

# FOREST OWNER

A Publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

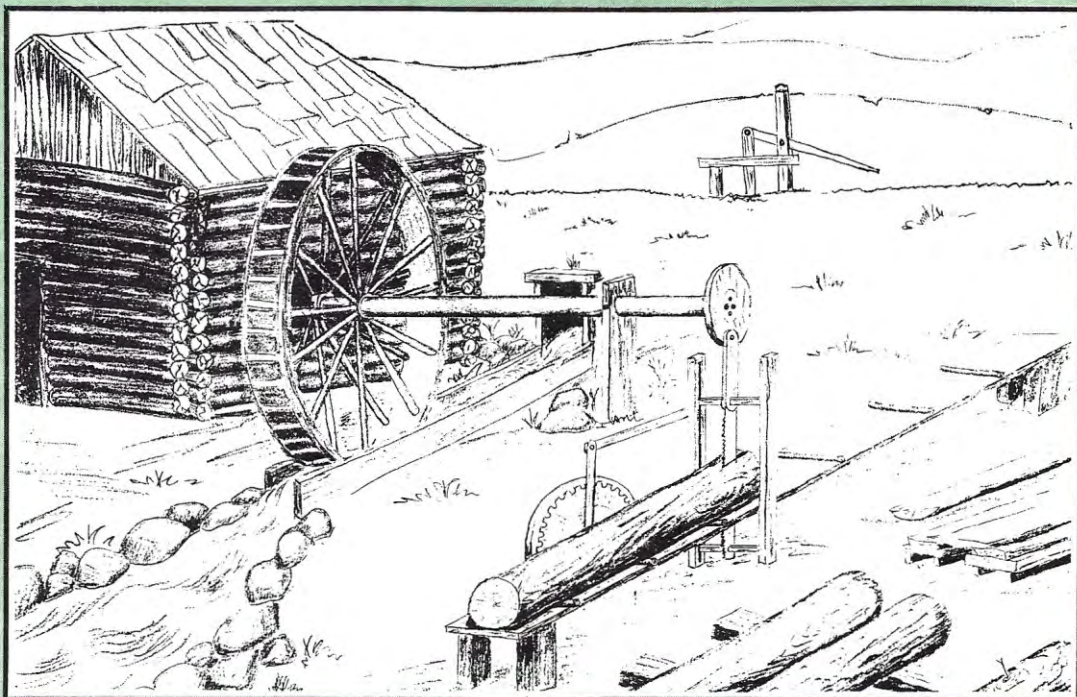
November/December 1990

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THE NEW YORK



Clearing the Land



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# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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

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

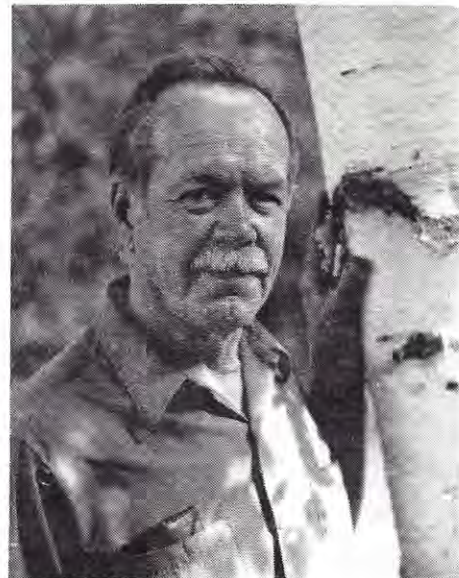
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## President's Message

We had an excellent fall meeting October 5 and 6 at Margaretville. Our host, the Catskill Forest Association, rolled out the red carpet for us and for a change we enjoyed some fabulous fall weather. We learned about veneer logs, some new ideas about firewood marketing and the unexpected results that might happen with timber stand improvement. More extensive comments about the meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The Board of Directors has delegated to me the job of reminding you that regular and family membership dues in the organization will increase by \$5.00 beginning in January, 1991. These kinds of decisions are never popular, but the Board was persuaded of the necessity for the raise by several factors.

At the present time our costs of producing the magazine, operating the headquarter office, and providing dollar support to the chapters and affiliates exceed \$10 per member. Added to this is the fact that our current Executive Director, John Marchant, is serving us without pay. We couldn't afford to pay him what he is worth to us, but sometime in the near future we will have to hire a replacement and we must prepare to be in a financial condition to do this.



Allen Horn

Our dues structure has remained unchanged for eleven years. You all have a first hand recollection of how costs have escalated over this time period and can see that we are not squandering your money when we spend over \$10 per member for service to you.

We are planning to institute more member services. This issue of the magazine represents one of them. It is either four or eight pages longer than the traditional 12 page issue. We hope to put out longer issues of *The Forest Owner* as news and finances permit.

The Board and I feel confident that you will back our decision on this modest increase.

Best wishes to all of you on the upcoming Holiday Season.

# Clearing the Land

## "Torching the Amazon"

With this cry of alarm, the September 1989 issue of TIME magazine focused the world's attention on the clearing of the rain forests of the Amazon for crop and livestock production.

This vast forest and river system is nearly as large as the whole of the United States. The Amazon River, 4000 miles long, is the second longest river in the world. The humid jungle, with trees that tower 200 feet and a canopy so dense that sunlight does not reach the forest floor, teems with an incredible variety of animal and plant life, representing much of biological interest and genetic significance. The loss of the rain forest could have a dramatic effect on the global weather pattern and the greenhouse phenomenon, say world scientists.

Attempts by Brazilians to develop their country by subsidizing settlers and developers have been disappointing and much of the land is soon abandoned as the soil is soon exhausted. The poor soil, further depleted of nutrients by the constant rainfall and the ever present scourge of insect-borne disease, soon discouraged settlers. Ranchers and speculators, with the help of incentive and price supports, gather up the acres and the small farmers and settlers lose out. In Rondonia, south central Brazil, 20% of the forest has been cut and in another state, Acre, as much as 4% of the forests have been lost, with cattle ranchers rapidly expanding their holdings. A conflict between those that would tap the rubber trees and gather nuts, and the ranchers brought about the much publicized murder of leader Mendes. Mendes had pointed out that the native people can make a living from the forest without destroying it.

With the modern world shrunk by instant communication, a multitude of scientists and a well informed public have descended, like a pack of peeping toms or sidewalk superintendents, to tell the bewildered Amazonians how they should proceed. Much of the advice centers on the removal of incentives and price supports for clearing the land, and on

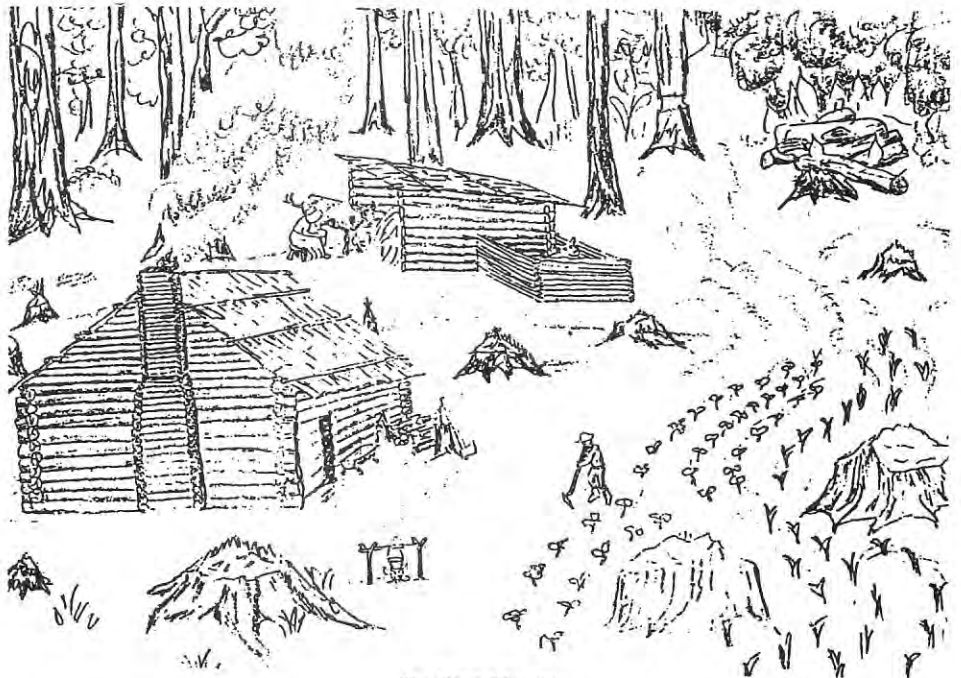
stopping the ill-conceived plans for development and giving up the plans for more hydroelectric plants which drown out large areas of the rain forest and provide little power.

We Americans think we are well qualified to advise our neighbors to the south through our own American Experience. With primitive tools our pioneers relentlessly, doggedly and with great determination set about "improving our land". In less than 100 years, beginning about 1790 in Central

our land have been interesting and should help us draw a more intelligent answer as to how the Amazonians should proceed.

Central New York  
1790 ---

Two hundred years ago, a few years after the Revolutionary War, a thin trickle of land hungry pioneers began to find their way into this area of Central New York. Many came from Massachusetts and Connecticut



The First Clearing

New York, we removed 92% of our own vast forest cover.

Some voices were raised early in warning that we should stop the slaughter, the terrible waste and save what remained of the woods and begin to replace the trees. However, little heed was paid to these alarmists.

The vivid bombardment by word and picture of the American people concerning the plight of the Amazon led me to look back on our own clearing of the land or conquering the wilderness that we experienced here, especially as it pertains to Central New York where millions of acres of prime forest cover were removed to make the transformation to an agricultural state. The changes that have followed this great clearing of

making their slow plodding way by ox cart piled with all their earthly possessions over little used trails. The traveler often had to cut trees and clear the way through the tall, dark, dense unbroken forest of mixed hardwoods and conifers. The two to three hundred mile trip took more than a month of hardship and exhausting toil; fording streams, sleeping in the dark forest, finding food for themselves and browse for their animals and being ever alert for Indians and marauding animals.

On arriving in this area and finding their lot in the Boston Purchase or other acres, the pioneer set about making a log home and clearing a place to have a garden and space to

(Continued on Page 12)

## TREE CUTTING ORDINANCES

Preliminary communications regarding the control of forest practices between Region 8 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation personnel and Chemung County and Municipal Officials, were reported to the public inaccurately and incompletely. The "problem" was presented to NYFOA's Board of Directors by DEC Forester Charlie Mowatt and the Editorial Committee proposed *The NY Forest Owners* magazine as a suitable forum.

### Proposed Timber Ordinance Studied

By **MIKE KAPUSTA**  
Chemung Bureau Chief,  
The Corning Leader

**ELMIRA** — Chemung County could be just a few months away from having a universal, county-wide timber harvesting management ordinance.

When approved by the appropriate agencies, Chemung would become the first county in the state to have such a document, said Lee Hanle Younge, environmental consultant.

"We're taking kind of a novel approach to this," she said. "Throughout New York State there are various town ordinances, but no county has a uniform ordinance. We've been working on this thing for more than a year.

The ordinance is being prepared by the Chemung County Environmental Management Council and Soil and Water Conservation District, at the request of several municipalities in the county.

The EMC reviewed a "final draft" document at its monthly meeting in July and recommended several minor changes, generally for clarification.

The panel will meet again to review and possibly approve the revised ordinance. It then would be sent to Chemung County Legislature for final approval and to all municipalities for ratification, implementation and enforcement.

To date, only two of the 11 towns in the county have ordinances, giving woodcutters carte blanche operations without having to address environmental concerns throughout the remainder of the county, Younge said.

If approved, the ordinance would require an environmental plan and

Therefore, the following series of articles will address the "problem":

1. An article from the media to the question. 2. An article from the industry perspective. 3. Reproduction of a letter to Chemung County officials from the 11 county regional forester and; 4. in a following issue, a report on the fall meeting of the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) which is dedicated primarily to this subject.

possibly a bond be posted before woodcutters begin any major operations of 20 cords or more.

"This doesn't have anything to do with the homeowner who wants to cut a little firewood on their own property," Younge said. "We're talking about large quantities here. Basically we just want a good, solid environmental plan, and protection for the roads, trails and stream crossings."

The ordinance would not be as restrictive or cumbersome as those currently in effect in the towns of Elmira and Big Flats. And it would actually benefit the cutters, as well as the environment, Younge said.

"We feel the loggers and timber harvesters are owed a uniform ordinance," she said. "We really feel it is something the logging community would want, so they will know what to expect when they come in here."

The two planning groups have held several input meetings with loggers and the state Department of Environmental Conservation before drawing up the draft ordinance.

Input also was sought via survey from the loggers, and copies of the draft ordinance were sent to the various municipalities for comment before the final ordinance was drawn.

The ordinance is not to prevent, but rather to control timber harvesting practices to protect public safety and the environment.

"The timber resource . . . is a renewable resource with significant value that may be harvested," the draft document says. "(But) if timber harvesting practices are poorly carried out, they can result in significant environmental and aesthetic damage to the land and to adjacent lands and waters."

Addressed in the ordinance are "those activities that most readily affect the environment," including stream crossings and location of landings and haul roads which can cause soil erosion and sediment laden runoff.

## A Letter to: Chemung County Officials

Lee Hanle Younge  
Chemung County Environmental  
Management Council

Thank you for sending Dan Parrent a copy of the Timber Harvesting Ordinance Questionnaire that you recently sent to the Town and Village Boards and Highway Supervisors in Chemung County. I would like to take this opportunity to make some comments and observations regarding the questionnaire and the cover letter that accompanied it.

We, at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, feel that the people who read the cover letter will get the impression that D.E.C. was involved in the preparation of the questionnaire.

We feel that it is important that people recognize that D.E.C. was not  
(Continued on Page 5)




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## Letter—

(Continued from Page 4)

requested to make input into, nor to review, the questionnaire that was sent out. While we agree that making an effort to determine the support for a County-wide ordinance and to ascertain the extent of the problem is a positive step, we feel that the questionnaire lacks objectivity; contains ambiguous language; and could produce data that cannot be substantiated.

It seems that there are two major issues involved here — damage to public roads and water quality. Peripheral issues include aesthetics and public reactions to timber harvesting.

We readily admit that there have been instances where logging operations have caused erosion and sedimentation problems. But, do isolated incidents warrant condemnation or regulation of all forest harvesting activities? Other land use activities (road construction/maintenance, agriculture, development construction, mining) have demonstrated greater potential for erosion and sedimentation. So an ordinance to control sedimentation must address all major siltration sources. The Erosion and Sediment Inventory prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Soil and Water Conservation District reported the following for Chemung County:

Land Use Activity	Erosion Rate
Cropland, adequately treated (30,768 acres)	1.78 tons/acre/year
Cropland, needing treatment (12,281 acres)	4.55 tons/acre/year
Construction sites (54 sites)	131.78 tons/acre/year
Roadbanks (1,982 miles)	116.20 tons/mile/year
Streambanks (902 miles)	96.31 tons/mile/year
Woodland (148,562 acres)	0.79 tons/acre/year

A monitoring program, over a relatively short period of time (one to two years), as has been suggested, would produce solid data (like that above) upon which to base decisions relative to an ordinance.

Damage to public roads is, apparently the other area of major concern. We agree, wholeheartedly, that persons who damage public

property should be held accountable for their actions, but that this philosophy must be applied evenhandedly to all users; log trucks, gravel haulers, farm equipment, milk trucks, fuel oil suppliers, sanders and snow plows, etc., etc. If the issue of damage to public roads is real, then the County and towns should address the situation in the context of a Roads Damage Ordinance — applicable to all users. If the scope of the issue is limited to roadside loading of trucks, then a regulation requiring off-road landings could be fairly simple.

It continues to be our hope that efforts to produce an ordinance (if it is determined that such is necessary)

## Regulating Logging Activities: Is Governments Approach the Answer?

By FRANK ROSE

Forester, Cotton-Hanlon Co., Inc.

More and more communities in New York State are adopting or considering the adoption of ordinances to regulate logging activities. Most recently, Chemung County, which is located in the south-central part of the state, initiated discussions on what would be a county-wide ordinance. As originally proposed, this ordinance would be implemented by the eleven code enforcement officers in the county's eleven towns.

The establishment of such ordinances is of importance to forest landowners as well as those of us directly involved in the forest products industry. I would encourage you to be both aware of and involved in discussions in your area which address this issue.

While the Town of Big Flats in Chemung County is believed by many to be the first municipality in the State to pass a logging ordinance (1977), such is not the case. According to a research paper prepared by Guilia Earle, a 1984 Summer Aide for the

will be guided by logic, reason and fact, not emotion or opinion. We feel that there is something to be gained by having one reasonable, uniform ordinance County-wide rather than numerous town ordinances, each different in scope, definition and enforcement. We will continue to avail ourselves to you on an advisory basis if you wish, and look forward to bringing this issue to a reasonable conclusion in a timely fashion.

Robert K. Morrison

Regional Forester

cc: Town and Village Boards and  
Town and Village Highway  
Supervisors

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Towns of Oyster Bay and Yorktown in southern New York were the first to institute such ordinances in 1959. Between that year and 1975, seven other communities adopted ordinances which, to one extent or another, regulated logging activities. In the 1975 - 79 period, 15 more towns, including Big Flats, followed suit. As of 1984, the last year for which an accurate count is available, a total of 29 out of New York's 932 towns had adopted ordinances.

Given the fact that there are 932 towns in the State, one might ask, Why would anyone be concerned about the fact that only 3% of these communities have adopted ordinances? The answer is simply this. If your town has adopted a restrictive logging ordinance, you can be assured of the following results:

1. Your freedoms as a landowner have become more limited.
2. Your taxes have gone up to pay for the administration of the ordinance.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

# THRIFT Founder Dies



ELWIN ROWELL

Elwin Rowell, lifelong advocate of good forestry, died July 4th. He had been in failing health for over a year.

These simple words cannot begin to express the magnitude of his influence during the 81 years of his vibrant and productive life.

Born in north Osceola near the center of Tug Hill, his heart was rooted deeply in the forest and its welfare.

As a member of the Tug Hill Commission's Forestry Advisory Committee, Elwin recognized the need for a regional landowner's organization, and was the first to put money on the table to start the group now known as THRIFT.

But his membership on that committee was based on years of involvement in forest-related activities.

As a lad, he worked for the Monteola Hardwood Company, sometimes shovelling snow off skidways, sometimes running the company's tote store. Eventually he went to work at Monteola's saw mill in Glenfield, making broom handles from the lumber edgings.

Then when the Keystone Wood Chemical and Lumber Company acquired Monteola and made extensive changes and additions, Elwin was one of their carpenters.

The new company was barely up

and running when the 1929 stock market crash left it in financial ruin. Its land holdings on Tug Hill were liquidated to satisfy creditors, or went for back taxes.

Elwin bought over 1500 acres during that time — some still covered with trees, some clear-cut, and some with logs still piled on skidways.

For the next 60 years, he and his wife, Florence, managed those parcels in addition to their regular work. They hunted and fished, made maple syrup, cut cherry logs for Harden Furniture, enjoyed their camp near the now-vanished railroad, maintained woods roads, marked hiking trails, cultivated in their five daughters a deep appreciation for nature, and left Tug Hill a better place for their having been there.

Over the years Elwin was active in many forestry-related organizations including the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, Lewis County Maple Producers, Adirondack Conservation Council, Fish and Wildlife Board, THRIFT and NYFOA.

He was honorary parade marshal for the 1988 Woodsmen's Field Days at Boonville. And in March 1990, he and his wife received the "Friend O' The Hill" award from THRIFT for their many years of active support.

\* \* \*

Old woodsmen, like old trees,  
Increase in splendor as the years  
go by.  
Though gnarled and windblown,  
They still touch the sky.  
And when at last they fall,  
They leave *such* memories . . .  
Their lives enrich us all!

— Bonnie Colton

# NYFOA Woodswalk

The first of the 1991 Statewide NYFOA Woodswalks has been scheduled for January 26, 1991 at Gurnee Woods, between Auburn and Syracuse.

Marge and Vern Hudson, owners and operators of the Gurnee Woods Cross Country Ski Area, have invited us to learn about cross country skiing as well as learn how they integrate this great outdoor exercise into their woodland management program.

We plan to start the Woodswalk at 10:00 am and finish by 12:30 pm. A warm log lodge is available where we can eat lunch. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and cocoa will be provided. After lunch, you are invited to extend the skiing experience on your own.

Come a little early in order to give yourself time to strap on your footgear. Rental skis and boots will be available for \$5.00. Bring your own skis or snowshoes if you wish. Our hosts advise that the Woodswalk could even be negotiated in boots alone due to the packed nature of the trails.

Gurnee Woods is located on Chatfield Road, south of NYS Route 5, Elbridge. See the accompanying map. Call Marge or Vern Hudson if you have questions regarding location or any other aspect of this event. (315) 689-3948.

**SEE MAP FOR WOODSWALK ON PAGE 15**



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# NY State Forest Practice Board Walk

The Fall meeting of the New York State Forest Practice Board was held at Lang's Groveside, Acra, NY. Chairman Willard Ives, from Troy, opened the three day meeting by introducing **Bob Bathrick**, Director of the Division of Lands and Forests, who spoke on the Environmental Bond issue as a number one priority. Other priorities included development of unit management plans for state lands, urban forestry, Forestry 2000, and Forest Stewardship program. Many of these programs are developed with federal money.

The State Forest Practice Board acted on several resolutions, the most important referred to the guidelines that are being ignored by some town assessors in evaluating farm woodlots. This included the resolve that recourse should be available to landowners through small claims court rather than certiorari action. Another resolution pertained to the building codes for construction using Eastern Hemlock as construction materials. A resolution asking the Director of the Division of Regulatory Affairs enact a simplified and accelerated stream crossing permit process was passed unanimously. The State Forest Practice Board asked the NYSDEC to seek funding for the establishment of a grant for a graduate student at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse to conduct a two year program to

acquire, compile and publish national and international information about the restoration of the American Chestnut.

Region 9 presented a resolution concerning the lack of a management plan at the Allegheny State Park. The Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation should be urged to act with diligence and speed on the approval and implementation of this management plan.

Region 7 presented a resolution asking for representation on the siting and advisory board for the disposition of **Low Level Radioactive Waste**. This resolution was sent directly to the Governor instead of the DEC Commissioner.

**Stu McCarthy**, representing NYFOA, told of the advantages of membership in the New York Forest Owners Association, a viable and well managed organization of people interested in forestry and one of the largest forestry oriented groups in the northeast.

Dan Weller, Division Chief, told of the Forestry Stewardship program. This is 50-50 match money from the federal government for non-industrial acres. Landowners should have management plans and may apply for funds for tree planting.

*A program being established by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service called*

## **THRIFT Accepts Canada's Invitation**

When the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) met in London, Ontario, the last week in September, two members of THRIFT were on hand to share what's going on in forestry in this area. Don and Bonnie Colton, Lowville, president and program coordinator for the Tug Hill regional affiliate of NYFOA, attended the week-long seminar by invitation of William Fullerton, recently retired director of CFA.

Canada's drive to involve private forestland owners in active management practices stems from the alarming speed at which its forests are being devoured to feed growing industry and consumer demands. Much of Canada's remaining forests are in private

ownership, as they are in this country. Both governments are beginning to realize that financial incentives are needed to encourage the kind of stewardship needed to keep these forests producing and healthy.

Fullerton had visited both the Catskill and Tug Hill regions last spring to investigate active forestland owner groups in those areas and to explore the feasibility of forming such groups in Canada. The Coltons were then invited to CFA's Annual Forestry Extension Seminar to share their experiences in THRIFT. It is hoped that a "cross pollination" of ideas from both sides of the border can benefit forest ecology in both countries. —BMC

"Envirothon" involves schools throughout the state. A five person team effort from NYS schools are judged on their knowledge of wildlife, soils, forestry, aquatics and environmental issues. Six states competed in the National Envirothon hosted by the Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District. New York State was represented by Homer Central School of Homer, NY with Paul Vormvald as advisor. The New York State Forest Practice Board voted a \$100.00 prize to the winning school in 1991.

A discussion of timber bridges brought to light that they cost less to establish and are more economical to maintain than steel and concrete bridges. Many counties and towns are reluctant to their use, but should consider the taxpayers.

The final day of the session included the election of officers. Chairman of the NYS Forest Practice Board 1990-1992 is **Dean Frost** of Region 7 Binghamton, NY. The Secretary's services will be provided by **Mike Greason**, DEC Representative from Albany. Treasurer is **Verner Hudson** of Region 7, Elbridge, NY.

The session ended with best wishes to Willard Ives and a large thank you for his work with the Forest Practice Board.

Submitted by Verner Hudson,  
Ch. NYFOA Legislative Com.

## **Woodswalk Proved 'High Point' of Fall Meeting**

Brilliant blue sky and sunlit leaves painted a colorful backdrop for NYFOA's fall woodswalk near Margaretville. Forty-some members braved the climb up the mountainside to see the Tuscarora Hunt Club's recent TSI work.

Ferns carpeted the clearings, and a picturesque old stone wall meandered down the hillside where cattle were pastured just a few decades ago. The young hardwoods that had sprung up in the intervening years had needed

*(Continued on Page 15)*

# Ask a Forester

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

**Editor's Note:** Due to a production error, a portion of Wes Suhr's Earth Day article was omitted from the last issue. It is being reprinted in its entirety. Our apologies to Mr. Suhr for the error.

The World set aside April 22, 1990 for man to observe the condition of Earth and, from that observation, to develop awareness, desire and action to form a healthier planet over the next decade. It was a global recognition of the obligation each country has to support the health of planet Earth. How are we doing after Earth Day, 1990? Frankly I am disappointed in our government's response, which should be leading the nations in restoring and enhancing the global environment, yet continues to request "more research" before acting. In the long run, our collective concern or lack of it will affect our health, happiness, freedom and eventually our survival.

## LISTEN

We hear the concern for a healthy environment all around us — it seems that at least once each week, the news media reports another incident of environmental degradation. Has the frequency of these events increased or do we just hear more about it with today's greater concern? I think both cases are true — the technology of our modern world has created more problems for the environment than it has solved, and we are beginning to realize there are limits to our resources, that the damage done may take decades to correct or may be irreversible in some cases.

Some may say, "Ah, don't be a 'doomsdayer' — it will all be solved in time". But when do we begin reducing the damage, to say nothing of preventing it? Consider our environmental "black list":

- global warming
- acid rain
- general atmospheric pollution
- depletion of ozone layer
- forest devastation (destruction by fire, atmospheric pollutants and uncontrolled cutting)
- pollution of oceans
- pollution of soil (chemical/thermal/radioactive waste dumps)
- pollution of ground water (see above, plus biological/effluent discharge)

## After Earth Day . . . What?

- pollution of streamflow (all of above, plus sedimentation)
- erosion of soil (wind/water erosion due to mis-management)
- destruction of scenery and open space (dumps, urban sprawl)
- noise pollution
- destruction of wildlife
- destruction of human life (drought, pestilence, starvation, greed, war often all a natural consequence of the above damage)

All this is occurring world-wide, and we have done little to reverse it. Listen to the consciousness of the Native American:

"The white man, through his insensitivity to the way of Nature, has desecrated the face of Mother Earth. The white man's advanced technological capacity has occurred as a result of his lack of regard for the spiritual path and for the way of all living things. The white man's desire for material possessions and power has blinded him to the pain he has caused Mother Earth by his quest for what he calls natural resources. . . . This must not be allowed to continue for if it does, Mother Nature will react in such a way that almost all men will suffer the end of life as they now know it. . . . The Great Spirit, Massau'u said that man was to live in Harmony and maintain a good clean land for all children to come." (A portion of a Hopi letter written to President Nixon. Source from *New York Times*, August 1979.)

And listen to the consciousness of American youth:

"We must look funny to Someone, Tumbling through the universe locked in a death grip with our tiny ball Earth and ripping her busily to pieces, trailing a stinking film of gas and pieces of satellites and mushroom and dust clouds.

Think of her new.  
An unspoiled country lying open to the sun.

Think of oceans of beauty, instead of scattered puddles, muddy and drying up.

What can make the heart ache more than a billboard?"

(A poem by Terry and Renny Russell in *On the Loose*, published by the Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1967.)

Can we develop our collective consciousness now to begin reducing the damage?

## GOALS

If we want a ". . . good clean land for all children to come . . ." then we must take action now. Each of us should develop an Earth Ethic (or environmental ethic, if you prefer) to guide our actions along these goals:

- A sustainable society, built upon the efficient use of renewable energy and recycled resources.
- Human health, dignity, and freedom.
- Biological diversity.
- Peace and social justice.
- Respect for nature."

(Nov-Dec 88 *EPA JOURNAL*: "Proposing a Global Priority: Earth Day, 1990" by Denis Hayes, Chairman of Renew America and the National Coordinator of Earth Day 1970.)

There is a strong connection between these goals and the message of spiritual leaders:

". . . respect for life, and above all the dignity of the human person, is the ultimate norm for any sound economic, industrial or scientific progress . . . A harmonious universe is a cosmos endowed with its own integrity, its own internal dynamic balance. This order must be respected . . ." "The earth is a common heritage. We are interdependent. From this follows the necessity of an internationally coordinated approach to the management of Earth's goods."

(Continued on Page 9)



# After Earth Day . . . What?

(Continued from Page 8)

(Feb. 4, 1990 **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**: "If You Want Peace, Respect the Environment" by Father Basil Pennington — a translation of Pope John Paul II's 1990 World Day of Peace message.)

## ACTION

What can we do in our own neighborhoods? We can start by discussing the meaning and importance of these global goals with our friends and neighbors. Apply them to our activities which may impact the environment. Examine local policies, politicians, subdivisions, construction, waste disposal systems, etc. by asking the question, "Does this activity bring us closer to or further from these widely shared global goals?" Attend all local meetings, especially town board meetings, where you will have a voice in expressing how you want your tax dollars spent on local actions that often affect environmental health. Insist on **LAND USE PLANNING** for all local, State and regional projects so that environmental values are treated as importantly as economic values. These plans should control the "developments" or various uses of land to:

- Efficiently allocate space and resources
- harmonize with surroundings
- reduce infringement on open space
- reduce impact on adjacent resource values.

Our actions should be communicated in open, cooperative and productive ways — not with combative, confrontation tactics that serve to divide and extend the problems. A current example of the latter are the actions of an organization called **EARTH FIRST!** with their efforts to save virgin timber out West. Be aware — there is a branch of Earth First! in the Adirondacks. They advocate terrorist attacks on local logging and clearing operations by "monkey-wrenching" equipment (damaging skidders, dozers, etc.), pounding spikes into trees to be cut, pulling survey stakes, etc. They claim this is their "non-violent" right and "American way" of impressing their desires. Yet, people have been injured because of their



*Through management planning this mature black cherry was marked for cutting by a forester. It's "death" will regenerate hundreds of seedlings.*

tactics, both directly (spikes in trees) and indirectly through demonstration violence.

America has room for large areas of designated wilderness and for managed or sustained yield forests to produce wood products — we must protect both types of areas for a healthy, sustainable society. We must all realize that environmental care makes good economic sense in the long-run, and that we must join hands to achieve it. Members of all organizations with opposing viewpoints can interact with democratic dialogue to achieve constructive resolution in the true American tradition. We will achieve a "respect for nature" and a "sustainable society" only through "peace and social justice", and a respect for human dignity.

## Government Approach—

(Continued from Page 5)

3. The viability of your local forest products industry has been negatively affected.

Let's very briefly examine each of these impacts.

1. Many of the ordinances already

## My Woods Have Gone Fern Enough

While walking through my woods and some other recent NYFOA-sponsored jaunts (Huntington Ecological Forest and Tuscarora Hunt Club), I encountered what my DEC Forester, Steve Davison described: Examples of regeneration problems within the larger contexts of management and stewardship common, throughout the state — **FERNS**. Despite my mother's fancy, the fern market will not pay the taxes nor will ferns feed a family, human or otherwise.

From their heyday during the Carboniferous Period, 250 million or so years ago, the fern population is currently almost trivial: and ferns are, therefore, less prominent in the plant battle for sun and space, soil and water. However, I have sizable fern populations on two woodlots: both parcels received TSI and foresters tell me that the trees can still lose the battle with the ferns. A little fern, it appears, can go a long way.

I want to do something to affect the battle favorably on the side of diversity, wildlife, forest products (value of), and all the other multiple uses (including the memory of my mother). **WES SUHR**, *The NY Forest Owner's Forester* (RR 1, Box 59B, Oswegatchie, NY 13670) has often bemoaned the lack of reader questions. OK Wes, what can owners do about limiting ferns, striped maple, and other growths in the understory?

Dick Fox

implemented and some of those now being considered (including Chemung County's as originally drafted) attempt to legislate good forest management. You, as a member of NYFOA, and my company, as a long-time member of the forest products industry, can sympathize with this intent. Not only does poor forest management offend us visually, for a company like Cotton-Hanlon, poor forest management also represents a very real threat to our future since it jeopardizes the long-term supply of our raw material.

But as much as we applaud the desire to encourage good forest management, and as much as we

(Continued on Page 13)

# Exploring What Stewardship Is

*Editor's Note: The following remarks made by John Marchant, our Executive Director, were presented in an address at the Western NY Forest Stewardship meeting held at SUNY Geneseo College on September 15, one of three held in the state. The unique perspective given to stewardship merits the attention of all our members.*

By JOHN C. MARCHANT

My first recollection of the term 'stewardship in its present context happened about a year ago. Word began to filter down, that a substantial amount of money was going to be made available from the Congress to the DEC, to address what is fundamentally the long stated mission of the New York Forest Owners Association. Namely, "to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State". We ultimately became a member of the Stewardship Committee, began putting proposals together with a variety of other organizations and finally arrived at a series of programs of which we were fairly proud.

As you might expect, a great number of definitions of stewardship began to be bandied around. Each source of definition exhibited its own parochialism and words like: it's just woodlot management, or just multiple-use, or just wildlife habitat generation, or clean air, water and soil protection etc., just old concepts, wrapped up in new words. But there certainly was enough variance in definitions, and optimism or pessimism about whether they could ever succeed, that I became convinced that we were truly in the chaos-before-the-order phase of getting things usefully defined.

Although some order does exist now, I'm still concerned enough about its breadth and full understanding that I'd like to take a still different approach with you this morning.

Having been involved with several massive reorganizations in the industrial sector, with the help of numerous high powered consultants who always succeeded in driving us on to ever increasing levels of chaos, I

recalled one technique which did have some merit. It is called, "a helicopter-fly-over of the final state." **Imagine what the New York State forest environment would look like if the stewardship concept is achieved in every conceivable way.** What are people doing and saying? How is society acting? What role is government playing? What are the trees doing? What does wildlife habitat look like? What has happened to recreation and carbon-dioxide scrubbing and watershed and endangered species?

The basic idea is simple; if you can't fully define exactly what you're going to do or how you're going to do it, at least get a clear picture of what it should look like; if and when you do achieve your complete desired state. Now each of us will have a slightly different picture; but I venture to say, those differences will not be all that great with respect to the principle issues. Since I have the **podium** and the **gavel** and the **charge**, you're stuck at this time with hearing mine. You have the rest of the day to alter, agree with or completely change the ones I present; but I hope to at least provide a different context medium which might lead you to take some different approaches.

O.K., it's the year 2000 and we're up in the helicopter looking down and this is what I see:

**1. Five million of the 13.5 million acres of non-industrial private forest operating with sound management plans.** Diversified to meet many individual owner's needs but integrating into a balanced overall effect for: timber production, wildlife habitat improvement, recreation and clean air, water and soils protection; but in all cases, **having greatly improved vigorous growing stock.**

**2. Predominately satisfied woodland owners and stewards.** Enough financial compensation so most can feel they are at least breaking even for their roles as stewards of our forests and in many cases actually showing a profit for the effort. A feeling of prestige from society as a whole that they are making a valued difference in an area of significance to society.

**3. An attitude within our society** that taking very good care of our forested lands is vital to our survival and valued way of life and that the people involved in such endeavors are to be respected and properly compensated for their commitments and efforts.

**4. A real junk wood market** consisting of a number of processing plants strategically distributed throughout the state. These plants are profitable and are financially compensating woodlot owners for all the TSI (timber stand improvement), required to bring their forested lands into good management. This would undoubtedly improve some kind of an owner's cooperative to provide a guaranteed level of materials supply.

**5. Good access roads throughout the 5 million acres of managed woodlands,** all financed in the same way as the TSI work, as a benefit of feeding and processed wood product industry or as added value from well prepared timber sale contracts.

**6. Greatly improved recreational opportunities** through improved relationships between an increasingly enlightened society and private landowners.

**7. Strong tangible incentives to MINIMIZE fragmentation of existing forest tracts,** making it attractive to keep family control over many generations and making it attractive to maintain existing management plans intact whenever fragmentation does take place.

**8. A society, and its legislative leaders, which, because of effective educational efforts, has a firm understanding of the basic principles of natural resource management** as it applies to our local conditions. A society that makes judgements on **all the facts available** instead of the self serving biased positions presented by the entertainment center of the world; the broadcast news media.

Now that we've had our little fantasy, let's get our head out of the clouds, our feet back on the ground and think about what all this could mean and how we might be able to use it constructively. Remember the purpose of this exercise is to focus on what is actually happening in the end

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## Stewardship *(Continued from Page 10)*

state as a result of stewardship, not trying to define what stewardship itself is. Rather: **What are people doing and thinking? What is in place and working? What tangible benefits are actually accruing?** As I said earlier, each of your views is likely to differ from mine; certainly no one view will be all right or all wrong. The **important thing** is to visualize that **end state situation**.

*O.K. Having done this exercise what does it all mean. Can we really achieve it? Certainly not in all its aspects, thinking so would be totally naive. But is PART OF A HOLISTIC VIEW which is vitally important although trying to get our arms around the entire problem by thinking on such a large scale is both futile and frustrating.*

*On the other hand I submit that thinking only in terms of the small individual building blocks which we always hope will construct into our dream state is equally as futile. But a futility we very frequently don't see because CONCENTRATING ON SMALL BLOCKS gives us that warm security that we are doing something which somehow will lead us to where we want to go.*

What we are faced with is a very **dangerous rock and a hard place**. The **rock** is that **big picture** which is beyond realistic attack and probably our full comprehension as well. The **hard place** is that **collection** of all those individual blocks, which taken by themselves will never be arranged to lead to our desired goals. The danger, is that we are easily deluded that we are moving in the right direction because we are doing something.

So the task is to identify those smaller building blocks which we can all get our arms around, and make some good progress toward getting them in place but, at the same time, keep in mind that whole picture and an understanding of how each individual block will fit into that bigger picture and will indeed make the appropriate contribution to it.

To a great extent almost all of those stewardship building blocks are known and have been worked at for a good many years. Woodlot management plans; education of the public, politicians, and land owners; improved habitat for wildlife; greater

access to private forests for recreation; protection of our forests from unscrupulous buyers and incompetent loggers; enhanced abilities to provide clean air and water and hold our precious soils in place; to name a few. They are ALL worth working on right now as they have been in the past. So what is missing that would allow us to succeed this time around when we have failed so consistently before? I'll tell you what is missing. It's that thing which all of us, particularly professionals working in our chosen fields, have the greatest desire to achieve but seldom do: **INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY**.

Let me illustrate that idea. Certainly our past efforts to teach the principles and fundamental values of forest management have not been very successful, whether it's to woodlot owners, legislatures, or the general public. Part of that problem is because it's difficult to visualize or teach a cycle which takes 180 years to complete, such as a full cycle of northeastern hardwoods. 180 days for a tomato crop is one thing but 180 years is really tough. But what about the use of **modern computer graphics**. It's quite possible to generate a statistical yet realistic forest and watch it grow on a variety of time scales.

Why not apply these techniques to enhance the ability to visualize and teach these principles? We clearly need a more **creative** approach to educating others who really have to understand our problems.

Another example is talking about increasing the number of **management plans generated** without considering the route by which the necessary TSI work can be compensated. Don't just generate management plans but think about an **accompanying cooperative** of forest owners or whatever else can provide revenue to support the low grade work needed to implement most management plans. And don't turn to government to provide a "free" way out. First of all it's never free as witnessed by European practices where it's always associated with considerable and limiting restrictions. Besides what we really want is that good old American way which is independent, self sustaining. Be innovative and think about the

**whole chain of events not just the front end.**

The need has never been greater nor the situation more amenable. We simply have to find better ways of integrating those individual blocks so they are not only compatible but synergistic as well. Am I implying that we have nothing but one hell of a mess on our hands and that this new stewardship concept is here now to save us?

No way!! We have a wonderful place to start from, particularly in New York State. Good programs have produced worthwhile, **lasting results** for many years.

Many of you here today can take a lot of credit for some of **those results** and they all add up to a very good base. Let's certainly take heart in what we have.

I think, however, that this kind of perspective has to be practiced by all of us. Professionals, volunteers and anyone else, providing effort and support to our stewardship cause. It is particularly important for those of you who are in a position to affect decisions and results through the direction of other people.

Please, let these **holistic concepts** affect your planning processes. Please, provide a working environment for your people which will encourage them to be **innovative and creative**. I can assure you from vast personal experience that the people closest to the ground will have most of the good ideas about what is needed. Listen to them and give them your respect. Your job as planners and managers is to use those human resources and their ideas to get us where we have to be.

I think we might have said from the very beginning that we already knew what stewardship is. We just may not have been as sensitive to what it could really be and more importantly what is keeping us from achieving it in the fullest sense.

I sincerely hope that some of these thoughts will be of value as you participate in this workshop today. I urge all of us to think broadly about **how the individual pieces**, which each finds of particular interest and wants to pursue, will integrate into the **bolder picture**.

# Clearing the Land — (Continued from Page 3)

grow crops to feed the family and his animals. The trees were cut that seed could be planted, with little preparation, directly in the weed-free duff among the stumps. Time was short as winter was not far off and the food staples brought from home would soon run out.

The tremendous task of clearing the land would start in earnest after a cabin and a shelter for livestock had been built. To clear an acre or two or three was a good year's work. Clearing a farm of 100 acres or more often took the spare time of a generation.

Far and away the great bulk of the forest material was of no use to the settler. Many tons of trunks, limbs and branches had to be disposed of and the easiest way to do that was to burn it. The settler, as time permitted, cut the trees, preferably while in leaf, and felled them so as to make windrows or piles which on a breezy dry day were set afire. After the swirling smoke and towering flames had died down, the trunks and limbs that remained were cut into pieces and either piled about the stumps and burned or were snaked to a favorable slope where the trunks could be rolled into a "burn" and kept burning for days and weeks. The thing to do with a forest was to get rid of it and he who improved his land by clearing it was a good man.

The stumps of some species such as basswood, birch, maple, beech, etc. would soon rot out. Others, as pine, hemlock, oak and chestnut would take many years to rot. When well dried, some stumps would burn even into the roots. Pine stumps, being shallow rooted could, with much labor, be pulled out and set on edge to make a stump fence that would hold livestock.

Truly, the pioneer who settled in Central New York had a tremendous undertaking in clearing his land for crops and pasturage for the livestock, especially when compared with homesteading on the grass covered prairie of the mid-west. However, the prairie farmer had no wood for buildings nor for fences, tools and fuel. As more settlers moved into this area and communities were organized, the woodland settler could produce and sell for cash several products from his acres of forested land. There was a good market for

maple sugar, charcoal, hemlock bark for tanning, potash, and logs and lumber to be rafted down-river and sold to southern markets.

The Indians taught the settlers how to make maple syrup and maple sugar which were welcome additions to the diet. The excess found a ready market for cash or barter.

Wood ashes, carefully gathered from fireplaces and from the huge quantity of tree trunks, limbs and branches burned to clear the land, could be sold as gathered or could be leached out and boiled down to make potash. This product brought \$5 to \$10 per hundred weight. The yield was such as to often pay the cost of land clearing. Potash found a ready market both at home and in commerce for soap making, dyeing, and the scouring of wool.

Every community had one or more blacksmiths and, as coal was not available, every blacksmith and tin worker needed charcoal to heat his forge. With wood in plentiful supply, the charcoal maker could turn time and labor into cash and help to clear his acres.

Nearly every community had a tannery so the demand for hemlock bark for tanning was great. An historical marker in Marathon indicates that a tannery there used 16 full cords of hemlock bark daily. This bark sold for \$8 to \$10 a full cord and often the logger cut the hemlock trees with no intention of using the lumber, leaving the logs to rot in the woods.

Saw mills soon dotted the streams. A stream of any size might have several mill dams and ponds on it, turning the undershot water wheels which turned in the spring when water was available and running an up and down saw. Lumber not needed to replace obsolete log cabins could be used to build new homes and buildings.

Only the best lumber and logs were rafted down the river to southern markets. Pine logs were cut and skidded to the landing on the river bank, then rolled into the river as the spring freshets came. The logs were bound together in rafts of various sizes depending on the river size. Larger rafts contained from 100,000 to 200,000 board feet (enough to build 20 homes). Three to five rafters were

required to operate the sweeps and to keep the raft from snagging on rocks, islands, bridge abutments etc. With experience, rafters could negotiate even low dams and average 50 miles in a day, tying up at night. The trip down river was a real experience. If all went well in about six days the rafters had reached their destination and were ready to start home on foot for the 300 mile return trip, loaded with an axe, large auger and numerous pieces of rope. Rafters made several runs down river during the spring as the forest cover allowed the runoff and prevented the drying of the streams. Millions of feet of the best white pine were sent down river to Baltimore, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Some local lumber found its way into the rebuilding of the National Capitol and Senate Chamber after it was burned by the British in the War of 1812.

Whether or not there was a good use of the trees, clearing the land went on relentlessly, year after year, by thousands of settlers. By 1845 the first census of New York State showed that about 40% of the acres in New York had been "improved" by clearing.

Some land was soon found to be unsuitable for agriculture and the struggle to crop it was given up. Very shallow soil, wet land, steep slopes, stony fields, erosion and very acid soil all made cropping unprofitable and impractical. Some settlers gave up their whole farm after a few lean crop years had depleted the natural fertility. Some moved onto nearby farms and some went west where the land was more fertile.

— Dr. Charles Leahy  
Whitney Point,  
NYFOA Charter Member



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## Chapter Development Full Speed Ahead

By **STUART McCARTY**

For several years the development of new chapters has been the first order of business for NYFOA to achieve growth in membership. There are several advantages to this objective, which to be brief can be summarized as follows: Chapters bring the activities of NYFOA to our members and, thus, increase the value of membership many fold.

With the establishment of the Niagara Frontier Chapter in the Buffalo area earlier this year, we now have six chapters which, along with our two affiliates, gives us a good base for expansion. Guidelines for chapter operations are in place and a list of speakers and activities is being

compiled for the use of the chapter leadership. Each chapter is represented on the NYFOA board of directors.

The good news is that in addition to the Niagara Frontier Chapter, there is the potential of three more chapters being formed this year all in the eastern part of the state. Joe Messina of Albany is getting going with organizing a chapter in the three counties around Albany. Don Peterson is working on one for the three counties in the northeast corner of the state and John Hastings is considering starting one covering the area in between those of Joe and Don. If you want to help, let me know and I'll put you in touch with the right

organizer! They need our assistance and encouragement.

In the meantime, we have to be concerned about "the care of feeding" of the chapters already in being. The Tioga Chapter covering the counties of Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins is a case in point. Howard Ward, Chairman, hasn't had the time to devote to the chapter with the result that it has been inactive for two years. We are in the process of trying to revitalize it since there are eighty members in the chapter and since it serves Ithaca with so much to offer from the faculty and staff at Cornell. Reviving it has to be on top of the agenda.

There is a great need for even more chapters if we are going to play a more active role in the stewardship programs and activities and decisions of the state. If you want to help, we can provide the how-to and other assistance. My number is (716) 381-6373.

### Government Approach—

(Continued from Page 9)

actively support all efforts to promote it, we are 100% opposed to any action which attempts to legislate it by telling a landowner what he/she can and cannot do on his/her own property. It is our strong belief that only those activities which threaten the public health, safety, and/or welfare should be controlled by ordinance and as much as we hate to see irresponsible harvesting activities, if these activities do no harm to neighbors or town roads or adjacent streams, government has no right to control them.

2. Secondly, the age old adage, "You don't get something for nothing," applies to the enforcement of an ordinance just as well as to the purchase of a car. Enforcement costs money. And if we're talking about passing an ordinance which will result in some town employee doing something that isn't presently being done (let alone something he or she may not be trained for) we're talking about tax dollars being spent to cover that expense — your tax dollars.

3. Lastly; the forest products industry employs over 88,000 people in New York State, has an annual payroll of over \$1,100,000,000, and makes up almost 6% of all manufacturing jobs in the state. Anything which threatens the health of this industry — whether it's a decline in forest health, a collapse in

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# Forests' 'Highest and Best Use' May Be 'Preserved' Forestlands

By DAVID W. TABER

Department of Natural Resources

Logging occurs the world over, wherever forests are cut to meet people's immediate (short-term) needs. Historically, in the U.S. as well as in other parts of the world, logging has been done to clear land to make way for farming, villages, cities, railroads and highways; and to provide the raw material wood to meet the needs of societies throughout the world.

Recently, it has been recognized by more and more people throughout the world that "destruction of forest ecosystems" can be permanently damaging to biological diversity, the quality of mankind's environment, and even "life" (survival) on planet Earth. But not all forestlands are permanently changed to non-forest land uses.

Some forests are maintained as working forests to produce a variety of ecological and other societal benefits that include the production of wood-based products for consumers. Actually, harvesting trees silviculturally can preserve forests forever while protecting the foundation of forest land that contributes significantly to the quality of life of many people who, without owning the woods reap, a variety of benefits.

1. Many of the ordinances already implemented and some of those now being considered (including Chemung County's as originally drafted) attempt to legislate good forest management and my company, as a long-time member of the forest products industry, can sympathize with this intent. Not only does poor forest management offend us visually, for a company like Cotton-Hanlon, poor forest management also represents a very real threat to our future since it jeopardizes the long-term supply of our raw material.

But as much as we applaud the desire to encourage good forest management, and as much as we actively support all efforts to promote it, we are 100% opposed to any action which attempts to legislate it by telling a landowner what he/she can and cannot do on his/her own property. It is our strong belief that only

those activities which threaten the public health, safety, and/or welfare should be controlled by ordinance, and as much as we hate to see irresponsible harvesting activities, if these activities do no harm to neighbors or town roads or adjacent streams, government has no right to control them.

2. Secondly, the age old adage, "You don't get something for nothing," applies to the enforcement of an ordinance just as well as to the purchase of a car. Enforcement costs money. And if we're talking about passing an ordinance which will result in some town employee doing something that isn't presently being done (let alone something he or she may not be trained for) we're talking about tax dollars being spent to cover that expense — your tax dollars.

Specifically, some of the bounties that forests of a few acres or more in

size can provide are as follows:

— Vigorously growing trees freshen the air that humans breathe by removing carbon, and adding oxygen.

— Soil is protected from erosion by wind and rain by stands of trees that grow on land.

— Purity of water in the soil and aquifers is protected from man-made contaminants that normally are not present in abundance on tree covered land.

— Diversity of wildlife habitat in a dynamic form of ever changing forests (that include open fields growing into trees; brush land; dense stands of saplings; areas of large trees; individual dying, decaying, and dead trees; and naturally "destroyed" stands caused by wind, snow, fire, or "old age" — that will initiate regeneration and natural succession of plant species that commonly leads to the growth of forests of new trees) benefits a variety of animal species — that

(Continued on Page 15)



Forest Stewardship involves commitment by landowners, policy makers, and the "general public" to the federal Forest Stewardship Assistance Act of 1989's goal, relative to privately owned forest land, of "applying economic resource management principles to benefit current and future landowners and the public." Here Bob G. Blackmon (left), Chairman of the Forestry Faculty at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), in Syracuse, N.Y., talks in a "forest-landscaped outdoor classroom" with Richard Fox, of the New York Forest Owners Association during a USDA Forest Service/NYS DEC financially supported August Workshop on techniques for promoting the benefits of Forest Stewardship in New York State. In total, nearly 150 people were involved in Forest Stewardship Workshops held in 1990 at SUNY ESF, SUNY Geneseo, and West Point to address how privately owned forests can be "preserved" to meet the needs of a variety of people with different interests and goals. SUNY ESF, NYS DEC, and Cornell Cooperative Extension jointly sponsored the workshops.

(RREP Photo by Taber)

## Woodswalk - High Point—

(Continued from Page 7)

some thinning, although there was no quantity of sawlogs ready to harvest. The resulting cut was processed on site into bundles of firewood, and wrapped in plastic mesh, for sale to the metropolitan market.

According to Lou Tirrito, a forester who had worked with the project, the deer seemed to know that the sound of chainsaws meant dinner time. They converged on the newly-felled trees to feast on the tender tops provided for them. (The contract specified that the loggers were not allowed to carry firearms.) For the hunt club, that created an ideal situation. It also provided plenty of forage and cover for grouse and wild turkeys. Now, the trees that were left will have a better chance of becoming good sawlogs, while providing cover for deer and continued erosion control on the steep hill sides.

Attendance for the Full Agenda was 60 members.

Bonnie Colton

\* \* \*

## Tree Gardening

This corny-sounding advice is a takeoff on Mary McCarty's peachy presentation at the fall meeting.

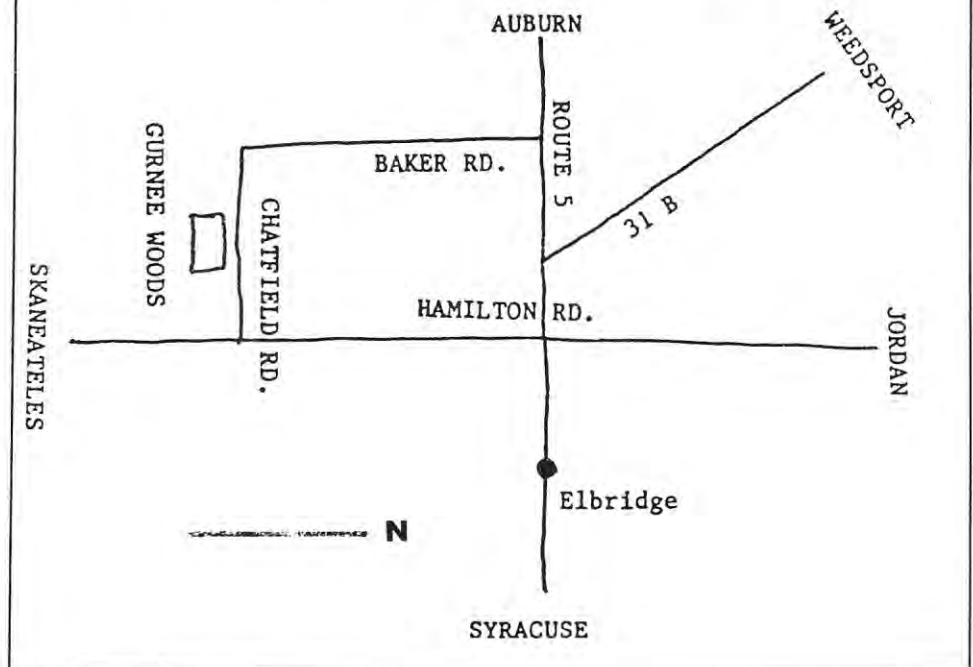
If you carrot all about your woods, lettuce help you turnip some ideas to make them healthier than they have bean in the pasta. First of all, don't cotton to the strip-and-split nuts. Then be careful that fire doesn't leave your trees chard.

Peas, folks, if you don't have a management plan, you'd butter get going. If you don't know how, get the opionion of a professional forester. If you plan your work and work your plan, you'll have a formula that can't be beet. Don't be a cabbage-head and squash these good ideas, or your profits could leek away.

Getting along without a plan is the pits. So protect your sprouts, prune your saplings, and pear your losses for a berry, berry good harvest. You'll have a healthier forest, and live appley ever after!

—BMC

## MAP FOR WOODSWALK - JAN. 22 - GURNEE WOODS



## Forests'—

(Continued from Page 14)

change over time, including songbirds, birds of prey, reptiles, and mammals.

In addition, in many urbanized areas where society consists of high populations of people, as well as what was once "really rural" (low population density) countrysides that now support many wood-framed homes of commuters and retirees, trees and forests are cherished by the area's inhabitants and visitors, alike for the beauty and naturalness they provide.

In communities, where acres of woods are "preserved" from subdivision, excavation, paving with asphalt, and "development" into housing lots, the trees and forests commonly provide some of the following types of important benefits to the area's travelers and residents: peace, tranquility, beauty, solitude, spiritual invigoration, freedom from unnatural man-made structures, fewer people, and less traffic congestion than would otherwise be present.

Numerous beautifully forested hillsides and tree-covered roadside-borders, that many people appreciate as a free benefit of their environment, are owned by property-tax-paying individuals and families. Although

landowners possess forests as an asset, their investments in "open space" (uncultivated fields and forests both of which are always in vegetative transition) are often considered a valuable contribution to society by the tourists, commuters, and residents of an area. Therefore the forest owners, in some ways, can be considered as benefactors who every day are making a contribution to those "open space" admirers who, without paying property taxes on the forested environment, in which or around which they live and/or travel, receive a variety of significant forest-based benefits.

Property taxes, according to many forest owners, are consistently reported as being excessively high (costly) on many of their acres of privately owned forested properties that depend on little if any of the government services which require support by taxpayer dollars. Perhaps the best way to promote and preserve the "highest and best use" basis for society relative to some acres of privately owned forests, both at present and in the future, is to promote and implement policies that will allow some private, tax-paying forest owners to be able to financially "preserve" their forestlands for the many benefits they provide to society.

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## WOODLOT CALENDAR

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#### November 8:

8:30 am: Sheraton Inn, Ithaca; "Local Control of Timber Harvesting", Empire State Forest Products Association Fall meeting (518) 463-1297

#### November 10:

Woodswalk: Al Brown/Ralph Gennarino lands near Gerry, Chautauqua County: TSI, Boundary lines, Beech salvage (607) 583-7006.

#### November 14:

7:30 pm: Meeting — "Forest Pathology," Bruce Robinson

Rochester, Coop. Extension, Western Finger Lakes (716) 924-2589.

#### December 4:

Hulbert House: Boonville: 6:30 pm: "Report on the Canadian Connection" and election of officers: THRIFT Affiliate (315) 376-5595.

#### Mid-January: Binghamton:

"Your Regional Forest Practice Board (Reg. 7)", Southern Tier Chapter: (607) 849-6611.

#### Mid-January:

Potluck Dinner at Holland - tentative: Niagara Frontier (716) 537-2803

#### January 26:

NYFOA WOODSWALK  
GURNEE WOODS X-COUNTRY  
SKIING Elbridge WARM (See  
Article Inside (315) 689-3948

#### February 9, 10:

Cabin Fever Festival: Fillmore  
Glen State Park: Moravia: Draft  
Animals, Rides, Woodsmen, Food:  
Cayuga Chapter (315) 497-1078.

#### For Jan/Feb Forest Owner Calendar Inserts —

(315) 497-1078: FAX: to FOX (315)  
497-1078

## Government Approach—

(Continued from Page 13)

the housing and/or furniture industry, or increased costs of operation brought about by proliferating and frequently unnecessary regulations — truly affects the balance and health of our state's economy.

Many of the companies making up this industry are, like Cotton-Hanlon, family-owned enterprises which have been in the lumber business for generations. The ever-growing burden of increased Federal, State, and local regulations threatens the very existence of many of these operations — has, indeed, pushed some over the edge and out of business during the past 5 years. While well-intentioned, widespread implementation of regulations such as

those being discussed in Chemung County would almost certainly force many other companies out of business.

I am not trying to convince you that there are no logging jobs which cause problems for neighboring properties. There are loggers who operate irresponsibly, and it is up to all of us who care about the resource, but especially those of us who depend on the resource, to do whatever we can to weed those individuals out. There is no room in this business for a logger who habitually has little regard for the resource which puts food on his table, the owner who sold him that resource, or adjacent landowners whose properties might be impacted

by the logger's irresponsible activities.

But legislating one more opportunity for government to control what should be our private affairs is not the answer to this problem. You, as a forest landowner, can help get at this problem by doing the following: If you are going to sell timber, make sure you know who you're dealing with. Ask for references from the logger(s) you are considering for the job. Check those references. Were they happy with the job? With the pay? And if at all possible, visit one or two of the logger's nearby jobs. You will probably only sell timber once or twice in your lifetime. It is up to you, not government, to see that the logger does a good job.