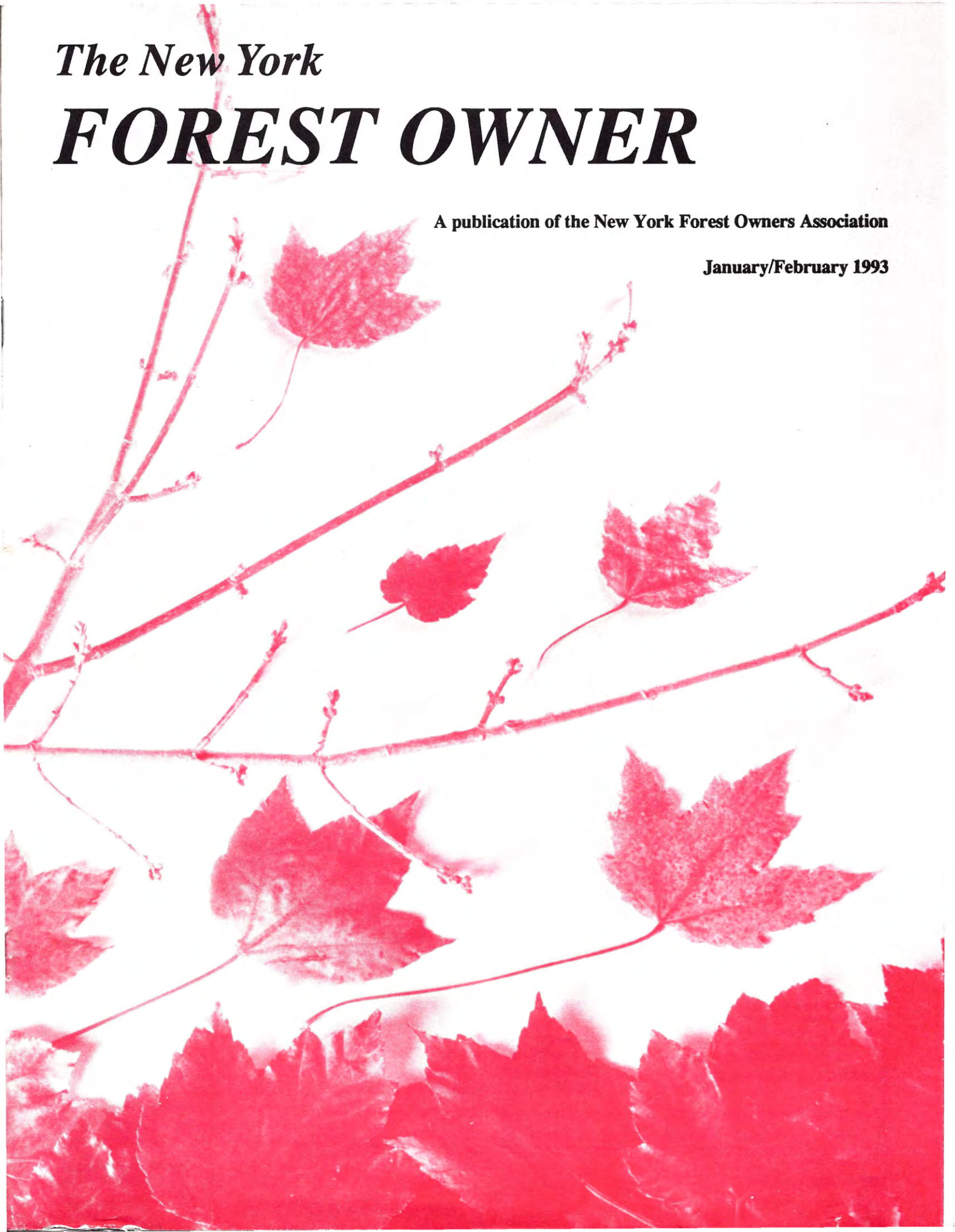


*The New York*

# **FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 1993





# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 31, NO. 1  
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## COVER:

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* L.


Photo by Lisa Richards, Syracuse, NY

# FOREST OWNER

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Norm Richards and Dave Taber.

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## NYFOA

### Chapters and Affiliates



CAY....Cayuga, 1985 .....	66
STC....Southern Tier, 1985 .....	112
TIO....Tioga, 1986 .....	88
WFL....Western Finger Lakes, 1988 .....	246
AFC....Allegheny Foothills, 1989 .....	107
NFC....Niagara Frontier, 1990 .....	127
CDC....Capital District, 1991 .....	81
SAC....Southeastern Adirondack, 1991 .....	79
LHC....Lower Hudson, 1991 .....	46
CNY....Central New York, 1991 .....	78
NAC....Northern Adirondack, 1991 .....	76
CFA....Catskill Forestry Assoc., 1982 .....	120
THRIFT....Tug Hill Resources, Investment for Tomorrow, 1982 .....	140

With membership as of December 1, 1992.

## Table of Contents

President's Message .....	3
A Tree To Respect, Norman Richards .....	4
Forest Management Thoughts, Albert Brown .....	7
NYFOA Fall Meeting, Bill Miner .....	8
Chapter Reports .....	10
Pine Shoot Beetle Management, Dave Taber .....	12
Governor's Tree Council .....	14
Hunting Bucks, Wes Suhr .....	16
Investing In Moose, Eric Johnson .....	17
Christmas Trees All Year, Dave Taber .....	18
The White House Tree, Dick O'Donnell .....	19



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three years ago our grandson, Oliver, twelve years old at the time, gave me a book for Christmas, which periodically comes to mind and almost haunts me. John Perlin, the author, writes in "A Forest Journey, The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization" of the deforestation that has occurred in many lands over a period of thousands of years. He goes back to Mesopotamia and ancient Greece when the rulers of those countries decimated their forests and in the process brought down their nations. When the supply of wood, their main natural resource, was depleted, sufficient fuel for heating and cooking was no more! Lack of wood for building dealt a death blow to the warlords who needed that vital material for the construction of ships.

The barren hills of these areas attest to the misuse of the forests ages ago. Erosion has made replanting difficult, if not impossible, and without trees the climate has become less attractive for humans.

Sound familiar? Man is still misusing that wonderful resource, the forests. Mary and I saw some of this when traveling in the Pacific Northwest in September, although state laws now require that areas clearcut be replanted within two years. There is controversy about what the destruction of rain forests and old growth forests may do to our global climate. There is certainly no question as to the long run effect on the climate and the economy of the countries where mass destruction of forests has taken place.

Closer to home, one can say New York State and the rest of the Northeast has lucked out in terms of the status of its forests. Eighty to one hundred years ago much of the state had been cleared for farming. When farming became uneconomical due to the vastly better conditions for growing crops in the midwest, farm land was abandoned and fortunately came back into forests, thanks to a friendly ecology for regeneration. Now we are told there is more forest land in New York than there was at the turn of the century.

Unfortunately, this same condition is not true for some other parts of the country and of the earth. As a result, our woodlands are becoming more valu-



*President Stu McCarty receives support from a Sitka spruce in the Olympic National Park, Washington. DBH of over 12 1/2 feet, Age 500-550 yrs., height over 270 ft.*

able as the supply from other areas dwindles. We should be doing all we can to make sure our woodland resource is treated with tender loving care. We, as members of NYFOA which is dedicated to encouraging the wise management of the woodland resources in New York, must be carrying the message to all owners in the state to encourage them to practice forest stand

improvement. Our efforts to recruit more members is one effort towards this end. Another is the development of Master Forest Owners whose mission is to get other forest owners thinking forest management. We need more ideas on how to awaken the owners to what a wonderful resource they have and on what they should be doing to develop it.

## HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to those who qualify for the kudos in the Three-for-One Membership Incentive Campaign. The following brought in a total of sixteen new members during October and November:

Mike Brigden NAC	1	Harriet & Jack Hamilton WFL	2
Ron Cadieux SAC	1	John Hastings SAC	2
Dave Colligan NFC	1	Mark Kiester WFL	2
Bob Childs AFC	1	Charlie Mowatt AFC	1
Tom Ellison CNY	2	N.H. Thisse THR	1
Norbert Gazin CNY	1	Bob White NFC	1

Twelve additional members were added, they having heard of us through various sources such as the Cooperative Extension and the Woodland Steward.

By the time you read this report, the four month Campaign will be over. Final results will be reported in the March/April issue of the Forest Owner.



# A TREE TO RESPECT

by Norman Richards

Current environmental sensitivities tend to treasure organisms in nature that are losing out in a people-dominated world, and regard as 'weeds' those organisms that can thrive as wildlings in cultural landscapes. In addition to being rather anti-human, this view ignores a basic evolutionary precept that adaptation is key to continuing evolution and future biodiversity. A more sophisticated ecologic view may be to balance concern for saving declining organism populations with some respect also for species that have shown the capacity to adapt and diversify in an ever-changing world. Red maple, *Acer rubrum*, is an outstanding example of such an adaptive species.

## Red Maple Ecology

Red maple is one of the most widespread trees in eastern North America, growing over the temperature range from Newfoundland to the Florida Everglades. Its westward range defines the humid region limits in Minnesota and eastern Texas. The species also grows on a wider range of soil conditions than nearly any other North American tree. Often called 'swamp maple', red maple is primarily a wetland species in the southern half of its range. But in the Northeast including New York, it ranges over the landscape from swamps and bogs to dry ridges, and from very acid to lime soils. Red maple's aggressive and plastic root system probably is an important factor in its wide site adaptation. While it can survive nearly anywhere within its range, reasonably good soil moisture and fertility is required for good growth.

As might be expected, the wide geographic and ecologic range of red maple is associated with high genetic diversity within the species, evident both among regions and within local populations. This is a circular process, as wide range and genetic diversity foster each other within a species. So far, there has been little genetic or 'tree improvement' work with red maple, except to select desirable cultivars for urban or landscape use. Its biodiversity should offer good potential for improvement as a forest tree, if there is greater incentive for this someday.

As red and sugar maple frequently grow together in the Northeast, it is useful to compare these species. The 1980 forest inventory of New York found sugar maple, our 'number one' species, to be 16% of our growing stock volume in cubic feet, and red maple to be second and catching up at 15%. Our Northern Hardwood type that covers the majority of our forest acreage contains 94% of our sugar maple cubic volume. Red maple is more cosmopolitan, with 76% in the Northern Hardwood type and the rest on sites less adapted to sugar maple.

Red maple has spread as the major species of much regrown forest in New York on lands previously cleared for agriculture or by wildfire following logging. Several characteristics of the species have helped this. It tends to produce large numbers of wind-dispersed seed beginning at a fairly young age. The seed ripens in the spring after very early spring flowering, and may either germinate soon after dispersal or lay dormant until the next spring, depending on environmental conditions. The seedlings can survive well on exposed sites, especially in protected



microsites near stones or logs; but also can grow under moderate shade from other plants.

Compared with sugar maple, red maple seedlings usually grow faster on open sites, and also resprout more vigorously after animal or other damage. Faster height growth of red maple tends to continue through the pole stage before slowing as the medium-lived species typically reaches maturity at 70 to 90 years. While the normal mature height of red maple is usually listed as 50 to 70 feet, heights of 80-85 feet are fairly common on good hardwood sites in New York. On these sites, however, the longer lived sugar maple can continue its growth to greater height and age. Diameter growth of red maple is normally faster than sugar maple but slower than white ash or red oak in pole-sized stands in New York. Diameter growth of young red maple responds well to thinning, but sugar maple can continue growth later to larger diameters on good hardwood sites.

Summing the ecology of red maple, its current prominence as the number two volume species in New York's forests probably results from two major factors: red maple's wide environmental tolerances,



*Unthinned pole stand.*



and its aggressive establishment and early growth in our regrown forests after agriculture and other land disturbance. The regrown forest in New York is continuing to expand and grow toward maturity, so it is likely that the close-second position of red maple will continue for some time. In the longer run, New York can expect little new forest area, existing forests to be more mature on average, and quite likely there will be more conservative cutting and perhaps more preservation. In this case, sugar maple will increase its dominance of our northern hardwood forests, and red maple will be confined more to sites less suited to sugar maple.

### Red Maple Values

Red maple adds visual diversity to our forests with its very early spring flowering, varied three-pointed leaves with lighter undersides shown off in summer breezes, early and striking fall coloration, and smooth gray stems on young trees and the upper trunk of older trees, easy to spot in the winter. In New York, seedlings and sprouts of red maple along with sugar maple are valuable food for white-tail deer, snowshoe hares, and cottontails. The greater tendency of red maple to pioneer in



*Mixed quality red maple stems.*

open fields and sprout more vigorously than sugar maple makes it a more useful species to periodically small cut patches for sprout or 'coppice' growth specifically for wildlife values. A curious feature of red maple is that this common wetland species is generally spurned by beaver in favor of most other hardwoods. As the beaver is an ancient native species, this raises interesting questions of possible 'co-evolution' in beaver helping red maple evolve as a wetland tree avoided by beaver.

Although many insects feed on red maple, few appear to be significant pests. Dr. Douglas Allen, ESF entomologist specializing in sugar maple insects, has noted that the important sugar maple pests, forest tent caterpillar, saddled prominent moth, and pear thrip, are relatively rare on red maple; the sugar maple borer does not attack it; and red maple is low in preference by the gypsy moth. On the other hand, many significant trunk rot fungi and stem diseases attack red maple. Discoloration and decay advance much faster in red than sugar maple stems, causing serious damage to a greater proportion of red maple stems. Although red maple's tolerance of environmental stresses has led to promotion as an urban tree, its susceptibility to stem damage and deterioration when young results in shorter life-expectancy than silver and Norway maple on high-impact streetsides.

The rapid youthful growth of red maple makes it a good per-acre producer of pulp and fuelwood from thinnings of pole-sized stands. On a weight basis, red and sugar maple are about equally excellent for yield of pulp fiber and fuel BTU's. The lower density of red maple --80-85% of sugar maple dry weight--makes it proportionally lower yielding per cord. But red maple's slightly easier cutting, lighter handling, and faster drying may offset this, especially for home firewood harvest.

In the hardwood lumber market, red and silver maple are lumped as 'soft maple' as distinguished from sugar and black maple as "hard maple". Hard maple is one of the finest woods in the world in terms of strength, hardness, and milling and finishing qualities; particularly for furniture and similar uses. Soft maple can substitute for hard maple in most uses except where hardness and beauty are critical. The relatively wide, white sapwood of soft maple cannot match the beauty of hard maple, but is preferred for core stock and



*Defective maple log - firewood.*

upholstered furniture frames. Dr. William Smith, in Forest Products Engineering at ESF, notes that soft maple lumber prices and demand tend to follow hard maple quite closely; when hard maple goes up, substitution increases soft maple demand. This is shown in Appalachian region--including N.Y.--lumber prices as reported by the Weekly Hardwood Review. The average price over 1987-91 for green (fresh-sawn) #1 common lumber has been very close for hard and soft maple--\$392 vs. \$372 per 1000 board feet, compared to the much higher priced Appalachian hardwoods: cherry - \$695, ash-\$598, and red oak-\$553. For the highest grade (Firsts And Seconds, FAS) lumber, the average price difference is wider between hard and soft maple--\$588 vs \$477 green, with both even farther below average FAS prices of \$1080, \$878, and \$967 for cherry, ash and red oak.

Since 1987, lumber prices of both maples have increased steadily about with the inflation rate until a recent large rise in hard maple prices. Cherry, ash and red oak





*Red maple: 7 years after thinning.*

prices have varied more; peaking in 1988 and declining through the recent recession. It seems reasonable to expect hard maple trailed by soft maple to continue in fairly steady demand as the backbone of New York's timber industry; priced somewhat lower than the less plentiful supply of cherry, ash and oak quality sawtimber.

In contrast to the fairly close lumber prices, there is generally a substantial disparity in demand and stumpage price of standing sugar and red maple timber. One reason for this is that cutting, hauling and sawing costs are fairly similar among species, so the small difference in lumber prices carries through to proportionately greater difference in stumpage prices. Also, there is a larger supply of red maple relative to its lower demand, so the red maple market is more easily filled. Typically smaller maximum log diameters for red maple also contribute to lower stumpage prices. An important factor noted earlier is the greater susceptibility of red maple to stem defects and decay, resulting in generally lower yields of quality wood from this species. Red maple even more than sugar maple shows great variation in timber quality. Good, clear red maple stems are worth growing for quality timber; poor stems are

only fuel and pulpwood.

In 1984, ESF graduate student Paul Jones and this writer conducted a brief study of pole-sized red maple in New York's Southern Tier. Sampling even-aged stands with at least one-third red maple trees and average diameters of 8 to 12 inches, we found no clear site or history factors distinguishing better from poorer red maple growth. But it was easy to distinguish good from poor red maple stems in the woods. Most stands had a mix of stem quality; some were predominantly poor, but most had sufficient good stems to warrant managing the red maple along with other species present for quality sawtimber.

### Red Maple Management

From the discussion above, it should be evident that, for hardwood stands managed for timber along with other values--except sugar bushes, the quality of individual stems is more important than the species distinction between sugar and red maple. Both maples will develop best quality when established in dense enough stands or patches to train good stem form. They should remain crowded for 20 years or more until the lower stem is clear of branches, and distinctions between good and poor stem quality become evident. Good stems can then be favored for increased diameter growth by thinning competing trees; making distinctions among species only where two or more good trees are competing directly. Multi-stem red maple clumps containing good stems can be thinned to one or two best stems. Thinnings which remove around 30 to 35% of canopy-level trees are generally appropriate for maple pole stands. This usually



*Red and sugar maple: 7 years after thinning.*

means leaving some poorer trees filling in between good trees, and removing these in later thinnings. When fuelwood or pulp is removed in thinnings, it is critical to keep damage to favored trees to a minimum. This can be done by skilled cutting, and careful use of tractors no larger than necessary for the job. As most damage to remaining trees occurs along skid trails, it is helpful to lay out trails to be edged by low-value 'bumper' trees; especially on down-hill sides and on turns. Because of the moderate growth of maples, most forest owners are unlikely to see the effects of thinning young stands on final sawtimber harvest. But within a few decades, stand responses to thinning can visibly improve a variety of values to give owners a sense of satisfaction from their stewardship efforts. This can be particularly satisfying when one has shown respect for all species in releasing good trees from poorer ones in a typically variable stand.

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*Dr. Richards is a professor in forestry at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse, and a Director of NYFOA. The photos in the article were taken this winter on the Richards family Tree Farm (certified 1965) in Harpersfield, Delaware County, NY.*



# Some Thoughts About Forest Management

By Albert W. Brown

I have played, worked or re-created in woodlands through all of my decades. Nearly forty years ago, I became involved with Timber Stand Improvement and experimental projects in Illinois and Michigan. In 1991, I was honored to be involved in the Master Forest Owner Program. These experiences have served to increase curiosity, concerns and active thinking about the status and condition of our woodlands as they exist today. More demanding, however, is to define and accept the crucial responsibilities we share as we pass these woodlands on to the generations ahead.

## The Goal

A recent controversy over clear cutting in a local State Forest led me to share some thoughts with our local Assemblyman, some of which are cited here. Essential, in general is, (1) commitment to and skill in sharing fundamental knowledge and (2) creating positive dialogue among the many advocates and partisans as, (3) we clearly define what we wish to do and, (4) implement the procedures necessary to reach these goals. Ill defined, mis-understood, or hidden goals together with un-explained or misunderstood actions will only intensify polarization and counter productivity.

## Trees Do Not A Managed Forest Make

To many, if it's green at times and above your head, it's a forest and somehow good in its own right. Consideration of species, stage, condition and the effects of mismanagement of our local woodlands for two centuries or more are often not considered as we look at our forest today and reflect on our goals for these lands in the years ahead. Increasingly, woodland owners and forest visitors now have multiple goals for their timbered areas. Wildlife enhancement; recreation; timber and firewood production; esthetics; water retention and quality; hunting; solitude; nature study; bird and animal study; photography; hiking; skiing and many other activities compete with and support each other as management decisions are made to reach the objectives of

owners (private or state) and society at large.

We seldom think of management as a tool to reach the goals we hold for woodlands. However, our forests have been managed and mismanaged, deliberately or accidentally, knowingly or un-knowingly, for many, many decades. Today it has been estimated that 80% of the trees in our woodlands are sub-standard because of species, condition and appropriateness for what we believe we want to achieve. It will take more than a century to return to anything resembling a climax forest through natural succession while our current species mix may take even more centuries to achieve that. Climax forests are rather sterile habitats for wildlife of most kinds and a far cry from multiple usage and the biodiversity which most people seek today.

Our forests have been managed by nature through fires, wind and diseases; by Indians with limited fires and usage; by pioneers for fuel, logs, potash, and slash and burn for agriculture; by loggers for lumber for buildings, structural timbers and fine furniture; by farmers for firewood, maple syrup and miscellaneous items; and, by well meaning reforesters. In general, the philosophy of "take the best and leave the rest" to fit the situation has resulted in millions of acres which look like forests but are far from achieving any identified and desirable goals for owners or society.

## HELP!

Management practices, to be successful, must be acceptable, accepted and have a well informed and broad based consistency. Involvement of well informed and broad based representation will help insure sounder decisions which, in turn, will stand a better chance of successful implementation. Established formal sources of information may at times project personal, outdated and narrow perspectives and objectives. Less formal individual landowners or focused interest groups tend to be short term in perspectives, fragmented, partisan, and counter-productive among themselves. The process wherein an informed woodland owner seeks, evaluates, and develops a management plan using the technical

knowledge, skills and experiences of the professional service or consulting forester seems to hold most promise for successful woodland management. The critical question before each decision is "WHY?"

The need for all parties to recognize the current transitions underway through economic, social and technical changes of so much of our outdoor space has never been greater as we close out the twentieth century. As we preserve, re-new and establish the multiple resources needed and desired for tomorrow, what must be our roles as thoughtful instruments in reaching responsible goals for ourselves and the generations ahead?

If we are to achieve biodiversity and multiple goals for our millions of forest acres after decades of neglect and mis-use within the lifetimes of ourselves, our children and grandchildren, we need to start now with informed, intelligent and achievable forest stewardship practices. It is now questions of "why" and "how" rather than "whether or not" management will take place. We cannot control the time ahead of us. However, through management we may be able to influence what will take place in our forests in the years ahead.

*After virtually a lifetime in academia including some 20 years at SUNY Brockport, Dr. Albert Brown has been dedicating considerable energy to forestry and helping forest owners. Al attended the Master Forest Owner Workshop in 1991 and was a program participant for 1992.*

Ken Westfall

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# NYFOA Fall Meeting 1992: Arnot Forest

By Bill Miner

Autumn is my most favorite season of the year. Geese flying south, crisp mornings and the harvest of colors that drip from the forests mark the prelude to winter. The tempo of life quickens, seemingly driven from a primordial gene long suppressed in our human ancestry. These feelings more than thoughts seemed to intensify as we wend our way down the back roads to Arnot Forest. Long periods of silence are punctuated by adjectives in an attempt to describe the natural beauty that surrounds us.

On turning into the Arnot Forest grounds our focus changes as we encounter familiar faces of NYFOA members gathering for the Fall Meeting held on October 9-10, 1992. Through Friday's registration and dinner old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made.

Bob Sand served as program chairman for this meeting. After a scrumptious dinner Bob introduced Don Schaufler, Manager of Arnot Forest who welcomed us and presented an overview of the activities pursued by the faculty and staff of Cornell University at Arnot. He explained that current efforts in timber management and maple syrup production have yielded income that is used to support the operations.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. John Kelley, Director of the Arnot Forest. Dr. Kelley's multimedia show of slides and video tape took us on a tour of his



Bob Sand and the Smith Forest Oak. - Photo by Bill Miner.

27 acre property highlighting various wildlife habitat improvements that he has made over the years.

Saturday began with a hearty "lumberjack" breakfast, during which Bob Sand presented an outline of the day's activities and reassurances that it would not rain...we were under way. The auto caravan initially stopped at Cotton-Hanlon properties that had undergone whole tree chipping removal of the predominant 60-year old low grade Beech and Aspen stems in the 248 acre

parcel, a former hillside pasture. The 20 ton tractor-trailer loads of fuel-bound chips required costly construction of an access road. Bryan O'Neil and Mike Hanlon, the latest generation of Cotton-Hanlon managers informed us that the management plan to favor regeneration of preferred species would almost certainly require a herbicidal treatment of the remaining Beech and Aspen.

The next stop was a small parcel, formerly a stand of White Pine, that had been clearcut in 1929. The second growth stand of regenerated mixed hardwoods and their size was an obvious testimony of the value of the site and an example of hardwood regeneration from a clearcut conifer stand.

Outside of Trumansburg, we stopped at the "Smith Forest" a 25 acre stand of mature trees. One of the most impressive trees was a red oak that Bob measured to be 41 1/2" in diameter and estimated would yield 1600-1800 board feet. The current market value of this oak was estimated at \$2500.

The next stop was Taughanchock Falls State Park. A short break in the program to admire the beauty of this magnificent falls against a backdrop of autumn color.

Our final destination was the Peter and Barbara Levatic "Hobnob Forest" family farm in Brooktondale, N.Y. Walking up the drive leading to the house, one was impressed with the tightly manicured grounds and ordered symmetry of all its components. After a quick lunch, Peter



Daughter Stephanie, son Tim, Barbara and Peter Levatic. - Photo by Bill Miner



presented his management objectives which are the production of saw timber and recreation. A well planned tour with many stops along the way demonstrated the various management activities that are ongoing. The predominant species in this forest are white ash, red and sugar maple. Peter has made a special effort to reestablish red oak in the forest. Oak's are grown from seed and transplanted on suitable sites with the added protection of Tubex® Tree Shelters.

The Levatich's have made a substantial investment in improvements to their forest land. It's evident that not all the returns on this work will be measured in dollars. The pride of ownership and stewardship are very evident in this forest they call home. Peter put it this way, "The joy is to see the forest respond to treatment, to see the improvement in tree quality and size. The dream is to live long enough to have a forest of fat, tall and straight trees."

This NYFOA Fall Meeting was an outstanding opportunity to become acquainted with management for wildlife (John Kelley, one of the Great American Woodlot Series), forever wild (the Smith Forest), from agriculture to forest for pulp to a future forest of valuable hardwoods, a clearcut conversion of conifers to hardwood, and finally a former farm fully forested in 1975 and since then intensively managed by Master Forest Owner, Peter Levatich Hobnob Forest.

The day ended with farewells and the sense that we had shared a special day with special members of NYFOA. Our thanks to Bob Sand and the Levatich family.

*Bill Minerd is a graduate of the Master Forest Owner Workshop for '92 and Newsletter editor for the Central N.Y. Chapter.*

## ADDENDA

Some of our members who participated in the woods walk of the Fall Meeting asked how I injected Roundup into undesirable trees to kill them. This may interest others as well. The method is described in FORESTRY RESEARCH NOTES\*. I use a 50-50 Roundup-water solution, which I squirt into a 1/2" deep, horizontal chainsaw groove, placing the solution all the way around until it starts flowing out, between June 15 and the time leaves start to turn, in dry weather. Trees defoliate within two weeks to four months depending on vigor. Root systems also die, preventing root sprouts. This method works on all deciduous trees on my land, except not always on striped maple which tends to root sprout after all. It works on conifers also, except that it may transfer to other trees of the same species which are in the same grouping by way of root contact (fusion). I use this method instead of the customary double girdling (2" deep) when the tree is less than 14" dbh and when I do not have a convenient place to fell it. - Peter S. Levatich

\*FORESTRY RESEARCH NOTES: RN-SOF-83-001, SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210.

## New York:

### Stewardship State of the Year

The New York State Stewardship Coordinating Committee was honored by the Nat'l. Woodland Owners Ass'n. with the first FOREST STEWARDSHIP STATE OF THE YEAR AWARD. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Foresters on October 14, the award recognizes effective programs and board participation in implementing the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990. New York's accomplishments are impressive. In fact, the state had so many completed SIP applications this year at the time of the rescission that they received allocations from other states that had not yet used their funding.

*From WOODLAND REPORT, a publication for Woodland Owners by the NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNER'S ASSOCIATION.*

### '93 MASTER FOREST OWNER WORKSHOP

According to Gary Goff of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Director of the Master Forest Owner Program, the 3-day MFO Workshop for the program's third year has been tentatively scheduled for September 26, 1993. It is expected that Stewardship Incentive Programs (SIPs) will be funded by the U. S. Legislature and that this program will continue to be supported with the uncertainty to be resolved in May. For potential candidates alert Gary at Fernow Hall; Ithaca, N.Y. 14853-3001 (607/255-2824).

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

The NYFOA Board of Directors at their October 24, 1992 meeting appointed a new treasurer to be effective by January 1, 1993 - Clara Minerd of Liverpool, N. Y. Clara will hold the purse strings of a current budget in excess of \$25,000 dollars.

NYFOA acknowledges a special debt of gratitude to Angus 'Scotty' Johnstone of East Aurora who has balanced the books during a growth from 10 to 13 Chapter/Affiliates; a relocation, a 30% increase in the number of pages and advertising revenue, and a major restructure of the editorial functions of THE NY FOREST OWNER; an expanded Executive Office; and a 25% growth in membership and budget. All of these changes required considerable effort to receive and disburse the funds and to generally accommodate. NYFOA is indeed grateful to Scotty.

We wish Clara a future full of fortune.

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# CHAPTER REPORTS

## ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Our annual fundraiser (this year gathering walnuts) netted us \$951.00. This was an outstanding effort which puts us in an excellent financial position.

On Nov. 14 twenty plus gathered at the Ellicottville Cooperative Extension building to listen to Bill Wininger's presentation on planting hybrid chestnuts as an income producing crop. A very enjoyable day with a business meeting that featured a great many decisions made and lively member input.

On Jan. 16, 1993 we will have a joint pot luck dinner with the NFC. It will begin at 1 p.m. in the Holland Town Hall and everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, silver and dish. Call Tom Casey (NFC) at 716-322-7398 or Peter Childs (AFC) at 716-557-2529 for more information.

A winter picnic and "Tracks in the snow" walk is planned in Allegany State Park for Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.. Call Peter Childs at above number for further information.

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

The Chapter provided some very good programs in the past three months. In October we toured Yanack Saw Mill and observed how logs were debarked and sawed into boards; how the boards were then graded and cut to length. This tour was held Columbus Day and that may have accounted for the large attendance. In November we walked some of the Zoar Valley State Forest. We compared the differences between plantation planting and post-clearcut regeneration. And for December we walked a woods that had been recently marked for improvement. Bruce Robinson, a consulting forester explained why particular trees were or were not selected for removal and why the choice fulfilled objectives of the management plan. What an eye opener.

On January 16 we will have a pot-luck luncheon hosted by Bob White at the Holland Town Hall. This is our Second Annual Pot-luck and we expect it to be a good one.

## SOUTHEAST ADIRONDACK

On Oct. 17th, thirty + members went on a woodswalk arranged by John Hastings (DEC Service Forester) and Gregg Mackey (V.P. of the NYS Timber Producers Assoc.).

We gathered at 9 A.M. at Gregg Mackey's tree farm under a tent (with tables and chairs donated by Emerald Party Rentals of Ballston Spa) to view a logging truck being loaded with hemlock logs. After the truck rumbled away to Finch, Pruyn & Co., Inc. Mill in Glens Falls we started our meeting. Gregg described his lumber yard's drying program; we then walked his past and present timber harvests on a mixed stand of hardwood and softwoods. A selective cutting of white pine and hemlock was discussed with professional foresters, mill operators, loggers and land owners answering questions.

We then drove to Jud Kilmer's hardwood sawmill on Lake Desolation Road for a sawing demonstration. Concerns for the need for high quality saw logs were discussed. The thinking is that while we are growing more timber in this area due to farms being abandoned, saw log buyers say the percentage of good logs is decreasing. This emphasizes the need for good forest management to improve the quality of our product, and, of course, income.

At the log yard John Russel, a veneer log buyer, described the specifications for marketing veneer logs. An interesting discussion followed as he graded logs and judged the quality in view of knots, defects, straightness and staining. Again, if we can grow more veneer logs by good timber growing practices, the value of a log can be five to ten times more valuable than a typical saw log.

Jud Kilmer finalized the program by a tour of a very impressive, unique stand of timber on a site not harvested in this century. The park-like site included oak, pine and beech. as we gazed up at the towering trees the forester estimated that one oak would saw out 1600 board feet of lumber. Jud can certainly be proud of his forest, located next to a hardwood mill operated by the family for over fifty years. We owe a big thank you to all who made this tour possible.



*Jud Kilmer's forest, Saratoga County*

## CENTRAL NEW YORK

The September 12th NYFOA meeting at Heiberg Forest featured an expert on pond development. Richard J McClimans, a NYS licensed professional engineer and founder of the Syracuse-based firm of Ponds Unlimited, gave an interesting talk during our lunch break beside the largest of the Heiberg ponds. His presentation touched on all aspects of planning, building and maintaining dams and ponds with considerable emphasis on good engineering practices

One of McClimans' messages was that creating an attractive and useful pond is not something that happens easily - it often takes a lot of time, effort and investment capital to do it right. The Ponds Unlimited brochure states that in the right setting, a healthy pond can be the focal point for many years of quality outdoor recreational experiences. Further, they assert that ponds can enhance property values and can serve important functions for fish and wildlife

Ponds Unlimited also points out that constructing a dam that controls over 640 acres of drainage area, or which is more than 10 feet high, or which stores over one million gallons of water requires a permit from the NYS-Department of Environmental Conservation, unless the pond classifies as a "farm pond" in which case the thresholds are 250 acres, 15 feet, and 1.5 million gallons, respectively.



## NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

On October 3, while it was raining over most of northern New York, it was a beautiful, sunny fall day in the great Lake Champlain Valley on the Macomb Reservation State Forest. We walked under the canopy of three different timber types, mixed Pine-Oak, pure White Pine and nearly pure Red Oak. The discussion about past and the best future management for these stands was very interesting and lively. We counted five pines on the forest: white, red, jack, pitch and Scotch pine.

Our interest also focused on some unique understory plants, such as leatherwood, maple-leaf dogwood (both shrubs), pipsissewa (*Pyrola* family) and partridge berry.

Sometime in February, we plan to visit a commercial logging job. Woodland roads and main skidtrails that are used this time of year will freeze-up, reducing damage to soil.

As part of the walk, we also hope to visit a portable sawmill in the area. Our idea is to estimate volume of standing tree(s), measure volume in the cut log(s), then saw into lumber, and measure the actual board feet generated. All this in one area may be too much to hope for, but NACer's will be notified of our efforts in December or early January.

At our last NAC Staff conference in Canton, we all agreed that we need more members, and the best way to achieve this is a one-on-one contact with the woodland owner. We all know of at least one landowner in our neighborhood. Make your contact and encourage the person(s) to join. We still have a free NYFOA cap and patch available for you when your neighbor or contact joins.

## CAYUGA

The most current activity of the Cayuga Chapter involves preparations for the Fifth Annual Cabin Fever Festival at Fillmore Glen State Park, February 13 and 14, 1993. The Cayuga Woodsmen and the many draft animals intend to participate snow or shine.

Also, Arbor Day 1993 (the last Friday in April by NY State Statute) the Cayuga Chapter, NYFOA will formally dedicate a second bronze plaque/boulder monument to commemorate the work of President FDR's 1930's Tree Army, this time, in Fillmore Glen State Park. The bronze plaque is expected to be available for inspection during the Cabin Fever Festival.

## SOUTHERN TIER

*STC members viewing a custom, hand built LOK n LOG model log home.*



*STC members viewing a LOK n LOG pre-cut log home.*

The October meeting featured a tour of the Webb & Sons (LOK n LOGS) log home model center and factory in Sherburne. Members toured both pre-cut-type and hand-built-type (Swedish cope method) log homes. The factory pre-cut line was reviewed in detail.

The December meeting featured Cotton-Hanlon Forester Frank Rose representing the State Tree Farm

Committee discussing the future of the Tree Farm System.

The next meeting will be on January 14, 1993 at the Cooperative Extension Building on Front Street in Binghamton. Doors open at 7 PM and the program will start at 7:30. The program is entitled: "How Property Assessed Valuation is Determined for Tax Purposes. Is your local Assessor Treating You Fairly?"

## THRIFT AFFILIATE

On November 7 THRIFT members and other woodland owners met for a woodwalk near N. Boylston in Oswego County. Bruce Schneider from the DEC Lowville Office showed us how to locate the egg mass of the eastern tent caterpillar. We used binoculars to inspect the top 30 inches of Maple, Ash, and Cherry branches. Bruce severed some of the branches, showed the group of owners how the caterpillars spend the winter and emerge in the spring. The area we inspected was very heavily infested. A bright sun and cold temperatures provided the backdrop for a very educational program enjoyed by about 30 woodlot owners.

On November 13 some 25 THRIFT members and interested persons met at the Salmon Run Mall Conference Room in Watertown. Lyle Raymond, a native of the Carthage area and currently with Cornell University was our guest speaker. He presented a program on the Historical Perspectives of Tug Hill and discussed the different areas that determine the Tug Hill Region. It was a fascinating program enjoyed by all.

THRIFT members are currently involved in the election and installation of new Council members to be celebrated at the annual holiday dinner at the Coltons.



# Pine Shoot Beetle Management

By David W. Taber

On November 13, 1992 a Federal quarantine that included New York's Erie and Niagara counties was made effective, "on an emergency basis." Its goal is to restrict and/or prevent the spread of the pine shoot beetle by "restricting the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas."

On November 24, 1992, a New York State Intrastate Pine Shoot Beetle Quarantine was immediately adopted and enforced "as an emergency measure" for Erie and Niagara Counties, by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. This "parallel" (to Federal) quarantine requires that "pine Christmas trees; pine nursery stock; and pine, spruce, larch, and fir logs and lumber, with bark attached, shall not be shipped, transported or otherwise moved from any point within Erie and Niagara Counties to any point outside of said Counties," without proper authorization as provided by the State quarantine.

Since September 21, a joint effort of the National Christmas Tree Association; USDA APHIS, PPQ; the NYCTGA; George W. Hudler (Director of the Christmas Tree IPM Newsletter) and David W. Taber of Cornell University; Robert J. Mungari, Director of Plant Industry, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets; and others have implemented strategic planning efforts to protect Christmas tree growers, tree nurseries, forests and forestland owners, forest-product industries, and consumers from losses and potential losses caused by the insect.

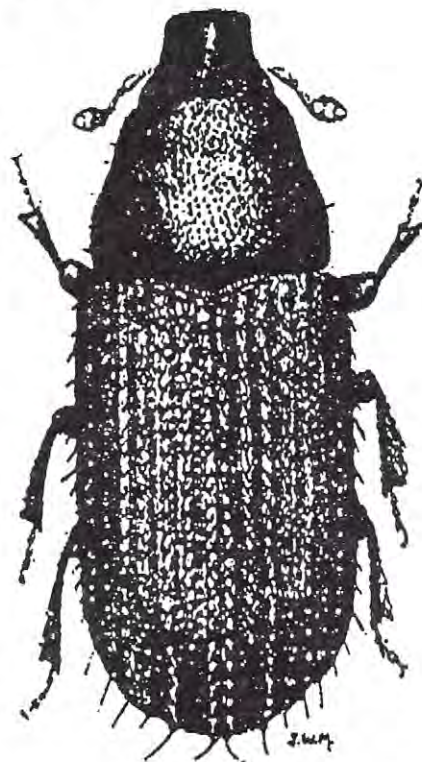
Five growing sites in Erie and Niagara counties where the pine shoot beetle had

been identified in 1992 were placed under a NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets Quarantine in October, as a practical interim precaution. In addition, protective action occurred in October by the following governmental entities which have imposed "reverse quarantines" that prohibit "regulated articles" (that might spread the pine shoot beetle from counties or states where it is known to exist) from being sent to their jurisdictions: Canada, Mexico, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana.

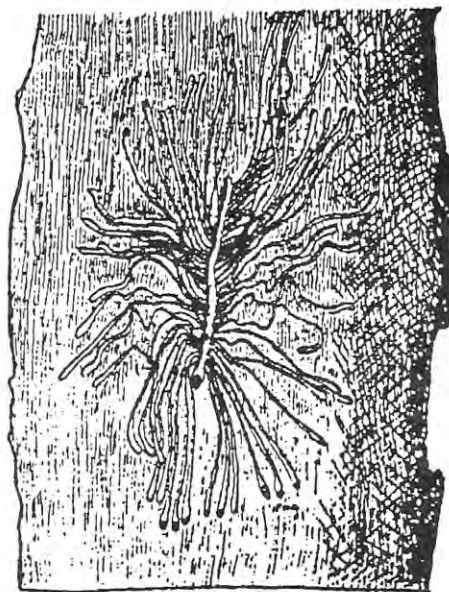
In 1992 the pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda* L.) was found in 42 counties in 6 states, including Niagara and Erie counties in New York. The other states are Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Prior to this outbreak, the insect had not been known to exist in the Nation except for its interception with packing and crating materials on imports, since 1946; the trapping of one beetle in Savannah Georgia in 1971; and a New Jersey nursery infestation of 1913-1914, which was eradicated.

However, in 1992 the insect's extensive distribution included Japan, China, Siberia, Europe including Great Britain, and



Adult pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda* L.)



Common pine shoot beetle galleries exist under the bark. With a round entrance hole in its base, a single (vertical) egg gallery is parallel to grain of wood. Larval galleries originate on both sides of the egg gallery. All galleries were excavated in the wood/bark interface.

Africa's Algeria. This massive land area is included between geographic latitudes that encompass North America, thereby indicating a potentially significant threat to some 35 species of pine trees that range over the continent.

The USDA APHIS Quarantine was published in the November 19, 1992 Federal Register (vol. 57, No. 224 - page 54492-54499). It states that "the present value of potential losses and increased production costs in the United States over the next 30 years attributable to this pest is \$742 million."

For NYS quarantine information contact Division of Plant Industry, Robert J. Mungari, Director, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, 1 Winners Circle, Albany, NY 12235 (Tel. 518/457-2087).

For Federal quarantine information, contact USDA, APHIS, PPQ, NYS Work Unit Office in Avoca, NY (Tel. 607/566-2212 - Richard B. Gaines, Officer in Charge) with field-staff sub-offices in Albany, Batavia, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Leicester, Newburgh, Rouses Point, Syracuse, Treadwell, and Westhampton Beach.



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# Catskill Fisher Reintroduction

By Richard Henry, New Paltz

Fisher were at one time fairly common in the Catskill region. By the late 1800's, much of the forested area in the region had been cut down for fuel, furniture, and bark for the flourishing tanning industry. Due to extensive habitat loss, fisher were forced into small areas and were extremely vulnerable to uncontrolled hunting and trapping. Fisher were extirpated from the area prior to 1900. After the forestry products industry declined, natural vegetative succession slowly returned the area to large, uninterrupted tracts of mature forest suitable for fisher populations.

In 1976, we began a program to reintroduce the fisher to the Catskills. Potential fisher habitat was identified and we bought live fisher from cooperating fur trappers in the northern zone for a fee slightly higher than the market value of the pelt. Between 1976 and 1979, 43 fisher were released in

two locations in Ulster County. All of the fisher were thoroughly examined and cartagged prior to their release.

Fisher movements were monitored through observations by sportsmen, hikers, other outdoor enthusiasts, and our field staff. Bait stations were established each winter to determine possible fisher presence evidenced by tracks in fresh snow. By 1984, fisher were documented throughout most of the potential range. Examination of reproductive tracts from several road kills and other accidental mortalities indicated that reproduction had occurred.

In 1985, an experimental, limited fisher trapping season was established in a portion of their range. Fisher management largely is dependent on biological information gathered from fisher taken during open trapping seasons and this information was needed to determine the success of the Catskill fisher program. From 1985 to 1987, 19 fisher were taken by licensed trappers. Mandatory carcass examinations were conducted by our biologists. All but one of the 19 fisher were progeny from the original releases, and almost all of them were taken incidental to other land trapping activities. As a result of the information gathered from cooperating trappers, annual trapping seasons were established in those Catskill units where fisher are present.

Only a limited number of fisher have been taken in recent years. As a result of a depressed fur market, trapper participation, especially for land set species, has declined. Two cases of canine distemper have been documented in juvenile fisher. This disease became prevalent in raccoons in the 1980's and may have had an impact on fisher since fisher often eat raccoons. However, deer survey crews recently observed a strong fisher presence in much of the High Peaks region of the Catskills. That fisher now are present in southeastern New York is testimony to the excellent results that can be attained through the joint efforts of the Department and licensed fur trappers.

*From Furbearer Management Newsletter, Fall 1992, Bureau of Wildlife, Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, NY 12054.*

# Rabies Update

Since the first of the year, there have been 1,368 confirmed rabid animals in New York. The breakdown is as follows:

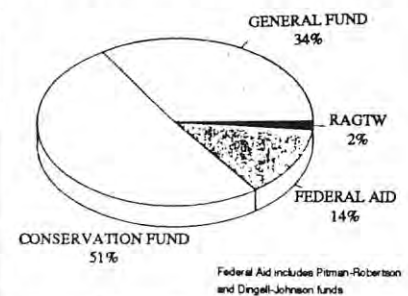
bat	57	muskrat	1
cow	14	opossum	2
cat	26	pig	1
coyote	2	red fox	81
dog	6	raccoon	1,058
deer	3	sheep	1
gray fox	13	skunk	82
horse	3	woodchuck	18

These cases have occurred in 38 counties. Three counties (Franklin, Clinton, Essex) are affected by the fox rabies outbreak. The remaining, listed below, are affected by raccoon rabies. Remember: any mammal can get rabies so be wary of any odd behavior in domestic or wild mammals.

## Raccoon Rabies Counties

Albany	Delaware	Putnam	Steuben
Allegany	Dutchess	Rensselaer	Sullivan
Broome	Erie	Richmond	Tioga
Bronx	Greene	Rockland	Tompkins
Cattaraugus	Livingston	Saratoga	Ulster
Chemung	New York	Schenectady	Westchester
Chenango	Ontario	Schoharie	Wyoming
Columbia	Orange	Schuyler	Yates
Cortland	Otsego	Seneca	& Cayuga

The four major funding sources for New York's fish and wildlife management programs.



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# The Future of New York is in the Forest

## Governor Forms Tree Council

**G**overnor Mario M. Cuomo has announced the creation of a Forest Resources Development Council to help the New York State forest products industry become more competitive while preserving the forests as a recreational resource.

The Council will be co-chaired by ranking representatives of the New York State Department of Economic Development and Environmental Conservation.

"New York State recognizes the importance of the forest industry and values its contributions and economic potential. We also recognize that we must ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy our forest," **Governor Cuomo** said. "The Forest Resources Development Council will enhance dialogue with the forest industry and promote a more effective partnership between industry and government."

The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Governor on policy, administrative and legislative actions to improve the forest industry as well as preserve forest resources. The Council will also focus on ways to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Task

### Force on the Forest Industry.

"We realize our forests are not only the raw material source for other countries, but increasingly serve as the source for a vibrant and growing finished wood products industry here in New York State itself," said State Director of Economic Development **Vincent Tese**.

"New York State has done much to ensure that our forests continue to provide the many benefits that all New Yorkers enjoy," Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner **Thomas C. Jorling** said. "The Governor will be looking to this Council for recommendations that will strength the industry while enhancing the quality and stability of this vast resource for generations to come."

The Forest Resources Development Council, one of Governor Cuomo's State of the State initiatives and a key recommendation of his Forestry Industry Task Force, includes 24 leaders of the wood products industry and will be co-chaired by DEC Deputy Commissioner **Robert Bendick** and DED Senior Deputy Commissioner **Dennis Allee**.

### A Balancing Act

Issues that the Council will address include retention and expansion of the forest industry, development and expansion of a value-added wood products industry, open space conservation and forest use, and protection of long-term forest resource productivity and renewability.

Since the Governor's Task Force on the Forest Industry issued its report in 1989, New York State has taken a number of steps to maintain and expand the state's forest industry, including:

- conducting aggressive and responsible forest management programs on state forests and wildlife management areas to make more wood products available while providing recreational opportunities and other environmental and social benefits;

- promoting natural resource education through such programs as Project Learning Tree, Tree Farms and the Pack Forest Environmental Education Center in Warrensburg;

- continuing to work with the forest industry to expand domestic and international markets for New York wood products and working with local economic development groups on regional forest industry development;

- monitoring forest health and disseminating information about forest pests and diseases and their potential impacts.

- funding wood products development strategies in the North Country and Western New York regions through grants awarded under the Urban Development Corporation's Regional Economic Development Partnership Program; and

- awarding in the past three years over \$1.3 million in State economic development grants and loans to 14 wood products manufacturers in most regions of upstate New York and in New York City. State resources have helped to upgrade the skills of employees, promote exports, modernize facilities, and assess productivity and competitiveness problems.



A tree farm in Denmark.

Yes, I'd like to find out more about the NYFOA tours.  
Please send me information about

- the NYFOA Southern Tour March 13-23.  
 the NYFOA Alpine Tour May 9-23.

Please check the tour(s) of interest, clip, and return to:  
Alan Knight, 96 Targosh Road, Candor, New York 13743.

*(Please include your name and address when returning this form.)*

*Announced by NYS DEC Commissioner Thomas Jorling at the November 5, 1992 Empire State Forest Products Association Annual Fall Meeting, North Syracuse.*



# LEGISLATION

By David J. Colligan

The State of New York has a very active legislative body. Thousands of individual legislative pieces are introduced annually. Each act is supposed to receive careful consideration and deliberation. Unfortunately, many of the acts that are passed are enacted in a "whirlwind" final session. True to form, the New York State Assembly approved 798 bills in the two weeks before the session ended July 3, 1992 (based upon an Associated Press report). This represents almost half of the 1,688 bills passed by the Assembly in 1992.

It is simply amazing how quickly and thoughtlessly major legislative initiatives are passed into law in this state. As land owners, we must be vigilant to identify potential legislative issues and

follow them from their inception to add our views to the legislative process before a law has been passed. We need to be able to convey our views to legislators. Many legislators vote on forestry and land owner laws with only an urban viewpoint which is often communicated to them by New York City special interest groups. Most legislators welcome contact from their own constituents to help educate themselves and clarify the impact of these legislative initiatives on voters within their districts. One very effective method of communicating the views of forest owners is for members of NYFOA to volunteer on an individual basis to contact their respective district representatives in the Assembly or the Senate whenever an important legislative piece is being considered by the legislature.

of names will be compiled which will receive "legislative alert" notices from New York Forest Owners Association to indicate that matters are being considered by the legislature that needs our immediate input. These matters will not occur very often, but when they do, fast action will be necessary. If each person contacts their legislators, a new voice will be heard from the land owners who are effected the most by many of these new laws; and we feel confident that it will make a significant difference.

We look forward to hearing from as many members as possible.

*David Colligan is Chairman of NYFOA's Legislative Committee.*

Please write a short note to me, in care of NYFOA's corporate offices at P.O. Box 180 Fairport, New York 14450 and indicate your willingness to contact your legislators.

Even if you are not sure who your legislators are, if you give us your address, we will try to ascertain the district you are within. Thereafter, a list



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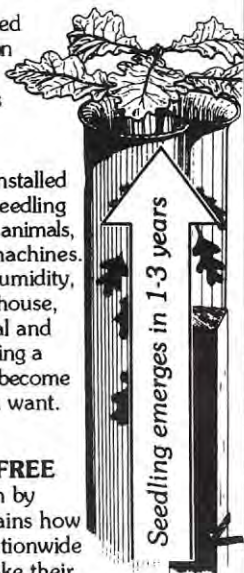
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# Hunting Bucks

By Wes Suhr

**K**illing deer offends some people, and I can respect their opinion without agreeing with them. The white-tail is a magnificent animal, highly adapted to the hardwoods and mixed conifer/hardwoods of our Northland. His color adaptation is about the best camouflage going, unless there is snow in the background. His acute vision, hearing, and sense of smell make it difficult to get within shooting distance while still-hunting. I don't think there is an environmentalist who appreciates deer more than I do, but I love to stalk them and I also like venison.

"Stalking" the buck has many benefits. It sharpens your senses, makes you more alert. The quiet exercise is great for the body, and the serenity of being in the woods releases, almost voids, everyday problems.

And it helps to manage the woodlot. You may see a couple of windfalls to cut up for firewood, you plan a thinning job for a dense stand, you see superb trees that should remain and diseased stems that should be cut. Mostly, you see a lot of work out there, but today you are completely enjoying the hunt. If you don't bag your buck, so what; you're content with just enjoying the woods.

To me "still-hunting" is stalking. It amounts to moving very slowly and taking a series of short duration stands. Usually I take 3-to-6 slow steps, followed by a stand of a few minutes. If the conditions look promising for deer, I'll stand for several minutes. Glance down often so you don't step on and crack any branches on the ground. If you lack patience, still-hunting is not for you.

There are some necessary conditions for successful stillhunting:

- Wind blowing from your front quadrant (into your face).
- Quiet or wet ground litter (may as well stay home if litter is frozen or cracklin' dry).
- Proceed up the leeward side of slopes. As you approach the top, go very, very slowly and quietly. Take your stand where you can just barely see over the top (head is exposed, not the body).
- Snow cover is a real asset, not only for recognizing fresh tracks, but deer really stand out against the white background.

- Hunt terrain that is frequented by deer.
- Know the terrain you're hunting.

Most experienced hunters may remark that all of the above goes without saying. Yet many of them are unsuccessful still-hunters, mostly because they move too fast. In the last 10 years, 80 % of the bucks I've taken have been by stillhunting, usually one buck each year. My success is due to following the conditions stated above.

Some say that bagging a buck is luck, but I believe in the adage, "You have to be in the right place, at the right time and do the right thing." Sometimes, it is just plain luck, but usually it takes skill to bag a buck.

*NOTE: This article does not reveal my feelings on killing a buck. It is best described with my accompanying poem:*

## Buck Kill at Running Brook



You knew the Running Brook  
And tasted its cool water,  
You leaped the riffled course  
And browsed its brushy cover.

On the bank of Running Brook  
As you rubbed on sapling bark,  
In your moment of unawareness  
The hunter found his mark.

Gone in precious moment  
A gift of grand creation,  
Awakened sudden sadness  
And ended recreation.

A veil of compassion  
Settled on woodland scene,  
As hunter offered solemn prayer  
Near that running stream.

All these gifts were manifest  
Each flowing from the Maker,  
Joined living woods to harvest  
With loving thanks, creator.

## Ask A Forester



For well over ten years THE NY FOREST OWNER has maintained a page or two of questions and answers or articles which were primarily the responsibility of a generous-minded forester. Wesley E. Suhr, former Director of the Forest Technician Program at the Wanakena Ranger School accepted the charge from retired DEC Forester, Al Roberts in early 1986. Wes has faithfully discharged the duty since that time despite the shortcomings of a generally amateur publication effort. A particular contribution to this magazine feature has been his leadership in providing a cadre of professional foresters from academia, government and the private sector to write informative articles for NYFOA in THE NY FOREST OWNER. In addition Wes proposed a new feature, Ask A Wildlife Biologist which first appeared in the Sept./Oct-92 issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER and was authored by Dr. William F. Porter, SUNY ESF.

The Editorial Committee and its Editor accepts Wes' petition to pass the charge to someone else with regret.

Betty Densmore, Chairperson of the Editorial Committee invites readers to convey their response to this need and loss to her (8228 S. Canada Hill, Machias, NY 14101) or to the Editor.

Wes has promised to continue to contribute and support THE NY FOREST OWNER. NYFOA has been well served by the inspired commitment and past leadership of Wes Suhr of Oswegatchie.



# INVESTING IN MOOSE

By Eric A. Johnson

Names reveal a great deal about history, because they rarely change as rapidly as the world around them. In the part of the country where I live, the names given long ago to physical features like mountains, towns and rivers, are a lesson in natural history—usually revealing much more about the past than the present.

Few if any moose live anymore in my neck of the woods, the Central Adirondack Region of the six million-acre Adirondack Park in New York State. Still, the town I live in forms the headwaters of the Moose River, and there are numerous other references to the species in both natural and man-made features. We've got the Moose River Plains, Big Moose Lake, Little Moose Mountain, Little Moose Acres (sub-division), the Big Moose Inn (a restaurant and bar), and so on.

My guess from reading the map and road signs is that this area was crawling with moose of all sizes at one time. But no more. I'm told that excessive hunting and a brain worm carried by increasing white tail deer populations did them all in.

Somebody actually spotted one of the ungainly creatures crossing the highway a few weeks ago—such a rare event that the news made the local papers. This roughly coincided with an announcement by the state that it intends to re-introduce moose populations in an area east of here (out on the Moose River Plains past Little Moose Lake and towards Little Moose Mountain), at an initial cost of some \$3 million.

This has caused some of us to scratch our heads and ask, "why here; why now?" A few weeks ago I attended a meeting featuring the commissioner of the New York

State Department of Environmental Conservation, Thomas Jorling. Somebody asked him why the state has fallen behind its targeted annual timber harvest on managed state forestlands, and why it is contemplating further budget cuts that would result in even less forestry activity on state land. Wouldn't silviculturally sound timber harvests and sales generate badly needed income for the state coffers, they asked? Indeed it would, the commissioner said. The trouble, he noted (and I'm paraphrasing here), is that to make money you have to spend money up front, in the form of a bigger budget for hiring more foresters to mark the timber and manage the sales. Increasing budgets is a political impossibility in today's world, he explained, which is why the state won't be able to generate timber income until such time as it doesn't really need it. The commissioner said it made no sense to him either, but that there was nothing he could do about it. Contact your elected representatives and lobby for a bigger DEC budget, he advised.

I wish I had asked Commissioner Jorling how many foresters he could hire for \$3 million, and whether he figured the re-introduction of moose populations would create more jobs in the long run than more aggressive management of state forests. But I didn't.

Instead I got into a conversation with a friend about the Spruce Grouse, which is an endangered species in New York State, though not in other places. The state has undertaken what I assume is an expensive study of whether Spruce Grouse populations should be increased, and if so, how to go about it. "Would that include creating more favorable habitat?" I asked. He said it certainly would. "Clearcutting and site conversion?" Could be.

On the drive home I kept an eye open for wayward moose on the highway, while pondering the implications of restoring native species to the Adirondack Park—roughly half of which for the past 100 years has been designated as "forever wild" forest preserve, meaning that no trees can be cut or forests otherwise managed. How do you create a historically valid habitat out of mixed hardwood stands that grew up after the native softwood species were burned and/or clearcut and then the ground under them locked up forever?

This prospect must create a real moral and ethical dilemma for anyone who believes that while it's wrong to cut trees on the one hand, it's right to restore the landscape to its original, biologically pristine condition, on the other.

I think it's wrong, as I said a few months ago on this page, to cynically use endangered species as pawns in the battle for control over the nation's forestland. Still, I think it would be interesting to find an endangered species whose existence required some form of responsible forest management, and demand that it be given the same consideration as others, such as the northern spotted owl out West or the red-cockaded woodpecker down South.

If we want to test the sincerity of those who promote biological diversity and "forever wild" philosophies in the same breath, then perhaps we ought to ask them to look at a place where the two appear to be in conflict—the Adirondack Park.

*Eric Johnson is the editor of the Northern Logger and Timber Processor a monthly publication of the Northeastern Loggers' Association. This was Eric's editorial for December '92.*

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# MARKETING CHRISTMAS TREES YEAR-ROUND

by David W. Taber

Christmas tree growers may have felt an economic squeeze the last two years. An overabundance of real Christmas trees was available to buyers in many market areas. Too, many consumers were enticed to buy their Christmas trees by mail.

Also, artificial Christmas trees, from 8 inches to 8 feet tall, are now available in a variety of fake species. They range in price from less than \$10 to more than \$200. They can be used for more than one year and they don't shed needles--features that some consumers like.

Throughout the 1980s two to three times as many trees were planted for Christmas trees than were being harvested. It is likely, therefore, that supply and demand could have a strong influence on reducing prices for cut Christmas trees. In addition, some growers, fearful their trees will become permanent forests, may have chosen to sell at lower than previously-planned prices.

Alternatives for Christmas tree growers, relative to marketing the trees they grow, can be profit and pleasure, depend-



ing on their personal situation and preferences. Viable options for some growers include:

- \* Sell by choose and cut.
- \* Sell some trees in pots in the spring and fall for landscaping, and after Thanksgiving Day, for Christmas tree plants or plantable Christmas trees.
- \* Have trees dug, balled and burlapped, and sold for landscaping, by wholesale,

retail, and/or landscaping businesses.

\* Cut tops out of trees for marketing as shorter trees or table top trees and sell branches from stumps for roping, decorative boughs, and wreaths.

\* Market seedlings, transplants, or small trees for Arbor Day, celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Successful marketing includes knowing one's production costs, marketing costs (which include advertising and selling costs), and expected profit, as a basis for establishing profitable selling prices.

Article 14 of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Law requires that each grower of potted, or balled and burlapped evergreens (for sale) shall register as a "nurseryman; provided, however, that the word 'nurseryman,' shall not include persons engaged in the part-time production of plant products not sold in the regular channels of business." See Circular 917 of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.



## AND THEN.....

In July the "Christmas tree" discarded by the side of a highway in Syracuse was an evergreen shrub or small tree (with persistent leaves), but not a coniferous tree.

Its leaves were deep green or blue-green and leathery. The leaves were small (a little larger than a quarter), oblong with tapering ends, and had easily seen spiny-toothed leaf-margins.

Bright red persistent and mature berry-like fruits (drupes) clung to the maze of interwoven stems among the leaves on the 3 foot-tall Christmas tree-shaped plant.

When I stopped by the roadside and looked at it closely I saw what it really was:

holly. Although I was unaware of it, some species of holly do grow in New York.

Blue holly, a hybrid species (scientific name: *Ilex x meserveae*) with leaves similar to the English holly (*I. aquifolium*) grows in winter hardiness zones 5 to 9 and can be grown in New York, according to Robert G. Mower of Cornell's Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture.

He noted that this plant usually grows best in acid soil of a pH less than 7.0 (maybe 6.0 to 7.0). Mower also explained that the cultivars of *Ilex x meserveae* are commonly sold by the names *Ilex* 'Blue

Boy,' 'Blue Girl,' 'Blue Maid,' 'Blue Princess,' and 'Blue Stallion.' They are either male or female plants. Both are needed in a planting for the female plants to produce the persistent "berries" which become brilliant red in about September.

The *Ilex x meserveae* will grow in areas of sun to shade, and will reach 6-8 ft. high and 6-8 ft. wide, but it can be pruned to a lower size.

You may be interested in growing this plant for profit as a holiday season ornamental (similar to a Christmas tree) in an orchard to harvest its decorative boughs or in a plantation to sell as landscaping stock.



# The White House Tree

By Dick O'Donnell

Without a doubt, Teddy Roosevelt was America's most colorful president. Among other things, the 26th chief executive was a big game hunter, an explorer, and an author and editor. He was a war hero too. During the Spanish-American War, he led the famous Rough Riders in their legendary charge up San Juan Hill.

He was also a man of peace. In 1905, Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in ending the war between Russia and Japan.

Most of all, Teddy Roosevelt was a man of his word. He was a politician who did his level best to keep his promises to the voters.

When he was campaigning for reelection in 1905, Roosevelt told the voters: "I pledge to do everything I can to save our nation's forests. Greedy men are destroying them to make money."

In November of that year, Roosevelt was returned to office by the voters. He was re-elected by a healthy margin—two million votes more than his opponent.

Nowadays, a two million vote victory may not seem like much in a presidential election. But it must be remembered, back then, the population was much smaller, and the female half of the nation did not have the right to vote. So, all things considered, those two million votes amounted to a landslide victory for Roosevelt.

As soon as the votes had been counted, the President invited the White House press corps to his office.

He informed the press: "We are not going to have a Christmas tree at the White House this year."

"Why not, Mr. President?" inquired one of the surprised reporters.

Said Roosevelt: "I made a campaign promise, and I'm going to keep it. I'm going to do all in my power to save the nation's forests."

Another reporter asked: "How will not having a Christmas tree at the White House save the forests, Mr. President? After all, it's only one tree."

"Other Americans will follow my example," President Roosevelt pointed out.



Gifford Pinchot

"And that way, thousands and thousands of pine trees will not be chopped down. Trees belong in the forests, and not in the homes."

Word of Roosevelt's decision spread across the nation. To be frank about it, most Americans were shocked by the news. All things considered, Roosevelt probably lost that two million vote majority that swept him into office when he banned Christmas trees at the White House.

Two young Americans who happened to live at the White House were also alarmed by the President's ruling. They were Archie and Quentin, the President's young sons.

"We've always had a tree," said Quentin. "It just won't be Christmas without one this year."

However, Archie, the older of the two, had an idea. "Let's sneak a tree into our room," he said. "Father will never see it. He never comes into our room."

The two boys did just that. But no sooner had they decorated the tree than their father entered the bedroom looking for Archie to run an errand. Naturally, he was more than slightly annoyed by what he found. In fact, he was so annoyed, the President of the United States, right then and there, gave his two sons a paddling.

"Get that tree out of the White House!" he ordered. "And don't let any of the newspaper people see you carrying it out."

Normally, a presidential command is obeyed without question. Nevertheless, Archie and Quentin were determined to

keep their tree, if they could. Thus it was that Archie had another bright idea.

"Let's go see Mr. Pinchot," he said.

"What for?" his brother wanted to know.

"He's Father's chief advisor on how to save the forests," said Archie slyly. "Maybe he can think of something to help us out."

Later that same day, forestry expert Gifford Pinchot visited the President in his office.

"Mr. President," he said, "I think you should allow the boys to keep their tree."

"It's a family matter, Gifford," responded Roosevelt. "I can't have the boys disobeying my orders. Besides, I've given my word to the voters. I've promised them I'd save the forest. You know that, Gifford. I can't go back on my word to them."

Pinchot, it should be noted, was away on a trip when Roosevelt held his press conference, and had not returned to Washington until that morning.

"Mr. President," he said, "you won't save the forest by refusing to have a tree in the White House. Crop rotation is the way to save the woodlands."

"Crop rotation," said the puzzled President. "What's that?"

"It is simply planting new trees to replace the trees that have been chopped down," clarified the expert. "That way you'll have a fresh crop of trees ready to chop every year."

President Roosevelt flashed one of his happiest smiles. "Bully!" he exclaimed.

The next day, the press was summoned to Roosevelt's office again. The reporters were told a system of crop rotation would be established in the nation's forests immediately.

"I am also lifting the ban against Christmas trees at the White House," the President added. "We're having one this year."

He flashed one of his famous toothy smiles. But it was a weak one.

Thanks to Gifford Pinchot, the Roosevelt boys did have a Christmas tree in 1905. And there has been one on display at the White House during the holiday season ever since.

*From The Northern Logger and Timber Processor December 1988.*



R.J. Fox, Editor  
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## Letters

Dear Editor,

Maybe I've missed it, but I don't remember ever seeing anything much about Japanese Larch in your publication.

I've got thousands of beauties - they must be good for something.

It would be nice if you could have a qualified forester and marketer come up with a short article.

Thank you,  
 A. Feldmeir  
 Little Falls, NY

*This request, which first appeared in the last issue (NOV/DEC 92) of THE NY FOREST OWNER, has prompted your*

*editor to seek an answer from the NYS DEC Bureau of Land Use personnel: namely, Jim Peek, a Utilization and Marketing Forester from the DEC Region 7 Cortland Office. Jim gave me a 'short, quick answer' which was quick enough but not so short. Jim has promised an article to address the question in a forthcoming issue.*

*The forestry perspectives of all DEC service foresters includes utilization and marketing; however, the special requirements of identification with the relevant industry calls for a specialist. Accordingly, the State of New York DEC through the Bureau of Land Use provides such specialists in each region.*

## WOODLOT CALENDAR

**Jan. 12:** CDC - 7 PM, Hudson Valley Com. College, Vandenburg Rd., Troy; "Growing Nuts", Karl Davies & John Herrington; Call (518) 872-1456.

**Jan. 14:** STC - 7:30 PM, Extension Bldg., Front St., Binghamton; "Local Property Tax Assessment".

**Jan. 16:** AFC, NFC - 1 PM, Holland Town Hall; Pot-Luck Dinner; (716) 322-7398 or (716) 557-2529.

**Jan. 20:** WFL - 7:30 PM; Extension Bldg., Highland Ave., Rochester; "Cash Cropping Hybrid Chestnuts", Bill Wininger, 716-367-2849.

**Feb. 13, 14:** CAY - CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL; Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia; (315) 497-1078.

**Feb. 27:** AFC - 10 AM, Woodswalk at Allegany State Park; (716) 557-2529.

**Feb. ( ): NAC "Hot" Logging Job;** (315) 848-2136.

**April 24: NYFOA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING: MARSHALL HALL, SUNY ESF, SYRACUSE.**

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