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**Stuart McCarty, President**  
 4300 East Avenue  
 Rochester, NY 14618  
 (716) 381-6373

**Don Wagner 1st Vice President**  
 RD #1, Box 203C  
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 Liverpool, NY 13088

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 (716) 377-7906

**Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary**  
 P.O. Box 180  
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 (716) 377-6060

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**FOREST OWNER**

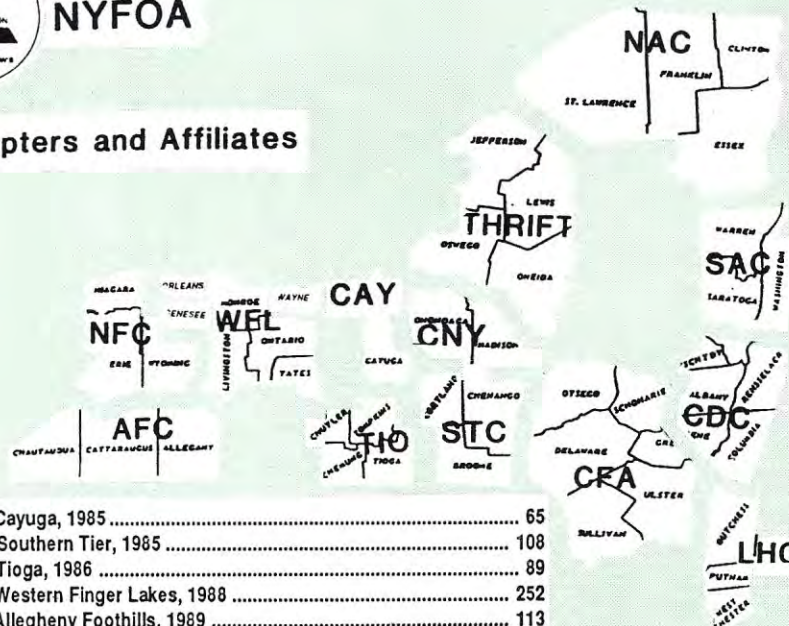
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

General Douglas MacArthur went out with the line "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away". I have a coffee mug inscribed with a similar theme, "Old bankers never die, they just lose interest". Since I was once a soldier (not old) and a banker (older) and am now facing retirement as President of NYFOA, I am wondering what applies to old forest owners. Here are a few thoughts on the subject:

Mary and I were recruited to join NYFOA by President Bill Lubinec in 1974, shortly after acquiring our woodlot in Whitney Point. In looking through the Forest Owners accumulated since then, it's really enjoyable to realize how many of those active in the seventies are still around and doing their thing in forest management - the Eberleys, the Palmers, the Sands, Dave Taber, Vern Hudson (a director now and in the mid seventies), the Roberts and the Strombecks to name a few. Incidentally, Lloyd Strombeck, a past President, recruited Mary as a director in 1978 and we have been involved in NYFOA in one capacity or another ever since.

My conclusion is that old forest owners never die, they just keep caring for their woodlots. They don't fade away and they don't lose interest. What a great group! And as Mary and I leave the NYFOA Board and take a less active part in the affairs of the association, we think of those who have been such towers of strength in the past two years in managing NYFOA.

John Marchant has brought NYFOA up to a whole new level of recognition in and out of the state. As I have said a number of times, my main objective as President has been to keep John as our volunteer Executive Director. He is just too valuable as our leader even to think of trying to do without him or to replace him.

Dick Fox has done an incredible job as Editor of the Forest Owner and before that as Chair of the Editorial Committee. It seems to me that he spends full time at what is billed as a part time position. We owe Dick so much for his dedication and his selflessness.

Where does this lead me? Dick will start "editing" my message if I go on too long, but I must mention many others.

Bob Sand, our senior board member, is always there when needed to help with



*President Stuart McCarty and Past President Mary McCarty*

program and to do the minutes of the Board meetings. Charlie and Marion Mowatt stand tall as enthusiastic workers for the cause, doing all sorts of things that seem beyond our reach. Betty Densmore, a key player in the Allegheny Foothills Chapter and Chair of the NYFOA Editorial Committee, has brought a new spirit to the organization.

Behind the scenes Helen Marchant and Debbie Gill, our Administrative Secretary, have worked diligently to keep the office going in a friendly efficient manner. Every organization should be so lucky! To Clara Miner, our new Treasurer, thanks for stepping in late in the year to take over the books.

Norm Richards has been an active NYFOA Board member for a number of years, chairing many programs and arranging for our use of Marshall Hall at ESF unflinchingly. We appreciate this relationship with ESF. Mary and I have found John Krebs, a new director last year, to be most helpful and always ready to jump in when the need arises.

To Sandy Vreeland who retires after six years of service on the Board and to Dave

Colligan, retiring after three years, thanks for your help. Dave promises to continue to help with legislative matters which is good news.

The chapters and affiliates have added a whole new look to NYFOA in recent times. I am particularly grateful to their leaders and to those who have taken the initiative to start new chapters. They have really been stars in our growth and outreach. In the past two years Joe Messina, John Hastings, Bob Davis, Tom Ellison and Wes Suhr organized new ones. Kathleen Farnum, past head of the Catskill Forest Association, and a new elected Board member, is one of our most enthusiastic supporters.

Don Wagner, President-elect and Program Chairman for the Annual Meeting, has really worked hard at preparing for his new position and in doing so has been a great help to me this past year. Good luck to Don as he takes over on April 24.

Finally, to Mary, my senior advisor, principal critic, enthusiastic rooster, key Board member and best friend, THANKS! It has been fun working with you.



# Hemlock & Hides & Warren County

By John T. Hastings

In 1831 the first major tannery in Warren County began operations in Warrensburg. Seventy-five years later the last tannery, Garnar Leather Works, closed its doors for business. No other industry had as much impact on the growth and development of Warren County in the 19th century as did the tanning industry. Their establishment, growth and development, closely paralleled that of the villages in which they were located.

By the early 19th century many small settlements had sprung up in northern New York. When transportation in the form of canals, railroads and plank roads developed, many of these villages became interconnected. As transportation became easier and cheaper and the towns grew in population, conditions were ripe for industrial development. The presence of vast amounts of hemlock and many free flowing streams provided the key to the establishment of the first major industry in many of these communities - tanning.

The first tanneries in operation were small in size, usually operated by one or two people, and supplied the needs of the local community. Hides were brought in from nearby farms and the tanner would work them for a share of the finished product. Two early tanneries in Warren County, one in Lake George and one in Warrensburg, were established for this purpose and were in operation before 1810.

Later, as transportation systems developed, the shipment of hides to and from local communities became easier and cheaper. It was more economical to ship the hides to the tanneries due to the weight and bulk of the large quantities of hemlock bark which were needed to treat the hides.

In 1823 the Champlain Canal was completed to Whitehall, and nine years later the Feeder Canal was constructed from Fort Edward to Glens Falls. With these water routes open, hides could be moved from Albany to Glens Falls by boat, and then by wagon to the local tanneries to the north. As such, Glens Falls soon became the center for the distribution of the hides to the tanneries in Warren County and the surrounding areas.

A year after the Feeder Canal was opened, the Mohawk and Hudson opened



*Hemlock bark rock on Erwin and Polly Fullerton's Tree Farm.*

the first railroad to Saratoga and fifteen years later, in 1848, a line was extended to Whitehall through Fort Edward. Finally, the Adirondack Railway was constructed from Saratoga to Luzerne in 1865, extended to Stony Creek in 1869, and to North Creek in 1871. The railroads provided further, as well as cheaper, means of getting the hides, which came from as far away as South America, Australia, California, and Mexico, to the tanneries.

Although highways in the 1800's were not of today's standards, they still provided a better means for the movement of hides and bark. These "highways" or plank roads consisted of heavy boards laid cross-ways on timbers over a graded surface. The first plank road was laid between Lake George and Glens Falls in 1848. The following year it was extended to Warrensburg and in 1850 to Chestertown, by the Warrensburg and Chester Plank Road and Turnpike Company. Many of the individuals active in the affairs of plank road companies were prominent men in the tanning industry.

A final factor which was significant to the tanning industry in Warren County was the Potato Famine in Ireland during the late 1840's. The Irish immigrants moved inland, settled, and often became employed by the local tanneries. This was especially the case in many of the tanneries in northern Warren County.

In the early 1800's many tanneries were located in the lower Hudson River Valley and the Catskills due to the abundant supply of hemlock. Gradually, they became established in Warren, Washington and Saratoga counties as the hemlock became scarce in the Catskill region. By the late 1800's the tanning industry was present in nearly every county in the Adirondacks.

The opening of the larger tanneries in Warren County proceeded from south to north, and tended to follow the major waterways, i.e., the Hudson and Schroon Rivers. The need for large volumes of water in the tanning process necessitated building the tannery near a river or major stream.

As the tanneries moved north so did the tanners. As the tannery closed and moved, many families would "pick up" and follow. The reasons for this were many. First, the tanning business was one of the first industries to supply steady year-round employment. Secondly, a tannery would often owe back wages to many of its employees. Therefore, to pay off this debt, or simply as an incentive to move, a tannery would offer a house and/or land as payment or inducement to move to the new area. This was a common practice employed by the tanneries. Each tannery would secure thousands of acres of land, to supply the mill with the needed tan bark, prior to



## A close look at one of the little-known industries which played a major role in the development of the Adirondacks.

or upon moving to a new area. Once the hemlock bark was removed, the land had little value to the tannery. As such, the land was often used to pay off the debts incurred by the tannery.

H.P. Smith states in his *History of Warren County* that "it is a noteworthy fact that Wevertown, North Creek, and Creek Center in Stony Creek date the origin of their existence as villages, immediately subsequent to the erection of the tanneries which now keep them alive." Also, the growth and development of the villages of Warrensburg and Horicon were directly related to the establishment of tanneries there. Smith also goes on to say that the construction of the tannery at Wevertown by W. Watson and J. Wasson "stimulated the dormant energies of the inhabitants, giving employment to the men, creating a market for bark and farm produce, and awakening hopes of other industries yet to come." This stimulation was a result of numerous factors. As was mentioned earlier, many of the houses were built for the workers by the tannery. In addition, many other buildings were often constructed nearby, such as dry goods store, a carpenter's shop, a harness shop, storage sheds, tannery office, a company boarding house, and barns for the horses. Furthermore, a single tannery (depending on its size) directly supplied jobs for up to fifty men.

Many other forms of employment were directly related to the tanning industry. Teamsters were needed to haul the bark from the woods to the tannery, as well as hauling the hides to and from the railway stations or canal. The Emerson tannery in Horicon required 15-20 teamsters to supply the tan bark to the mill. Lumberjacks were also needed to fell the trees, peel the bark, and "rank" the bark out to log roads. Other associated jobs such as carpentry, blacksmiths and bookkeepers were needed to maintain the operation of the tannery. The effect of the tanning industry on communities in northern New York cannot be over-stated.

The tanning industry also relied heavily on the lumberjacks and woods workers who cut and hauled the bark and logs for the mill. Most lumberjacks were of French-Canadian ancestry, especially in the northern section of the county.

Felling and peeling of hemlock trees usually took place from late May through August, when the bark could be easily peeled. After peeling, the logs were left to rot in the woods. However, later in the century (after 1850), hemlock logs were usually hauled out of the woods and floated to the saw mills. The peeled bark was stacked in the fall, and then hauled to the tannery during the winter, when the lakes and ground were frozen and covered with snow, which allowed easier hauling by sleds. William F. Fox states in his *History Of The Lumber Industry In The State Of New York* that the best "axemen were detailed for the felling of the large hemlock. Others, with their axes, girdle the fallen tree trunks at intervals of four feet, and these are followed by men with 'spuds', an iron tool with which they peel or pry loose the bark. The first 'ring' at the base of the tree is taken off before the tree is felled; otherwise, the cutting at the stump would spoil this piece of bark. Another gang works as 'swampers', or in piling or ranking the bark ready for hauling. With the approach of autumn the sap ceases to flow; the bark consequently sticks to the tree, and the work of peeling is ended for that year." The men who peeled the bark from the trees would pile the bark into one-half to two cord stacks at various locations throughout the woods. Many of the piles still exist today.

The bark scattered throughout the woods had to be "ranked" out to the skidways which were located on the woods' roads. From here it was hauled to the tannery. The bark was fitted snugly into stack's containing from two to forty cords. A "wood'shod" sled was made to draw the bark, which was about eight feet long, three feet wide, and drawn by one horse. Two men could rank out 10-15 cords per day.

Hauling was usually done on sleds which could haul one to four cords of bark. A typical day consisted of getting up around four in the morning, doing the chores, which included preparing the team, and being ready to roll by five. The men would usually get in the woods, some 15 to 20 miles from home, around nine or ten. Loading of the sled would take about an hour and a half. During this time the teamster would feed his horse, as well as "get a bit" himself. This consisted of three or four

slices of bread, and fat pork, raw or cooked, which was often frozen!

Sitting on top of the bark, the teamster headed for the tannery, arriving there around four in the afternoon or later. Here he would unload his bark and finally head for home. This trip might be over 30 miles long and result in a day's wages of 75¢!

Bark at the tannery was piled eight to twelve feet high in rows up to 20 rods (330 feet) long. Thousands of cords of bark could be stacked in the yard at one time. The bark had to be piled tightly with the rough side up.

The tanning procedures were relatively similar for most of the tanneries operating throughout the 19th century. The major difference was in the size of the operation.

The tanning process consisted of five operations.

### 1) *Cleaning the raw hide or skin.*

Cleaning included extensive washing and soaking to remove dirt, blood, manure, and other foreign materials lodged in the skin.

### 2) *Removing the flesh, hair or wool*

a) Hides were soaked in large vats of milk of lime and then scraped with beaming knives to remove the hair and flesh. Next the hides were rinsed with copious amounts of clean water to wash away the organic waste.

or b) The hides or skins were hung in the "sweat pits" where the hair became sufficiently moistened so that they could be scraped by beam hands.

### 3) *Softening.*

a) Hides or skins were stored in lofts where they were sprinkled with water, and then treated with oil. At the end of six months they were scrubbed and cleaned.

or b) Hides that had been soaked in lime were then soaked in a mixture called bate (hendung, salt, water) to remove the lime. After a period of time they were removed, scrubbed and cleaned.

### 4) *Leeching and Tanning.*

The hides or skins were then placed in vats containing the tanning liquor. These vats were sunk into the ground and separated by a narrow wooden walkway. The vats would vary in size, usually 8 to 12 feet



## Hemlock & Hides

in diameter. The larger vats (or leeches) required about eleven cords of hemlock bark and could hold around 100-125 hides. As many as 200 vats could be found in the larger tanneries. The tanning liquor was produced by first grinding the hemlock bark into a coarse dust. This was done by a machine similar to an old fashioned coffee grinder, powered by water or a horse which turned the mill as it walked in a circle. The bark was then mixed with hot water and pumped into the vats. In some tanneries the tan bark was broken into chunks, which was then spread between layers of hides in the vats, and covered with water. Some tanneries had hot water pipes running through the vats to keep the liquor scalding hot. Fresh tan bark would be added periodically to maintain the strength of the liquor. Up to six months was needed to properly tan the hides. The actual tannin was a chemical reaction between the tannin in the hemlock bark, the gelatin of the hide and the water, resulting in the preservation of the hide or skin.

### 5) Drying and Finishing.

Finally, the hides were thoroughly washed, hung singly, and left to dry for about six months. Care had to be taken so that the hides dried properly and did not mold. After thorough drying, they were rolled, which was a process to obtain a uniform thickness of the hide.

Most of the tanneries in Warren County (except the Garner Leather Works and, later, the Bowman Tannery) were producing sole leather for shoes, and other leather goods. For this reason, the hides were finished by rolling and polishing with tallow or neats foot oil to make one side glossy and smooth.

Of the entire eleven Adirondack counties, Warren was most influenced by the tanning industry. What happened here was repeated on a lesser scale elsewhere. As early as 1830 no records existed of any products being transported from Warren County tanneries over the Champlain Canal. By 1864, however, one million dollars worth was shipped by this method alone. One year later Warren County's leather products were valued at \$1,775,971.

The Tanning Era lasted a little over 100 years in Warren County, the most productive period being only 40 to 50 years, or until the Hemlock bark became exhausted. This same story occurred in most of the other Adirondack counties. Today, little is left to remind us of this period. Most of the tannery buildings have burned or been torn down. The forests have regrown, although today the hardwood predominate and few large Hemlocks remain. The streams have naturally cleansed themselves of the early pollutants of tannin and lime. All that remain are the much improved transportation systems, now bringing "live hides" to the Adirondacks.

*John Hastings is a NYS DEC Senior Forester working out of the Region 5 Warrensburg office as well as a NYFOA member serving as the Newsletter Editor for the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter. He resides with his wife Pam in Queensbury.*

*This article is an excerpt from an original published in Adirondack Bits 'N Pieces (1984). John recommended an additional reading of the recently published book, Hides, Hemlock and Adirondack History by Barbara McMartin.*


## NWOA Appoints NYFOA's Exec as Vice President for the Northeast Region



On March 1, 1993 the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) announced the appointment of three Regional Vice Presidents according to NWOA President Keith A. Argow. Included in the group are a former community college president, a retired corporate executive, and recent town mayor who is also a forester. All are private woodland owners.

The immediate duties of the new Vice Presidents will be a dual focus on getting endorsements of the recently re-introduced Reforestation Tax Act, as well as directing the development of affiliated state woodland owner associations (currently there are 25 state affiliates of NWOA).

Representing the northeast from Fairport, New York is John C. Marchant. Born in Michigan and raised on a farm in Ohio, Marchant is a physicist with degrees in mathematics and physics from Miami University of Ohio. His career spanned 31 years with Eastman Kodak Co. where he directed several divisions. His forestry activities include 23 years of management of a 160 acre New York woodland. Long active in the New York Forest Owners Association, he became that organization's Executive Director in 1989.



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# A Call for Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Candidates

By Gary Goff

The third year of NY's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is now underway with this request for Master Forest Owner/COVERTS volunteer candidates. Over the past two years, 66 experienced forest owners (including several wife/husband teams) have undergone the training to become certified Master Forest Owners (MFOs).

Candidates then must attend the 3-day training workshop to be held this year on 23-26 September, at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, south of Ithaca. Topics covered at the training include tree identification, wildlife and sawtimber management, forest economics, finding boundaries, education techniques, and sources of forestry information in New York. All expenses for the stay at the

training are paid by the program.

Upon certification as MFOs, the volunteers are responsible for arranging a half-day, on-site visit with about 10 neighboring forest owners over the next year. Typically the forest owners are asked to explain their interests and objectives. Then based on the discussions, the MFOs may provide some insight based on their experiences and suggest sources of further information and means by which to obtain technical advice or services.

The MFOs are encouraged to establish working relationships with current MFOs and local natural resource professionals including County Cooperative Extension agents, NYS DEC foresters, private consulting foresters and others involved in forestry. The MFO/COVERTS program Director provides continuing support from Cornell and handles all questions from any person involved with the program.

The NY MFO/COVERTS Program is sponsored by the NY Forest Stewardship Program and the Ruffed Grouse Society,



*The 1992 class learning about a timber sale from Don Schaufler, Arnot Forest Manager.*

The goal of the program is to provide private, nonindustrial forest owners of New York with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings to enhance ownership satisfaction. This is accomplished through the volunteer efforts of MFOs who meet with local, less experienced forest owners, in their woodlots, to **encourage and motivate** them to practice sound forest management.

Candidates will be asked to complete a two-page application form, that will be the basis from which the program advisory committee selects the top 35 candidates.



*The 1992 class of Master Forest Owners.*



*The 1992 class discussing a logging job with timber harvester, David Reed, at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest.*

with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS DEC's Div. of Lands and Forests, and the NY Forest Owners Association. The term "coverts" refers to good ruffed grouse habitat and as such, coverts is symbolic of the importance of habitat management for all wildlife.

Any one interested in learning more about the program should contact their nearest active MFO listed with County Cooperative Extension Offices and Regional DEC Offices. Application forms for the 1993 program are available, until June 1, from: Gary Goff, MFO/COVERTS Director, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or call 607/255-2824.



# It's Coming! - Or is It Already Here?

By R.K. Morrison

I am one of those philosophical individuals who "owns" a small piece of forest land. I share the view of many others who believe that we truly do not own the land but merely are allowed the privilege of using, tending, caring, enjoying, and reaping from the land in return for our investments. These investments include the purchase price, annual taxes, regular maintenance costs and improvement costs (not to mention the physical back-breaking labor this old body has had to endure).

After years of investing in our forest land, we may be fortunate enough to realize some actual cash returns by a sale of

forest products. Now we have reached a point where the margin of profit may be narrow at best. Any additional interference in this small margin can be disastrous. Some examples might be a depressed market at the time of harvest, an insect or disease problem that causes a loss of grade, a natural catastrophe that devalues the product, theft (the ultimate catastrophe), or any number of other factors that detract from the value we receive for the product.

## THE SMOKE

To me, the worst thing that could happen, would be for me to loose the right to harvest my forest products, or have something happen that makes a sale so costly or cumbersome that it is all but impossible. But that is precisely what is happening, and it is happening right under our noses and we are barely aware of it. The newest challenge facing the private forest landowners in New York State today is not an insect epidemic, not a climatic catastrophe, not a newly discovered disease, nor out-of-control property taxes. It is a slowly, creeping (although the pace is picking up); insipid problem that none of us wants. It is the continuing proliferation of local forms of harvesting ordinances. They may take the form of permits, ordinances, zoning restrictions, local laws, registration, or outright prohibition. But no matter what form they take, they ultimately will take away or seriously impair your rights in managing your own forest land.

## THE SMOLDER AND HEAT

The origins of these local laws are numerous but tend, in my opinion, to fall into two categories. The first is from the standpoint of aesthetics, in that adjoining or nearby property owners are suddenly confronted with a visible harvesting operation. The abrupt change in the landscape, not to mention its temporary unsightliness, brings on the wrath of citizens demanding that their local government officials do something about the problem. The second is from the standpoint of damage to roadbeds, shoulders and ditches and the obvious visible effects. This leads to complaints to the road superintendent or supervisor. Rather than taking other action that is presently

available under the law, they seem to steer in the direction of a new local logging ordinance. The same citizens hardly ever complain about the farmer when he clearcuts his land by cutting the hay, combining his oats or harvesting his corn crop, nor do we hear about the mud and manure when it ends out on the roadway during normal farming operations.

**It is a slowly, creeping (although the pace is picking up); insipid problem that none of us wants.**

One of the causes of many of the complaints has been the continued push or expansion of urban dwellers into the rural environment. What they find when moving into the rural area, is exactly what they hope to preserve. Unfortunately for them, come spring, the farmer will be spreading odoriferous manure and muddying up the road while plowing his field, and the beautiful view across the valley or next door may be altered by a neighbor harvesting his forest crop. Much of the blame can be put on forest landowners, loggers, foresters, and mill owners (**I might as well irritate everyone while I'm at it**). A landowner who sells his timber with no concern for the environment but only a desire to maximize his return is as guilty as the logger who harvests the timber in a manner that is the most economical without concern for the woodlots future. At the same time, a forester who condescends to an owner's wishes no matter what effect it has on the resource, or who encourages a landowner to cut as much as possible in order to increase his fee, is as guilty as the rest. Finally a sawmill operator who purchases logs from any logger, no matter how unscrupulous in his harvesting practices or business dealings, is also guilty of not protecting the resource that his future depends upon. To be sure, there are good,

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to think of all of the benefits you could enjoy from having a pond or a lake on your own property. This idea could become a reality if the right conditions prevail. From our experience it normally requires favorable watershed conditions, good site conditions, owner-commitment to stewardship for enhancement of forest land values, appropriate engineering planning and design, and good construction practices.

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## It's Coming!

conscientious forest landowners, loggers, foresters and mill owners. It's the bad ones that are causing us the problems when it comes to the increasing regulation of the forest industry. At the root of almost every new proposal for a local cutting ordinance, we find that an ongoing logging operation has stirred the pot.

I am not only opposed to the idea of a local timber harvesting ordinance, but I am opposed to the many varieties of ordinances that ultimately will make it difficult and costly to do business (if logging is even allowed). We have ignored the problem long enough in New York State. Although I am a government employee, I am opposed to costly government regulation. I am a forest landowner too; something must be done to protect my interests in the environment and in my right to harvest forest products.

### THE BIG BEAR

Many states have now begun to enact legislation to deal with the problem. New Hampshire, among other states, has a "Right to Harvest" law. West Virginia has enacted a timber harvesters licensing law. Many states now regulate timber harvesting through their state forestry departments. New York State recently adopted a "Right to Farm" law.

As of this writing, it is my understanding that the New York State Forest Practice Board, the NYSDEC - Division of Lands & Forests and the Empire State Forest Products Association are all beginning to explore the problem and to look for possible solutions. To date the Department and the Industry has used the "put out the small brush fire approach" by dealing with the problem on an individual, local or regional basis. Its time to look at the big picture!

Before it is too late, I urge you to preserve your rights as a forest landowner by speaking out at every opportunity on what I consider to be a very serious issue.

*Robert Morrison is the Regional Forester for NYS DEC Region 8. This article was reprinted from the Western Finger Lakes Newsletter. For a criticism of a local regulation see accompanying article by David Skeval.*

# Logging Ordinance Drafted for Horseheads

By David Skeval

The Town of Horseheads, NY has drafted a Timber Harvesting Ordinance that should concern any forestland owner in Horseheads or any other town in Chemung County.

The draft Ordinance is four pages long and addresses the following topics: Subject and Intent; Registration; Registration Information; Fees; Insurance; Posting and Bonding; Enforcement; Violations; and Appeals. Attached to the Ordinance is a five page document referred to as the "Timber Harvesting Standards of the Town of Horseheads". The Ordinance states the standards set forth in the "Harvesting Standards", must be followed.

When reviewing any Harvesting Ordinance the forestland owners should ask themselves three questions:

1) Can this Ordinance ban me from harvesting my timber given the lay of my land or its proximity to residential property?

2) Does the Ordinance detract from the value of my timber?

3) Do portions of the Ordinance deal with aesthetic issues that have nothing to do with environmental integrity?

Upon reviewing the Horseheads Ordinance, the answer is YES to all of these questions.

Certainly there are legitimate issues this Draft Ordinance is trying to address, but the Ordinance is discretionary in nature and makes unreasonable demands on the forestland owner.

For example, it requires the forestland owner to build a 200 foot gravel road into his or her property to get the landing away from the municipal highway. This would cost the forestland owner over \$2,000. Don't be fooled into thinking the logger will be paying for the road because all the costs of the harvesting come out of the value of your timber. The more it costs the harvester for the operation, the less money you get for your timber. If you have average quality timber, the first 6.8 thousand board feet of timber (at \$300/MBF) would be paying for your new road.

Several factors have spawned this Ordinance. The single greatest factor is increasing political pressure from an expanding suburban population. It is not necessary to turn this issue into a rural versus urban conflict. The non-forest owning population doesn't understand the cost of owning and maintaining managed forestland; they do know the pleasure of driving by forestland or gazing at it from their kitchen windows. Harvesting made more difficult by ill-conceived ordinances will have the effect of converting forestland to other uses, something both the urban and rural populations can agree is not good.

*David Skeval is employed on the extensive forestlands of Cotton-Hanlon. This article was reproduced from the newsletter of the Tioga Chapter.*

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# CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

## WESTERN FINGER LAKES

Our chapter is grateful to Eric Randall for hosting the March meeting on his property where he shared some of his knowledge on maple syrup production. Despite the frigid temperatures and the blizzard of '93 closing in on us, some 30 people turned out for the presentation. We learned how Eric and his son, Jessie are applying new methods to produce better maple syrup. Our reward for braving the elements was a sample of warm maple syrup that was delightful alone or in our coffee.

A woodswalk is scheduled for May 15, 10 AM at the junction of Purcell and Ace Roads South of Route 20A between Hemlock and Honeoye Lakes in Ontario County. We will inspect a timber sale of 25 acres that is between the stages of harvest and cleanup. The trees were red and white oaks from 150 to 200 years old. For more information contact Dale Schaefer at (716) 367-2849, evenings.

## THRIFT

Connie Smith, welcomed the council to her wonderful office building at Twin Mills Lumber Co., located at Russ Mills in Oswego County. She gave us a brief history of the long and successful business of her company. She also treated us with coffee and refreshments, which were enjoyed by all.

President Harold Petrie called the meeting to order. Robert Watson gave his treasurer's report. Robert Quinn reported on the future financial well-being of THRIFT. Charlie Valentine reported on his meeting with State Senator James Wright, to discuss the efforts of Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Co. to sell conservation easements of its 50,000-plus acres of Tug Hill land to the state.

Mike Virga, Forest Manager for Lyons Falls P & P Co. gave his views of the possible sale of easements to the state.

Mr. Valentine asked for a show of hands, in support of Lyons Falls P & P Co. in its efforts with the State, and received approval by the majority.

A tentative group tour of Curtis Furniture Co. and/or Twin Mills lumber operation is set for May 13th.

## ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Our chapter visited Jamestown Audubon Nature Center in the Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary on March 27. Our group was large enough (about 40) to be divided into two groups; one which visited the native species Arboretum while the other toured some of the Sanctuary to view returning birds, including hundreds of Canada Geese and many species of ducks. After a short meeting and lunch, those who had toured the Arboretum then toured the refuge and vice-versa.

The meeting was chaired by Joann Kurtis, who has agreed to be co-chair with her husband, Mark. Nick Ratti gave an update on the \$500 gift to the Nannen Arboretum; the money will fund an internship by a young person interested in pursuing a career in an environmental-related field. The monies will pay for improvements to be made to the Pierce Whitney Forest in Machias.

Our next woodswalk will be May 22 when we will visit a wildlife habitat improvement consisting of small checkerboard clear cuts near Hanging Bog in the Town of New Hudson, Allegany County. For more information 716-942-6600.

## SOUTHERN TIER

The March meetings was the occasion for the annual potluck supper, complete with door prizes. R. Dean Frost, Chairman of the State Forest Practice Board, together with other members, were observed in the serving line several times, getting seconds and thirds. Chad Covey, NYS DEC Region 7 Associate Forester, addressed the group on the state's ecological system of management plans for public lands. The unit management plans highlight habitat management for ecosystem diversity.

The next meeting is May 11 at 7 PM at the Extension Education Center, Front Street, Binghamton. The program will feature Michael Greason from the Central Office, NYS DEC and an Open Forum.

## SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

Current and upcoming events: An April 10 meeting arranged by John Hastings and hosted by Frank LaBar at his sugar house and orchard in Minerva, NY. Ron Cadeaux providing a booth/display at Adirondack Community College for an Agricultural

Opportunities Seminar and Trade Show, April 24. Our chapter will have a NYFOA Forestry Exhibit at a Forest Expo/Competition in Glens Falls on June 19., a part of the Lake George Region Spring Festival weekend program.

## TREE FARM NEWS

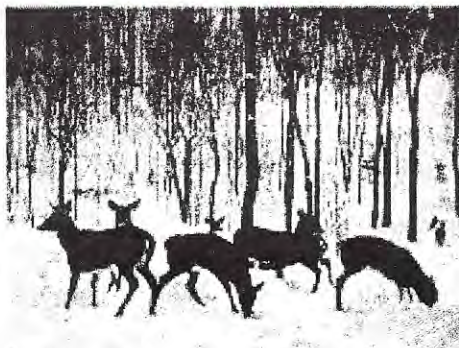
The NY Tree Farm Committee announced recently that Erwin and Polly Fullerton were voted the Outstanding Tree Farmers for New York State in 1993. Besides the many forestry accomplishments on their 200 acre Tree Farm in Thurman, the Fullertons have conducted tours of their woodlot, become Master Forest Owners, and been voted Conservationist of the Year by the Warren Co. SWCD. In addition, the success of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter is largely due to the contributions of Erwin and Polly. The nomination was made by Steve Warne.

*From SAC Newsletter.*

*People and Trees, Partners in Time,*



# NORTHERN ADIRONDACK



Photos by Wes Suhr

This bunch has had cold, deep snow and coyote chasing them for two months. So far, I've seen the remains of two dead deer from coyote predation on my woodlot, but we'll see many more deer that this severe winter has taken.

This does bring me to the subject of our fall woodswalk: deer management; that is, how on-going, local research is helping resource managers and landowners produce healthy deer and habitat. More about that in a later issue of *The NY FOREST OWNER*.

Hopefully, spring will have arrived in

latter April along with many song birds. And that will be the subject of our spring woodswalk, sometime in May. We plan to have a trip with ornithologist(s) attending who can identify the spring beauties and also tell us landowners how we can better manage this priceless resource.

Have you heard the songbird population is on the decline? I have noticed this decline on my own woodlot. What's causing it, and what can we do about it?

Our winter woodswalk on February 13, hosted by Jim Curran of Curran Logging on the Massawepie Boy Scout Camp. About

10 brave souls with cabin fever stumbled out into a snowstorm to see a very interesting and educational demonstration of automated logging. We learned that the machinery, and the care the loggers were taking with the machines, amounted to a safe logging job - both for the logger and the site. The camping sites will be much safer for the Boy Scouts to use in the coming season. Thanks for an enjoyable tour, Jim; and Mike Jackson (Property Superintendent), thanks for the use of the Camp's facilities and your introduction to recreation management for the Camp.

## CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

In March, a CFA member called with unfortunate news. He is a farmer in Sullivan County, and, separate from his farm, he owns a 48 acre woodlot. His neighbor informed him that a timber trespass has occurred in the woodlot. CFA intends to help him determine a strategy, investigate the theft and, if necessary, find a forester to inventory the loss. Regardless of the extent of the damage, whether one tree was taken or thousands, this experience is criminal. Forest owners should prepare themselves to avoid it. NYS DEC publishes an excellent pamphlet "Timber Trespass". It briefly describes methods to prevent trespass and options to consider after a theft has occurred. Don't honor these crooks by calling them loggers; these rascals are nothing more than thieves.

After this year's packaged firewood season, CFA came out with a net gain and

Dave Riordan, CFA's Wood Products Manager, gets the credit. Now CFA is on the brink of gaining a self-sufficient Forest Land Improvement program. This year we sold 20,400 bundles, 50 cords of bulk firewood and netted approximately \$11,000.

CFA is reaching out to both its members and any other persons interested in helping CFA increase its Endowment Fund. The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation has offered to match every dollar CFA raises for the Endowment Fund, up to \$15,000 (which means \$30,000 in total).

May 8 - NY ReLeaf Planting Workshop at the Stony Kill Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls; June 12 woodswalk at Henry Kernan's forest in South Worcester, focus to be announced. Call CFA for details, 914-586-3054.

## AASE HEIBERG

Aase Heiberg, 91, died March 29 at the home of her daughter, Karen, Mrs. Norman Richards in Syracuse.

A native of Copenhagen, Denmark, Mrs. Heiberg lived in Syracuse since 1927. Her husband, Svend O. who died in 1965, was a former Dean of the SUNY College of Forestry and is credited with sparking the formation of NYFOA (FO 3/65).

*Think Globally, Act Locally, Together*



## NEW YORK STATE'S FORESTS

# The Opportunity - The Problem And The Remedy

By Francis "Mike" Demeree  
and Michael C. Greason

### INTRODUCTION

Every person in most countries in the world uses forest products every day. The bumper sticker stating, "In some way a logger has touched your life today," is true. Most of us live in wood frame houses furnished with wood and equipped with the simplest wood products, including toilet paper, paper towels, shopping bags, cartons and the like. We read books, magazines and newspapers and write checks, notes, letters and spend money - all on paper made from trees. Wood fiber is a fiber of our society; and one we take for granted without thinking of its source. Or if we do, most of us assume wood comes from Maine or the Northwest. When in fact, New York is mostly forested with some of the finest, most resilient, renewable forest resources in the world. That's right - **RENEWABLE**. Trees are living, growing plants that reproduce and replace themselves continually.

The 1980 New York forest inventory recorded 62% of the state is forest and that is 18.5 million acres. That reflects an increase of a million acres since 1968 and up from seven million acres at the turn of the century. This forest is the resource base for a \$4.5 billion a year industry, a very significant economic component to the upstate economy.

With controversies aired in the media about spotted owl habitat being destroyed by loggers, red cockaded woodpecker habitat being cleared, tropical deforestation and other timber related issues, many people have been receiving a strongly negative impression about timber harvesting. Forest industry is becoming more sensitive to society's environmental concerns. Society needs to recognize the need for wood fiber in a modern society and that wood is a renewable resource, unlike most alternative materials. The key is wise management of the forest.

### THE PROBLEM

The problem is twofold. On the one hand, society, including most forest owners, doesn't recognize forests as a resource

that can be managed. And due to this lack of recognition, forest land is taxed at ad valorem, which is supposed "highest and best use", not based on the land's potential to grow wood economically. "Highest and best use" translates into what someone selling their property for development purposes received. One of the problems with this is that not all land can be developed at a market opportunity that one individual may have taken advantage of. Consequently tax burdens become so extreme that many owners are forced to subdivide and sell off their forest holdings. This subdivision is referred to as "fragmentation". An article in the NEW YORK CONSERVATIONIST (July - August 1989) by Michael Greason described forest fragmentation in Delaware County. This is a rural forested county; however, during the seven years preceding the article, there was a 62% increase in tax parcels. It can be assumed this increase did not occur in the nineteen incorporated villages where the properties had already been developed.

Consequently most subdivision was occurring on rural forest land. During this same period the absentee ownership escalated from 39.5% to 59.2% and the tax levy rose from \$5,516,110 to \$10,144,404. This rise in funding reflects that people need more services than forests. Trees don't send saplings to school nor care about snow plowing highways or waste disposal. In turn as fragmentation increases, budget needs increase and taxes are forced to rise creating more pressure to subdivide properties to escape the unbearable tax burden. Forest fragmentation does not appear to be in society's best interest.

Most New York forest land is in private ownership. 15.3 million acres are classified as commercial forest, that is it is forest land that is not precluded from harvest as are the state owned forever wild lands within the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. Of that 15.3 million acres, one million is in public ownership, one million is owned by forest industries and the remaining 13.5 million is in nonindustrial private forest ownership (NIPF). A majority of the NIPF group do not consider timber production a primary reason for ownership; therefore most of this land is

unmanaged. Of the 506,000 forest owners recorded in 1980, there are 2500 certified Tree Farmers and 1600 New York Forest Owner Association members. These two organizations have significant overlap in their membership. There are an unknown additional number of forest owners who do manage their land. The Department of Environmental Conservation provides advisory services to about 4000 landowners each year. Yet, unfortunately, most forest land is in poor shape due to highgrading and is not being actively managed.

Good forest management can lead to faster production of higher quality products while improving water and air quality, wildlife, fisheries and threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna habitat, and recreational and aesthetic values. All these resource benefits contribute to a good lifestyle in New York. Our forests are truly amongst the finest in the world. Their potential is terribly under-utilized.

### A REMEDY

How can we correct these problems and best realize the benefits? We believe one remedy is already available. A significant property tax exemption tied to a commitment to practice sound forest management is one incentive that has merit. Providing a property tax that is related to the land's ability to grow a crop rather than its potential value for development can encourage an owner to retain the property for forest use. By obtaining a long term commitment on the part of the owner to manage the forest according to sound forest management principles and to produce wood products for forest industry, the forest can make a good economic contribution to the state economy. This commitment is assured by serious penalties for land use conversion or breach of the approved management plan.

Real Property Tax Law, Section 480-a was legislated in 1974. The older version, RPTL 480, known as the Fisher Forest Tax Law had become perceived as inequitable and ineffective. It had frozen assessments at the time an owner committed; therefore enrollees who had been in the program longest continue to gain a substantial benefit over those who came in later. Penalties for conversion are not significant in light of



## Trees don't send saplings to school nor care about snow plowing highways or waste disposal.

prices paid for lands being developed; so the exemption has often been used as a shelter for people holding their land for speculation. Sound forest management and timber production is not assured under this version. Lands committed to 480 continue to enjoy the benefits of that law and some of the more than 700,000 acres are actively being managed for forestry. Since the enactment of 480-a, 849 parcels containing 306,577 acres have been certified. Between the two versions of the forest tax laws approximately one million acres receive a forest tax exemption. Approximately nine million acres are eligible to participate.

480-a is available to owners of 50 acres of contiguous forest land who apply. The owner commits to follow an approved management plan for ten years following the last filing for exemption. The management plan must be prepared by a forester and is a technical document with a work schedule which must be followed. When scheduled harvests occur, an approved cutting prescription must be followed and a yield tax of 6% of the certified stumpage value is paid to the county treasurer. This stumpage tax is in effect a deferred tax that is paid at the time the property is producing income. Plans can be amended to reflect market conditions or other situations; but either doing something not in the plan or not doing something in the plan can lead to revocation of the certificate. Violations lead to a penalty of 2 1/2 times the savings for up to ten years plus compound interest. Conversion of a portion of a certified parcel leads to penalty of twice that for the portion so converted.

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To calculate the exemption:

First: take the assessment per acre and multiply it by 80%;

Second: take the equalization rate and multiply it by \$40, and subtract that figure from the assessment per acre;

Now take the lesser amount and subtract it from the assessment per acre to obtain the new assessment.

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To try to simplify this awkward concept the new assessment is the greater of 20% of the original assessment or \$40 per acre based on full value assessment.

### AN OPPORTUNITY

Minor improvements could make this program more effective and fair.

For the most important one, state reimbursement to taxing jurisdictions for the tax shift would eliminate local resistance and appropriately place the burden on society as a whole. In this scenario the stumpage tax and any penalties would go to the state to offset costs of reimbursement. Where Society benefits from forests and this benefit accrues to all New Yorkers, it would be fairer to have the cost distributed statewide. When an owner schedules a harvest, the logger purchasing the timber is often from out of town and may sell logs to mills in several other towns and/or counties. Once milled or converted to paper, the product may be distributed anywhere. The multiplier factor from stumpage to consumer is 25; that is, a dollar paid to a landowner develops \$25 by the time the finished product reaches the consumer. Therefore the economic contribution to the state economy is widespread.

Second, a flat tax rate, say \$3.00 per acre per year, revisited periodically and based on the economics of forest crop production would be fairer than a reduction in assessment. There are cases where certified tracts are still being taxed at a rate that far exceeds what one can justify on the basis of wood production. These tend to be parcels in urban areas that may be providing "green belt", open space benefits. Perhaps the societal benefits associated with these forests are more apparent than with more rural forests and therefore deserve special consideration. A flat tax rate coupled with the stumpage tax eliminates the need to measure site capability to try to assess soil productivity. The sites that produce the highest return pay the greatest tax and at the time the owner can best afford to pay. By having the stumpage taxes and any penalties shifted to the state with the requirement for state reimbursement to the taxing jurisdiction, the distribution of cost

over time is balanced.

480-a can assure a resource base for forest industry that could lead to industries investing for the future. Knowing the forest will be managed for the long term according to sound forest management principles promises a continued flow of acceptable quality wood. These managed forests will remain healthier than unmanaged forests; so they will provide many other resource benefits also. If a majority of New York's forests were to be managed, forest industry's \$4.5 billion annual contribution to the economy could grow substantially while providing other improved natural resource benefits.

*"Mike" Demeree was recognized as the National Outstanding Tree Farmer for 1985 and Michael C. Greason is Chairman of the New York Society of American Foresters. This article was previously published in the LEGISLATIVE GAZETTE.*

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# HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

by Douglas C. Allen

The hemlock woolly adelgid is thought to have been accidentally introduced into western North America from Japan in the early 1900s. First reports of it in the east occurred in the late 1960s, but significant damage was not observed until 1985. At this time mortality of both ornamental hemlocks and scattered patches of forest-grown hemlock in Connecticut aroused concern throughout the northeast.

Since this initial outbreak, infestations of the adelgid (pronounced ah-dell-jid) have been observed throughout southern New England, southeastern New York (Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties), and along the Atlantic coast from eastern Pennsylvania south to northern Virginia. Small pockets of hemlock mortality (i.e., small groups of trees) have been associated with a buildup of this insect in southeastern New York. Mounting concern in the northeast recently prompted Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to adopt a quarantine that prohibits the free movement of hemlock seedlings and nursery stock, logs, lumber with bark intact, and chips from 13 states (including three western states) and the District of Columbia into their areas. Only material that is inspected and certified can be shipped.

## Why a Quarantine?

Eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, is an important component of both broadleaved and coniferous forest types. The wood is valued by segments of the paper industry, and the typically dense stands make excellent wildlife habitat.



Fig. 2. Egg sacs of hemlock woolly adelgid.

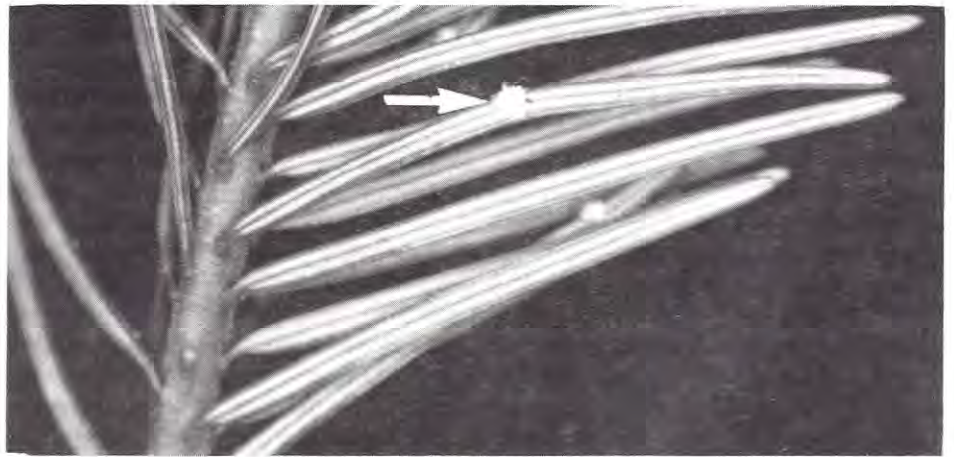


Figure 1. An adelgid on Douglas-fir.

Introduced insects are notorious because of their propensity to cause damage. Most are introduced without their complex of natural enemies. In the presence of suitable climate and abundant food, and in the absence of natural checks on population growth, their numbers increase rapidly.

## What is an Adelgid?

These sucking insects are closely related to aphids. They have complex life cycles comprising several life stages that are quite different in both form and function. They feed only on conifers. Many species (e.g., spruce gall adelgids) form cone-shaped galls on spruce, and on an alternate host (pine or fir) the insect occurs as white cottony tufts (Fig. 1). The hemlock woolly adelgid is not a gall maker and, even though winged stages occur (and presumably seek spruce as an alternate host), most of the insects recycle on hemlock and damage is limited to this tree.

## Life History

The hemlock woolly adelgid has two generations each year. Adult females overwinter on hemlock branches and deposit eggs during early spring (mid- to late February in Connecticut) in spherical, white, woolly egg sacs (Fig. 2). Eggs hatch in April and the first stage nymphs, called crawlers, disperse. Nymphal development is completed in 4-5 weeks. Adult females of the second generation deposit eggs in mid-summer. Shortly after eggs hatch, the first stage nymphs become dormant until fall. They feed and develop during warm periods in autumn and winter.

## Damage

Adelgids feed by inserting very fine stylets (thread-like mouthparts) into inner bark cells. These cells distribute throughout the tree food that is manufactured in the needles through the process of photosynthesis. The stylets are hollow and function like a straw that the insect uses to suck plant sap from individual cells. When a large number of adelgids feed on a twig, many cells are destroyed and eventually the twig dies. The most obvious evidence of the insect are clusters of bright, white egg sacs (Fig. 2). These cottony, globular masses cover the female and eggs that she has laid. Feeding by high adelgid populations may cause foliage to turn first yellow-green, then brown and eventually needles drop prematurely.

## What to Do

With the exception of some experimental work done in Connecticut, there have been very few attempts to control populations of the hemlock woolly adelgid. If you have a component of hemlock in your woodlot, or utilize hemlock for ornamentals, you should be aware of what the insect and its damage look like. Bring any suspected infestations to the attention of the DEC office nearest you. There is no need to panic! To date, significant mortality has occurred only in Connecticut and a few areas in New Jersey.

*This is Professor Allen's eighth article in the NY FOREST OWNER, an informative series offering the reader insights on the forest from a bug's point of view. Dr. Allen teaches Forest Entomology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.*



# Dear Editor: Come!

The NYFOA Tour itineraries are looking really good; it's been great fun just contacting all these people to arrange them.

But I did want to announce (in addition to writing individually to everyone who has already responded) that the tours have been rescheduled. I just felt it was more important to get the details right than to hurry things along imprudently.

Actually, it's lucky I postponed them. If the southern tour had gone as originally scheduled, the bus would have gotten snow-bound in the big blizzard somewhere between Virginia and the Carolinas.

So, the tour to Switzerland, the Black Forest, and Bavaria is now firmly set for September 19 through October 3, ending up in Munich in time for Oktoberfest. The Southern Tour is re-set for March 12 through 24, 1994.

Interested forest enthusiasts can write to me for details. - Alan Knight

## Join us for a woodswalk in the Alps!



Come join the New York Forest Owners Association as it tours the storied forests and villages of Switzerland, the Black Forest, and Bavaria, Sept. 19 thru Oct. 3. Meet fascinating people, walk their woodlots, taste their ways.

The tour includes visits to private woodlands, sawmills, ancient castles, Alpine mountaintops, country towns, and Munich at Oktoberfest.

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## One Man's Thoughts

By Robert M. Sand

As always, Springtime is a delight after the rigors of cold weather. It's a time to experience anew the greening of the world about us. A joy everyone feels with each lengthening day and the emergence of renewed growth into the sunlight.

NYFOA, as we reflect on thirty years of accomplishment, also anticipates a year of continued growth. Our success has involved volunteer energy and time from hundreds of dedicated members. Contributions of leadership have sustained a deep resolve to succeed. For sure it has not always been without difficulties. The challenge now is to continue our growth in both service to our membership and as an association able to attract and maintain forest owners in ever greater numbers. The NYFOA foundation of common interest is one that can pay big dividends of satisfaction and enhanced management skills. We all enjoy being a winner.

It behooves each of us to seriously accept the John Marchant challenge (as outlined in the Mar.-Apr. '93 Forest Owner) and actively seek and sign up new members with enthusiasm. We have so much to share with our neighbors. Together our opportunities are truly unlimited. Let's all get more involved.

As I personally reflect on the thirty years of NYFOA, I am extremely pleased with its part in helping to lead the way and improve forest practices in New York. Two changes have occurred that contribute to new opportunities for forest owners. We've seen more consulting foresters respond to the management needs of the forest resource all across the state. As professionals, their input has been significant. And the added impetus of a large and viable forest products industry has provided markets for all species.

We are indebted to the continued support the Forestry College at Syracuse has freely given NYFOA for more than 30 years. Others too, have made the success of NYFOA possible - Cooperative Extension, NYDEC, the Forest Practice Board, Foresters from all quarters, Tree Farmers, and Cornell University - the list could fill this page. Our thanks to each and every one.

We look forward to the future with confidence. Only the assessor can discourage us. His cut will continue to grow. It will be our greatest trial.

*Bob Sand is currently the Recording Secretary for NYFOA's Board of Directors and Chairman of the Awards Committee.*

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# Timber Theft: A Growing Problem

By J.P. Lassoie

Most property owners seldom worry about losing large tracts to theft. As timber prices have increased, however, so has timber theft. The demand for a free Christmas tree has always plagued growers and landowners, but now landowners are also losing their roadside trees to firewood gatherers.

A number of factors contribute to the increasing timber theft problem. Many landowners in New York State are not aware that they own very valuable trees and that their values are increasing yearly. For example, over the last 20 years the value of veneer-quality black walnut logs has increased over 730 percent! A veneer-quality log is generally 18 inches or more in diameter and at least eight feet long with few surface defects; its value increases with its size.

## Professional Thieves

Most timber thieves are well-equipped professionals. They use chain saws modified with several mufflers and trucks with boom loaders. Although most thefts occur at night and in isolated areas, thieves have been known to take trees from the front lawns of homes during daylight hours. Neighbors may see the thieves in operation but pay no attention because they think that it is a legitimate operation.

High-quality logs find a ready market. Thieves may haul logs hundreds of miles to sell them, and often these logs pass through several dealers before they reach the final processor, making it difficult to check their original source. In addition, individual logs are hard to identify unless the real owner has taken the time to mark them.

Thefts are commonly not discovered until several days after they occur. In fact, the logs may have been sold and on their way to an exporter before an investigation can begin. Although the forest products industry has organized to assist law enforcement officials in tracing stolen logs, the help of landowners is also needed.

## Protection Methods

Nothing can completely protect valuable trees from a determined professional timber thief; however, there are actions that can act as a deterrent. A landowner can

locate, describe, and record the valuable trees on his land. Trees can be numbered and recorded by species, location, diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground, and height to the first large branch of each. In addition, any distinguishing characteristics of the bole of the tree should be noted. If a landowner has trouble identifying valuable trees, he can get assistance from state foresters, consultants, and the local Cooperative Extension office.

Trees may also be marked with a characteristic symbol. If the appearance of the trees does not matter, a landowner should paint a stripe down one side of the tree. The stripe should begin as high up as possible and go all the way to the ground. The paint should be a type that will not wash off, and it should soak into the cracks and crevices in the bark. Special tree marking paint is available from forestry supply stores, or phosphorescent paint can be used if appearance is important. Police agencies are equipped to read such markings.

It also helps if landowners join with their neighbors in a cooperative protection effort. Landowners should learn the location of their neighbors' valuable trees, and they should keep each other informed about when they will be away. Also, they might take turns patrolling areas not visible from their residences. Upcoming timber sales should be noted, and any timber cutting activity should be checked out.

## Reporting Thefts

If a theft occurs, it should be reported to the State Police as soon as possible—early reporting is very important. The date, time, and location of the theft should be recorded. In addition, landowners should note any suspicious activity in the area

including license numbers of strange trucks and descriptions of unidentified individuals. The best evidence to convict a thief is always eyewitness testimony.

The most obvious victim of timber theft is the person whose timber is stolen. The "fair market value" of the stolen timber cannot be written off against the federal income tax. The deductible loss is limited to the cost basis of the timber. However, we are all victims. Timber theft discourages landowners from growing timber, which eventually drives up the price of wood products. Careful planning and protection, however, can help reduce the loss of valuable trees from our state's woodlots.

*Professor James P. Lassoie, a former Director of NYFOA is currently Chairman of the Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University.*

*Reproduced from NY FOREST OWNER Mar/Apr '79.*

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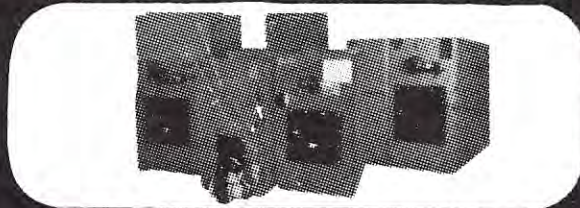
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FURNACES AND BOILERS



# 1993 National Envirothon To Be Held in NYS

By Sandy Huey

1990 was the first year the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in New York held a state-wide competition, three counties participated (Cayuga, Cortland, and Onondaga). This year 41 counties will hold local competitions for 5-member teams of students, Grades 9-12 from participating school districts. Each county will send its winning team to the State Meet to be held May 26 and 27 at SUNY Morrisville.

During the competition, each team rotates through five testing stations where they are asked questions related to aquatics, wildlife, soils, forestry, and current environmental issues. The team with the highest cumulative score in the five areas becomes the winner. Some of the counties in order to pool resources ban together and hold regional meets; such as, the Central New York Region (Cayuga, Chenango, Onondaga, Madison, and Wayne) which will compete at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Onondaga County. This competition is sponsored by Niagara Mohawk Power. The NYS Envirothon held in Morrisville is sponsored by the NY Power Authority, NY Association of Conservation Districts, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Society, Isaac Walton League, and AGWAY, Inc.

The Envirothon is a unique conservation education effort. It started originally in Pennsylvania in 1984, and has since spread to other States. During the event the teams match wits with each other to answer questions about environmental subjects in an outdoor setting and a "hands on" emphasis.

The National Envirothon for 1993 will be held this summer at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY.; Chairman, James Hotaling, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, 248 Grant Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021.

*Sandy Huey is a technician with Cayuga County SWCD, For previous articles see NY FOREST OWNER 16, Jul/Aug 91 & NYFO 6, Sep/Oct 90.*

## Tree Farmers and the Wild West

The New York Tree Farm Committee has put together a 10 day trip for Tree Farmers interested in the Southwest. Scheduled for Sept. 20-29, the tour starts in Albuquerque, New Mexico, cuts through the northern portion of Arizona and Colorado, and ends up in Laughlin, Nevada. It includes some of the following highlights:

- the Sandia Peak tramway
- the Petroglyphs near Albuquerque
- tour of the Trees of Corrales Ltd.
- visit to beautiful Santa Fe and its famous plaza market.
- a full day in the artist's mecca - Taos, NM - where one will find the oldest continually inhabited pueblo in the US, Kit Carson's home and the Martinez Hacienda.
- a guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park
- a tour of scenic Canyon de Chelly and the Petrified forest.

And an opportunity to make your million (or spend it) in one of the many casinos in Laughlin, NV.

The tentative price tag for this fun-packed vacation, EXCLUSIVE of round trip airfare is approximately \$945.00 per person, double occupancy. This includes 9 night's hotel accommodations, 9 breakfasts, 2 dinners and lunches, deluxe bus coach transportation, and admission to all the attractions. The price is based on a minimum of 25 people, if 25 people do not sign up, the trip will have to be canceled.

If you would like any additional info, please do not hesitate to write Accent on Travel, 11 W. Main St., Washingtonville, NY 10992, or call (914) 496-3618.

## CNY-NYFOA BBS UPDATE

By Bill Miner

Metamorphosis is occurring on the CNY-NYFOA BBS. A new version is up and running that includes color graphics and more help screens to help you unwind the services available.

A new "Classified Ads" service has been added. Have something to sell...looking for something to buy?...post it in "Classified Ads" you can even receive inquiries from interested buyers! Chapters can use this service to post announcements of coming events.

The "Reader Room" now has a variety of articles on forestry and related topics. This service continues to grow with new articles added weekly.

If you are looking for a utility program; word processor; typesetting program for your newsletter; communication programs; latest version of PKZIP (PKZ204G.EXE) you will find them in the FILES section for downloading to your computer.

If you call after 9:00 pm AT&T rates are less than connect time to many commercial services.

**Need help getting started..give me a**

call on our voice line: (315) 451-3712.  
CNY-NYFOA BBS operates from 11:00 am - 11:00 pm 7 days a week. Call (315) 457-3682. (2400, 1200,300 baud) 8N1 modem settings.

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# Before You Whack Your Weeds....



By Dr. Jane Sorensen Lord

When our log landing became designated as our Christmas tree plantation, we York-raked and used Roundup before planting a couple of thousand spruce and pine seedlings. By the end of the first season the baby trees were hidden by grass and weeds. It seemed unbelievable that so many plants in number and type would volunteer to grow, uninvited in the sunny, flat, relatively dry acreage.

I was minimally familiar with herbs at the time. And these errant plants were definitely not sage, marjoram, dill - the kitchen herbs with which we are all familiar. I bought a book about weeds and learned my intruders were golden rod, mullein, yarrow, bouncing bette, milkweed, field violets, plantain, burdock, feverfew and St. John's wort.

I felt some power in being able to identify them, but it wasn't until I visited Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts that their purpose came to light. At the reproduction of our first colony, each house had a food garden and a medicinal garden. Growing in the medicinal garden were many of my culprits. They had some use! But what?

I bought several more books, including an herbal written in the 1700's (over 1500 pages of detailed drawings in olde English), and a most helpful book by Alma R. Hutchens, Indian Herbalogy of North America (Shamehala, Boston and London,

1991).

Lo! many of my weeds were escapees from gardens of the European settlers, brought over like we now carry aspirin, Lomotil and sunblock when we travel. Many, though were here before the white men, and introduced to them by the Indians.

I have experimented and used my weeds for several years, both on myself and willing human guinea pig friends and clients. The results have been fun, useful and encouraging. Chemical compounds from plants comprise the basis of many, many of our patented medicines. However, the whole plant seems to reduce the side effects that pharmaceuticals produce, to work faster and get done sooner.

In my own case, a self designed plant estrogen replacement, had me symptom free nine months after a total hysterectomy. My gynecologist was curious and supportive of my efforts and amazed at the results. He said his patients on synthetic prescription medicine need it for more than twice as long! I used red clover, burdock, blue cohosh, damiana and liquorice root, plus a couple of oriental herbs, *dong quai* and *ma Huang*. I made a tincture in 150 proof vodka and took a couple of tablespoons a day in the beginning and a teaspoon a day after a while.

*Herbal simpling* is using one herb at a time and is the best way to experiment. But **ALWAYS**, if you get really sick or injured, see your medical doctor. Treating yourself with herbs when you have an infection or high fever, which may need 20th century drugs like antibiotics, is anachronistic in 1993. Try plants for standard items like colds, flu, headaches, bug bites and stings, upset tummy, hang overs, mild blues, cuts that don't need stitches and the like.

I wrote about making tinctures, oils and teas in the last issue (NY FOREST OWNER Mar/Apr 93). Herbal vinegars can be made instead of tinctures for you who don't/can't drink. Use apple cider vinegar, crush up the plants, pour out about 1/3 of the vinegar, put plants in until the bottle is full again, leave for at least three weeks and take by the tablespoon in a 1/2 glass of water.

You can use the leaves of bouncing bette fresh, right off the plant. They suds up when you rub them in water and the mix was used by the settlers for washing self and clothing. I planted some by my pond and it has become a useful Tree Farm tourist attraction.

A strong strained tea of yarrow flowers and leaves swabbed on cleaned wounds has been used for healing since Roman times. Yarrow heals very fast. If the wound site is not clean it will heal around imbedded dirt (or gravel in my personal case! It eventually worked its way out). For deep wounds, like surgical scars, you drink the tea too, for inside-out help.

Goldenrod leaf and flower tea on skin helps ulcers, boils and slow healing sores. Indians used it dried and powdered to cover wounds like we use bandaids. You can drink goldenrod tea for upset stomach and since it promotes sweating it will reduce fever.

The tall, fuzzy mullein with its giant leaves (supposedly used as inner soles in Indian moccasins) is very effective for colds and bronchitis. Using the leaves and roots in a tincture twice daily, got one of my patients with early emphysema off of prednisone. Taken with the grace of his medical doctor, the man now uses the mullein frequently as a tonic. You can also roll up and smoke dried mullein leaves for asthma or sore throat.

Dried mullein flower stalks, soaked in tallow then lit, guided Hannibal's army through the Alps, it's told. Flowers picked one by one and placed in extra virgin olive oil helps remove ear wax and relieves ear aches. It works on cat ear gunk, too.

I haven't had a wart to try it on, but carefully applied milkweed milk should make them go away. Butterfly weed, a cousin, is also called pleurisy root. The root tea breaks up a chest cold.

Violets (the whole plant) make a fine tasting tincture which bolsters the immune system and tastes great. I made two quarts in late September. We used it up before Christmas and haven't gotten colds yet!

Wildly invasive feverfew tastes terrible, but makes headaches go away faster than aspirin. It is also a mild tranquilizer. St. John's wort (with scientifically ac-



knowledgeable similarity to pharmaceutical anti-depressants) alleviates "the blues". I gave it to one of my clients, telling her it may take a week of twice daily doses to work (the pharmaceuticals take a while to start). She claimed it started to work twenty minutes after the first dose and cleared her depression in a week. She now takes it as needed.

Burdock leaves, tasty fresh as a salad green, make a tonic for cleansing blood, and the circulatory and urinary systems. At the Eclectic Institute in Portland, Oregon, the plant scientists hold its purifying properties in high esteem and add burdock to many herbal formulas.

Plantain was carried over by early settlers. The Indians called it Englishman's foot, because it followed their migrations. It is high in Vitamin C, is a good diuretic and is used for upset stomach and bowels. The Indians took it for rattlesnake bite!

I admit that knowing about and using weeds as I've discussed, does not make them go away. I could make potions for armies and weeds would still choke out intended plantings. However, I have gained a healthy respect for these plants that don't need water, fertilizer, are deer and bug proof and attract bees. And it does make me feel good to know that in spite of the frustration they cause, I can tear them out of the ground, one by one, rip them to shreds and eat them!

As a responsibility to representing the whole of the resource including the under-story and the edges, the NY FOREST OWNER has encouraged this, the third article of a series on herbs (5, Nov/Dec 92; 18, Mar/April 93). The Editor would welcome a measure of the reader's interest for this subject, please write and express an opinion.

## Thorington Forestry Service

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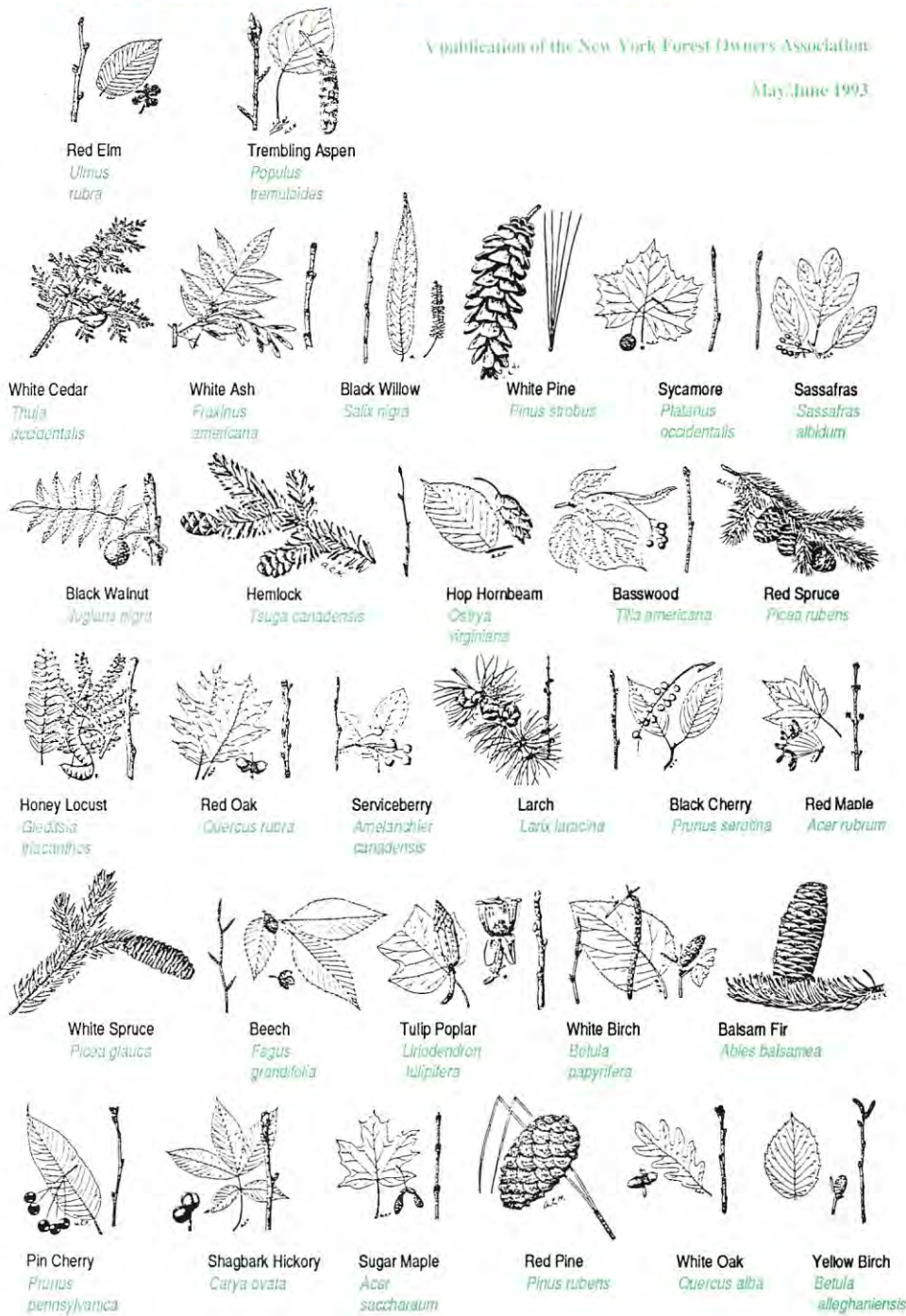
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# The New York FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

May/June 1993



The Cover line drawings and names were reproduced from the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H Bulletin: "Know Your Trees" by J.A. Cope and F. E. Winch; a reprinted (3/89) and revised (7/81) publication of the Department of Natural Resources, NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. To order the 72 page Bulletin which covers 50 trees to be found in New York State: send \$2.50 for Bulletin No. 147J85 to Distribution Center; Cornell University; 7 Research Park; Ithaca, NY 14850.

*'Here, man is no longer the center of the world, only a witness, but a witness who is also a partner in the silent life of nature, bound by secret affinities to the trees.'* - Dag Hammarskjöld on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Linnaeus's birth.



R.J. Fox, Editor  
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**May 11:** STC; 7 PM; Open Forum-Mike Greason; Front Street, Binghamton

**May 13:** THRIFT; Industrial Tour, Oswego County; (315) 788-5920

**May 15:** WFL; 10 AM; Active Logging Woodswalk; (716) 367-2849, evenings

**May 19:** WFL; 7:30 PM; Our Tree Farm - national Award Winners, Harriet & Jack Hamilton, Ionia Fire Hall, (716) 436-5374

**May 22:** AFC; The Use of Clearcuts for Wildlife; near Hanging Bog; (716) 942-6600

**May 22:** STC; 1 PM; Woodswalk; Haslett Farm; Jacksonville Road; Greene; (607) 656-8504, eves.

**May 25:** CAY; 7 PM; Locke Water Works Woodswalk & Timber Sale; Locke; (315) 497-1078

**May 26, 27:** NYS ENVIROTHON; SUNY MORRISVILLE; (315) 252-4171

**Jun. 12:** CFA; Woodswalk at Henry Kernan's Forest; So. Worcester; (914) 586-3054

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