enjoyable, informative review of their "Trek Across Europe" with a collection of beautiful slides.

Their talk emphasized a strong commitment in Europe to total wood utilization which comes from shortages in timber resources dating as far back as 1600 AD. The recognition of such shortages gave rise to many of the modern forestry methods practiced today on both continents. It also accounts for the public recognition of the value of forest resources. The public supports and expects their forests to be managed well and available for many recreational purposes.

About half of the forests in Germany are privately owned and managed. These holdings tend to stay in a given family for generations. Most families take lots of pride in their stewardship responsibilities; so consequently, there is much less turnover of ownership or breaking up of larger parcels into smaller ones. There seems to be strong government support for well implemented woodlot management programs. Mark and Susan pointed out that we are now approaching the same situation the Europeans found themselves in several hundred years ago. We would be wise to learn from their successes and mistakes.

The membership committee presented a roster of new officers and steering committee members which were unanimously accepted by the membership. They are:

Chairman — Ray Wager
Treasurer — Stuart McCarty
Program Director — John Krebs
Nominations Committee —
George Appleton
Gary Buchanan
Publicity Committee —
Robert Goodrich
New Steering Committee members —
Susan Keister
Walter Schuchardt

Allegheny Foothills Chapter

The Allegheny Foothills Chapter was cordially treated to a visit at Bob and Edna Johnson's Christmas tree farm south of Franklinville. The Johnsons are not just in the business of growing and selling Christmas trees; rather, the choose-and-cut part of their business is best described as "offering a Christmas experience" to their customers. In addition to about 80 acres devoted to Christmas tree production, the Johnsons run a shop stocked with homemade Christmas crafts and gifts. A portion of the craft building is devoted to customer creature comforts . . . coffee, cocoa, munchies, a warming fire and, just outside, portable sanitary facilities. The Johnsons consider themselves **retired.**

Neighbors, NYFOA members and fellow Christmas tree growers, Dan and Carol Cash, led the tour of Johnson's field operations. Dan's thorough planning, written agenda, and other organizational efforts (including a tractor and wagon) contributed, in no small measure, to our maximum exposure to every facet of the Johnsons' very professional operation . . . from site preparation to baling and merchandising.

Following lunch in the warm craft shop, this two-for-one Woodswalk crossed the road onto the property of Dan and Carol Cash. First we observed an integrated hardwood sawlog and fuelwood sale being conducted by an operator who uses horses to bunch logs and fuelwood lengths at the skidway. This process substantially reduces skidding damage to residual trees.

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Left to right: Host, Bob Johnson; tour leader, Dan Cash; AFC members Grace Mowatt and Bob Nagle.

Allegheny Chapter —

(Continued from Page 4)

The Cashes have also begun a fish-rearing project in their recently constructed ponds. Carol gave a very effective "trout-calling demonstration". Coupled with a scattering of trout chow, the calling resulted in a close-range observation of a trout feeding frenzy.

Our chapter is looking forward to a January 27th meeting at Cattaraugus Cooperative Extension Center at 10:00 AM. NYFOA President, J. Morgan Henssler, and Executive Director, John Marchant, will fill AFC members in on NYFOA history and aspirations. Also at that meeting, AFC member, Rex Anderson, will provide a history of charcoal use and a demonstration of how he manufactures charcoal on a small scale.

The tractor and wagon was a very effective means of showing this large operation. Dan Cash driving tractor; Carol Cash at left.

Weather Moves Woodswalk Indoors

October 19th was rainy in the afternoon. By woodswalk time it had cleared, but the grass and trees were still dripping when THRIFT members gathered at the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company's scaling shack.

Alan Scouten invited us inside to the mill's training center to take the woodswalk by way of a video tape he had made.

Members were impressed by the work done and the park-like appearance of the 203 acre parcel of village woodlands in which LFP&P had completed a timber stand improvement.

Alan Scouten is acting resource manager for LFP&P and is responsible for managing over 53,000 acres of company forestland.

Most of that land is growing beech, birch, hard and soft maple and ash. These resources are utilized for the highest possible use: veneer logs are sold to veneer mills, sawlogs to area sawmills, pulp goes into the LFP&P's paper making process, and diseased trees, tops, and other junk wood are chipped for use as hog fuel in the company's furnaces.

LFP&P often leases recreation rights to others.

The operations of Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Co. were shown in another video, filmed by Al for use at the Woodsmen's Field Days. Pictures of scaling, unloading, debarking, chipping, screening and processing into paper told the story of Lewis County's largest industry, where 210-225 tons of paper are produced each day and shipped to customers as far west as the Mississippi River and as far south as Texas!

The group then moved to the Gould Mansion for its business meeting and refreshments.

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Ask a Forester

Send Questions to: Wes Suhr, R.R. -1, Box 59B Oswegatchie, NY 13670

If you have been following this column, we're back on the original tack — **SILVICULTURE** — which I will define again as: the art and science of regenerating and culturing a stand of trees for the ultimate objective of the forest owner, while maintaining or enhancing the productivity of the forest site for that objective. So we are either regenerating (harvesting followed by natural or artificial seeding/planting) or culturing (tending the crop) a stand of trees.

In past articles, I have defined **IMPROVEMENT CUTTING** and **COMMERCIAL THINNING** (July/August 89) as the most important and common cultural practices on my woodlot, and it is necessary to make a **STAND ANALYSIS** to determine adequate treatment for any stand (September/October 89). So what procedure or analysis did I use to determine these practices were the best in some stands? How many cords were cut (**YIELD**), and how does the residual stand look after following these practices? Let's answer these questions now.

We'll take one of my stands as an actual example of the process, showing the real data used to make the thinning decision. And in my case, since I signed up for the Forestry Incentives Program-FIP-in 1976 for "woodland improvement" (thinning), the local D.E.C. forester considered the kind of information collected or observed under "basic ingredients" to decide the level or intensity of thinning or the number and nature of trees to be marked (cut) under this federal cost-sharing program:

BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT

STAND #/NAME SM/Be
TYPE/SPECIES %: S. Maple 80/ Beech 20
ACRES: 50
OWNER: W.E.S.
DATE 9/87
STAND AGE/ORIGIN: 40 N
EVEN/UNEVEN-AGED: E
STORIES(#): 2
DBH 10.5"
STOCKING: BA/RD 120/100
TREES/ACRE: 200+
CROWN QUALITY: LCR 30+
%/EXPANDING OR DECLINING /DEAD 5%
STEM GRADE (% OF STEMS): GRADE 1, 50 2, 20 3, 30
AGS/UGS: 70/30%
SITE QUALITY: HT. OF DOMINANTS 60 FT., MED INDEX 70
ADVANCE REGENERATION: STEMS/AC low, HT 1 FT.
INSECTS/DISEASES (PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED): P:s. Maple borer, maple decline, beech bark disease, A: Saddled prominent, tent caterpillar
PREFERRED AND TARGET SPECIES: Sugar Maple
STAND OBJECTIVE/PRESCRIPTION: Sawlogs, grade 1 & 2/release best trees or AGS with improvement cut & comm. thinning, taking all UGS & most beech. Cut ⅓ of BA, leaving residual 80 BA & about 130 trees/ac. (cut 1 out of every 3 trees).
TREATMENT YIELD: Cut 70 stems/ac. = 10 s.Cord/Ac.

EXPLANATION OF TABLE

STAND ORIGIN: natural or plantation.

STORIES: if there is a distinct separation of crown levels and age, indicate for even-aged stands (in this case, a two-storied stand); uneven-aged stands are "all"-storied.

DBH: diameter (at breast height) of tree of average basal area (computed by dividing BA by TREES/ACRE and finding the diamter corresponding to that square-foot area (BA) in a table). or DBH(in.) = avg.BA x 13.54.

STOCKING: BA/RD: BA (basal area) is the sum of the cross-sections at breast height of all stems on the average acre in a stand (expressed as square-feet per acre); usually measured with a prism; RD: the "relative density" of the stand, relative to what the site can produce at "full" stocking (a "fully-stocked" stand has an RD of 100%) — basically, an estimate.

CROWN QUALITY: LCR: live crown ratio — the % of total stem height occupied by living crown.

EXPANDING/DECLINING/DEAD referring to crown growth — actively expanding into open area; declining indicated by branch die-back; dead refers to % of crown with dead branches.

STEM GRADE: generally determined from the basal 16' log which is considered to have 4 outside faces — grade 1 has at least 3 faces clear of branch stubs, bumps or other defects; grade 2 has at least 2 faces clear or clean, etc.

AGS/UGS: acceptable growing stock/unacceptable growing stock — the latter is a tree showing stem damage or defect (scars, conks, frost cracks, etc.) or crown with 25%+ dead branches; generally, UGS are declining, low-vigor trees.

SITE QUALITY: estimated by the average height of dominant/codominant trees in stand (trees with crowns in the upper-most layer or level of the stand, that is, the taller trees that are AGS) at 50-years old. Stand height over age curves are necessary to estimate "index".

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Farm Woodlots Can Supplement Income

By DAVID W. TABER,
Department of Natural Resources,
New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell

Farmers sometimes depend on their woodlots for supplemental income. The cash may be planned well ahead of when needed, or it may simply be recognized as available during a period of economic constraint.

True stories about New York farmers whose woodlands have given them financial benefits include the following.

In the early 1980s when beef prices were low, a Steuben County farmer augmented his income by managed harvesting based on a NYS DEC forester's recommendations. In one year, 10 percent of the cattleman's income came from the sale of stumpage (standing timber) which not only provided the needed cash flow, but improved his woodlot by thinning part of it and establishing a clearcut regeneration area for shade-intolerant oaks.

In the mid 1980s a Schuyler county dairy farmer sold 50 oak trees behind his hay fields, in a 5-acre patch of woods, and he received not only $12,000 for the stumpage sale but some hemlock and pine logs which he then had sawn by a small local mill into lumber for use in expanding his dairy barn.

In 1989 a Cayuga County farm operation that had just phased out its dairy operation in favor of field crops increased its income by $28,000 from the stumpage sale of some 122 trees, mostly red oak, but also white ash and American beech.

Obviously, there can be good money made from the sale of quality trees that are in demand by the timber industry to produce valuable consumer products.

But most farmers do not really know the market prices for different species of trees and the quality of logs they will yield. Also, because of supply and demand changes for timber products, as well as needs of local timber-harvesting firms and wood-product manufacturers, only those who are keenly involved daily with the wood (log) procurement business can have the best estimate of stumpage values.

In addition, farmers need to understand the variety of contracts (forms) used by the buyers of stumpage, and know what to expect to avoid disappointment. Farmers also must know the volume and value of their standing timber, and have foresters to look out for their welfare during negotiations of timber sale contracts and actual logging.

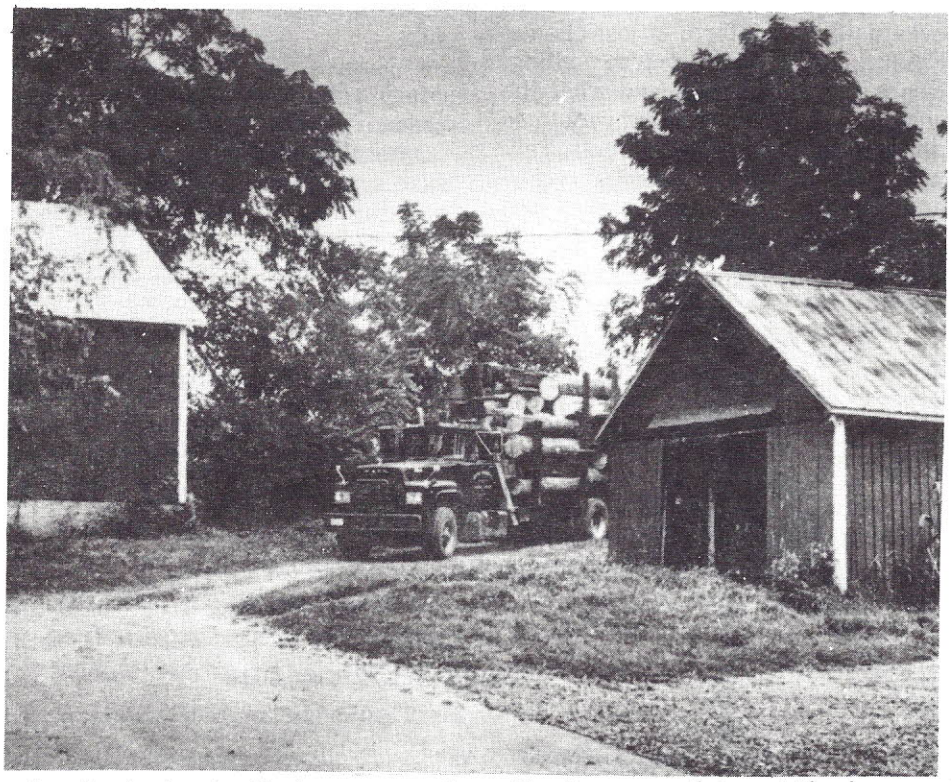
If a woodland owner forgets about the long-term benefit of protecting a farm woodlot from genetic and log quality degradation and focuses only on the short-term economic cash flow, it usully is still beneficial to employ the services of a NYS DEC forester or a private consulting forester, especially when the timber is valuable. When high-value timber is involved, what a farmer thinks is "good money" for stumpage is often based on that farmer's lack of information. Oh yes, the farmer may have some knowledge, but maybe not quite enough to obtain the maximum cash return for the stumpage sale.

Options exist to gain knowledge that will result in increased income and satisfaction from a timber sale. Here are three:

1. Ask your Cornell Cooperative Extension county office for a copy of "Woodland Owner's Guide to Selling Timber and Timber Sale Contracts," a 13-page Department of Natural Resources publication (147V21#1).

2. Talk with your local NYS DEC forester about forester services, the Cooperating Consultant Forester Program, and the Cooperating Timber Harvester Program.

3. Ask your Cornell Cooperative Extension agent to schedule an educational meeting (including sawmill and/or logging operation tour) to bring in the experts that can show and tell you how to make money and be satisfied afterward when selling stumpage.



One load of valuable logs moves from the farm woodlot past the barn and machine sheds that are highlighted by ornamental trees which provide shade and beauty. The 90- to 100-year-old harvested trees (now being transported to a sawmill) grew in a small (12-acre) path of woods on good soil, as an even-aged stand of mostly shade-intolerant trees (oaks), surrounded by alfalfa fields. And the farmer received $28,000 for fewer than 125 trees — more than $200 per tree. Lower bids by different timber buyers were about $13,000 to $18,000 and $24,000.

(RREP Photo by Taber)

Hunting Leases

By DAVE DONOVAN,
Department of Natural Resources,
New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell

This is the second part of a two-part series. Part 1 described hunting leases; pointed out the pros and cons of having a hunting lease operation; and explained how to establish a business plan, identify your resources, know your market, decide what services to offer, and set prices.

Developing the Lease

After you have identified the market and services to be offered and have determined that your product is needed, the actual hunting lease or contract should be developed. Work closely with your insurance agent and lawyer during this step to help prevent disagreements with customers in the future.

Although this step may be the largest in the business plan, it is probably the most straightforward. You must include some very basic material such as the following:

— The type of lease; that is, one-day, seasonal, year-long, or multi-year lease. Each has advantages and disadvantages concerning time, controllability, and marginal profit.

— What you are actually selling (for example, the entry rights to the land where the hunting will be done).

— A description of the area covered by the lease. Usually a legal description with the size, major landmarks, and the method used to identify the boundaries will be sufficient.

A video cassette covering important issues on hunting lease development is available from Cornell's Department of Natural Resources. Legal and liability information can be obtained from your lawyer and insurance agent.

Local information on the viability of a hunting lease operation is very important. A phone call to your regional DEC environmental conservation officer and wildlife biologist, local Fish and Game or Rod and Gun Club officers, NYS Conservation Council representative, or an officer of the NY chapter of The Wildlife Society should help you answer some key questions: What wildlife species are in demand locally? Who might be your clients? Are they local or more distant? What type of hunt is desirable — archery or firearms? What has been the history of leasing locally and who are your current competitors? And finally, how should you advertise and what is a reasonable hunting lease fee?

Summary

The development of a hunting lease operation will probably not make you rich. But it can provide additional income to farmers looking for ways to improve the economic efficiency of all parts of their operation. It will also provide interim returns to forest owners who are implementing a management plan that will not provide a return for several years.

The development of a hunting lease operation will probably require investment of time and money. It will not take long to lose a customer if you cannot provide an enjoyable experience. Do not overprice your product. Although you may get the higher price a couple of times, this policy will catch up with you eventually in the form of lost clients. Finally, know what you're selling, whom your market is, and what the customer expects. The best way to do this is to get to know your clients. Talk with them about what was wrong — and right — with the hunt. Close communication will contribute to the success of your hunting lease operation.

— The terms of payment; that is, how much do you want up front and how much the day the person arrives to hunt.

— The species of wildlife to be harvested and acceptable hunting methods (for example, tree-stand versus drive methods for deer). The actual period the contract will be in effect is important to include. Be sure to include a paragraph in the lease stating all local, state, and federal hunting laws must be obeyed.

— Provisions stating the responsibilities of the landowner and the hunter. Include such items as penalties for damage to fences and the activities that will result in cancellation of the least agreement.

— The names of the people who will be allowed to hunt under the lease agreement and the maximum number of hunters to be allowed on the land at any one time. This is especially important when leasing to hunting clubs.

— Names of witnesses (i.e., a notary public), and the date it was signed.

Other things could be included in the lease agreement, such as rights of transfer or sublet, option for

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Woodland Stands Regenerate

Gerald N. Gotsch points out the serious consequences of overbrowsing by a deer herd that won't allow trees to grow above a foot high in the small opening (clear cutting) in his woodland. Gotsch, an associate forester with the Division of Lands and Forests, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, gains first-hand experience and studies the impact of white-tail deer on his tree farm which is certified by the American Tree Farm System and won the Outstanding Tree Farm Award of 1982 in New York when his father Herman owned the Sullivan County property in Grahamsville. Because of deer browsing, the land in this forest-foliage opening is covered with grasses, ferns, and browsed hardwood twigs from trees that otherwise could form a new even-aged class of fast-growing hardwoods.

(RREP Photo by Taber)

By DAVID W. TABER,
Department of Natural Resources,
New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell

Ninety-five percent of New York's forest landscapes were naturally regenerated to trees by germination of tree seeds, sprouting of buds on stumps, and growth of buds on roots. Most, if not all, of these stands (group of trees with similar attributes that distinguish them from adjacent stands) came into existence in the late 1800s and early 1900s after harvesting left former land without any trees.

In more recent years, especially since the economic recession of the early 1930s, cropland left permanently idle from intensive agricultural activity became seeded into new forests. All of these types of forest stands are described as being even-aged because most of the trees in the main canopy are within an age span of 20 years. And because of favorable past environmental conditions, these naturally regenerated forests have provided us with beauty, wood products, wildlife, and watershed protection.

The remaining 5 percent of New York's forest land was established by humans through tree planting. This kind of agricultural activity also created even-aged forests. It was initiated on relatively large acreages in the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps was establishing new forests to employ people, protect soil from erosion, and produce wood products. Conifers, or cone-bearing trees, including spruces, pines, and larches were commonly planted with little knowledge about genetic attributes of the seedlings and the site requirements for best growth over a long period (50 to 100 years or more).

In the last three decades, major environmental changes have occurred that affect the establishment and growth of forest in New York. These include a proliferation of white-tail deer in some areas. The deer feed on tree buds, twigs, tiny seedlings, and root/stump sprouts. The result can be little or no growth of new trees, including a new even-aged forest stand (or age class under the canopy of an existing stand).

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It's Cabin Fever Festival Time

WHAT: Two fun-filled days of exciting woodsman exhibits, chain saw safety techniques, logging demonstrations featuring skidding and falling with horses and oxen; antique logging machines, maple syrup demonstrations and an assortment of crafts: free sleigh rides for children and a petting zoo.

WHEN: February 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia, N.Y.

WHO: Sponsored by the Cayuga Woodsmen and Finger Lakes Draft Animal Association.

Demonstrations are operated continuously throughout both days. Families are invited to spend the day(s) in the spacious setting of Fillmore Glen State Park and see just exactly what happens in the life of a woodsman.

For more information contact Tom Hewitt at 315/497-1266.

Ask a Forester —

(Continued from Page 6)

ADVANCE REGENERATION: refers to natural seedlings/saplings in the understory.

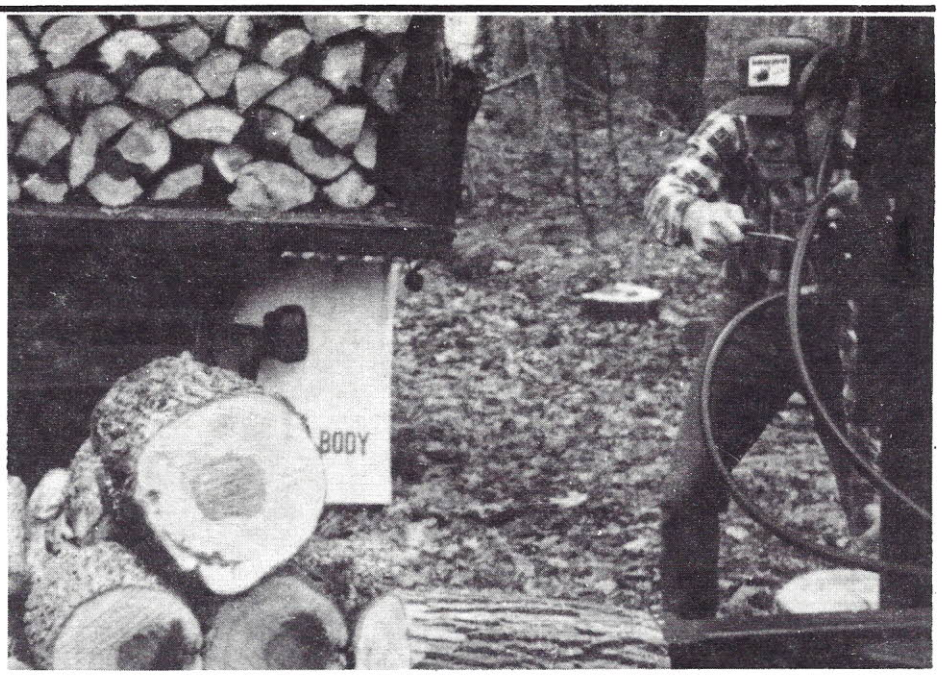
PREFERRED SPECIES: the species doing best in the stand — the largest, most vigorous, highest quality trees.

TARGET SPECIES: landowner or management objective for culturing, final harvest and regenerating; usually the same as "preferred", but not always.

The information indicates my sugar maple-beech stand was in dire need of thinning in 1987. Most trees were larger poles to young sawtimber (DBH of 10.5"), over-stocked with crown decline and mortality occurring (proper stocking at this stage for sawtimber production is between 70 and 90 BA), ⅓ of the trees UGS with low-grade stems and many beech diseased.

Sugar maple is obviously the preferred and target species, considering all natural factors and market value. Since most of the stems are larger poles/young sawtimber in size, and UGS occur throughout the size-classes, improvement cutting (removing lower-quality stems from the main or upper canopy) and commercial thinning the poles are demanded. Northern hardwoods in this size-class should not be thinned too drastically, so the prescription calls for not over a ⅓ reduction in stocking to about 80 BA and 130 trees/acre (around 65% RD), removing mostly UGS (most of the beech).

The residual stand will contain mostly grade 1 and 2 sugar maple with a few grade 1 beech, about 130 trees/acre, as evenly distributed as the thinning allowed. On the average, 7 cut stems will yield about one



standard cord and with 70 stems cut/acre, this will yield 10 cords/acre or 500 cords for the treated stand. Firewood or pulpwood is the normal product to expect from this low-quality yield.

Hunting Leases —

(Continued from Page 8)

automatic renewal by the hunter, continuation of existing use agreement, how guests will be treated, and if other recreational activities will be allowed. But these and many other issues are more specific to individual situations and should be included if they are of concern to you. Note that the more restrictive a hunting lease becomes, the more difficult it may be to find a customer. You want to protect yourself without being too restrictive to the customer.

Talk with your insurance agent and lawyer about the liability issues of hunting leases before developing the actual lease agreement. This is an area of risk and a potential expense that must be addressed before developing a hunting lease enterprise.

Administering the Lease

The hunting lease enterprise does not just manage for wildlife habitat, increase the population or species diversity, sell leases, and collect the money. The manager also must administer the lease. This includes welcoming hunters, checking on potential hazards, transporting hunters to and from the hunting site, checking on damages to fences, constructing hunting blinds, enforcing all aspects of the lease agreement, and recording number, species, and quality of animals harvested. This takes time and must fit into the manager's other farming or natural resource management activities. If, for any reason, the hunting lease and the farming or forestry activities do not mesh, the fee-hunting enterprise may become a burden and be doomed to failure.

More Information

A lot of general information on hunting leases has been presented here. By no means is it complete. Your situation is unique, requiring special attention. To date, little specific data have been compiled in New York. Preliminary studies are under way, however, by Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources. Additional information can be obtained from publications produced by the following institutions.

Florida Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904) 392-5420

Delaware Cooperative Extension Service
Townsend Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19717
(302) 451-2504

Ohio Cooperative Extension Service
South District
P.O. Box 958
17 Standpipe Rd.
Jackson, OH 45640
(216) 286-2177

West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Percival Hall
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304) 269-6681

Chapter Reports —

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Thrift to Stay with NYFOA

At the executive committee meeting on November 6, THRIFT's officers decided to continue the affiliation with New York Forest Owners Association at least for the foreseeable future. The decision was based on the recent growth in the NYFOA board in sensitivity to the needs of chapters and affiliates, and its increasing potential for vision and action.

STUDIES APPEAR TO COLLIDE

The Northern Forest Lands Study, financed by a Congressional grant, seems to be obscured by arguments against the current land buy-ups by the state government in the Adirondack Park.

These acquisitions, apparently, are in tune with the intents of the Governor's Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, and many Adirondack residents are not at all happy with the implications. The Governor's intention seems to be to buy all the large tracts of forestland in the Adirondacks and add them to the "forever wild" State Forest Preserve.

THRIFT member Vincent Vaccaro is one of the irate landowners affected by the state's voracious land buying. Unwilling to sell, he and his forestland "confiscated" by right of eminent domain, which he, and many others, consider an improper and unconstitutional use of that power. Vaccaro plans to carry his fight all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary, to get the decision reversed.

At a recent meeting sponsored by the Bolton Landing Chamber of Commerce, residents voiced fears "that the commission has made up its mind on many issues already and that the residents will be ignored."

The same sort of mindset seems to be the case where Vaccaro's land is concerned. And as he warned THRIFT earlier, "If they can do it to my land, they can do it to **yours**."

Meanwhile, the Northern Forest Lands Study, conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, is recommending that tax incentives be used to encourage private landowners to manage for production, and keep timberlands out of the hands of developers.

The study now has come to the stage of public hearings. Two such hearings are due to be held in this state in January, one in Albany and one in Watertown.

We owe it to ourselves as individual landowners to become informed, and to make our opinions known. We can't afford to sit idly by and let the downstate "environmental evangelists", as Mike Virkler calls them, dictate the future of our forestlands.

Your comments are invited. Signed letters will be quoted (with writer's permission) in this newsletter.

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Mystery Fungus That Killed Gypsy Moths Is from Japan

The mystery fungus that bumped off multitudes of gypsy moths in the Northeast this year has now been identified by scientists at Cornell University and USDA's lab in Ithaca, N.Y.

Remarkably, it is the same Japanese species released in field tests around the Boston area in 1910 to 1911 — tests that were thought to have failed, said microbiologist Richard A. Humber of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Ithaca.

"The mystery fungus is *Entomophaga maimaiga,*" he said. It secretes enzymes to invade a gypsy moth caterpillar's skin; then the fungus multiplies, devouring the leaf-eating pest's insides. *Maimaiga,* he noted, is Japanese for gypsy moth.

While no concrete plans have been made to test the North American version of E. maimaiga as a biological control agent, "it's certainly worth looking into as an addition to our arsenal against gypsy moths," said Humber.

"In 1909," he said, "scientists imported two gypsy moth larvae infected with this fungus from Japan for tests. "Over the next 80 years the fungus adapted beautifully, but no one realized it until now."

On June 19, 1989, a fungus was found in dead gypsy caterpillars in western Connecticut.

Entomologist Anne E. Hajek of the Ithaca lab found the fungus throughout Massachusetts and in parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Scientists scrambled to identify it.

Bernard May of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources performed a biochemical test called electrophoresis, which revealed that patterns of enzymes in the mystery fungus matched known patterns in E. maimaiga.

Resource: USDA

Woodlands Regenerate —

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Valuable tree species that require considerable sunlight to grow from seedlings to maturity (80-100 feet tall) include the following: white ash, white pine, white birch, white oak, red oak, and black cherry. These species, which are relatively shade intolerant, will never grow under an overstory (dense canopy of large trees) from seedling to healthy maturity. Therefore, they depend on the creation of relatively large openings, free of dense tree shade, which can be created by clearcutting or shelterwood cutting methods of regenerating even-aged forest stands of shade-intolerant species.

Even trees that can grow in shaded areas will not regenerate under the dense canopy of closely spaced spruces and pines which have a "closed canopy" of foliage that excludes sunlight. This phenomenon can be observed in spruce and pine plantations that are stagnating in growth (growing very slowly and even dying) due to crowns that are shading each other out while keeping the ground in a constant shadow.

A professional forester can help you evaluate woodland sites to determine how well the trees are growing, the health of the forest stand, when and how to regenerate a new age class, and how to improve the vigor and health of the trees by a harvest-removal of weed trees and low-value trees to provide growing space for the desirable ones. Your stewardship affects the future and present of the forest land you own, albeit for only a relatively few years in the life of the forest, with its stand after stand, century after century.