

Did you ever watch a new-born colt try to get on its feet, first to his knees, then trembling straddle-legged, then the first step, then nourishment from a proud mother?

Well, that is an example in nature of the efforts of your officers and directors in getting our new association on the road since its formal establishment on April 27th. Meetings have been held, committees appointed and working plans made, and programs built, but real progress hindered by our repeated disappointments in obtaining a permanent secretary.

Now we have good news: Floyd E. Carlson, of the College of Forestry, has consented to take over the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer. This is a most excellent choice, and a definite break-through in the further execution of our plans and program. With a secretary and an official office address, we can now proceed with formal incorporation (the papers are ready), printing of stationery and publicity material, etc.

Right here and now, let us give all the credit at our command to our Secretary pro tem, Mrs. Barbara Pittenger, whose labors have been long, arduous, competent and dedicated. We thank her, and her family, for her tremendous help.

For those of you who were not present at the annual meeting, a brief review - after a welcome by Dean Harvey T. Shirley -

1. The President, pro tem, gave a report of activities to date and introduced Harold J. Evans for the purpose of presenting a report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
2. The report was adopted with some minor changes in the By-Laws which the new Board of Directors was empowered to make.
3. A chairman of the meeting was duly selected in the person of Assemblyman Harold Peet. Under his parliamentary guidance, Mr. Augustus Miller, of Utica, presented a report of the nominating committee and a 15 member Board of Directors was nominated and elected. (This Board met later and chose T. T. Buckley as President; Harold J. Evans as First Vice-President; Harvey Smith as Second Vice-President; and now Floyd E. Carlson as Secretary-Treasurer.)
4. Mrs. Barbara Pittenger, Secretary pro tem, reported that she had \$589.73 on hand with about \$175.00 accounts payable and 212 members with 47 counties represented.
5. Floyd Carlson, Chairman of the Program Committee, presented the plans for the "get-acquainted" box luncheon following the business meeting. This turned out to be a very pleasant affair and many excellent ideas were presented for expansion of our plans and membership.
6. A "getting-to-know-you" questionnaire was filled out by a big majority of those attending. Here are a few facts that came to light:
  - 65% desire an early fall family field trip and meeting.
  - 54% desire annual meeting in April.
  - 66% read "The Conservationist".
  - 28% read the "American Forests".
  - 20% read the "Christmas Tree Journals".

- Topics most desired for discussion in future meetings include:
- Forest Insurance
  - Forest Taxation
  - Landowner-Sportsman Relationship
  - How to take advantage of available public services
  - Pending legislation
  - Marketing

7. A tour of the College under the guidance of students and faculty was followed by a movie, which completed the program.

The Directors have met twice for all-day sessions in Syracuse. Membership, program, planning and finance committees have been appointed, and most of them have had meetings of their own. You will hear more from them later. The big news right now is that the program committee had a meeting at Park Forest, Warrensburg, N.Y., and have definitely arranged for our Fall Meeting to be there September 27, 1:00 P.M. to September 28, 2:15 P.M. If you want to learn some forestry first hand, if you want to see the fall colors, if you want to have some fun -- save that date!

A word to the wise: "More likely, however, is a two-thirds increase (in forest products demand) between now and 1980, and a tripling between now and the century's close." See page 253 of "Resources in America's Future" by Landsburg, Fischman and Fisher, The Johns Hopkins Press. There are only 37 years between now and the "century's close", and that is not long in the life of a forest.

Remember that even in the space age, nature is still man's greatest resource.

Theodore T. Buckley, President  
R.D. #2, Cambridge, N.Y.

Floyd E. Carlson, Secretary  
College of Forestry  
Syracuse, N.Y.

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 31, NO. 4  
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## COVER:

First Edition Replica  
of the FOREST OWNER

# FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association  
Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore; Alan Knight, Mary McCarty  
Norm Richards and Dave Taber.

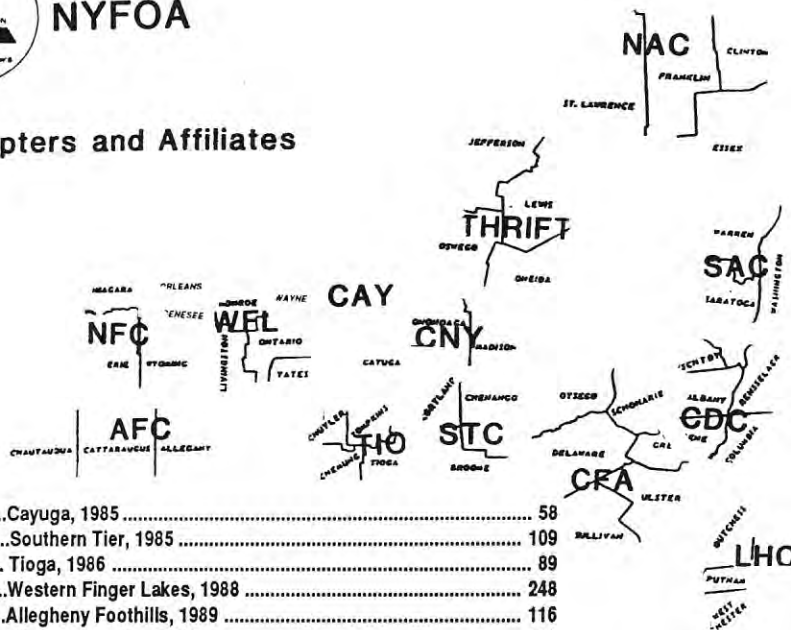
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## NYFOA

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1993 is becoming a year of firsts for me. The most important first is the honor bestowed upon me to serve each and every one of you as president of our fine organization. I pledge to do my best to keep NYFOA moving forward as Stuart McCarty so aptly did over the last two years. The association owes Stuart and Mary a debt of gratitude for their dedication and hard work on behalf of NYFOA over the past years.

One of Stuart's organizational goals was to expand NYFOA's membership. This important goal will be continued during my term as president, along with a genuine effort on my part to solicit additional membership involvement. In future messages I will expand on this personal goal and will identify and discuss additional objectives believed by me to be important to the association.

The second first experience this year was a timber harvest on a portion of my wood lot located in Hamilton County. The experience was extremely exciting and educational, as many of you are already aware from your own personal experiences. The right decision for my property was obvious. Proceed with a winter commercial harvest of overmature, diseased, and genetically inferior trees. Then follow with a timber stand improvement cut, all the while keeping in mind the management plan objectives of timber improvement, wildlife enhancement, aesthetics, and so on. However, if the decision was so simple, then why did I have so many restless nights. The worries were many: would the heavy equipment create non-repairable ruts in the shallow Adirondack soils? would future high quality harvest trees be damaged? would the post cut appearance be distasteful? The thoughts went on and on, all the while knowing deep in my heart that my property needed to be managed to improve its future health.

As the process commenced, with marking of the trees, formal bid proposals, signing of the contract, and the start of the clearing of a landing, the nights became longer and longer. Once the harvest was under way, I knew that I had done the right thing. Because I had been deliberate in my selection of a consulting forester and a logging contractor, all of my worries and



*President Don Wagner at his Adirondack landing.*

fears were for naught. However, if something can go wrong, it will. During the harvest, the area in the Adirondacks where my wood lot is located (Hoffmeister) was subjected to the heaviest snowfall in years, nearly 5 feet. Because of the heavy snowfall, the logging contractor was required to hire a small dozer to push back some of the snow from the skid trails. Despite this minor set back, the project continued on schedule. I sleep much easier at night now and am genuinely pleased that I proceeded with the harvest. In fact, I look forward with delight to similar harvests for the next three winters. It was a great first experience.

The 30th anniversary spring meeting on April 24 was absolutely outstanding. The speakers were great, the award presentation was fantastic, the lunch was excellent, and more importantly, the social exchange between members was enjoyed by all.

Those members that were unable to attend the spring meeting missed a great event. In the future every effort should be made by as many members as possible of our association to attend the spring and fall meetings. They really are great events.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank the Central New York Chapter, and in particular Bill and Clara Miner, for their encouragement, support, and all of their hard work in helping me put together and prepare for the spring meeting.

## HEARD ON THE WING

To tell NYS where the raptor nests are,  
And who owns them,  
Puts proprietary rights at risk;  
What say you NYFOA ?

*Editor*

# 1993 NYFOA SPRING MEETING

By Betty Densmore

"In the 60's", when NYFOA began, few people cared about forests; now too many care too much and know too little about them."; Ross Whaley, Pres. SUNY/CESF so defined the problem of changing public perception of forestry as he opened the annual meeting at Syracuse. He noted that public interest is a good thing, but misinformation and mis-interpretation have caused passions to run high on both sides - - between preservationists and the forest industry -- with the forest owner somewhere in the middle. He expressed a hope that governmental agencies on all levels will learn to work with forest owners to enhance the use, and stewardship, of resources.

The program "Thirty Years of Change Within NYFOA and New York's Forests" got off to a great start. Outgoing President, Stuart McCarty, gave a short history of NYFOA and introduced several past presidents who were in the audience; he also introduced and welcomed new members of the board. Charlie Mowatt gave his



Photo by Dave Taber

Douglas C. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology after his presentation, "Maintaining Biodiversity of Forestlands". Professor Allen is a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER (see page 16, this issue) and is Chairman of the important Biodiversity Committee of the national Society of American Foresters.



Photo by Dave Taber

Ross Whaley, President State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry welcomes and opens NYFOA's Anniversary Meeting in Marshall Auditorium.

report on the health and growth of chapters, commenting on the dynamic energy and new dimensions that many chapters are bringing to NYFOA. He also introduced new chapter chairpeople who were present.

Executive Director, John Marchant, illustrated for us, with slides, how NYFOA is networking with various groups to raise NYFOA's profile and to broaden our appeal to potential members. He showed how we are growing, not only in numbers, but in public recognition.

Stuart McCarty then introduced the new officers; and new president, Don Wagner, took the podium and thanked Stuart and Mary McCarty for their service to NYFOA. With Association business behind us we began a program designed to teach and entertain beginning with Dr. George Hudler, Professor, Cornell University, who made tree diseases interesting; his lively style and sense of humor made this learning experience a painless one as he spoke on Tree Disease: state of NY Forests; Past and Present.

Dr. Douglas Allen then spoke on Biodiversity and Forestry (see: Biological Diversity - Is Variety The Spice of Life?, NY FOREST OWNER 4, May/June 1992). Dr. Allen's earnest, reasoned discussion

**"too many care too much and know too little"**

addressed the problems of too many people using resources unwisely. "What we lose, or may lose, without ever having known the value of...." He pointed out that effective stewardship is essential to maintaining biodiversity, that it is everybody's job and he made some recommendations: encourage the mix of species, accommodate wildlife's needs, recognize the importance of wetlands and balance use with good stewardship. How do we do this? By education and incentives that reflect a region's goals and needs.

After lunch and the presentation of Awards, the program resumed. Dr. William Porter presented a discussion of one of New York's greatest wildlife management success stories: the return of the wild turkey. Using excellent photographs and

charts he illustrated how turkey populations have increased and their range expanded since being re-introduced in the state. He explained forest practices that encourage turkeys. And the benefits to the birds of harvesting timber, clearcutting and edge cover.

We then split up to go to either Ernie Hammerle's workshop on 480A Tax Law or Pat McGlew's "Planning a Timber Harvest" both were excellent and this successful format would be welcome at future spring meetings. The program concluded with Dr. Hugh Canham's examination of NYS Forest Economics "Market Forces that Affect your Stumpage Prices."

**"What we lose, or  
may lose, without  
ever having known  
the value of..."**

We were all encouraged to fill out a program evaluation questionnaire that will help organizers present future meetings which incorporate features that we want. A great idea that allows each one of us to help direct the content of upcoming spring meetings.

We cannot forget to mention the work of Helen Marchant and Debbie Gill, who manned (womanned?) the reception tables and passed out agendas and name tags....and answered questions and helped in a thousand ways. They do all the work and miss most of the program. We couldn't have such smooth running meetings without their help and their smiling welcome. All of the people who work to organize the meetings, who get the caterer, set up a program, find excellent speakers and make the whole thing run smoothly deserve a pat on the back for another spring meeting that was educational, stimulating and fun. A sterling example of the volunteer spirit that makes NYFOA such an outstanding organization.

*Betty Densmore is a NYFOA Director and serves as the Chairman of the Editorial Committee.*



Photo by Dave Taber

*George Hudler (right) a plant pathologist, well known to Christmas tree growers throughout New York State, discussed "impacts of tree diseases in the past, present and future, relative to the forests of New York." NYFOA president, Don Wagner of Utica, expresses his appreciation to Dr. Hudler for the insight he provided forest owners. From Cornell University, George W. Hudler, Ph.D., publishes the "Christmas Tree IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Newsletter."*

**"Forests are Essential to Our Lives"**

46th New York State Woodsmen's Field Days  
Public Seminar  
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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1993**  
6:15 p.m. Registration - Free  
7:00 p.m. Door Prizes & Introductions

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*Aisle microphones provided for audience participation*

- \* *Governmental Pressures* - George H. Canon, Town Supervisor, Town of Newcomb, NY
- \* *Landowner Rights* - Dennis J. Phillips, Attorney at Law, McPhillips, Fitzgerald and Meyer, Glens Falls, NY
- \* *Recreational and Open Space Values* - Tim Burke, Executive Director, The Adirondack Council, Elizabethtown, NY
- \* *Wood Using Industry Situation* - Roger A. Dziengeleski, Woodlands Manager, Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc., Glens Falls, NY
- \* *Timberland Tracts Over Time* - Peter V. Litchfield, President, New York Blue Line Council; and President, Litchfield Park Corporation, Gansevoort, NY
- \* Refreshments, Meet the Speakers, and Socialize. Adjourn 10:00 p.m.

**Broadcast by Radio Stations WBRV (900 AM and 101.3 FM) of Boonville  
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Sponsored by: Cornell Cooperative Extension  
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As part of: the N.Y.S. Woodsmen's Field Days  
"People and Trees, Partners in Time"

# Reading: The Right Thing To Do

By Peter S. Levatic

It is raining outside and a good time to write about the forest. The only better thing to do would be to read about the forest but I already did that in the morning. Occasionally, knowing that I am not a forester, people ask me where I learned about the forest and the things I do there. I assure them that I know but little and that it comes naturally when you get into things. But in reality, there is more to it than that.

Sixteen years ago, when I became a forest owner, I barely remembered what high school biology and the Boy Scouts had taught me. So I started to read everything that came close to the forest as a subject. I soon went to Extension Service presentations, all kinds of field days, workshops, all NYFOA woods walks, forestry meetings, and even ESF Syracuse symposiums. But the glue that held all this together was reading. This was not easy considering that I have always been a "doer" and I only read when I have to, or when all else fails.

I guess I just have a natural curiosity; just as you have, or else you would not be reading this. What I am suggesting, therefore, is that you read more about the forest and discover the wonderful stuff out there which is yours for the reading. It costs next to nothing, it is exciting, it turns on the light bulb in your skull, and it is fun. And you should have fun because life is short and you deserve to have fun. Let me show you a way.

There are the innumerable brochures, fliers and papers which you find at meetings, at DEC offices, at shows, every-

where. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service (USFS) and Cooperative Extension each have enough to flood you out of your house. Pick up a copy of everything and read it. Or call up and ask them to send you their Publication Lists. Even if the subject is a very familiar one, the emphasis or the point of view of this writer will most likely be different from the last writer's view. You read about the same subject again and, behold, you discover a new aspect, a new correlation, a new missing link. Furthermore, it is surprising how the mind works; you read something, but you only retain what happens to stand out at the moment, the rest is discarded. You read the same, identical material a year later and you will discover a whole lot of new things in the same piece. It is fascinating! So, store what you have read in a good place where you can easily find it again. When it comes to reading, there is no such thing as old stuff.

Old forestry reading has "antique" value as well; it seems to me that in past decades the focus used to be mostly on forest management. You could say "narrowly" concerned with the trees, compared to the present, when the emphases are on stewardship and biodiversity, the "larger view" of the forest environment. But even trees and forest management represent a wide area of knowledge and, as a forest owner you need to be very familiar with that. It will profit you to go back in time a little to find some of that fascinating "antique" material. Just to mention two examples:

(1) The College of ESF at Syracuse used to publish their RESEARCH REPORTS, the product of their Applied Forestry Research Institute. The Institute no longer exists, but the ESF Syracuse Moon Library (\*1) has all Reports and you can borrow them, by mail even! I learned a lot from these, like Report No. 29: "An Evaluation Of Chain Saw Girdling To Treat Unwanted Northern Hardwoods", or Report No. 6: "Logging Road and Skid Trail Construction". Yes, you do have time to go after the mailing list and obtain the Title you are interested in because the alternative is to remain ignorantly in the dark.

(2) The USFS has many Research Stations, like the one in Warren, PA where the 1991 NYFOA Fall meeting visited. These stations put out a lot of excellent written material. The Research Station in St. Paul,

MN published two series which are written for lay readers. They are short, clear and excellent in content and form. They are the CENTRAL HARDWOOD NOTES (\*2) and the NORTHERN HARDWOOD NOTES (\*2). The former is a large collection, and most Notes are also directly applicable to our Northeastern forests. That is the reason, I suspect, that the latter is a slim volume. Both can be obtained through the mail. Each 2 to 5 pages long, the 85 Central Notes cover every subject area with which the forest owner is concerned. Write for them and put them on your reference shelf.

Proceedings of past as well as present forestry symposiums, or conferences, have been great reading for me. I look for announcements in forestry magazines, etc. and then write and ask for the written Proceedings. It takes a while for those to be compiled but it is worth the wait and the few bucks they cost. Tomorrow I plan to re-read the Proceedings of CHALLENGES IN OAK MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, 1985 (\*3). That was in Wisconsin, but it works here too.

In 1986 I sat in the audience of the MANAGING NORTHERN HARDWOODS (\*4) Silvicultural Symposium at ESF, Syracuse trying to look knowledgeable. Subsequently I obtained the written Proceedings, a one inch thick book that contains all that was to be said during the Symposium. It is a wealth of information and as I re-read it periodically I discover new things in it.

An ongoing series about forest management topics, comes from the U.S.F.S. in Morgantown, WV under the title of FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATE. (\*5) Just call and you shall receive all back issues free and be put on the mailing list. I used to hesitate calling government agencies because some of them sounded sort of annoyed. No longer! The lady in Morgantown sounded like an old friend, bless her! One or two Updates are published annually, Number 14 just came out, fascinating and not too technical, even I can understand it.

ESF Syracuse just published "FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS - FISCAL YEAR 1991-92." I have found four among the 200 plus Titles which interest

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me and which I will write for. (\*6)

Of course, you are already reading the FOREST OWNER which is getting better with every issue, same as the WOODLAND STEWARD. Consider subscribing to NATIONAL WOODLANDS and the NORTHERN LOGGER also (\*7).

My finest reading hours are the ones when I am too tired to work in the woods and decide to relax and rejuvenate my aging systems. I then place some of these papers into my pack basket and walk out to a sunny spot in the forest with a fine view and guaranteed peace. I also take a can of my favorite beverage, of course. It will not be long before I pause from my reading to look around at an example of what is being described, I may run over for a closer look, or to flag a spot for later exploration. Questions are answered, new ones emerge, plans for tomorrow are formulated.

And so it is today despite the rain outside. It compels me to paraphrase my favorite oatmeal commercial: Reading, the right thing to do.

#### References:

(1\*) SUNY College of ESF, Syracuse NY, Moon Library, (315) 470-6711.

(2\*) U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

(3\*) University of Wisconsin-Extension, College of Natural Resources, Stevens Point, WI 54481 .

(4\*) SUNY College of ESF, Syracuse, NY, Publication. ESF 87-002.

(5\*) USFS NE Forest Exp. Sta. Morgantown, WV 26505. (304) 285-1536.

(\*6) SUNY College of ESF, Office Of Research Programs, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210

(7\*) The Northern Logger And Timber Processor, PO Box 69, Old Forge, NY 13420. \$10.00 per Year; National Woodlands, by National Woodland Owners Association, 347 Maple Ave. E., Suite 210, Vienna, VA 22180. \$15.00 per year.

and: DIRECTORY OF FORESTRY, FISH & WILDLIFE PUBLICATIONS from Cornell Cooperative Extension; Cornell University; 7 Research Park; Ithaca, NY 14850

*Peter Levatich, a NYFOA Director who represents Tompkins County at the NYS DEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board, is a Master Forest Owner (Class of '92) and with his wife, Barbara provided one of the sites for NYFOA's 1992 Fall Meeting.*

## A NOTE FROM ECUADOR



*Three American foresters inspecting a lumber operation in Northeast Ecuador, March 1993. Henry Kernan, (l) David Gison, Bruce Kernan*

#### by Henry S. Kernan

The westward bulge of South America's Pacific Coast is mostly the Republic of Ecuador. The strip between the Andean range and the ocean has lands of excellent quality for tropical crops, demands for which have brought about drastic changes in the landscape within the last few decades. Where once were mangrove swamp and primeval forest are now medleys of pond, pasture and fields of tropical tree crops such as rubber and oil palm. Ecuador has become the world's largest exporter of bananas and shrimps. The success of agriculture has pushed the farming frontier up into the Andean foothills beyond the margin of what is good either for the land or for those trying to make a living from what should remain forest. Much of the drive comes from what most of us would look upon as an odd way to acquire title to land. In New York no one clears a piece of state forest and thereby acquires title. In Ecuador that is exactly what takes place, on a large scale and under the auspices of the National Institute for Colonization and Agricultural Reform. The landscape still has many trees, both scattered about and in remnant patches of the original forest. But the waste and damage both to humans and the environment are high.

The word "original" is really a misnomer. Nearly five centuries ago the Spanish conquest found more people living between the coast and the mountains than live there today. For centuries the Indians had been clearing the land of trees and growing food for the highlanders to the east. The conquest brought depopulation. The forest returned and created a virtual wilderness until the 1960's.

Since then changes have been swift and drastic. As roads penetrate the forest, groups

of colonists receive allotments of 125 acres each, to which they can receive title by the clearing of trees. The valuable trees they cut into planks with chainsaws and transport to the nearest road by mule. They also sell standing trees to whatever timber company is operating nearby. One such company is buying such cut-over land and planting valuable, fast-growing trees on a large scale. Ecuadorean law has no provision whereby a private company can acquire and manage natural forest. Hence the rather awkward, roundabout way for providing logs for the company's veneer mill.

Meanwhile, the colonist, having acquired the land and trees at no cost other than his labor, is ready to sell both and move on to another free 125 acres. A system more certain to destroy the forest can hardly be imagined.

Ecuador does have a system of nature reserves, national parks and public domain forest. Nevertheless they are all subordinate to the overriding policy of providing land for conversion to agriculture, regardless of quality. That tradition is very strong and not likely to change soon in a country which has a rapidly growing population and too few other ways to make a living.



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# Notes from NYFOA's 480A Workshop

By Ernie Hammerle

In the March/April 1993 issue of the Forest Owner was an article "Lament for a Law" by Henry Kernan which contained some good points such as; that 480A does not meet the goals of most private forest owners as they "are not primarily growers and marketers of timber" and that is what 480A requires. There was also an implication that 480A is a form of regulation, and this, I believe, is a good viewpoint for owners to take. However, there were several misleading items in the article.

As a disincentive to participation, Mr. Kernan referred to "stumpage tax set by a state employee's judgement as to the timber's worth." The DEC does not set the value, we certify the value given by the owner in the Notice of Commercial Cutting. If timber is sold on a bid basis, as most timber is and should be, the bid results can be the evidence of value. Mr. Kernan said his plan called for 10 acres of TSI in December 1979 and 10 in January 1980 and by doing 20 acres in December 1979, he was afoul of the law and subject to fine because he had applied for a revision of the plan and approval did not come until March. Work schedules call for 10 acres to be carried out between March 1 of a year and the end of February the following year and not on a month to month basis. Secondly, from a purely forest management basis an entire stand should be treated at the same time; but, since pre-commercial treatments can be a financial or physical burden on an owner, the law allows the breakdown to 10 acres per year. The DEC is not going to have any problem with an owner getting ahead of schedule on pre-commercial treatments and probably would not require an amendment. If the amendment process is pursued, the DEC forester could give verbal approval until written approval can be sent.

The author says "he cannot anticipate every sale" and the law does not allow him to respond to opportunities. This is true. What the law expects an owner and/or his forester to anticipate in the plan is when the forest will need treatment, i.e. what is best for the forest, not the owner. Plans can be amended to respond to storm damage, insect and disease damage, flooding and the like and to delay harvests a short time

during extremely depressed markets.

Mr. Kernan complains that his land had areas that should not be managed for timber but were included in the DEC approved plan. The DEC does not write the plan, the owner's forester, or in this case, the owner, does. If the owner has acreage that he does not chose to manage for timber then it should be indicated as non-committed forest land in the plan; DEC will not require commitment.

This presentation was followed by a question and comment period for those present. The audience included some 480A participants who expressed only positive reactions to dealing with DEC foresters. I think any owner who is genuinely interested in forest management will have the same reaction. But there are some owners whose main impetus for participation is the tax break with little desire or interest in management and they tend to need "prodding" to put it mildly.

One owner who does not own enough acreage had a two part question. First, if he bought enough acreage across the road from his present land so he had a total of 50 acres of forest would this be eligible as he had conflicting information as to whether it would be contiguous if divided by the road. **Answer:** If the road is not a limited access highway such as the thruway or interstate and the properties on either side meet, all or in part (other than one common corner), then it would be contiguous.

Second part - what if he anticipated selling road frontage? **Answer:** do not commit the road frontage but maintain 50 acres of forest and a strip along the road so both parcels remain contiguous and also so he has access to the rest beyond. If he committed that frontage initially and later withdrew it to sell building lots he would face the rollback of taxes for a partial conversion on the acres sold.

Another owner asked about the production of other forest products such as nuts and the eligibility as forest land. **Answer:** - the harvest of other products - nuts, maple syrup and such - is allowed with no tax due but timber production must be the management objectives. If the owner does not wish to be required to harvest the nut trees as timber when they are mature and nut production is their primary objective, they should not commit that acreage.

A final question was - what happens when you die? **Answer:** the commitment goes to the heirs.

In summation, Section 480A gives a timber production tax exemption and those private forest owners who are not oriented in this direction should become active in efforts for tax relief in some form for the other benefits of the forests such as preserving open space and retarding forest fragmentation.

*Ernie Hammerle, a NYS DEC Region 7 Sr. Forester at the Sherburne Office, moderated a 480A Workshop April 24 during the afternoon of the Spring Meeting. These notes are excerpts of that session.*

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# LEGISLATION AND TAXES

By David J. Colligan

The taxes on our forest lands continue to rise. The only tax abatement relief for New York forest owners is Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) section 480-a. This tax relief has so many controversial provisions that most forest owners have declined to take advantage of the 480-a program. A new law, A 5850, sponsored by Mssr. Gunter and King in the Assembly and by Mr. Stafford in the Senate as S438, changes the historic "ad valorem" tax structure based upon "highest use" to "current use" for qualified forest owners. Forest landowners are provided with a reduction in their property taxes in exchange for a

**Help a new tax law,  
A5850 and S438;  
changes "highest use"  
to "current use".**

commitment to continue to grow trees and not subject the property to development. This is the same exemption that the previous laws provided (480-a and its precursor 480) but the localities are no longer going to be asked to shoulder the burden of enrollment. Local resentment will be reduced because there will be a lessening in the shift from exempt properties to other property tax payers. This approach to maintaining forest lands is more affordable than other alternatives, such as full fee acquisition. We must communicate our support for A5850 and S 438 by writing to our state Assemblymen immediately. This bill has already passed the state Senate.

At the Federal level, taxes also are in the forefront. U.S. tax policy used to encourage the growing of trees by allowing landowners to deduct their annual management expenses from taxable income. At the time of harvest, the government also provided a significant capital gains exclusion as a way of encouraging long term investment in forestry. This was all eliminated in 1986 under the guise of "tax reform". The 1993 Reforestation Tax Act, HR 960 was introduced in the House with the support of 35 sponsors from 17 states with provisions for Passive Loss (expensing) and capital gains relief. However, that piece of legislation failed to clear the hurdles in the House after

Congressman DeFazio wanted to place log export restrictions on private landowners as a requirement for getting the capital gains relief. This restriction would effect Eastern forest owners now that hardwood log exports to Europe are increasing.

Very few stand-alone bills make it to law in the U.S. Congress. HR 960 was intended to be appended to the new Clinton tax bill. There is but one last chance. A Modified Reforestation Tax Act without the log export restrictions needs to be introduced and sponsored in the U.S. Senate. Write and ask your Senators (Moynihan and D'Amato) to support and/or co-sponsor the Senate version of HR 960.

Demonstrate that we forest owners are united in our support of fair taxes to ensure family forestry investments. When writing to your elected representative 1) Be brief and to the point. Describe the importance of fair taxes to your family and that A 5850 and S 438 at the state level or the Senate version of HR 960 without log export restrictions at the Federal level will help achieve the mutual goals of economically viable forestland and long term commitment to good forestry. 2) Ask your legislator to be a co-sponsor. *David J. Colligan is NYFOA's legislative liaison and a Buffalo Attorney at Law.*

*For an interesting article on RPTL and Current Use, see: Landmark Tax Ruling, NY FOREST OWNER 13, S/O 92.*

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## Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Henry Kernan's article "Lament for a Law", in the March/April issue of the Forest Owner. Our property has been enrolled in the 480A program for over two years and the program has been a very positive one. We have experienced substantial property tax savings and the law requirements haven't been overly restrictive.

Mr. Kernan states that he prepared the management plan for his property, but complains of the requirement to complete 10 acres of TSI in December 1979 and 10 in January 1980. He prepared the plan and could have spread out the work schedule to make it easier for him to complete. In my case someone else was hired to prepare the plan, but I approved it prior to submission to DEC and I had the opportunity to make modification recommendations.

Mr. Kernan also discusses four stands of timber on his property which should not be cut and removed. He should not have included these parcels in the plan. The owner has the option of deleting parcels such as the ones mentioned by Mr. Kernan.

The workplan is a guide and can be modified as conditions change. We sold timber last December which was not indicated in the workplan; approval from the DEC forester was received within a few days and the cutting operation was quickly underway and no delay occurred. We have not been hassled by our DEC forester regarding the timber sale price or the firewood sale price. The DEC forester has been most cooperative and the program has worked well.

480A is not a perfect law and could be simplified, but it is far better than Mr. Kernan's article indicates.

John Krebs

*John is a Director of NYFOA.*

# CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

## CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

An integral part of CFA's mission is to advise landowners about forest management through an on-site visit. During the walk we will discuss your goals. These can concern timber, wildlife, water, soil, diversity and other management areas. Based on this discussion and the status of the forest, our forester can give you ideas about how to achieve your goal.

Since CFA does not perform management services, we will refer you to foresters, loggers and other professionals who can design and implement a forest management plan. In addition, we will describe the positive and negative aspects of various state and federal programs such as the Forest Tax Law and the Stewardship Incentive Program. For landowners already under a forest management plan we can inspect your woodlot for certification as an American Tree Farm. In the event that you have contracted with a forester or a logger to perform a service, we can give you a second opinion of their advice so that you are comfortable with them.

Two of CFA's upcoming events: July 10 - Pruning Workshop. September 11 -- CFA Annual Meeting.

## THRIFT

On May 1, Charles Valentine maintained a booth at the Camden Spring Fling, with about 300 attending.

May 6, 16 members met at Curtis furniture Co. on Route 342, in Jefferson County.

Peter Curtis conducted an interesting tour of his modern facility. He guided us through the details of furniture making; including, the purchase of the finest kiln dried lumber, mostly oak, cherry and maple; the use of plans, and the cutting, sanding, assembling, gluing, staining and other activities involved.

His base is not only local; but the products are shipped throughout the U.S. He also has a table going to Japan for an Industrial Trade Show. About 50% of his sales are to soldiers at nearby Fort Drum, and about 50% of his business is custom work.

THRIFT will have a booth at Woodsmen's Field Days at Boonville on August 20-21-22, 1993.

## SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

Our thanks to Frank LaBar of Minerva for a tour of his maple syrup operation on April 10. Snowshoes, boots, and raingear were in vogue as it was raining and the ground retained a snow cover up to 18". A lone Chestnut tree was observed among the Maples which were tapped with tubing running down to the sugar house. John Hastings arranged an excellent tour with at least four foresters and two sugar-makers in attendance.

## WESTERN FINGERLAKES

40 people attended Dale Schaefer's woodswalk held on May 15th. Charlie Mowatt and Dale led the group through the woodlot which is in the final stages of a timber harvest. With only the clean-up left to do, everyone could judge the results of logging (both good and bad). A special thanks to Charlie and Marion Mowatt for their help and Bruce Penrod for his input on wildlife.

Our May Meeting was held at the Ionia Fire Hall; we are considering holding one or two meetings a year outside the City of Rochester, since the Chapter covers such a large area. Anyone with comments or suggestions on this matter, please advise one of the steering committee members. g; call CFA for details, 914-586-3054.

## CENTRAL NEW YORK

Our chapter held a Woodswalk at Wildwood Acres Tree Farm. This is Tom Ellison's Tree Farm in Pompey, NY. The walk held on June 12th, was about Multiple Use Forest Management. Our chapter has a new Chair in Bill Miner; Bob Sykes is our Vice-Chair. We have held several steering committee meetings to discuss the Fall NYFOA meeting, which the chapter is hosting. It will be held at Heiberg Forest in Tully, NY on September 24th and 25th. We are trying to raffle off a beautiful quilt that Betty Wagner has handmade for us. It is hoped that we can generate needed funds with this raffle.

## SOUTHERN TIER



*DEC Senior Forester Bill Betts discusses the TSI work done in the Haslett woodlot.*

Mike Greason, Associate DEC Forester, responsible for private lands forestry, addressed the May 11 Meeting. Mike commented on a wide range of forestry related issues with particular focus on forest land taxation and the 480-A tax exemption.

The Harold Haslett farm in Greene was the site of a May 22nd Woodswalk. DEC

Senior forester Bill Betts led a tour of the forestland, including a 480A Program Thinning and a new Norway Spruce Plantation Planting. Harold also proved that his trout pond contains trout up to 22".

A survey of members will be mailed in July to determine future program direction. Meetings will resume in September.

*People and Trees, Partners in Time,*

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

There will be a general meeting on July 8th at the East Aurora Library at 7 p.m. to help plan future activities. All members are urged to attend to help our chapter plan activities that will best serve the needs of members.

On July 10 at 10 a.m. we will meet at Tom and Gerry Casey's place at 3255 Sodom Road, Gainesville, N.Y. for our annual picnic and to walk through Casey's woods to understand the rationale of marking timber for a future harvest. Bring a dish to pass and meat to grill. For more information call Tom Casey at 716-322-7398.

## LOWER HUDSON

On Saturday, April 17, LHC members had an opportunity to attend a workshop on Taxation of Open Land, sponsored by the Dutchess Land Conservancy. In return for the chapters assistance in providing mailing labels and advertising the event, admission fees were waived for NYFOA members. The workshop covered topics such as the shift in the tax burden to open land, the true costs of community services (i.e., Does housing pay for the services it demands? Is there a better way to pay for these services?), shielding open land from high taxes and trying to make the land pay for itself. A discussion of conservation easements, the Agricultural Districts Law, and the Forest Tax Law followed. Speakers included Jerry Cosgrove, the NY field representative for the American Farmland Trust; Dave Tetor, Agricultural Extension Agent with Dutchess County Cooperative Extension and Supervisor for the Town of Stanford; Ira Stern, Executive Director of the Dutchess Land Conservancy, and NYS DEC Region 3 Sr. Forester, Bob Davis.

We are in the **planning** stages of another Bus Tour, tentatively slated to take place this fall. This trip would focus on watershed management techniques via demonstrations and discussions of different cutting practices by foresters and landowners in southwestern Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut, where they have a more "active" management philosophy than does our local NYC watershed. This will likely be a combined effort with the Region 3 Forest Practice Board, the local chapter of the Society of American Foresters, DEC, and any other group willing to put up the \$ needed to make it happen.



## ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

More than 40 people attended our woodswalk of Hanging Bog Game Management Area in Cuba, N.Y.. DEC Wildlife Biologist, Gary Klock and State Forester, Ron Abraham took us through several 5-10 acre clearcuts done over the past several years to improve wildlife habitat. They pointed out the benefits to wildlife of clearcuts, the establishment of more edge cover and the rapid regeneration on the cuts.

Our chapter discussed the recent development of a proposed gift of 437 acres on the South Branch of Cattaraugus Creek by member, Bill Burgett as a demonstration area of good forest stewardship practices. While details are still being worked out; the possibility of networking with groups such as the Nature Conservancy and Western New York Land Trust to form a partnership to maintain this land as a public educational showcase of good stewardship is a very exciting prospect. Our officers and key members are working with Mr. Burgett and the other agencies to try to effect a proposal that suits all of us; including the AFC membership and the Board of Directors of NYFOA.

On July 24th we will have our annual picnic; this year at Al Brown's home on Chautauqua Lake in Stow, N.Y. Call B. Densmore at 716-942-6600 for more details. On August 14 at 10 a.m. Irene Szabo, Pres. Finger lakes Trail Conference will lead us on a downhill walk on a portion of the trail that explores Little Rock City. We will meet at Elkdale Country Club on NY 353 (4 miles south of Little Valley). Call B. Densmore or Irene Szabo at 716-658-4321 for more information.

## CAYUGA

Arbor Day 1993 the chapter ceremoniously installed a boulder and plaque to commemorate the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps Camp SP33 at its former site in Fillmore Glen State Park. This was the second such effort by the chapter to recognize the value of the 1930's program to our natural resources; see: Hail New York, NY FOREST OWNER, 11, May/June 91.

May 25 the chapter cosponsored with the Owasco Watershed/Lake Association (OWL) a woodswalk of hardwoods marked for harvest and a conifer plantation thinning in progress. The 7 PM program was prepared for the regularly scheduled meeting of the Cayuga County Environmental Management Council and the general public. This unique 170-acre parcel, the Locke Water Works Woods was previously described in the FOREST OWNER (16, Mar/Apr 87). The tour was again led by Charles Scott, Caretaker, with hospitality provided by Tom Hewitt, an adjoining landowner. The Cayuga County EMC will attend another woodswalk after the harvest is completed.

Play it again, Sam.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the people who helped in any way to have a large boulder and bronze plaque placed in Fillmore Glen State Park commemorating the work of the U. S. Civilian Conservation Corps in the Finger Lakes Region - especially the members of the Cayuga Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association who sponsored the monument in the Glen as well as the one two years ago for the Reforestation Camp in Sempronius .

The work of "Roosevelt's Tree Army" is still in evidence all over the USA and is being enjoyed 60 years later by thousands of people every day.

May the 'Spirit of the CCC's live on!

'Lfee' Signor  
CCC Alumnus

*Think Globally, Act Locally, Together*

# THE 1993 HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD

By Bob Sand, Awards Chair

Svend O. Heiberg, a renowned Professor of Silviculture, devoted much of his career at the N.Y. College of Forestry. Dr. Heiberg first proposed an association of Forest Landowners in N.Y. State. He enlisted the efforts of Dean Shirley, and together they initiated this successful forest owners association. This award is presented in his memory.

The first award was made to Dean Hardy L. Shirley at the 4th Annual Meeting on April 30, 1966. It is for recognition for outstanding contributions in the fields of forestry and conservation in New York State.

Past recipients of the HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD:

1967 David B. Cook  
1968 Floyd Carlson  
1969 Mike Demeree  
1970 No Award  
1971 Fred Winch, Jr.  
1972 John Stock  
1973 Robert M. Ford  
1974 C. Eugene Farnsworth  
1975 Alex. Dickson  
1976 Edward W. Littlefield  
1977 Maurice Postley

1978 Ralph Nyland  
1979 Fred C. Simmons  
1980 Dr. William Harlow  
1981 Curtis H. Bauer  
1982 Neil B. Gutches  
1983 David W. Taber  
1984 John W. Kelley  
1985 Robert G. Potter  
1986 Karyn B. Richards  
1987 Henry G. Williams  
1988 Robert M. Sand  
1989 Willard G. Ives  
1990 Ross S. Whaley  
1991 Robert S. Stegemann  
1992 Bonnie & Don Colton

MICHAEL C. GREASON graduated from the Univ. of Massachusetts with a BS in Forestry in 1964. At age 14, Michael found summer vacation employment in a sawmill. He married as a college freshman and became a self-employed logger to meet all education expenses. After working as a public and private forester in New England in 1969, he began his present career with NYSDEC, first working out of the Catskill Office until he was promoted to Associate Forester. In 1980 he went on to new responsibilities at the State level in Albany where Mike has been involved with the adminis-



Photo by Dave Taber

*Peggy and Mike Greason with the Heiberg.*

tration of Private Forestry and related programs. Since 1985, he has been the Section Chief for Private/Urban Forestry. Mike served with the Forest Stewardship Committee, New York Institute of Consulting Foresters and DEC Service Foresters in developing the Stewardship Incentives Program recognized as best in the country for 1992. (New York had \$1,051,000 committed to forest owners, an amount more than \$300,000 above the #2 state) Many N.Y. forest owners feel that this outstanding accomplishment resulted because Michael Greason exhibited a great measure of leadership and perseverance. We wish to acknowledge NYFOA's appreciation to Mike.

Michael has been an active SAF member since 1969, serving on a number of important committees, as well as Chairman of NYSAF for the last two years. He has authored numerous articles that have been published in a long list of forestry periodicals, including the NY FOREST OWNER, NATIONAL WOODLANDS, The CONSERVATIONIST, The AMERICAN TREE FARMER, The JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, as well as others. Mike is a NYFOA member and a Tree Farm member; and has been active with the development of the Capitol District Chapter.

## New York State Outstanding Tree Farmer for 1993



Photo by Dave Taber

*Erwin Fullerton (left) and Pauline (Polly) Fullerton receive their Award from Steve Warne, NYS DEC Region 5 Forester and Sue Kiester, Vice Chairman NYS Tree Farm Committee. Erwin and Polly Fullerton of Hudson Falls, manage 260 acres of forest, some of which, they have owned 25 years. They were leaders in the formation of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter, attended Master Forest Owner Workshop (Class of 1992) and a Conservationist of the Year for Warren County.*

# NYFOA'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

By Bob Sand, Awards Chair

This award is recognition for outstanding service to the New York Forest Owners Association, and is awarded to WESLEY E. SUHR of the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, OSWEGATCHIE, NEW YORK.

Past recipients:

- 1978 Emiel Palmer
- 1979 Ken Eberly
- 1980 Helen Varian
- 1981 J. Lewis Dumond
- 1982 Lloyd Strombeck
- 1983 Evelyn Stock
- 1984 Dorothy Wertheimer
- 1985 David H. Hanaburgh
- 1986 A.W. Roberts, Jr.
- 1987 Howard O. Ward
- 1988 Mary & Stuart McCarty
- 1989 Alan R. Knight
- 1990 Earl Pfarnar
- 1991 Helen & John Marchant
- 1992 Richard J. Fox.

Wes Suhr is a professional forester, having graduated with a BS in Forestry from the Univ. of Minnesota in 1958. Followed then by five years with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona in 1965. He continued his Forest Service career with assignments in the Supervisor's Office in Phoenix involved with Soil/Water/Wildlife, before transferring to the Regional Office in San Francisco, Calif. with assigned Soil/Water responsibilities. For three years ('72-'74), Wes operated his Suhr Nursery & Tree Farm business. In 1974 he accepted a teaching Professorship with the SUNY CESF Forest Technician Program at the Wanakena Campus. In 1982 he was appointed Director and served in that capacity for three years. He retired from full time teaching in 1988, returning temporarily in 1989 and 1991 to accept contract teaching assignments.

Wes has served as a NYFOA Director. For seven years he was our FOREST OWNER "Ask a Forester", and presently serves as Editor of the WOODLAND STEWARD. Wes has been chair of the Northern Adirondack Chapter (NAC) since its inception in 1991. He serves as editor of the NAC Newsletter and represents St. Lawrence County on the Region 6 Forest Practice Board.

Since 1959, Wes has been a member of the Society of American Foresters. He and his wife Carol own and manage their 640



Photo by Dave Taber

Wes Suhr (l) receives the NYFOA Award from Bob Sand, Awards Committee Chairman.

acre Adirondack forest property. The Suhrs designed and built a beautiful new home on their Tree Farm. Utilization for firewood of both topwood and cull tree thinnings is an ongoing business, in addition to a maple

syrup operation. Wes writes with keen expertise. He is an author and educator who has freely shared his vast experience with our NYFOA membership and others in New York and beyond.

## EDITOR NAMED CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

NYFOA director and editor Richard J. Fox has been named "Conservationist of the Year" by his local Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The award was presented on behalf of the Conservation District by district chairman Earl Lamphere at a March 24 awards luncheon.

Mr. Fox was cited for his many conservation activities, including founding the Cayuga Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association, being editor of the "The New York Forest Owner" magazine, serving on the Region 7 Forest Practice Board and the Cayuga County Environmental Management Council, as well as his involvement with the Cayuga County Conservation Field Days and the Cabin Fever Festival.

He was nominated for the honor by Timothy M. Noga, on behalf of the Cayuga County Federation of Conservation Clubs.



Photo by Sandy Huey

Named Cayuga County Conservationist of the Year: Forest Owner editor Richard J. Fox (c) receives commendation from Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman Earl Lamphere. District Executive Director James Hotaling looks on.

## Recognition of Bob Sand



Photo by Dave Taber

*Lou and Bob Sand with Special Recognition Award.*

### By Don Wagner, NYFOA President

As we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of NYFOA there are many things to be remembered and one of the most important is our roots and those individuals who best represent them. The organization has undergone some fairly dramatic changes over the past five years. We have seen the highest growth rate in membership in our history and we have seen three local chapters and two affiliates increase to a total of thirteen. Our image inside the forestry community has improved and our opinion and counsel is more frequently sought as we are asked to participate in a variety of forestry related matters. Our pool of volunteer talent has expanded markedly which has resulted in board members and elected officers with diverse backgrounds, skills and many ideas for change.

But as there has been change, there has always been a steady influence within the organization, someone who has been there since our very beginnings. That individual is Bob Sand. I truly believe we need to remind ourselves, at this special occasion, just how fortunate we have been to have had such a steadfast, guiding influence. So we thank you Bob for all you have been and all you will continue to be, to NYFOA.

## Society of American Foresters Honorary Memberships



Photo by Dave Taber

*Mike Greason, recent Chairman NYSAF presents Membership Certificate to NYFOA Executive Director John C. Marchant.*

During the 1992 Annual Meeting, the New York Society of American Foresters (SAF) presented three awards: a Community Service Award to NYFOA, an Education Award to Dr. John and Harriet Hamilton and a Communication Award to John Marchant.

The NYSAF Executive Committee was so impressed with the efforts of these people, they submitted nominations for the Hamiltons and John Marchant for Honorary Membership in SAF. To date, in the 100 years of SAF, New York has had two Honorary Members, Mike Demeree, the renown father of the Forest Tax Law (RPTL 480-a) and Reverend Frank Reed, who spent years carrying logger safety and stewardship messages to logging camps. This honor is reserved for non-foresters who have made truly outstanding contributions to forestry. Nomina-

tions are reviewed by the National SAF Recognition Committee and recommendations are forwarded to the SAF Council for a vote. These nominations were approved.

Jack and Harriet received their Membership Certificates at the NYSAF winter meeting in Rochester.

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# HONOR ROLL

The Membership Incentive Campaign is history, but you would not know it from the results during the past five months! Forty-seven new members were introduced by those listed and another thirty-two came in through miscellaneous sources. Karen Anderson who accounted for 2 new members will be missed in many ways and certainly as a premier recruiter for NYFOA.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Mary Kay Allen SCT	2
Gerald Andritz Ren. Co.	1
Karen Anderson AFC	2
Ron Cadieux SAC	4
Dave Colligan NFC	1
Tom Ellison CNY	1
Dick Fox CAY	1
Erwin/Pauline Fullerton SAC	1
Don and Suzi Grosz WFL	1
John Hastings SAC	4
John/Harriet Hamilton WFL	2
Bob Howard NAC	1
Harry Howe NAC	1
Verner Hudson CNY	1
Ed. Janulionis AFC	1
Thomas Kane Steuben Co.	1
Jerry Lazarizuk	1
Mary McCarty WFL	2
Billy Morris WFL	2
Charlie Mowatt AFC	4
Mowatt/M. Greason	1
Mowatt/D. Swanson/ T. Anderson WFL	1
Robert Nagle AFC	1
Bruce Robinson AFC	1
B. Robinson/T. Friar AFC	1
Bob Sand TIO	1
Dale Schaefer WFL	2
Steve Sloan CDC	1
Dave Waldron	1
Dennis Wilson AFC	1
Robert Wood NFC	1
Ned/Diane Young NFC	1

6/3/93

Membership Committee

## Tree Farm & NYFOA

Members of Tree Farm's and NYFOA's executive committees have been talking informally about how these two fine organizations can work more closely. Our aims are similar, some of our memberships overlap, and there is unquestioned strength in numbers.

We want to stress that all discussions to date have been very preliminary in nature and totally non-committal on both parts. We are not ready to do anything formally. We believe, however, that there are some pretty persuasive reasons for examining the possibilities more closely.

1. NYFOA has been struggling to increase its membership for years. Increased membership would provide the organization with a lot more political clout than it now has at a time when resource issues are gaining strength.

Only 322 Tree Farmers are NYFOA members. This means that there are potentially 2200 new NYFOA members among the Tree Farm ranks. If we could get half of these Tree Farmers to join NYFOA, it would increase NYFOA's coffers \$16,000 a year.

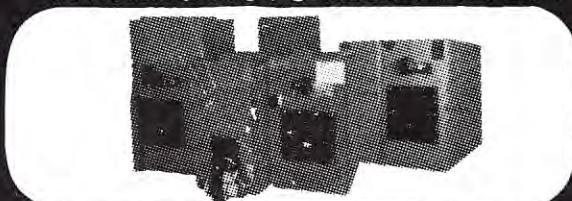
2. And Tree Farm might benefit substantially by bringing this infusion of new members into NYFOA. NYFOA already has the computerized data base that Tree Farm so badly needs. Having access to that data base would allow Tree Farm to easily put together mailings to Tree Farmers and Inspecting Foresters.

3. And both organizations would benefit substantially by having stronger representation in Albany. The voice of the forest community could be greatly bolstered.

At its annual meeting in March, the Tree Farm Committee discussed some of these possibilities and endorsed further exploration.

If you would like to have input on this process please contact either Frank Rose, Chairman, N.Y.S. Tree Farm Committee, Coastal Lumber Co., Box 68, Cayuta, NY 14824, (607)594-3321, or Sue Keister, Vice-Chair, N.Y.S. Tree Farm Committee, 7025 Harpers Ferry Rd., Wayland, NY 14572, (716)728-3044.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

# The Pine-Feeding Sawflies

By Douglas Allen

Sawflies in the genus *Neodiprion* (*Neodip-ree-on*) feed on pines, larch, spruces, Douglas-fir, hemlocks, or true firs. Outbreaks result in reduced tree growth, loss of aesthetic quality and occasional tree death. The group that I wish to discuss here contains several species that commonly feed on our northeastern pines.

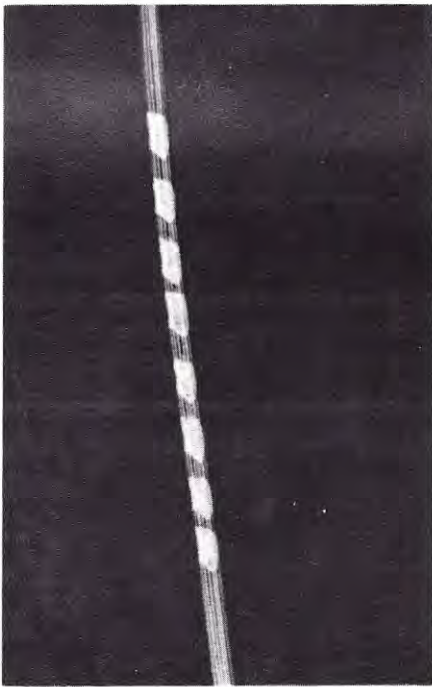


Fig. 1. Close up of sawfly egg niches.

Though their common name suggests otherwise, these defoliators are not “flies” but primitive wasps. The name “sawfly” is derived from a peculiar egg laying device (ovipositor) located at the posterior of the adult female. This needle-like projection has a series of saw-like notches at the tip. The wasp uses it to puncture needles. An egg is deposited in the resulting hole or slit, which is referred to as a niche (pronounced “nitch”).

The major primitive character that separates sawflies from other groups of wasps is the manner in which the posterior half of the adult is broadly joined to the front half that bears the legs, wings and head. The more highly evolved wasps, such as yellow jackets or hornets, are narrow- or thread-

waisted, because the abdomen is joined to the body by a stem or petiole.

## Life History

Pine feeding sawflies have two distinct types of life cycles. One group, the spring feeders, overwinters in the egg stage and larvae feed in the spring, usually on foliage of the previous year. The latter is a consequence of the fact that larval activity usually occurs early in the growing season, before the current year’s foliage develops. Summer feeders, on the other hand, overwinter as full grown larvae in silken cocoons in the litter or attached to the bark of the host. Adults develop in late spring or early summer and larvae feed in mid-summer, usually on new foliage.



Fig. 2. Typical egg cluster of a pine feeding sawfly.

The most important pine-feeding species in the northeast are gregarious; that is, eggs are laid in a cluster that encompasses several needles (Fig. 2) and larvae feed in colonies. Generally, they have a single generation each year.

The pine false webworm, a defoliator currently causing severe damage to Scots and white pines in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, belongs to a related family known as the web-spinning sawflies. The latter also are colonial, but the caterpillars live in conspicuous nests of



Fig. 3. Damage to red pine caused by the redheaded pine sawfly.

silk, needle fragments and fecal pellets. Pine feeding sawflies (i.e., species of *Neodiprion*) do not build a nest.

## Outbreaks

Population increases are associated with an abundance of young pine (usually in plantations) and the occurrence of favorable weather during critical phases of the life history. Experience suggests that population buildup is most likely to occur in open grown stands less than 20’ tall, in stands that are stressed, and during warm, dry summers that favor rapid larval development and high survival.



### Description and Behavior

Each egg is deposited in a hole that the female wasp cuts in the edge of a needle. This physical injury creates a discolored spot (Fig. 1). A collection of these niches, a few to several per needle in each of several adjacent needles, is referred to as the egg cluster (Fig. 2). Following egg hatch, larvae feed in colonies and completely defoliate a branch (Fig. 3) before moving en masse to another. Larvae are .75" - 1.0" long, caterpillar-like, hairless, and distinctly marked with spots and (or) strips (Fig. 4). Many species have bodies that taper gradually towards the rear. If a colony is disturbed, individuals often lift their front and back ends in unison and wave them back and forth (Fig. 4). This reaction is startling and is thought to be a defensive behavior that the exposed larvae use to discourage predation.

When larvae complete feeding, they spin a brown to reddish-brown oblong cocoon. It is within this structure that the larva transforms into a wasp. Adults are 0.2" to 0.5" long and yellowish brown to black with yellowish legs.

### Natural Enemies

Various species of parasitic and predaceous insects attack all sawfly life stages. One of the most important mortality factors is a virus that often decimates larval populations. Generally, however, virus

epidemics occur only at very high sawfly densities. Many birds and small mammals prey on the larvae and cocooned stages.

### Management

At this point in time, the only recourse that a landowner has is to apply a chemical spray when sawfly infestations threaten management objectives. The bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a popular choice for controlling many other types of defoliators, is not registered for use against sawflies. Similarly, even though naturally occurring viral diseases commonly knock down sawfly outbreaks, and some have been produced for experimental use, none are available commercially.

Outbreaks of many species have been associated with pine stands that are i) under stress from competition with hardwoods or dense herbaceous vegetation, ii) stressed due to poor site conditions such as frost pockets, soil that is low in nutrients or excessively wet or dry soils and iii) open grown. Pine sawfly problems can be minimized by promoting pine on good sites, avoiding sites that are likely to provide stiff plant competition and encouraging early crown closure.

*This article is the ninth in the series of contributions by Doug Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.*

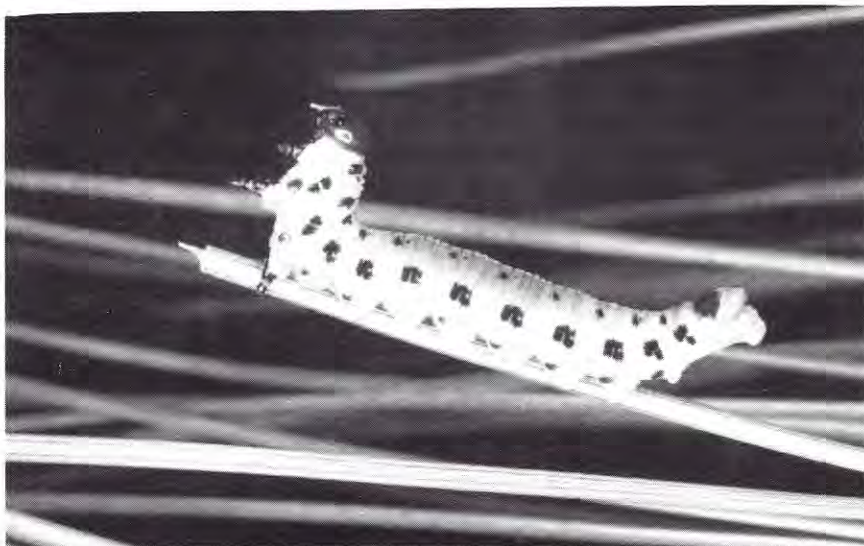


Fig. 4. Larva of redheaded pine sawfly.

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## Selling Herbal Tree Farm Products: A NEW MARKET?

By Jane Sorensen Lord

"Sounds like snake oil, Jane" our editor said.

I had started to read him the new label I wrote for my herb oils:

### *Essential Herb and Aromatic Oil*

*Spring 1993*

*From the Garden and Tree Farm  
Of Dr. Jane Lord*

*This oil is designed to nourish and restore balance to aging and damaged skin. The essential oils of cedar and lemon are said to promote clarity of mind and thought....'*

That's when he stopped me. I told him he could say and think what he wanted, but that I am always behind in orders because I keep running out of little bottles.

I also let him know that people pay me wholesale, \$10.00 a bottle (1 oz. in a dropper amber bottle, 2 oz. in a clear plastic cosmetic bottle). Over ten times the value of maple syrup wholesale.

Women spend considerably more than the military budget on beauty products, and Americans spend \$10.5 billion unreimbursed for "Wellness" products.

Besides, we got \$8500 for 100,000 board feet of timber in 1987 and I needed to find a way to make some money from my Tree Farm while I waited for timber and Christmas trees to grow.

I started making herbal oils in 1988 -- for myself and my husband Gordon. Friends noticed our good, healthy skin and offered to buy what I made. (The oils, bottles, jars and beeswax cost). So I complied, whipping up potions as needed for use, sale or gifts.

In the summer of 1990, when I started to study the medical aspects of herbs for my naturopathic degree, I went berserk. Almost all plants and trees have healing uses. And here they all were, right on my land, waiting for me to use them! I put up 25 quarts of herbs in canola oil. Beech, birch, white pine, wintergreen, yarrow -- you get the idea.

Naturopathic doctors are trained in human anatomy/physiology, chronic disease, massage, nutrition, vitamins, herbs, homeopathic drugs and the like. BUT, in New York, we don't have licenses, so I won't prescribe herbs to ingest; but to wear is a different story.

I sell my "vintage" (crops vary) oils and

cremes through enthusiastic users and to little shops. I cannot devote full time to selling herbal skin products, because I have a busy private practice.

There is a market, though, visit health food stores and look at the cosmetics. Buy a basic herb book and one on kitchen cosmetics. Combine the canola oils with the best nutrition quality oils (avocado, coconut, walnut, etc.).

The herbs I pick in spring and summer don't cure until fall and winter, so making the oils doesn't detract from Tree Farm time or markets. To melt beeswax, I use the microwave oven in preference to stove top or oven because it is easier to work in small batches.

The oils do work. Skins become softer, more evenly textured. Spider veins diminish (horsetail). I have a 100% re-sale record.

I gave a bottle to a friend who is a package designer based in Hong Kong. She got so excited after using it that she wants to design bottles and jars to promote more sales. I told her I couldn't make enough for the mass market.

"Can't other Tree Farmers make it, too?"

*Editorial Committee,  
The articles by Dr. Jane Sorensen are excellent. Much of what she talks about would be most interesting to try.*

*My father was a pediatrician and my wife is a nurse so we don't do anything too far out of line but have taken the children to a naturopath until he retired and were most satisfied.*

*Anything Dr. Sorensen has to write about should be worth reading.*

*In general, The New York Forest Owner gets better and better. You people do such a fine job.*

*Thanks.*

*Jim Foster; Laughlin, PA*

See Page 2 for NYFOA Disclaimer

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## Law Saves Landowners from Liability

By Floyd King

Ralph Celentani of East Rochester, who owns 133 acres of farmland in the Southern Tier, writes in to ask if he is liable if someone is injured on his land.

Since Celentani does not charge for the use of his land and accepts no gifts for its use he definitely is not liable for anyone injured thereon.

His acres are posted but the non liability would apply even if they were not.

To cope with this thorny problem, the state legislature in September, 1979, enacted a General Obligations Law that provides:

"Assuming no fee is charged and no other consideration is received, the landowner owes no duty to keep his premises safe for woodcutting or gathering wood, hunting, fishing, trapping, training of dogs, boating, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, motorized vehicle operation for recreational purposes, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hang gliding and cave exploration."

The law goes all out in protecting the landowners while holding out an olive branch to outdoor recreationists.

That was its intent - to make more outdoor recreation available without penalizing the landowner.

In the 14 years that the General Obligations Law has been in operation there have been some lawsuits, almost all having to do with woodcutting which is considered hazardous.

As a result, Cornell University's Cooperative Extension has issued a pamphlet on *Liability Considerations for New York Woodland Owners*. Tommy L. Brown of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, is the author.

This pamphlet spells out how a landowner can make a timber sale or allow a friend to cut firewood on his land on a sharing basis and still protect himself from a lawsuit if something goes wrong.

Anyone planning a timber sale or gift of firewood should check it out.

Recreational liability is covered in more detail in the fact sheet *Recreational Access and Owner Liability*, available from the Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Fernow Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853.

*Floyd King is the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle outdoors columnist, from which this is excerpted. Ralph Celentani and Floyd King are both members of The Western Finger Lakes Chapter.*

# ROOTS AND BRANCHES

By Wayne Oakes

Roots in the sense of where we come from. Branches in the sense of where we may go.

For an unknown amount of time before the Christian Era, there existed in European mythologies a Green Man. This Green Man has survived in art, literature, architecture, and folk custom down to the present. The image of the Green Man is carved in stone in churches and cathedrals of much of Europe and is represented in such stories as Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Robin Hood. The "Hood" of Robin's name is a contraction for "of the wood." One early appearance of the Green Man is as the Roman god of the woods - Silvanus (English words sylvan and silvaculture are derivatives).

This figure, variously known as Green Man, Jack in the Green, Robin Hood, King of May, and the Garland, is still honored in May-Day celebrations in parts of Northern and Central Europe. In these celebrations, a dancer is dressed completely in leaves and often suffers a mock death at the end of the proceedings. It may be surprising to find that such rituals still exist, and yet we tend to forget such obvious remnants of pagan nature worship as the Christmas tree and our use of mistletoe.

The image of the Green Man in art and architecture is usually represented by a face with vines, leaves, etc. growing out of the mouth and surrounding the head. In some representations, it is unclear if the vegetation is being disgorged or eaten, but this may be an intentional ambiguity that points to the Green Man as a symbol of death and rebirth. In one legend transcribed by William Caxton, when Adam died, his son Seth placed three seeds from the Tree of Mercy in his father's mouth and these grew into three trees on his grave. These trees later provided the wood for the Cross. The symbolism of death and rebirth may provide a clue as to why the Green Man and other examples of nature worship were absorbed into the Christian iconography of the European church.

In any case, the Green Man has long been viewed as a steward of the forest and as a liaison between man and nature. It is in this role that the leaved face of the Green Man may reappear to mediate

between the environmental movement and the commercial wood interests. Just as the trees of the forests recognizes the axe handle as one of them, so too the environmentalists must recognize that the woods worker is one of them - and vice versa. The death and rebirth of trees and the Green Man is ongoing.

*from The Archives,*

## An Editorial

By Alan Knight

The wind has shifted, as it always does. Five years ago the breeze brought a message about ecology. It became a hurricane. "Our economic, technological and social progress will mean little if it's paid for in polluted waters, contaminated skies, and a ravaged natural heritage," said our Governor Rockefeller in 1970.

The wind has shifted. Just as the tornado smells of freshly plowed soil, today's wind has its aroma. An economic storm seems to be blowing Governor Rockefeller's statement around backwards. Clearly, the new priority is on economic "development." "Jobs" and "tax base" are replacing "open space" and "environmental impact" as bywords of our time.

Forest owners sit in the eye of the storm. As members of this association they should appreciate the cause of environmental quality. And the sale of forest products, an economic activity, finances their ability to manage their natural resources. They know both sides of the issue.

Me? I just wonder if there is a middle ground, and if so, where is it?

*From FOREST OWNER Sept/Oct 76*

## A KOAN

By R. Fox

It's a *biological* axiom;  
It's a *universal* then,  
That each unit  
*Seeks* to be unique.

It's a *biological* axiom;  
It's a *universal* then,  
That each unit  
*Is* codependant.

Where's the Middle, What's the Order?



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**Jul 10:** NFC; 10 AM; Annual Pic-  
 nic with Woodswalk; Tom & Gerry  
 Casey; Gainesville; (716) 322-7398

**Jul 24:** AFC; Annual Picnic; Al  
 Brown's; Stow; (716) 942-6600

**Aug 10:** AFC; 10 AM; Woodswalk;  
 Elkdale; Irene Szabo, (716) 942-  
 6600

**Aug 20-22:** 46th NYS  
 WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS;  
 Forest Seminar; Boonville, (315)  
 942-4593

**Sept 11:** CFA; ANNUAL MEET-  
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**Sept 24, 25:** NYFOA FALL MEET-  
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