

FOREST OWNER

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People and Trees; Partners in Time

THE NEW YORK



THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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COVER PHOTOS:

Top: Gary R. Goff, director of the Master Forest Owners Program during a session in Arnot's classroom.

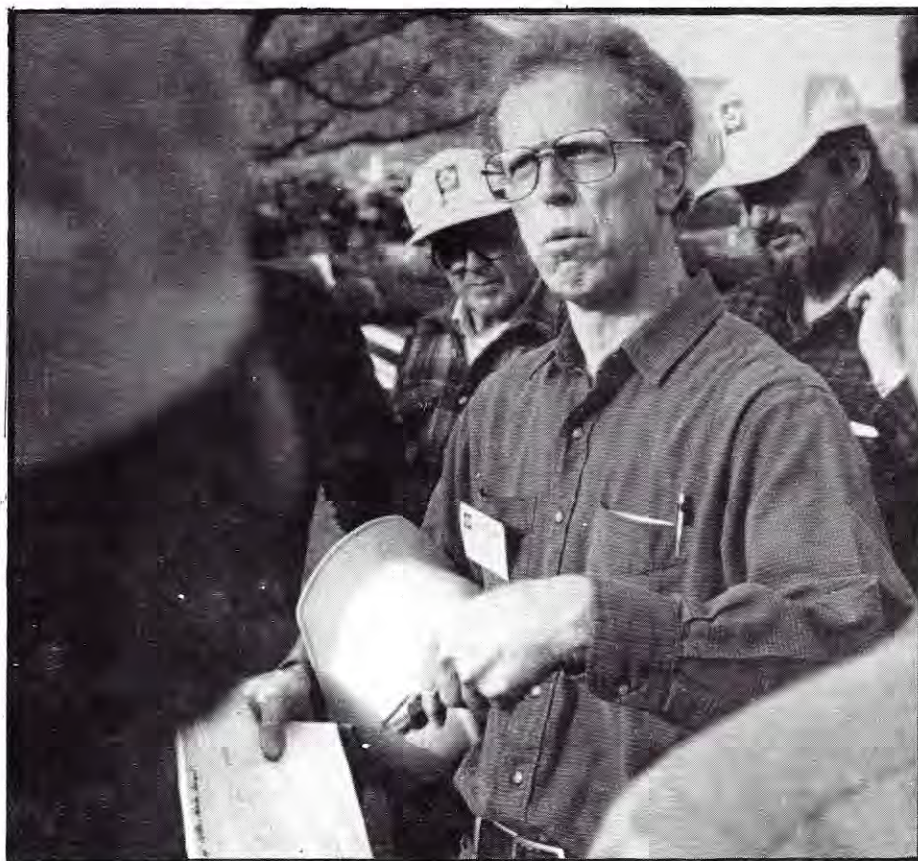
Bottom: Thirty-two participants from 20 counties gather at beginning of wildlife management demonstration area on Cornell's Arnot Forest in Tompkins County.

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A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore, Richard Fox, Alan Knight, Mary McCarty
Norm Richards and Dave Taber.

Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: R. Fox, R.D. #3, Box 88, Moravia, New York 13118. 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 memberships and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport N.Y. 14450.



Frank Rose, Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.'s lumber salesman, and 1992 Chairman of the New York State Tree Farm Committee discusses prices of lumber, logs, and stumpage with Master Forest Owners.

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President's Message



STUART McCARTY

Two months ago on a WFL woodswalk in the Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area near Canandaigua, Mary and I met Ann Baker, a new member of NYFOA. In talking to her we learned that she did not own a woodlot, but had joined NYFOA because she was planning on buying one and wanted to learn all she could about forestry and woodlot management before she made a major investment.

This reminded me of how Mary and I went about buying our woodlot near Whitney Point in 1974 when we lived in the Binghamton area. While we knew something about trees and enjoyed the woods, we really knew nothing

about forestry, or about the multiple use management of a woodlot. We enjoyed walking in a forest of hemlocks, white pines, soft maple, shagbark hickory and ironwood trees! And that's what we bought! If we only had had Ann Baker's smarts.

However, having bought 62 acres of low quality forest and open fields, we decided to see if we could improve it, knowing that it is almost impossible to make a "silk purse out of a sow's ear" as my father-in-law used to say. We had a management plan prepared with the aid of a Soil and Water Conservation agent and a DEC forester. We proceeded to try to carry it out. This included building a pond, girdling five acres of white pine under a cost sharing program, and planting 2500 seedlings, (white spruce, red pine and larch). And we enjoyed our very own woods with a neat ravine running through it carved out by Rouse's Run.

Not everything has worked out. The pond has been a disaster from the beginning. We had to build a new road for the bulldozer to avoid a fracas with the neighbor through whose dooryard we had a right of way. The pond has never held water! The white spruce and the red pine were planted too

close together, the recommended 5' x 5' and 6' x 6' spacing. As a result severe thinning is now needed. Many of the red pine, planted in a hay field as a wind break on the southern boundary of the property, were lost due to girdling by field mice.

In 1977 we moved to Rochester making it more difficult to give the necessary time and effort to our woods. In 1981 Bob Sand helped us with a "cull" cut, removing 121 trees to make room for bigger and better trees to grow. That was a success and perhaps it is time to have another go at it.

So now you can see why we are such ardent supporters of NYFOA! As woodlot owners there is lots to learn. Or if you are wise as is Ann Baker there is lots to learn *before* one becomes an owner. We wish her well and solicit suggestions on how we can get to those prospective owners before they take the plunge. In the meantime Mary and I will continue to try to be good stewards of our acreage, having learned much about the subject through trial and error and through association with many well informed members of NYFOA since we joined in 1975.

Trapping Furbearers and Animal Rights

By 'LFEE' SIGNOR

I would like to thank Paul Curtis for the article on Raccoon in the Dec/Jan issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER. I am an avid trapper, hunter, and woodsman as well as a retired farmer who has lived 76 years on the land and in the woods of New York State. I have many pleasant memories of trapping coon, mink, skunk, and rats.

When I was just a kid in the twenties, trapping was a way of life for farm boys and their parents. I often wonder how many pairs of gloves and shoes plus winter coats were paid for with fur money. During the Great Depression, the meat, fur, and exercise derived from trapping went a long way towards paying and preparing for one's life.

I distinctly remember working for \$9.00 in wages per week on farms during the summer; then when fall arrived, I might make that much from a single day's trapping. Skunk were as high as \$5.00 for a fine black, a half-stripe perhaps \$2 or \$3; we would even skin whites for 50 cents. The

occasional mink was worth \$10 to \$15 and then muskrat and coon might bring 15 cents to a dollar; no matter, it all helped.

Trapping is much different now; traps are more humane, scents more effective and the available equipment more useful. Just a few years ago, coon jumped to \$25 for a good one; but now there are so many, they are a nuisance. Not many folks will trap for a \$2 coon, thousands live in the towns, large numbers are killed on the highways; the population is too high. Rabies is showing up in many counties. The anti- and animal rights people are against any trapping or hunting which causes a bit of a hassle for us old diehards.

I still trap; but I use the new conibear body hold traps that kill quickly. I believe one should respect the animal, yet harvest them in order to manage and control a healthy resource. Coon will raid garbage cans and live in old cars and dumps. Other anti- complain about wildlife-damaged residences, damage to orchards and other agricultural

crops, and risks associated with the highways.

I believe youngsters would be more self-reliant and less vicious towards their peers if they would get out in the woods, trapping. They would certainly learn the value of our renewable resources. Consider the pollution to the environment resulting from man-made fiber and fabric.

All things were put here on earth for a purpose; a part of God's All Seeing Plan; but it's up to us who are able to think, to use them the best way we can.

Finally, another old cus (83 years old) and I who trap to help manage a healthy crop of fur bearers, have helped control the possum that consumes so many birds; we have caught over a hundred in three years. A 10 year old grandson caught a 25 pound coon this season and I guess we're both proud of that.

'Lfee' Signor is one of the Living Treasures of Southern Cayuga County and a spiritual leader of NYFOA's Cayuga Chapter.

Burning the Woods

By DAVE M. RIORDAN

I looked at my watch — 11: a. m., conditions are perfect — low humidity and little wind. The fire lanes are all built, and we've got plenty of manpower. So Charlie Boone and Bob Demeree man the drip torches and start strip-burning the forest. It burns good, with much smoke; and we even have some flare-up and small crown fires. We're done burning by 1:00 p. m., and 10 acres are newly charred. November 1, 1977 is an historic day in that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation set its first prescribed fire on Hammond Hill State Forest near Dryden in Tompkins County.

But why would forest managers, the promoters of Smokey and protectors of the forest, do such a thing? Quite simply — as a research management tool. Across New York State are many thousands of acres of mixed oak - northern hardwood forest stands. On many of these acres, red and white oak are the far superior species for growth, timber value, wildlife, and general vigor. But the oaks are in trouble — they are not regenerating. Shade tolerant northern hardwoods, as maple, beech, and others, along with many shrub species are out-competing oak seedlings for survival in the understory, and when the stand is finally harvested, oaks are not represented in the new forest.

In the past century, disturbances in the understory from grazing, fire, heavy cutting, low deer population, and farming have encouraged oak to regenerate and be well represented as mature trees today. Forest managers have done such a good job in eliminating grazing, fire, and overcutting that oak today across the Southern Tier and its natural range is under stress. Some modern-day maladies as gypsy moth, commercial

overcutting, and heavy deer populations add to the oak problem. Anyone who owns or walks through a mature woodlot of healthy, straight, tall, red oak growing with short, knotty, and less vigorous red maple and beech knows the importance of sustaining oak in the future in these sites.

Our Cortland DEC office recognized this problem in the 1970's and contacted the State University of New York College of Forestry & Environmental Science at Syracuse. Two people stand out in my mind over almost 20 years of burning and research — Dr. Ralph Nyland (SUNY CESF) and Bob Demeree (Assistant Regional Forester, DEC Reg. 7). Our cooperative research goal was to test fire as a tool for eliminating shrub species and tolerant hardwood seedlings from the oak-hardwood understory. When we had created this park-like understory, the oak would have a more favorable habitat to regenerate or sprout. Ideally, after several growing seasons we would have a new developing understory that would include at least 500 red or white oak per acry, at least 3 feet tall. At this point, other forest research confirms that a timber harvest that removes the overstory — a clearcut — will release these oak seedlings and other hardwoods to favor a new oak forest. This is our ultimate goal. Our specific goal is to use fire safely and in a prescribed manner to kill understory vegetation.

Since 1977 we have burned about 8 times on 4 different study areas. We've had mixed results and a brief summary of our observations follows:

1. Burning is very unpredictable in Central N. Y. Conditions are usually too wet. Of the 8 burns we've done in spring and autumn, only 2 were hot enough to effectively kill the understory. On one of these sites at

Danby, we had tremendous oak reproduction so we harvested the understory. In 5 growing seasons we now have a very successful oak-hardwood sapling stand.

2. Usually 2 - 3 burns will be necessary, over a decade, to effectively control the understory. Monitoring of oak regeneration is essential in this process.

3. Following safety guidelines of fire lands, fire suppression personnel and equipment, fire weather, fuel and moisture, we can conduct a safe and controlled burn. On large acreages of 10 acres + it seems cost effective to control or kill understory vegetation. Herbicides are the other alternative that we haven't tried.

4. At this point, if we have the right burning conditions, we can effectively kill the understory and create a habitat more suitable for oak regeneration. Then, other factors will determine seedling success before final release by a harvest of the overstory.

We can conclude fire to be a useful silvicultural and management tool for the forester in Central New York. This is not an earth-shattering discovery, since fire is being used throughout North America.

It is now legal in New York State to burn on private land. But the permit process is elaborate, and burning is not practical for more private woodlots. Herbicides are a better alternative where conditions warrant it.

But what is significant in my perspective is the cooperative research effort between DEC and SUNY CESF, and that State Forests are being used for practical research and demonstration on how to manage our forest resource.

Dave Riordan is a NYS DEC Senior Forester with particular responsibilities on State Forest in Region 7.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

480a Now, Never, Maybe?

By VERNER HUDSON

It is inevitable that taxes on our forest lands will continue the upward spiral. If your land is located near an urban area you can expect to see your tax liabilities steadily mount relative to decreasing state support of regional municipalities. On the other hand, if your forest land is located in a rural area you will more than likely experience a stabilization of property taxes. These are fairly broad generalizations regarding property taxes which may or may not describe your current position. The point to be made is that the application of 480a cannot be categorically applied to every situation with an outcome that will satisfy everyone.

I have come to this conclusion based on my experience this past summer when I examined the impact that 480a would have on my woodland in Elbridge, NY. The first thing you must do is determine if you qualify for application under 480a. The principle criteria is that you own at least 50 contiguous acres of forest land. The other details of the tax law I will not address in this article, but will refer you to a very good booklet provided by the DEC related to 480a; "Real Property Tax Law; February 1990."

After spending a considerable amount of time reviewing the tax law with my Philadelphia lawyer and doing the calculations based on my current tax liabilities, I headed for the Onondaga County tax assessor's office. Mr. William Schneider, Director of Real Property Division, was extremely helpful in providing data on the tax structure of my property and adjacent farm lands. At the present time no one in Onondaga County is under 480a tax status. The tax roles also indicated that productive farm lands in my area had on average a higher assessment than my property.

With this additional information, I sat down to reevaluate my position. Not all of my property is woodland. There is a mix of productive farmland, wet lands and property that our home and support buildings are situated on. A possible scenario that I could face if I put the woodlands under 480a would be a reassessment of my



VERNER HUDSON

taxes on non-forest lands at a level consistent with surrounding farms. Potentially my taxes could be at a level that would erase any benefits that 480a may have provided.

A meeting with Bob Demeree, at the DEC office in Cortland tended to validate this conclusion. 480a in all probability does not provide a tax "advantage", but more of a tax "protection" for forest owners. If you balance your income against taxes and are showing a profit, you may not be a good candidate for 480a. However, if your property taxes are at 100% assessment and your financial returns no longer cover your tax

liabilities, 480a "protection" may be your only recourse.

From this personal experience I would suggest that each forest owner take some time to evaluate their tax position within the context of 480a. This exercise will help you to understand the ramifications of this law to your particular situation and define your future alternatives.

Let me go on record by saying that I feel that 480a is a good tax law. Through the tireless efforts of NYFOA members like Mike Demeree we have a law that provides forest owners a level of protection to help guarantee that forest lands will remain in production into the foreseeable future. We should all support efforts to refine the law so that local municipalities and state government take an equitable share in the conservation of forest lands and the financial returns they yield.

Verner Hudson and his wife Marjorie were selected as New York State Outstanding Tree Farmers for 1988. Verner, a member since 1971 of the Region 7 Forest Practice Board, represents the region and serves as the Treasurer for the New York State Forest Practice Board.

Current Use Under Attack in New Hampshire

Despite lengthy study and analysis which led to last year's major current use reform bill, the 1992 session of the New Hampshire Legislature will revisit the current use issue, amid growing public pressure that current use "is a tax ripoff that benefits the wealthy." Bills have already been filed to 1) repeal current use altogether; 2) assess an "education surtax" on current use landowners; 3) require unrestricted public access to all lands enrolled in current use; and 4) dedicate new revenues from a possible six percent income tax to communities with large acreages enrolled in the state's 18 year-old open space taxation program.

Public pressure to "do something" with current use has been building steadily since adoption of the past

session's landmark legislation, in which numerous changes were made favorable to forest landowners. The media had a "heyday" when Governor Gregg recently enrolled his considerable woodlands following revaluation in the Town of Greenfield.

With more than 55 percent of New Hampshire's taxable private land enrolled in current use, the program remains the absolute foundation of the state's precarious farm and forest economy. Landowners, loggers and others whose livelihoods depend on keeping wooded lands available for harvesting need to make known their views as the legislature renews its perennial tinkering with current use.

From THE NORTHERN LOGGER & TIMBER PROCESSOR, Nov. 91

Bats

By BETTY DENSMORE


Dick Fox got a big laugh when I related what happened when we cut down two hollow beech trees. The air was filled with dozens of helpless creatures fluttering in the daylight because we had inadvertently destroyed their roost. He chuckled about my "cavity nesting bats", as he named them; another example of the widespread misinformation that abounds about one of New York's most special mammals. Bats don't nest.

Experts seem to disagree on many "facts" about bats. The CONSERVATIONIST claims nine species are found in New York State, others put the number as high as 13. There are a few things we should all know about this amazing family such as: there are at least 850 species worldwide, they are found on every continent except Antarctica, the smallest is the Butterfly Bat of S. E. Asia (about the size of a bumblebee, also the world's smallest mammal), the largest is the Flying Fox of the tropics with a wingspan of up to 6' (the true stuff of nightmares for those who fear bats). Bats are mammals who suckle their young and reproduce at the rate of only one baby a year which means bat populations cannot quickly recover numbers. 6 species of N. Y. bats are known to winter in caves throughout the state, the other species migrate to the South.

The most common myth is that bats will blunder into you and get in your hair. Think about it: this little guy can snatch a mosquito out of the air in the dark while zooming around like a Top Gun . . . how (and why) would he hit a human being? Hair is of little interest to them.

And this rabies business! In the past 4 decades only eleven people have been verified to have contracted rabies from bats. Sure, they carry the disease, as do most mammals, but you'd be far more likely to get rabies from your family dog. Eleven cases in 40 years does not seem like an epidemic, although a sensible caution should be exercised with all wild animals.

Bloodsucking Vampire Bats? Yes, in Central America . . . you are more apt to see a Flamingo in N. Y. than a Vampire Bat.





A measure of the amazing diversity of bats is the variety of foods consumed by the many species: insects, fruit, nectar, pollen, fish, frogs, blood and even other bats. Only grass and grazing material is missing from their menu.

But what good are they?

The most common N. Y. S. bat, the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), consumes up to 30% of its body weight each night (a nursing female up to 50%) and the favored food is mosquitos. We are talking 1000 to 3000 mosquitos each night. What an ecologically sound bug zapper! Once one gets past the idea that you could be his next target, watching a bat in flight is better than watching the Blue Angels. Swooping, darting, changing direction at top speed, missing obstacles with clever maneuvers at the last possible second! All done with sonar more sophisticated than anything the Defense Department can claim. One of the reasons for the enormous consumption is an incredible metabolism; a bat in flight has a heartrate of over 1300 beats per minute.

Most bats spend their days hanging upside down in warm, dry, dark places, certainly most nurseries are in attics and barns. I have found bats under loose roofing, in the space between rafter gussets; even under loose bark in the woodpile. My guess as an amateur bat watcher is that the colonies in the hollow beeches were using these trees as safe day roosts, not nurseries. We are fortunate to have an old house on our property which houses a large, growing colony and nursery. But a walk down the road through the woods on a warm summer night proves that the woods have an active population.

While I'm pleased with the colony of bats that call my property home each summer, I'm not the only crackpot who wants to protect and nurture bats. The venerable Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, N. Y. has for years encouraged a large population to help rid the grounds of mosquitos during the numerous outdoor cultural events held there on summer evenings. In the past few years an alarming decline in



the population of this valued bat colony has prompted the ladies of Chautauqua's Bird, Tree and Garden Club to provide a grant to a professor of York University in Ontario to try to increase bat numbers. To date there has been limited success. Bat houses have been built and installed throughout the village.

I wasn't always on the right side of bat conservation but knowing a bit about them and having the old cabin with its colony right next door has given me a better perspective on the situation. They have never hurt me, they are interesting to watch and I cringe to think of what the mosquito hordes would number without their presence. To watch a bat dip down and drink as it skims across the pond in twilight then turn and zip so close by me that I can literally feel him pass a hair's breadth away from me gives an appreciation of our friends of the night; another close encounter with a creature who is truly unique.

Oh, by the way, the only foolproof method of attracting bats on "command" is said to be for a piper to skirl his bagpipes . . . alas, they cling to the piper, his pipes and clamber up his kilt. Not many pipers can be persuaded to do this in the gloaming. Personally, I wouldn't either; but I will admit to changing political affiliation over the death of a bat. At a meeting of our county Committeemen a bat entered the building and was killed by the frenzied mob; not too many days later this committeeperson changed to Independent. We can always replace political functionaries (or is it dysfunctionaries?) but we can't afford to kill off bats.

Bat houses have been used in Europe for several decades with some success, plans are available from the Green Team of your local Boy Scouts. Much useful information on bats and bat houses can be obtained from: Bat Conservation International, c/o Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

Betty Densmore enthusiastically serves NYFOA on the Editorial Committee and is a partisan of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter.

More on NYFOA's Fall Meeting

By BILL MINERD

Turning off the Thruway on to route 219 south from Buffalo signaled the final leg of our trip to Salamanca and Allegany State Park, site of the fall NYFOA meeting. For me there was also the feeling of coming home, for 20 miles ahead lay Springville, New York, my home town. As the wipers sweep the rain and fog from view, the Winnebago started the climb up the ridge of the Boston Valley toward our destination.

A time check with my co-pilot Clara, indicated that making the Friday night meeting was out of the question. With the weather closing in, a prudent change in speed was effected and we lumbered into the park late that evening.

Saturday dawned with a burst of color that would almost shame a Van Gogh canvas. The forest was at peak autumn splendor set against a clear blue sky. A quick drive to Allegany Camp brought a hardy breakfast and instructions for the caravan that would take us to the Allegheny National Forest, another 45 miles south of the park in Pennsylvania.

The program for the day consisted of visiting three sites in the forest that demonstrated current research programs in forest management. Our first stop was at a site that demonstrated varying densities of thinning from which data is being collected to develop stand growth simulator models and managed yield tables. Initial results indicate that a relative density of approximately 60% was yielding slightly greater cubic volume growth than stands that were at 100% or 30% relative density.

At the next stop we were presented with a series of management strategies that are part of an 80 year study that was begun in 1980. As we walked to the study area our path was lined with magnificent Black Cherry trees in numbers that would melt a mill owners heart. Our tour guide moved us through different sections of the more experimental area while explaining management approaches. Most Allegheny hardwood stands are under even-age management for perpetuating timber production of

valuable shade intolerant species such as Black Cherry and White Ash. In contrast, uneven-age management will yield more continuous forest cover where aesthetic, recreational and wildlife habitat are valued. These and other various treatments were presented with a special emphasis on regeneration of valued hardwood species.

During the informal roadside lunch we had an opportunity to further discuss two problems that were mentioned at both test sites. It seems that a decline of Sugar Maple is occurring in the region. The exact reason for this decline was not clearly evident but may be due to a number of compounding factors one of which is a high deer population. The statement was made that the deer population within the region may very well drive the entire ecosystem.

The afternoon was waning and we had one more stop to make. The last presentation for the day dealt with the use of herbicide to control ground covers of Hayscented and New York Fern, grasses and sedges or understories of Striped Maple and Beech root suckers that greatly interfere with advance regeneration. In addition to a discussion of herbicide treatment and outcomes, we were treated to one of the most lucid and practical lectures on the use and safety of two common herbicides, Roundup (Monsanto) and Oust (du Pont). The point was made that both herbicides when used approximately had a low order of toxicity to humans and wildlife and pose little threat to the environment.

The day ended with farewells to old and new friends amid a light shower moving in from the west. I must admit that this was one of the most informative programs that I have attended. I would highly recommend that every member make an attempt to attend one of the upcoming state meetings. You will not be disappointed.

Bill Minerd is Vice-President of the Central New York Chapter and shares with his wife Clara, the management of a small Christmas tree plantation.

Forest Stewardship Video- Conference Scheduled

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1992

Forest Stewardship, including cost sharing incentives for owners of small private forest lands, is the topic of a national videoteleconference program scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 1992, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET.

Complemented by a local on-site panel of forestry experts, the video-conference program will be presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County. Priscilla M. Johnson, Cooperative Extension Agent is coordinating the program. The satellite broadcast videoconference from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service will focus on the following Concepts:

- * Becoming a Forest Steward
- * How to get more from your land
- * Proper Management practices
- * Cost-share opportunities
- * The Forest Stewardship Program
- * The Stewardship Incentive Program

Topics will include: Wildlife habitat, Agroforestry, Wetland Management, Endangered Species, Recreation, Forest Improvement, Regeneration, and Best Management Practices.

Cooperators in providing the Satellite broadcast program are the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The national videoconference program coordinator, Dr. Steven Anderson of Cooperative Extension at Oklahoma State University reports that over 100 local sites in 20 states are planning to participate in the National Forest Stewardship Videoconference.

Anyone with access to a satellite dish can view the program on Galaxy 6, Transponder 22.

Shiitake Mushroom As a Hobby

By AUDREY CHILDS

Growing Shiitake mushrooms is a great experience! Friends of ours, Don and Jan Lawson, and Bob and I decided to try them a few years ago. We took Oak logs, drilled holes, filled the holes with spawn and sealed each hole with red and green wax from old Christmas candles!! What an unusual sight to see them neatly placed in our spruce woods. We were rather skeptical but figured it was an interesting experience. What a thrill when approximately a year later we had our first harvest.

In the above paragraph I oversimplified the process we followed but I wanted to get your interest!!

The Shiitake (*Lentinus edodes*) is a delicious mushroom that grows on decaying trees. Cultivation of this "Black Mushroom" has been practiced for centuries in Japan and interest in North America has been growing for several years.

If you decide you'd like to try this new hobby, then planning is a must. In our area Oaks are definitely the best producers. The ideal log is 4 inches in diameter and 40 inches long, straight, and free of wounds. The trees should be cut during the coldest month of the year so the sap is down in the wood.

Spawn comes in sawdust form and in plugs. We used plugs and the preparation of the logs is the same for both. Twenty-four holes are normally drilled in a 4" x 40" log, in four rows of six holes each to an approximate depth of 5/8 inch below the level of the bark. You should dip your drill bit into iso-propyl alcohol to disinfect it after finishing each log. Each log should be filled as soon as it is drilled to prevent contamination of airborne spores from other fungi. Grab your plug with clean fingers and tap it into the hole, then seal with wax. It is easiest to do one row at a time.

When all your logs are prepared you are ready for the next step. This is the incubation period and perhaps the most critical phase of the cultivation process. We stacked our logs in alternating layers (log cabin style) in a dark, moist spruce woods. It is most important that each log have adequate airspace.

After about six months Bob made a rack between two spruce trees and we leaned the prepared logs against it, vertically, one on one side, the next on the other. This allows the mushrooms to appear on all sides of the log. Tradition says that changing the orientation of the log from horizontal to vertical stimulates the fungus to

enter the "fruiting" phase of its cycle. (According to information available it takes 18 months for incubation, however we only allowed six months.) We got a few mushrooms the following spring and each year thereafter they have produced about two — five gallon pails full each spring and fall. These logs will produce from three to seven years.

Bob and I are getting ready to prepare new logs and the research we have done indicates that there has been successful fruiting on Maple and Hophornbeam logs. It has also been proven that spawn in the form of sawdust is superior and more economical than the plugs, which we used five years ago.

If you'd like more detailed information on Shiitake mushrooms, you can contact the Forest Resource Center, Rt. 2, Box 156A, Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949. The center offers an information paper three times a year, entitled "Shiitake News".

Audrey Childs and her husband Bob were recognized as Outstanding Tree Farmers in NY State for 1991 (see NY FOREST OWNER, Jul/Aug, p 17), and are active members of Allegheny Foothills Chapter and Master Forest Owners.

1991 National Outstanding Tree Farm on Video Tape

Washington D. C. Sept. 1991 — The American Forest Institute (AFI), here, just announced that a New York State Tree Farmer has been selected as the Outstanding Tree Farmer in the Nation for 1991, according to Lester C. DeCoster, Vice President, of AFI's American Tree Farm System.

Dr. John and Mrs. Harriet Hamilton of Springwater, NY in Livingston County are the 1991 Nation's Outstanding Tree Farmers. They have been recognized for their continuous forest stewardship of a property that Harriet Hamilton's father, Arthur Davis, of Rochester, purchased in 1932.


A videotape about Tree Farming and the Hamilton's Outstanding Tree Farm was produced in October 1991. It features viewpoints of John and Harriet Hamilton and scenic views of their Tree Farm.

Videotaped by David W. Taber of Cornell Cooperative Extension,

Department of Natural Resources, and edited by Thomas B. Reagan, TV Engineer, Instructional Services, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY CESF), and Taber, the almost ten minute long videotape may be borrowed for \$5.00 or purchased for \$50 from SUNY CESF. Send a check, payable to SUNY CESF, to Stella D. Kroft, Instructional Services, SUNY College of Environmental Science and

Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210 (Tel. 315/470-6727).

In addition, a slightly shorter videotape entitled, "Outstanding Tree Farmer in New York State - 1991" featuring the Robert and Audrey Childs's Tree Farm, of RD Hinsdale (Town of Humphrey), in Cattaraugus County, is available for the same prices from SUNY CESF.



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Successful Income Tax Video Teleconference Held

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County hosted, under the leadership of Priscilla M. Johnson, Cooperative Extension Agent, a National Video Teleconference at its educational center in Norwich during November, 1991.

Forty-four persons from 19 counties attended the 5 hour program which featured nationally recognized experts on federal income taxes by satellite transmission from the University of Georgia, as well as local on site tax specialists. New York's forest economist, Professor Hugh O. Canham from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Consulting Forester Curtis H. Bauer, of Forecon, Inc. in Jamestown, provided on site introductory remarks. And accompanied by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Service Forester William Betts and Cornell Cooperative Extension Associate David W. Taber of the Department of Natural Resources they provided panel responses to questions at the conclusion of the program. The two tax experts who presented remarks and answered questions directly by way of a toll free telephone line were U.S. Forest Service Chief Economist

William C. Siegel, J.D., of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist Harry Lee Haney, Jr., Ph.D.

Thirty respondents to pre-meeting and post-meeting questionnaires provided the following information.

- ★ Attendees came from 19 counties
- ★ Attendees owned 2,375 forest acres in 14 counties
- ★ Attendees included 16 landowners, 7 accountants, 7 farmers, 5 Agency foresters, 5 Christmas tree growers, 2 college students, 1 tax practitioner, and 1 real estate appraiser.

Ninety-four percent of the attendees found the program to be worth their time, money and effort; and 6 percent were uncertain.

Attendees from the following 19 counties: Kings (Brooklyn), Orange, Erie, Nassau, Washington, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Delaware, Cayuga, Oneida, Madison, Chenango, Schuyler, Oswego, Tioga, Lewis, Otsego, Onondaga, and Tompkins counties owned forest land in 14 New York counties: Broome, Chenango,

Cortland, Delaware, Lewis, Livingston, Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Otsego, Schuyler and Tioga counties, as well as New Hampshire and Maine.

Other cooperators in providing the video teleconference were the NYS Woodsmen Field Days Corporation and the NY Forest Owners Association

RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING. 1. Primer Helps Forest Owners at Tax Time" which appeared in the Cornell Agriculture News Service of November, 1991 - by David W. Taber. 2. "Forest Owners Guide to Timber Investments, The Federal Income Tax and Tax Record-keeping," USDA Agriculture Handbook No. 681 (Price \$5.00), available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402-9322 (Tel. 202/783-3238) by specifying the following Stock Number: 001-000-04540-7-W. 3. "Federal Income Taxes and Forest Ownership" (an 8 page article) by Professor Hugh O. Canham, Forest Economist, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Warm Temperatures Cause Needle Loss on Cut Christmas Trees

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

Why do some cut Christmas trees shed needles more quickly than others? In addition to differences in tree species and the natural effects of insects and diseases, research has determined that if the moisture content of needles on cut Douglas fir trees drops significantly because of dehydration, they will not regain moisture and will fall off.

This research pertains to Douglas fir trees that have been placed in a home without a water-containing stand or to a tree that has blocked conductive tissues at its base because of dirt, pitch, and/or an "air block" (embolism) in the water-conductive wood (xylem cells).

James P. Lassoie, a tree physiologist with the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell, notes

that different species have different abilities to retain desiccated needles. For instance, white spruce is renowned for losing its needles when they become dry.

When cut trees are subjected to warm temperatures before they are placed in a water-containing stand, needle stomates (pores that open and close to regulate the release of moisture) transpire water from the tree. Transpiration from the needles, Lassoie notes, results in internal suction in the xylem (especially the sapwood) that absorbs water through the wood right down to the base of the cut evergreen. What happens then? Because there is no water at the butt end of the tree stem, an embolism is formed.

Depending on the amount of heat, transpiration, and resulting movement of water within the stem, the air bubble (embolism) may be rather long at the base of the tree. So even when a small disk of wood is cut

from the stem, air blockage in the woody cells still prevents water from being absorbed. The result is that the needles are not provided with water and therefore they dry out. Then depending on the species of tree, the needles are either retained in a dry condition or easily fall off.

Bark, inner bark, and cambium cells, which are radially further out from the tree's center than the sapwood, are not important absorbers and translocators of water. They actually can be removed from a Christmas tree without significantly affecting the absorption of water by the wood, which replenishes moisture transpired by the tree's needles for evaporation into the atmosphere, notes Lassoie. This point is important for people who need to remove the bark to make a large stem fit into a water-containing tree stand or who have a tree with mechanically injured bark on the stem.

New York's Certified "Master Forest Owners"

By DAVE TABER

Nov. 3, 1991 — A select corps of experienced and highly motivated forest owners became certified "Master Forest Owners" at Cornell University's Arnot Forest for Teaching and Research, according to Gary R. Goff, the program's director.

Thirty-two Master Forest Owners from 20 counties in New York completed the 3-day Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Training Program to complement their years of practical experience and interest in forest stewardship. The term "coverts," a patch of brush, refers to good habitat for a popular game bird, the ruffed grouse. As such coverts is symbolic of the importance of habitat management for wildlife.

The principal goal of the Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is to prepare qualified individuals to encourage and motivate other woodland owners to practice sound forest management principles. During the training program the Master Forest Owners learned about sawtimber and wildlife management, forest economics, and forest ecology. In addition, they learned how forest owners' needs can be met with the assistance of public and private agencies or organizations, and the services of professional resource managers such as foresters.



At Cotton-Hanlon, Inc. sawmill of Cayuta, NY in Schuyler County, Master Forest Owners learn practical information about log grading and scaling from David Skeval, Chief Forester for the company.

Master Forest Owners are volunteers who will discuss forestry with interested woodland owners to help them evaluate management options for their forest lands. Forest owners may contact a Master Forest Owner to discuss opportunities for obtaining the most from one's woods and/or to learn more about the training program. The Master Forest Owner Training Program will be offered to other forest owners in 1992.

The New York Master Forest Owners/COVERTS Program is sponsored by the Ruffed Grouse Society, The National Wild Turkey

Federation, and the New York Forest Stewardship Program. The jointly sponsored training of volunteer Master Forest Owners was conducted in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests; and the New York Forest Owners Association.

For more information about the program's benefits and opportunities contact Gary R. Goff, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001 (Tel. 607/255-2824).

1991 Master Forest Owners

BROOME COUNTY

John R. Ellis
RD 3, Box 3577-1
Windsor, NY 13865
(607) 363-7501

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

Robert & Audrey Childs
3208 Cooper Hill Road
Hinsdale, NY 14743
(716) 557-2529

Dr. Stephen W. Eaton
Ten Mile Road, Box 104
Alleghany, NY 14706
(716) 373-0301

CAYUGA COUNTY

Richard J. Fox
RD 3, Box 88
Moravia, NY 13118
(315) 497-1078

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Albert W. Brown
Connelly Park, Box 184
Stow, NY 14785
(716) 763-9067

Ralph P. Gennarino
P. O. Box 103
Stow, NY 14785
(716) 763-8376

CHEMUNG COUNTY

Robert A. Gibbs
3935 Breed Hollow Road, RD 1
Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 562-3917

CHENANGO COUNTY

Clair B. McCarty
RD 1, Box D
Sherburne, NY 13460
(607) 674-6394

LEWIS COUNTY

Rodney & Sheila Buckingham
RD 3, Box 168
Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-7361

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

John & Harriet Hamilton
8785 Schribner Road
Wayland, NY 14572
(716) 728-5769

Dale R. Schaefer
6017 Cty. Rd. #37
Springwater, NY 14560
(716) 367-2849

MADISON COUNTY

Peter G. Gianforte
Ridge Road
Cazenovia, NY 13035
(315) 687-3749

MONROE COUNTY

John Krebs
1239 West Bloomfield Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
(716) 624-1793

ONEIDA COUNTY

Chester Paprocki
RD 1, Box 74
Vernon, NY 13476
(315) 829-4546

Duane K. Ulrich
RD 2, Box 87A
Boonville, NY 13309
(315) 942-2309

OSWEGO COUNTY

Harold A. Petrie
RR 1, Box 117
Parish, NY 13131
(315) 625-7526

OTSEGO COUNTY

Henry S. Kernan
RD 1
South Worcester, NY 12197
(607) 397-8805

Kenneth G. Mayne
Burlington Flats, NY 13315
(607) 965-8257

Julius E. Waller
RD 1, Box L
Cherry Valley, NY 13320
(607) 264-8039

PUTNAM COUNTY

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Putnam Valley, NY 10579
(914) 526-3032

SCHUYLER COUNTY

Andy Doyle
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Rock Stream, NY 14878
(607) 243-7934

STEBEN COUNTY

Raymond T. Dunn
RD 1, Box 51B
Hornell, NY 14843
(607) 324-4654

Theodore W. Markham
8076 Mitchellville Road
Bath, NY 14810
(607) 776-3987

Robert Paldao
RD 1, Box 109
Addison, NY 14801
(607) 359-2731

TIOGA COUNTY

Jim Signs
96 Hubbard Hill Road
Candor, NY 13743
(607) 659-4407

Roy D. Yarrington
128 Kelsey Road
Candor, NY 13743
(607) 659-7153

TOMPKINS COUNTY

Peter A. Dzikiewicz
1068 VanKirk Road
Newfield, NY 14867
(607) 564-7138

WARREN COUNTY

Ernst Spencer
9 Horicon Avenue
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(518) 965-8257

WYOMING COUNTY

John F. Finnegan
3100 Marchant Road
Warsaw, NY 14569
(716) 786-2143

The Master Forest Owner Workshop

By DICK FOX

With the remark — “The attendees are a very potent group,” NYFOA’s Executive Director John Marchant (prime proponent in the early formulation of the Master Forest Owner Program in NYS) forewarned me. A few comments I remember: “Is it possible to order clones of that speaker?” (Harriet Hamilton); with reference to bird taxonomy, “I call them LBB, Little Brown Birds” (Jack Hamilton); and, “The intent of this program is what the Forest Practice Board has been trying to do for years.” (Chet Paprocki). Upon completion and subsequent inquiry: “One would expect such group diversity to exhibit differences in outreach methods” (Bob Gibbs); “I do not have any doubts about the effectiveness of this program” (Mike Greason, NYS DEC); “A diverse group of enthusiastic volunteers who obviously enjoyed the camaraderie, the spirit, Arnot’s accommodations and the great food.” (John Finnegan); and, “As a past president of the Central NY Chapter of The Ruffed Grouse Society, I am delighted New York State has a successful program”, (Bob Hazelton, member NYS DEC Region 7 Fish & Wildlife Management Act Board).

Often the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and in this program that difference was accomplished through the direction of Gary Goff and Cornell’s Cooperative Extension.

Gary wove a superlative fabric of communication experts and extension professionals from Cornell (Merrill Ewert, Marilyn Holtham, Dave Taber, Elizabeth Greene) and from Schuyler County (Elaine Dalrymple) who used magic apples and moved mountains to locate effective paths and avoid pitfalls. Accents were provided by a New England COVERTS extension forester from Massachusetts (David Kittredge) and a Master Gardener guide from Onondaga County Cooperative Extension (Terry Ettinger). The fibers were both strong and rare and were provided by faculty of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry: Forest Owners and Stewardship (James Coufal); Forest Economics (Hugh Canham); and Forest Ecology (Robert Burgess). Principal threads throughout the fabric were employees of the New

Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests (Dan Weller, Mike Greason, Bob Demeree). Colors and dyes originated with consulting foresters (David Peterson, Mike DeMunn, David Tetz); and industrial foresters (Mike Virga, Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Company; Frank Rose and David Skeval, Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.)

As we started to caravan for a technical exercise and a green carpet treatment, courtesy of Cotton-Hanlon at Cayuta, the lead automobile halted just past the entrance to the Arnot Forest. There, 25 feet away indifferent to the Master Forest Owners and the need for coverts was the fabric’s centerpiece, a Ruffed Grouse. Despite Dave Taber’s dedicated effort using the latest audio-visual equipment to record the whole, that Ruffed Grouse is only a memory.



Sheila and Rodney Buckingham of Lowville in Lewis County, one of the three spouse-teams of Master Forest Owners.



Continuing education took place into the night for many participants. Attendee Robert R. Gibbs (center), from Chemung County, who will be editing a special news letter, along with Massachusetts Extension Forester David B. Kittredge, Jr. (right), listen to Mike DeMunn, a consultant forester.



Having their pictures taken by the program director Gary R. Goff at the Cotton-Hanlon, Inc. Sawmill of Cayuta, NY in Schuyler County, the attendees learn about the economics of logs and lumber before touring the sawmill.

Chapter Reports

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Betty Densmore

Our annual Christmas Party was held at the home of Bob and Audrey Childs in Hinsdale, N. Y. Audrey Childs and Jan Lawson hosted the party and provided the liquid refreshments.

On Jan. 25 at 10 a. m. we will join with the NFC to present a program on the 480-A tax law. It will be held at the County Extension Building on Parkside Drive in Ellicottville. Wayne Cooper will give us expert guidance on how to qualify under the law. He will walk us through the process and answer all your questions about 480-A.

CAYGUA

Wendeil Hatfield

Director Dick Hemmings organized and conducted a successful program at Floyd and Kathy Fuller's Lake Como Specialty Wood Shop. Twenty-nine attendees heard Floyd and Kathy explain all the equipment and steps necessary to build fine cabinets and specialty furniture. After the program, we moved to the Lake Como Sportsmen's Club for refreshments. We were pleased to have NYFOA President Stuart McCarty and his wife, Mary share our evening.

The annual meeting will be held January 14 at Lake Como Sportsmen's Club at 7:30 P. M. The program will be provided through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

The Cayuga Chapter will be supporting the 4th Annual Cabin Fever Festival at Fillmore Glen State Park Feb. 14 - 15, 1992.

CENTRAL NEW YORK

From the Central New York Chapter Newsletter

By TOM ELLISON

Each of us has a reason for walking in our woodlots. For some it's hunting or bird watching. For others it's the beauty of a fall day or the crunch of the snow on a crisp winter day. My main reason for walking through my tree farm was Nikki. Nikki was my five year old Black Lab. He recently

One Fine Day

By BONNIE MYERS COLTON

The chainsaw kicked! He never saw it come,
Nor felt the impact where the missile flew.
He only KNEW. And yanking quickly down,
He pulled the bloody chainbar from his neck
And headed for the tractor stumbling, faint.

A nearby friend, in horror, gasped and threw
The tools into the trailer on the run
Then hopped the fender by his wounded friend
Who drove them out, tight-clinging to the wheel
To keep from passing out, as waves of black
Swept over him and, fought against, gave up.

The ambulance was swift and bore him far.
He joked along the way to keep his cool.
But then they left him sitting in ER
Where interns came to view his gaping hole
And ask, "How could a chainsaw cut your neck?"
And hear, incredulous, his flip reply —
"It slipped while I was shaving." But his thoughts
Grew more impatient as the hours passed.
And when they finally came to tend his wound,
The natural anesthesia of the shock
Had given way to searing pain as they
Injected novocaine to start repairs
On all the ragged chunks and jagged tears.

The plastic surgeon stitched, and pieced, and stitched.
"After this heals," the plastic surgeon said,
"There'll be a lot of scars, I'll see you back."
"You wanna bet? No way!" he told the doc.
"My beard'll grow back in, an' I ain't vain."
And still the surgeon stitched and ceased to count.
"That chain went deep, and almost did you in.
Just missed your windpipe and your jugular vein.
Another centimeter either way —
You wouldn't be just "treated and released."
Like well-trained parrots all the staff chimed in —
"You sure were lucky!" Yeah, some luck," he thought,
As nimble fingers stitched and pieced and stitched.

He didn't feel so lucky, nor would they,
If faced with days of idleness and pain,
And no insurance. Still, he was alive.
And she could go apply for medicaid.
And friends would come and help. And he could rest.
And heal. And contemplate. And plan. And sip
On soothing milkshakes. Play with kids — but just
The quiet games. And watch TV. And Think.

Bonnie Colton is the THRIFT Affiliate Newsletter (HILLTALK) Editor and steadfast supporter of the Tughill region of New York.

died of a brain tumor. We used to walk for hours in the forest not realizing where the time went. When the two of us were walking I seemed to be more in touch with the forest around me. I saw much more through his eyes than I ever could alone. I watched him chasing squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, and even raccoons. Sometimes he would even attempt to chase deer, much to my displeasure. The forest was so alive when we were together. He always seemed to find the smallest things to attract his attention. Small tree frogs, mice, salamanders, and even caterpillars did not escape his keen eyes and nose. He always seemed to find them and bark until I came along to investigate. He was always about one hundred yards ahead of me on our walks but would come running back to see what was holding me up. I will miss his energy and I know my enjoyment of the forest will return someday

NIAGARA FRONTIER

Bob White

On October 19, 10 members turned out on a cold wet day for a woodswalk at Don and Edith Messinger's on Vermont Hill in Holland. The timber has not been cut off in 80 years and the trees are huge. Don says he doesn't need the money from timber sales; he

feels better paid by watching the trees grow.

On Nov. 29 we toured the American Lumber Co. in Holland. 29 attended. John Flaig, Yard Foreman conducted the tour of the yard and dry kilns. There were a lot of interesting questions from members. After lunch we drove to Pine Acres Christmas Tree farm, run by Fran Wroblewski for the past 50 years. He gave us a detailed description of his 160 acre plantation from his earliest years to the present; including his mistakes and successes. We also visited his Gift Shop.

The post-Holiday Party will be held on Jan. 11 regardless of the weather, at the home of Harry and Rita Hassey, Hemlock Hgts., 2800 Rt. 98, Varysburg, N. Y. Phone: 716-535-7149 or call Bob White at 537-2803. Bring a snack dish to pass. Watch for NYFOA signs. Party begins at 1 p. m.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

WES SUHR

In latter January, we're visiting two sawmills, one in St. Lawrence County, the other in Essex. Why two sawmills in the same month? Area-wise, we're the biggest chapter in NYFOA, with "far-flung" membership. So, to accommodate our eastern and

(Continued on Page 13)

Chapter Reports —

(Continued from Page 12)

western members, we decided to set up the tours in different mills. Dave Forness (western mill) and Dave Daut (eastern mill) are making the arrangements.

Our first NAC NEWS, a quarterly newsletter, will be mailed in January to all NAC members and a selected group of non-members. All support staff and officers* are contributing to this effort. As we gain experience with the quarterly, we expect the membership to contribute articles. NAC members interested in contributing to the spring (April) issue, please phone any of our staff* or send a note to Wes Suhr (RR#1 Box 59B, Oswegatchie, NY 13670).

Our spring field trip will visit Cornell's Uihlein Sugar Maple Research and Extension Field Station near Lake Placid on March 21 or 28, depending on weather. Dave Forness is making all the arrangements.

*In case you wish to contact any one of us, our Support Staff &/or Officers are: Don Brown (DEC-Canton - 315-386-4546), Dave and Bitsy Daut (Fountain Forestry - Tupper Lake - 518-359-3089), Dave Forness (DEC - Canton - 315-386-4546), Bob Howard (Howard Land & Forestry Consultants - Canton - 315-265-7560), Wes Suhr (Plumb Hill Products & Services - 315-848-2136).


WESTERN FINGER LAKES

Jack McMahon

On Nov. 6 the guest speaker was Jack Laschenski whose topic was "Exploring the Tax Ramifications of Woodlot Ownership." There was a question and answer period afterwards.

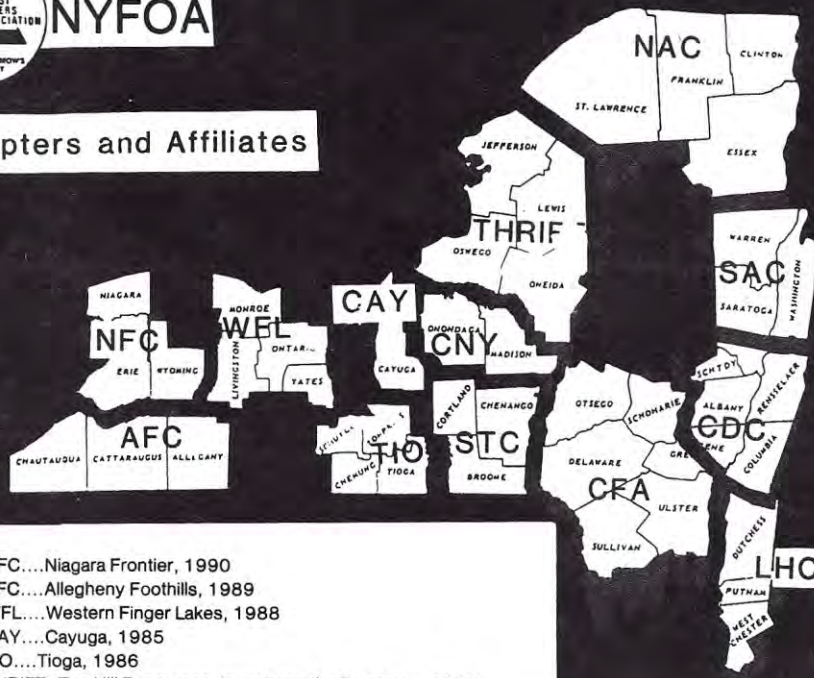
On Jan. 15 the Chapter Meeting will be at 7:30 p. m. at MONROE County Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Ave., Rochester. Our speaker will be Bruce Penrod, D. E. C. biologist who will show members how to encourage wildlife through woodlot improvements.

And Debbie Gill reports that on the weekend of October 19, 1991, John and Helen Marchant hosted the second annual overnight for their grandson's Cub Scout den from Penfield, N. Y. Their farm in Avoca, N. Y. offered a perfect mixture of woods and open fields (for playing football!). John took the group of 17 (scouts, parents and siblings) on a woodswalk. He pointed out the Bluebird houses he had



NYFOA

Chapters and Affiliates



NFC....Niagara Frontier, 1990
 AFC....Allegheny Foothills, 1989
 WFL....Western Finger Lakes, 1988
 CAY....Cayuga, 1988
 TIO....Tioga, 1986
 THRIFT...Tug Hill Resources, Investment for Tomorrow, 1982
 CNY....Central New York, 1991
 STC....Southern Tier, 1985
 CFA....Catskill Forestry Association, 1982
 LHC....Lower Hudson, 1991
 CDC....Capital District, 1991
 SAC...Southeast Adirondack, 1991
 NAC...Northeast Adirondack, 1991

put up, varieties of trees and stages of forest development. He hoped that if the boys left the weekend with only one thought it would be that it is all

right to cut down trees. The weather cooperated, offered nice brisk sleeping, and the group spent a glorious weekend in the woods.



NYFOA Executive Director John Marchant on a recent woodswalk with Cub Scouts and their parents.

Ask a Forester

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

Dick Fox has agreed to try a "round robin" approach to our ASK A FORESTER column. To begin the process, I am contacting a few foresters who are interested in writing and asking them this question: "What questions are you asked by forest owners that could be developed into practical or useful answers for the benefit of others?" Most of those contacted WANT to contribute, and I feel this will have a positive influence on the column. The greater variation in writing, professional forestry skills and professional contacts should enhance the interest level and increase the application for forest owners. Why can't we have one contributing forester from each chapter and affiliate? That would give us a 13-forester support group and insure NYFOA-wide representation for the ASK A FORESTER column. Call me at 315-848-2136 if you're interested.

— Wes Suhr

Cost Sharing

By DAVID FORNESS

At least once a week I find myself answering questions about Federal Cost Sharing Programs. The concept of cost sharing is simple. These programs have been designed so that there is someone to directly assist you at each step of the process.

I hope the following outline of the cost sharing programs will answer some of your questions and convince you of the value of participating.

THE PROGRAMS are federally funded. The ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) is the federal agency responsible for handling all the paperwork and payments. The DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) takes care of the field-work such as marking a thinning and approving the project when it is completed.

We have three cost sharing programs: ACP, FIP and the new SIP. ACP stands for the Agricultural Conservation Program; FIP is the Forestry Incentive Program; and SIP is the Stewardship Incentive Program. Some practices like thinning may be covered by any one of the three. The decision of which to use is based on availability of the program, funding in your county, the practice itself, and the size of the project.

THE PRACTICES that can be cost shared under one or more of the programs are as follows:

1) **Management Plan Development** - For the expense of having a management plan developed to document the objectives and management decisions and how those objectives can be met.

2) **Reforestation and Afforestation** - Tree planting for timber production, conservation purposes, or wildlife habitat improvement. Tree shelters may be eligible; but cost sharing can not be used for Christmas tree plantations.

3) **Forest Improvement** - To improve forest stand productivity, stand vigor, forest health, and the value and quality of wood products. Practices include woodlot improvement thinning, tree pruning, grapevine control and fencing to protect woodlots from grazing.

4) **Windbreak and Hedgerow Establishment, Maintenance and Renovation** - For the purposes of conserving energy, protecting farmsteads, homes, livestock and crops. Practices include the planting of windbreaks, hedgerows and living snowfences, and maintenance of existing ones.

5) **Soil and Water Protection and Improvement** - Maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity on forest land and along waterways.

Practices include the establishment of permanent vegetative cover and the design of forest roads, stream crossings and drainage systems. Not included is the actual construction of roads including culvert installations and maintenance.

6) **Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement** - Protect, restore, and improve wetlands and riparian areas to maintain water quality and enhance habitat.

Practices involve management or establishment of forest filter or buffer strips adjacent to wetlands and streams.

7) **Fisheries Habitat Enhancement** - Protect and enhance habitat for native fisheries including resident and anadromous species. Practices include tree planting on stream banks, filter and buffer strips establishment and management.

8) **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement** - Establish and enhance permanent habitat for game and nongame wildlife species.

Practices can include permanent wildlife plantings, creation of forest openings, wildlife oriented thinnings, wildlife corridors, creation of snags and control of undesirable plant species.

9) **Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Protection** - Restore, protect, and enhance unique habitat to sustain or expand populations of rare, threatened, or endangered native plant or animal species as defined by federal and state policies.

Practices are centered around forest land manipulation to improve the existing habitat as dictated by the requirements of the species targeted.

(Continued on Page 15)



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Environmentally, "Wood Is Good"

Environmentalists who frown on timber harvesting may not realize how much more energy intensive and environmentally harmful it is to manufacture substitutes for wood building materials, says University of Minnesota Wood products specialist Jim Bowyer.

"The gathering and processing of industrial raw materials tends to be energy intensive," says Bowyer, who conducts research for the University's Agricultural Experiment Station. "Energy consumption has major environmental impacts, relating to problems ranging from global warming to oil spills. And when you look at industrial materials in an energy context, the use of wood looks very environmentally acceptable in comparison to other materials."

Bowyer cites a study, done by the Society of Wood Science and Technology's committee on renewable resources for industrial materials, that compared the total energy costs (including harvesting, transportation, processing and construction) of manufacturing different kinds of walls used in buildings.

The study showed that it takes six to eight times more energy to make a wall of brick veneer over sheathing or of concrete blocks than to make an all-wood wall.

The two wood walls — one of plywood siding with no sheathing on a 2-by-4 frame, and the other of medium-density fiberboard with plywood sheathing on a 2-by-4 frame — required the least energy for a 100-square-foot wall: 1.99 and 2.54 million Btu oil equivalents, respectively.

However, the concrete block wall (with furring strips and gypsum board on the inside but no insulation) had an energy cost of 17.09 million Btu oil equivalents, and the brick wall scored — 17.89.

Adding steel studs to a wall of medium-density fiberboard with plywood sheathing increased the energy cost to 4.79 million Btu oil equivalents, which means that substituting steel for wood studs

almost doubles the energy used. Thus, Bowyer says, while using steel would result in fewer trees being harvested, the overall environmental impact would be negative.

In addition to these results showing wood is the most energy-efficient building material, Bowyer says that potential substitutes for wood are largely imported.

The United States, he notes, is a net importer of many raw materials, sometimes because the materials aren't found in this country, sometimes because domestic production isn't economical and sometimes because it is considered environmentally disruptive to produce them here when they can be obtained from countries with less stringent environmental regulations or concerns.

All the niobium (columbium), strontium and industrial diamonds used in this country are imported, Bowyer explains, along with at least 90 percent of manganese, bauxite, cobalt and chromium, 85 percent of asbestos, 81 percent of tin and 77 percent of nickel. The United States, he notes, is a net importer of almost all important industrial raw materials.

"When we import these materials, we are in effect exporting our pollution problems to other countries. In 100 years, given rapidly growing populations, will these countries be willing to export these raw materials to us and, even if they are, is it morally acceptable for us to do that?" Bowyer asks.

"The materials issue cannot be ignored as we seek to create a quality, sustainable environment. What we need to do is to produce raw materials to the extent we can in an environmentally acceptable way. If we choose not to consider realistically the need for materials, then our efforts to create a pristine U. S. environment will be done at the expense of the global environment." And this approach, Bowyer says, is irresponsible.

From *THE NORTHERN LOGGER & TIMBER PROCESSOR* Dec. 91.

Ask a Forester —

(Continued from Page 14)

10) **Forest Recreation Enhancement** - Establish and enhance outdoor recreation activities.

Practices that can qualify are forest trail development or maintenance including tree removal, thinning and pruning. Cross-country ski trails and nature trails would qualify.

COST SHARING - Will cover from 50% to 75% of the cost of the practice. (Depending on the program used), not to exceed the maximum rates that are established for that practice. The payment is not made till after the practice is completed.

THE PROCESS to follow:

First - Approach your forester for advice and the preparation of a management plan.

Second - Visit the county ASCS Office. Tell them what practice you are interested in and have them help you fill out the required application.

Third - Wait for approval of the application. After receiving approval you can start the practice.

Fourth - Notify the DEC forester when the project is completed. Send the bills for your expenses and the completion form to the ASCS Office.

Fifth - The ASCS reviews the bills and then makes the cost sharing payment.

THE CATCH - Most landowners are worried about what they are actually giving up to receive cost sharing money. The old adage of "You don't get anything for nothing" comes to mind. However, the only commitment required of the landowner is that he maintain the intent of the practice for at least ten years or return the money.

Dave Forness is a Senior Forester for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the Region 6 Canton office.

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More on Brooklyn's Little Tree Farmers

By JANE SORENSEN LORD

"When they swarmed off the bus and came running down the road screaming, I knew how the Jerrys must have felt at Normandy", my husband Gordon commented later.

With Ken Denks of DEC Region 3, we had planned an educational experience complete with work projects for 37 10 - 12 year olds from P120, New York's first Backyard Tree Farm program.

We were going to take a woods walk to learn tree and leaf identification, eat lunch, divide into small work groups — to plant a bushel of daffodil bulbs, rake leaves, limb, cull, and clear a small area of white pine, then light a bonfire and roast marshmallows as a finale.

There were 37 of them, three teachers, Ken, Gordon, me and my mother Hazel Sorensen — a whiz at mushroom and plant identification.

BUT, somehow, 32 pairs of work gloves, 20 trowels and all the marshmallows got left back in Brooklyn. We had 5 bow saws, four trowels, and four leaf rakes, leaving us with 24 unencumbered youngsters.

We survived the woods walk. (They were a little nervous in the woods.) We had lunch by our pond on tarps on the ground. We doled out the tools, got a couple of small groups working and sharing. Then let the rest explore nearby areas.

"Can we walk around the pond?" "Sure." "Can we climb the mountain (a hill)?" "Sure."

We are lucky our land was dry and had a good leaf cover. We are lucky our pond dropped this summer and was only 4 feet deep. We are thankful the New York City Board of Education has insurance covering lives on field trips.

Our normally peaceful land took on the sound of the Great Cyclone roller coaster. Little pond newts turned into Loch Ness monsters. Our local turkey buzzards were identified as sure pterodactyls, and sow bugs as first cousins to scorpions. Our mundane Catskill rocks were precious gems and big leaves worked fine as beanies. The barn with the air mattress was the Fun House.



"Don't worry," one of the teachers confidently told me. "They are just acting like normal children".

"Yeah, but if someone gets killed or maimed, I could lose my Tree Farm in a law suit."

"No one will get killed or maimed."

She was right. We only had one twisted ankle, one pair of pine whipped eyes. Someone got kicked in the head sliding down the hill and had a short painful, teary cry. The kid who took off his shoes and sox to wade in the pond may have come down with pneumonia later.

When I went back to school, resolved to use city parks to learn about trees, I told the principal about the unstructured chaos.

The following week Gordon and I became Tree Farm's educational program Project Learning Tree Facilitators for the American Forest Councils NYS educational program. (Horse and barn, right?)

After that, I was cornered by two of the field trip teachers.

"We took them to the Botanical Gardens woods and they identified

After that, I was cornered by two of the field trip teachers.

"We took the kids to the Botanical Gardens woods and they identified oak and maple trees. That staff was impressed."

"Please come to my class and see our Tree Farm Exhibit. I have some thank-you notes, too."

Example of Thank You Notes

Elvis Marillo

1/18/91

Dear Ms. Jane,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful time I had at your tree farm. I enjoyed everything we did. I enjoyed the long walk through the woods. I also like sawing down the trees. And I loved planting the bulb. Again, I would like to Thank you for letting us experience walking through the woods and planting the bulbs.

Sincerely,
Elvis Marillo

They had on display, acorns, Ken Denk's tree cookies — sanded and polyurethaned, Champion International's Life of the Forest posters, Tree Farm magazines and a piece of Catskill rock.

When she handed me the thank-you notes the class shouted, "Thank-you, Miss Jane."

If there is a 6th grade class of youngsters upstate who would like to write back, their address is:

Class 6 - 139
P 120
18 Beaver Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206

We are planning spring trips already.

This article is Jane's second installment (NYFOA Sept/Oct 91) in her ongoing story of trees and New York City's million school children.

—Ed.

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People and Trees — Partners in Time

By DAVID MIO HUTH

The trunk was about as big around as Jeremy's own arm, and his father wrapped his fingers around it easily, holding it straight.

"Fill it in, son."

Jeremy was too small to lift the shovel, but always eager to get his hands into the dirt, he pressed and packed soft earth into the space around the small tree, working his stubby fingers in the soil like roots of his own. He and his Father stepped back to admire the strange and silent plant.

Jeremy was amazed two years later when he found he could no longer reach the top of the little tree to pat it on the head.

But it was only a tree, after all, and didn't really have a head. As Jeremy's own head grew farther and farther away from the ground, the tree was simply something to stand beside each morning while waiting for the school bus. But sometimes, after a few more years, if he was very tired while he waited, Jeremy would lean against it and yawn.

When Jeremy graduated from college, he returned home. There was a big party and everyone came to give him cards and a little money, and to drink punch and laugh with the joy of watching a little boy grow up.

"Where has the time gone?" Everyone mentioned how clever it was to use that tree in the yard as the center support for the big tent which kept the sun off the food table.

There are some who would say that the Earth and her children of trees and hills in their cloaks of rain and seasons do not mark the passage of time. This may not be entirely true, for although a tree may measure its moments by lifetimes, those lifetimes do pass. And surely this tree bears the marks of Jeremy's carved first love, beside the learning scars of early automobile miscalculation. Did not Jeremy's own son celebrate his own graduation in this shade? And that tire that circles the waist of Jeremy's grand-daughter and dangles from those loving limbs, is it not from the selfsame car that so long ago glanced from the trunk?

And is that not Jeremy now approaching, bent and wrinkled and looking much like a tree himself? As he sits and rests upon what is now only a stump, the plateaued feet of a former strength, what does he see?

Does he see a Father and his sapling son kneel by a hole as if in prayer? Can he feel his fingers in the earth? Does he see a family gathered to be photographed beneath familiar arms? Does he watch the passing of his own

lifetime, somehow condensed to moments in the lap of this silent witness?

Of what value is a life that does not breathe in sync with the panicked scrambling of our endless string of passing moments? We already have enough paper, don't we? Even the moss on a stone spills oxygen into the air, doesn't it?

But which of nature's children stoop from their silence to remind us that there is another way to measure what we call time? A measure against the scale of growth and reflection and a rooted perspective of which moments truly make a lifetime . . .

Only the trees.

We do not know with certainty what Jeremy sees while he rests there, but the tears that are not quite from sadness and not quite from joy water his cheeks for what may be a moment, or maybe a lifetime.

David Mio Huth received a \$100.00 prize for this essay from the NYS Woodsmen's Corporation August 18, 1991 at their 44th Woodsmen's Field Days held in Boonville. There were over 30 entries in this year's annual essay contest. For more information on the events or the contest for 1992 contact: Executive Secretary Phyllis W. White; PO Box 123; Boonville, NY 13309; (315/942-4593)

Wood Energy Potential Studied in NY

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has evaluated and published assessments of three renewable energy sources and three energy-efficient technologies that policy planners used when drafting New York State's Energy Plan, according to NYSERDA chairman William D. Cotter.

In response to a directive from Governor Mario M. Cuomo, the Energy Authority in cooperation with the State Energy Office, the Department of Public Service and the Department of Environmental Conservation chose the technologies using guidelines that included their possible economic contribution, environmental impact and development potential.

Each assessment was part of an intensive planning, development and review process that included professionals from the public and private sector. First drafts were reviewed by the appropriate state agency representatives. Subsequent drafts were reviewed and revised by Energy Authority staff before external peer review.

In the area of waste wood energy, the NYSERDA found that New York State could produce 400 to 800 MW of electric power on a continuous basis over the next 20 years using relatively low-cost wastewood materials at a price competitive with conventional power generation technologies, with traditional forest materials combined with processed clean wood waste generating an additional 2800 MW of electricity at higher prices.

New York State's forest resource has been expanding as unused farmland and pastures revert to forestland. According to a 1980 United States Forest Service survey, 18.5 million acres of land area in the State are forested, more than any other northeastern state. In addition, some 4.5 million tons of construction and demolition debris are generated annually, 40 percent of which is waste wood that could generate energy. Currently, most waste wood is disposed of in landfills.

While electric power can be produced with wood feedstocks using several commercially available technologies, wood-combustion gas turbines may offer low capital cost, decreased environmental impact and greater fuel efficiency. From NL Nov. '91

Open Space and Taxes

By DAVID W. TABER,

Open space is a valuable asset. Tree farmers, forest owners, Christmas tree growers, and landscape nurseries benefit society. Tree-covered land, free of society's artifacts, is refreshing.

To municipalities that depend on property tax dollars to meet their expenses, open space is an asset. It does not require tax supported services such as education, school bus service, and sewage disposal. Open space is an amenity held in high esteem by many people. In urban and village areas open space can be at a premium. It may be in need of protection from conversion to other uses.

When well-maintained and protected from vandalism, open space is recognized for the beauty and tranquility it provides. Both improve the quality of life. Forests and agricultural and horticultural cropland can provide products consumers enjoy and open space, too. It has been said that 95 percent of Americans live on only two and a half percent of the land. In New York State about 85 percent of the population lives in urban areas. People's need for the tangible and intangible products of open space are likely to continue in perpetuity.

High property taxes tend to force open space to be subdivided or converted to other uses. For landowners who are unable to afford the tax cost, open space may be considered a luxury. But once open space is gone, it is unlikely to be recovered without paying an exorbitant price. Private landowners who provide the public with the scenic wonders of forests, wildlife, and other open space privileges are seldom recognized financially or with public praise for the benefits they provide as stewards of their land.

In "Counter-intuitive Behavior of Social Systems," Jay Forrester, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wrote 40 years ago that the system of increasing taxes for property of increased value could destroy or prevent development of socially desirable goals. An extrapolation of Forrester's logic would dictate that to preserve open space as being irreplaceable and socially beneficial forever, it should



Open space provides ornamental cedar shrubs, oaks, and blue spruce trees for landscaping at a nursery and Christmas tree farm. This open space reduces traffic congestion on near-by roads. In addition, scenic beauty and fresh air are contributed to the environment by green plants. In this commercial enterprise, when consumers receive the trees to beautify their homes, other trees will be transplanted from the nursery to the field, thereby continuing the cycle of preserving open space.

be taxed at a relatively low, or at least a reasonable, non-confiscatory level.

Perhaps some open space land should be classified as rare and endangered. It might be a vacant city lot, the undeveloped land adjacent to population centers, a village park, scenic hillsides along town or county roads, or just the undeveloped land adjacent to a road. If government or some non-for-profit environmental conservation organization finds

certain land worth preserving in its ever dynamic condition of being a biological entity (such as a forest in some stage of succession), it may want to purchase the development rights. This would reduce the value on which the landowner pays taxes while guaranteeing undeveloped open space. A willing buyer and seller could protect landowner rights and provide for the continued present-day use of the land.

Open Space

By DAVE TABER

CONSERVING OPEN SPACE IN NEW YORK STATE — A SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PLAN was received on December 4, 1991 at the Cornell Department of Natural Resources by FAX from the Policy and Planning section of the NYS DEC.

The Document is 17 pages long. Public hearings on the plan are scheduled for January 15, 1992 in Utica and January 16, 1992 in the following places (according to the "Open Space Plan Summary" report) by DEC Regions 1 - 9:

1. Bethpage

2. New York City
3. Bear Mountain
4. Schenectady
5. Saranac Lake & Queensbury
6. Watertown
7. Liverpool & Binghamton
8. Avon & Corning
9. East Aurora

The public hearing schedule follows the following agenda: 1. Workshop from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, 2. Public Hearing 2:00 - 5: pm, and 3. 7:00 - 9:00 pm Public Hearing.

Notice: the comment period on the Draft closes at 4:45 pm on Monday, January 27, 1992.

(Continued on Page 19)

Open Space —

(Continued from Page 18)

Four fundamental principles from the summary follow.

* "State open space conservation policy is the joint responsibility of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). A 1990 amendment to the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Section 49-0203, reaffirmed the role of the two agencies to 'provide for the conservation, protection, and preservation of open space, natural, historic and cultural resources and the enhancement of recreational opportunities.' "

* "The quality and character of the lives of the people of New York depend upon the quality and character of the land on which we live. Our mountains, lakes, rivers, forests and coastline, our natural landscapes and urban parks shape the way we spend our leisure time, affect the long term strength of our economy, determine whether we have clean air and water, support the web of living things of which we are a part, affect how we think about ourselves and relate to other New Yorkers."

* "New York's fields, forests, waters and wetlands, however, are at our mercy. We have the power to change the land, to conserve what is valuable to us as a people, or to destroy places which may be important to our future. How we manage change, how we protect and conserve open land while providing space for the homes, commercial centers and industrial plants we need, will have a profound impact on future generations."

* "The Draft State Open Space Conservation Plan, is intended to be part of a rational process to gather the views of New Yorkers about what open space needs to be saved for the future. It also discusses how we can conserve and manage that open land in a sensible and affordable way. The Plan recognizes that these are difficult fiscal times for New York State but that while open space conservation efforts must be fiscally prudent, they must go on in good times and bad; because, once developed, valuable open space will seldom, if ever, be open land again."

Wetlands Serve Nature and Society

By DAVID W. TABER,

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

Wetlands are a reservoir of biological diversity. They are a natural component of the topography, where relief features and moisture create dynamic ecosystems of flora and fauna that depend on soil that is constantly or periodically wet.

Freshwater Wetlands Act in 1975. To be designated a wetland the area must be more than 5 hectares (12.4 acres). The federal law's definition of a wetland, according to the "Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands" of 1989, is being revised. The Federal Register of August 14, 1991 contains proposed revisions of the manual's definition.



Many of New York's roadside wetlands do not meet the legal definition of more than 12.4 acres, but are, nevertheless, scenically and environmentally important. Although too small to be regulated by state law, this beautiful sight is abundant with life. If one looks carefully (at this wetland), one may see wood ducks and song birds, as well as reedlike marsh plants called cattails. Wetlands are dynamic in all seasons of the year, even when covered with snow. (Forest Stewardship Photo by Taber)

Nationwide, it is important to note that wetlands occur in a variety of types, places, and sizes. The appearance and use of wetlands vary significantly from east to west and north to south in the Americas and the world. Coastal wetlands are influenced by the presence of salt water from the oceans. Freshwater wetlands may be adjacent to a stream, brook, pond, or lake. In addition, wetlands may be small pockets of self-contained drainage or vast acres — with land that is normally not dry. Indicators of wetlands are water, wet soil in the root zone of plants, and plants called hydrophytes that thrive in wet or very moist soil.

State and federal laws designate wetlands. New York enacted the

Why are wetlands beneficial? They are sinks that prevent floods by absorbing and holding water. They filter water and slowly replenish groundwater aquifers. They hold sediment from erosion and prevent its further translocation. They cleanse water by chemical and biological oxidation. They provide a habitat for frogs, birds, deer, fish, snakes and turtles. They provide unique beauty, tranquility, landscape diversity, and even sources of inspiration.

Next time you see a wetland, whether it be in the winter, spring, summer, or fall, pause a moment to see, hear, and maybe smell its uniquely important contribution to the world. The wetland, each one, is part of the complex local and global ecosystems in which we live.

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Woodlot Calendar

Jan. 14 - CAY 7:30 PM, Annual Meeting Lake Como Sportsman's Club (607) 838-8280.

Jan. 15 - WFL, 7:30 PM, "Forest Management for Wildlife" by Bruce Penrod; (716) 924-2589.

Jan. 15 - 16 - Open Space Public Hearings.

Jan. 18 - CDC 6 pm. Forest Health by Mike Birmingham, (518) 457-7370.

Jan. 25 - AFC/NFC, 10 am, 480A Tax Law, (716) 537-2803.

Feb. 14, 15 - CAY Cabin Fever Festival, Fillmore Glen State Park (315) 497-1078.

Feb. 15 - FOREST STEWARDSHIP VIDEO CONFERENCE, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Satellite Galaxy 6, Transponder 22.

April 25 - NYFOA Annual Spring Meeting, Marshall Auditorium, Syracuse.