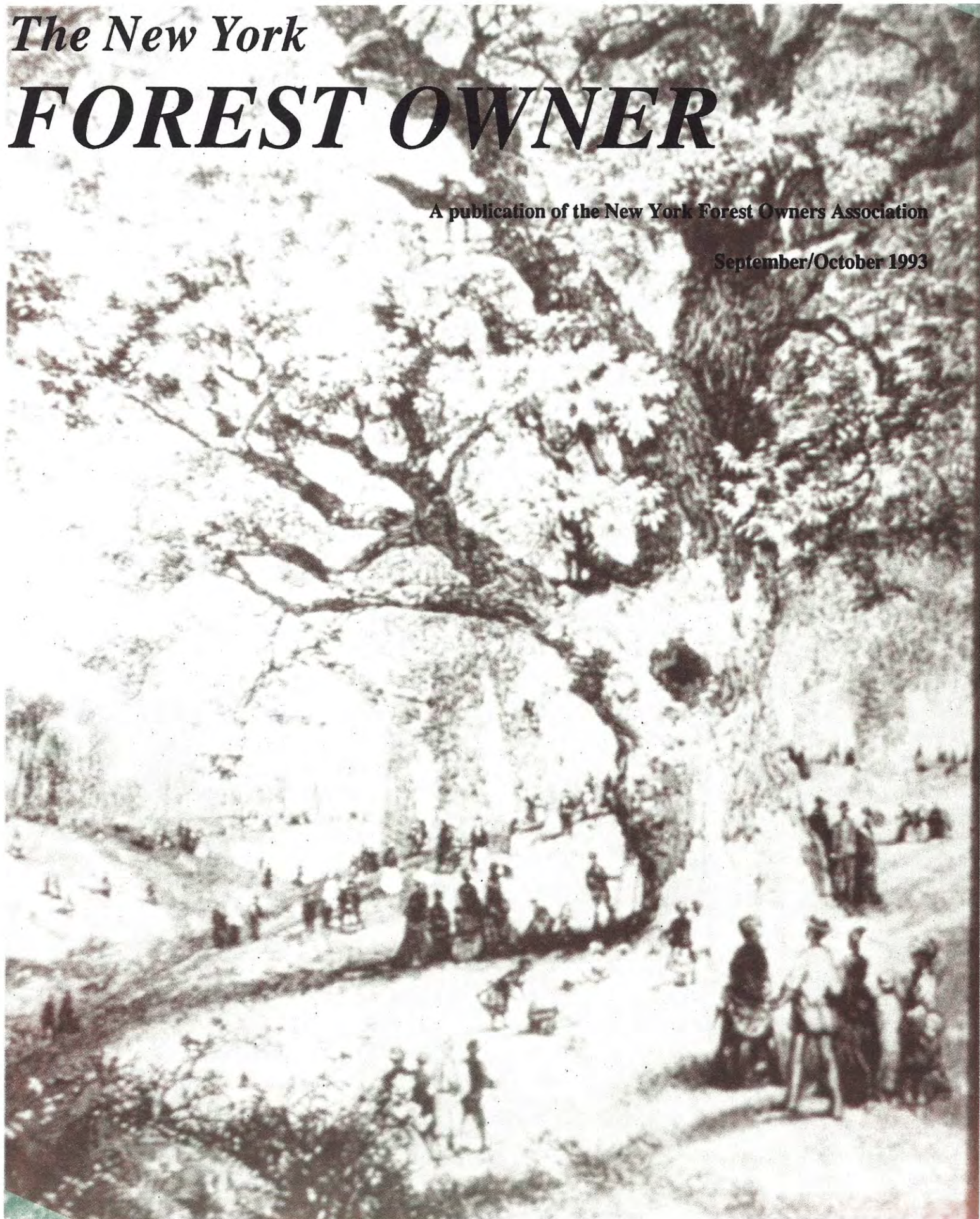


The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

September/October 1993



THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 31, NO. 5
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COVER:

"Gathering Chestnuts in Fairmount Park", from the Art Journal of 1878; Courtesy of the American Chestnut Foundation, John Herrington, Executive Director.

FOREST OWNER

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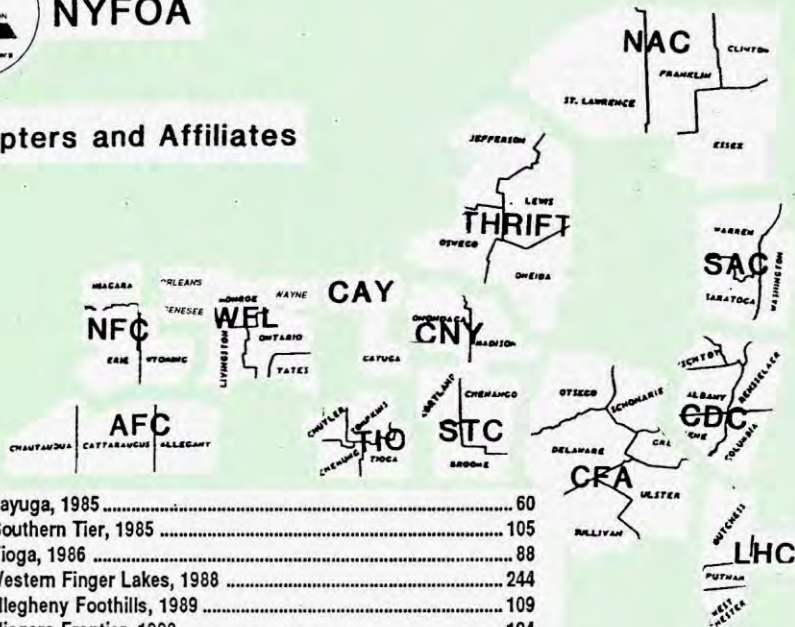
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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is \$15.



NYFOA

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Membership as of August 1, 1993.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing this President's message while on vacation at my camp on Piseco Lake located in the Adirondack's. Did I say vacation, I mean just a more beautiful location to continue work activities. Finding time to sit down and write this message has been difficult, the work never seems to end. On this vacation, the task of finishing a newly constructed dock that I designed and built is high on the list of my priorities, followed very closely by the installation of a new furnace and TV antenna.

Fortunately, the start of a thunderstorm a little while ago gave me the break I needed from doing outside work to sit down and write. As I sit at the kitchen table in front of a window overlooking the rain falling on the water and watching the wild ducks feeding at the shoreline, I again realize how wonderful is nature. In my opinion, we don't always take the time necessary in our busy lives, I know I don't, to sit back and appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

I'm sorry if I have given you the impression that my vacation is all work and no play. As you can see from the insert photo, one of the favorite pastimes my wife and I enjoy is feeding the wild ducks (believe it or not, they grab me for about 50 pounds of cracked corn a week).

Tomorrow I plan to visit my woodlot to oversee the Timber Stand Improvement project currently underway on the 45-acre commercially thinned portion of my woodlot described in my last message. The current TSI work in progress is being funded in part by SIP #3 (Stewardship Incentive Program). In addition, five wildlife snag trees per acre are being created under SIP #8. If you are not already taking advantage of these Federal cost sharing dollars to improve your woodlot, I strongly encourage you and other forest owners to do so. If you are interested in seeing my Adirondack woodlot (an example of a previously high-graded, unmanaged forest), THRIFT has scheduled a woods walk for October 2, 1993, at 10:15 a.m. It is located in Hamilton County in the Town of Hoffmeister, on State Route 8. For specific directions, call me at (315) 733-7391.

The big event this Fall, is NYFOA's Annual Fall Meeting scheduled for September 25 and 26 at the SUNY-ESF's Heiberg Forest. The Central New York



President Don Wagner and Ducks.

Photo by Betty Wagner from the new dock.

Chapter has done a lot of work planning and arranging for an interesting and educational meeting. For the first time since I became a member of NYFOA, the Fall Meeting is being planned for Saturday and Sunday morning instead of the traditional Friday evening, Saturday schedule. The new schedule is being tried in an attempt to encourage more of our members to attend. Quite frankly, I feel attendance at these very interesting, educational and social meetings is much less than it should or could be. Less than one hundred members usually attend the Annual Spring and Fall Meetings. This is approximately 6% of

NYFOA's membership. An awful lot of work goes into the planning and organizing of these meetings for such a low attendance. Please plan on attending the Fall Meeting. I know you won't be sorry. You will meet many old friends and make many new ones. Many of the nicest people I have ever known are members of NYFOA and usually attend the Spring and Fall Meetings. I hope to meet many members at this year's Fall Meeting that I haven't had the opportunity to meet before and to spend time chatting with you. I will see you at the Heiberg Forest on September 25 and 26.

Special Membership Drive

The next issue of the NY FOREST OWNER (Nov/Dec 1993, Vol. 31, No. 6) will be mailed to approximately 4000 addresses. This mailing will include complimentary copies to 2200 forest owners who are listed as Certified Tree Farms and who are not currently members of the New York Forest Owners Association.

The cost of this membership drive will be shared by funds provided to NYFOA through a Stewardship Grant and funds solicited from New York's forest industries by the NYS Tree Farm Committee, Frank Rose, Chairman.

Please Don't Forget the American Chestnut

By Herbert F. Darling, Jr.

For more than 90 years the American chestnut has been putting forth a valiant effort to survive. The chestnut blight was one of the worst botanical disasters to strike in United States history. A lethal fungus was introduced from Asia in New York City at the turn of the 20th Century. Immediately it began to decimate our native American chestnut trees rapidly spreading all across their national range.

In 1934 efforts to save the tree were in full force and by 1950 it was realized that all efforts were fruitless and the program was abandoned.

The blight could live on other host trees without harming them and spread to any nearby American chestnut with ease. Even the areas of Michigan and Wisconsin, known as clean areas, have now received the fatal disease. There are no safe areas.

It wasn't until 1983 that the American Chestnut Foundation was formed to make another effort to save the species. The only reason the tree still exists today is its ability to sprout from the roots where the fungi cannot exist underground. Were it not for this ability, the species would be almost extinct by now. The Foundation supports a back-crossing program (hybridization) to breed resistance from the Chinese chestnut into the American chestnut. It is thought that in 20 years, plus or minus, a resistible tree

could be bred.

In 1989 the New York State Chapter was incorporated, the first state chapter in the U.S. Its program is to use biotechnology (genetic engineering) to produce a blight free timber type American chestnut



tree with which to reforest our woodlands. It is felt that eight to ten years is a reasonable goal to accomplish this.

While we are waiting for our resistant tree, we are searching for any live large survivors to pollinate for nut production. The American chestnut requires a second tree to pollinate. This makes the task very difficult, as finding flowering trees close enough together for good pollination (300' - 500') is rare. The trees are located by

airplane in July when they bloom. As you can imagine, it is a very difficult project to locate the trees on the ground once they are spotted. After the trees are located, they are visited the last week of September to collect nuts. They are properly stored over winter to germinate for planting.

The NYS Chapter American Chestnut Foundation Districts are the same as the NYS DEC Regions and each district has its own program in order to keep the trees' gene pool as local as possible so when the blight free tree is produced, we will have resistant local trees with which to pollinate them; thus, producing trees to reforest the State from our plantations. Seven of the nine districts are filled and only Long Island and New York City lack Directors. If you know of anyone in these areas who might be interested please have them contact us at the address below.

The American chestnut is a biological powerhouse. A very valuable fast growing hardwood that feeds the birds and animals, makes long lasting fence posts, telephone poles, shingles, and

rail road ties. It was the major hardwood in the eastern United States prior to its decimation. It deserves to be saved.

An education program is being planned to spread the word of the program to raise trees, to all of the schools across New York State. This will raise the awareness of the people and hopefully get them involved. We are a hard hitting dedicated group of volunteers who are determined to make our program work. If you have an interest in assisting us, please contact the New York State Chapter American Chestnut Foundation, c/o Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14211-1293, telephone 716-896-5200, a reply is assured.

GRAPHIC: by June Barzilauskas from Bulletin 777; Dec. 1978; Sandra Anagnostakis; The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

MORE THAN A MEMORY

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NY FOREST OWNER:
THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT - PART II; AND
HYPOVIRULENCE, HYBRIDIZATION, GENETIC ENGINEERING,
AND THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION

The Rest of the American Chestnut Story in NY

By Elizabeth Densmore

When you read about the loss of the American Chestnut through blight and New York's hopes of producing a blight resistant tree you are only reading half of the story. Herbert Darling, Jr.'s fight to save the tree is a lesson in extraordinary stewardship.



Herbert F. Darling, Jr., President/Founder NYS Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

Herb remember's his father's stories about the great trees that once were part of the family acreage, but thought they were gone forever. In 1988 a friend, hunting (with permission) on Herb's property , found a chestnut 20" dbh and about 85 feet tall. He informed Herb of this discovery and when Herb looked at the awesome, ailing giant he was hooked. Since the tree was already a victim he began to research ways to perhaps contain the blight.

He contacted Dr. Philip Rutter, President and Co-Founder of the American Chestnut Foundation. Dr. Rutter advised Herb to try mud-packing the diseased portion of the tree. Mudpacking a seriously infected giant of 85 feet would be an insurmountable problem to most of us; Herb Darling just hauled enough metal scaffolding into the forest to build a remarkable means of access to the tree. While the treatment failed (the tree died this year) what was accomplished has implications that may well be what saves this species.

That single chestnut triggered what must be almost an obsession, because Herb intends to find the solution. The tree could not have found a better champion. Herb is President of Herbert F. Darling, Inc. Engineering Contractors, Member of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Museum of Science, family man, builder, organizer

and a man who burns with the intensity of his passion for this tree. Herb and Stanley and Arlene Wirsig founded the N.Y. Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, and he has tapped into the Buffalo Museum of Science as headquarters, meeting place and source of identification expertise.

Since the easiest way to locate the trees is to fly over in July when the blooming trees stand out dramatically from other foliage, Herb has organized voluntary, privately funded flyovers. He seeks permission to gather nuts from trees located during flyovers....no one has ever refused him when he explains his mission. He started, and helps maintain, five nurseries in various parts of the state where dedicated volunteers raise seedlings.

Herb does numerous speaking engagements each year to spread the word, raise funds and educate. To listen to him speak about the American Chestnut is to be infected with his enthusiasm to join in the battle to save the tree. He projects his excitement and optimism and makes all that he has done sound like just the sort of everyday thing anyone could do.....certainly! Don't we all do 80 square mile flyovers all the time? And build monumental scaffolds in the middle of a forest? He makes it seem like you could.

We can all learn from the dedication of this NYFOA-Niagara Frontier Chapter member. Here is a busy man who puts his time, resources and efforts into his unshakable belief that the Chestnut can be saved. He spends hundreds of hours each year



One of the scaffolds employed by Herb Darling in his effort to save the American Chestnut.

trying to keep the gene pool alive till that day when a blight resistant tree will exist. If people and trees are partners in time, the Chestnut has found a perfect partner in Herb Darling.

Betty Densmore is a NYFOA Director, member of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter and Chairperson of the Editorial Committee.

THE BLIGHT

The American Chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) was a prominent species of its range, the Eastern Forest, until the blight. The Genus, *Castanea* is comprised of 13 Species, world-wide, and all, for the most part, capable of hybridization.¹

"The Fungus, *Cryphonectria* (formerly *Endothia*) *parasitica*, enters wounds, grows in and under the bark, and eventually kills the cambium all the way around the twig, branch, or trunk. Everything distal to this "canker" then dies, sprouts are formed, and the process starts all over again."²

Evidence suggests the source of the virulent fungus strain to be by imported Japanese Chestnut trees (*Castanea crenata*) as transplants, grafts, and/or seeds, and as early as 1876. This species, *crenata*, is genetically protected from the disease and was widely distributed. "Chinese chestnut trees (*Castanea mollissima*) were imported later."²

Both Asiatic species are genetically protected and cross-pollination with the American Chestnut has provided blight-resistant hybrids.

¹"Connecticut Hybrid Chestnuts and Their Culture"; R. A. Jaynes & A. H. Graves; *Bulletin* 657; April 1963; The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

²"Chestnuts and The Introduction of Chestnut Blight"; Sandra L. Anagnostakis, *Northern Nut Growers*, 1993; The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

A Sprinkling of Public Opinion

By Wes Suhr

For the New York Society of American Forester's (NYSAF) winter meeting in February, Gary Goff (Extension Associate & MFO/COVERTS Program Director, Cornell University) asked if I would discuss the public's perception of forestry for ten minutes. I said o.k. and decided to sample the public directly. So the night before this meeting, I phoned five people and asked for their input.

These people knew me, but I never discussed forestry with them. Recognize they were contacted "out of the blue" to answer three questions with the requirement that they be frank, truly reporting **their** bias, and that I would offer no opinion to influence them.

The three questions were:

- 1) What do foresters do?
- 2) Who employs/pays foresters?
- 3) What can foresters do to improve forests/forestry?

The five people contacted were:

- 1) A housewife, who is also a school board member (northern Adirondacks)

- 2) An electrician (northern tier of counties)
- 3) A NY State Police Trooper, who is also an avid hunter (northern tier of counties)
- 4) A young lawyer, who is also a forest owner (Buffalo area)
- 5) A professional environmentalist (northern Adirondacks).

They truly reported their bias

THE HOUSEWIFE

What do foresters do?

"A forester is in charge of trees in the country; knows what kind(s) are growing and which ones to mark to grow them properly. The forester fights fires, surveys land ... and reduces tree diseases. A forester cuts trees, but does much more ... has a lot to do."

Who employs/pays foresters?

"Mostly the government employs foresters, the State, and businesses a little bit."

What can foresters do to improve forests?

"Foresters are doing about what they should be doing. But tell the 'government' more about the best way to manage woodlands and to make more money. Lumber is too expensive — get prices down by convincing 'government' that more should be cut. Like weeding — it's good for the forest. Tell the 'government' to get their nose out of the woods until they get more input from knowledgeable people in forestry (foresters). Educate the 'government' — make them understand that if done properly, cutting is good for the woods!"

(I just had to ask the question, "Who's the 'government'?" "The APA [Adirondack Park Agency]," was her reply.)

Educate the 'government'

She also went on to say, "Don't cut the precious commodities — like the sequoias. But you can cut carefully, and have the owls (spotted) too."

THE ELECTRICIAN

What do foresters do?

"Foresters manage forests; that is, they manage the harvest, the trees, and practice conservation to make paper and lumber.

They maximize the harvest without damaging the forest." (Honest, folks, I never said a word!)

They maximize the harvest without damaging the forest

Who employs/pays foresters?

"Foresters work for government agencies. Lumber and paper companies are required by the government to employ foresters to regulate their activities."

What can foresters do to improve forests?

"I think foresters are doing a good job ... cutting helps deer and hunters."

THE NY STATE TROOPER

What do foresters do?

"Forestry is a technical thing, using technical jargon and ideas. One of their greatest tools is knowing the different trees/plants and what their potential is. They monitor the forest to know what's going on; for example, that reforestation is occurring and erosion is not, and they take steps to reduce the injurious insects. The forester is not the guy with the chainsaw. He's the one who protects the forest from imprudent logging ... marks what should be cut, leaving the best."

keep abreast

Who employs/pays foresters?

"The State of New York and the counties employ foresters. I know they educate students. They manage State forests. I knew a forester who worked for an electric and gas company."

What can foresters do to improve forests?

"The main thing a forester should do is keep up with advances made in forestry — keep educating themselves, continue with studies, keep abreast — just like we have to in law enforcement."

THE YOUNG LAWYER

What do foresters do?

"Foresters work with landowners to manage trees by using special skills. The average lay person does not have the time/education to acquire these skills. The forester is unique in that he/she possesses a variety of skills, a vertical integration of skills. They may be frustrated surveyors,



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or may select a proper site for a building, or may describe how best to produce maple syrup, or may improve the quality of woods by taking the bad stuff out."

Who employs/pays foresters?

"The forester works for the landowner, the contracting party. The forester has an obsession with trees ... can grow a good forest while integrating the landowner's objectives."

What can foresters do to improve forests?

"I have employed foresters on my own land, a very positive experience for the most part, except for one consulting firm where the forester(s) marked the best for cutting, leaving the worst. I also have known about foresters tallying volumes dishonestly, working for the benefit of the timber buyer or logger. Good foresters mark honestly and still accomplish the objectives of both the landowner and the buyer. There should be a process where new landowners can more easily find a good forester ... it is difficult now.

"Another problem is 'starving foresters', especially young foresters, recent graduates. They often cannot make a living in forestry, yet there is plenty of potential work for them in the woods. Many landowners will not put money 'up front' for assumed future benefits because they don't understand the nature or amount of the benefit. There is a real need to educate the public to the fact that they can make more money with the forester and still retain/improve their good forest. I am very excited about the promise of the MFO (Master Forest Owner) Program — what it can do to educate private landowners."

excited about the promise of the MFO Program

THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST

(Frankly, this person took me by surprise, and through very insightful perception, offered useful testimony and recommendations. Due to the nature of this response, it is not categorized by the usual three questions.)

"Foresters, the SAF, worry more about public perception ... how the public feels about them ... than really doing anything about it. Apparently, the profession is not comfortable with its image. They talk to themselves more, rather than trying to correct the problem. Instead, they should be stressing the good things about the profession.

"The perception of environmentalists in NY State, and I work with many of them, is that the profession of forestry is in fairly good standing. The forest management regimes for NY forest resources looks good environmentally. Professional foresters, even corporate foresters, are good stewards in NY State. Management of Adirondack Park wilderness has a complimentary relationship with corporate forestry mainly, because these large properties are being managed as 'open space'. Regional and national environmental groups (for example, the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society) praise International Paper for their gift of 25,000 acres along the Raquette River.

professional foresters are good stewards

"So, for the most part, the relationship is good but there are still some great needs to improve the practice of forestry in NY. NY is far behind other states in licensing foresters. Auto mechanics are required to be licensed, but not foresters. Most of the public's negative perception of forestry is linked to bad logging practices where the skills of a professional forester were not employed. Generally, landowners are not encouraged to hire a forester. Licensing would be a great benefit to the forester in NY State!

"Another area for improvement deals with 480A procedures. Local governments (town and school boards) must wait years to be reimbursed with the 6% stumpage fee, when the woodland is finally logged. With this loss in tax revenue local government resists good forest management planning (under 480A).

"There is some public misconception about logging in NY because of some bad examples, seen in the news media from out West, which 'color' their opinion about logging. There are good examples of logging in NY, and there is a great need to demonstrate this forest stewardship to the public. There must be more promotion, a greater visibility, of good forestry practice. Demonstrate the practice through appropriate and attractive signing when the good work can be viewed along the travel zone. As an example, good forest practice (managed cutting) is necessary to maintain or enhance biodiversity—demonstrate it!

a great debate.... diameter limit cutting

"One problem could become a great debate in the near future: diameter limit cutting seems to be the norm, rather than the exception, on both Non-industrial Private Forest (NIPF) and corporate forest land. Most professional foresters agree that it often leads to high-grading. Is short-term economic gain more important than the long-term productivity of the forest?"

legislative support for ... NIPF practice.

"Another need is legislative support for forest policy decisions on 'NIPF land. The Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) lobbies legislators for support of good forest practice on industrial forest lands, but there is no similar support for NIPF land. This is an essential need in the 'environmental mix' because of the immense amount of NIPF acreage."

Wes Suhr, former Director of the Forest Technician Program at Wanakena, currently represents the Northern Adirondack Chapter and is NYFOA's First Vice President.

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Forest Resources of Central New York

By Norman A. Richards

Biological Diversity

Central New York along with most of the eastern US, has substantial regrown forest resources. Our local era of extensive forest depletion was in the past, and we now have more forest acreage and forest biomass than at any time in the last 150 years. In the interests of landscape diversity, I see no strong argument for significantly more forestland in New York, and I would not want the current trend of net increase in average size and age of our forest tree stocking to continue indefinitely. While I do see many opportunities for qualitative improvements in managing our forest resources, these are mostly matters of socio-economic benefit more than biological imperative.

Compared with most "old-world" regions, our era of forest depletion was brief and incomplete enough to leave a substantial and dispersed plant pool to foster regrowth. Our precultural flora was not extremely rich after only about 10,000 years of post-glacial immigration and evolution, and significant climate swings within that period probably slowed directional development. Although species have been eradicated from many specific sites, I do not believe we have lost large numbers of plant species from New York directly due to human settlement. We can identify some losses from indirect effects; for example, the nearly complete depletion of American chestnut from an introduced disease [see page 4, this issue], and the current depletion of hemlock and some other woody species due to our decision to maintain high populations of white-tail deer.

Probably several native woodland herbs with fragile niches have been lost locally, and it may take a long time if ever to recover their former ranges. On the other hand, over the last millennium and especially the last few hundred years, we have gained a great number of now-naturalized plant species from other parts of this continent as well as from elsewhere in the world. Many are thriving because of new niches created in new habitats that now support cosmopolitan mixes of native, naturalized and hybrid species. It is likely that central New York now has greater total plant diversity than in the precultural land-

scape, and perhaps even in recent geologic time. Whether this is good or not is a human value judgement; but we cannot really "restore" a previous biotic state if we wanted to.

Net faunal diversity may not have fared as well in New York over recent centuries. It appears easier to eradicate animals directly through cultural activity; probably less simple to create new animal niches; and recent chemical impacts have been more directly devastating to animals than to higher plants. Undoubtedly, landscape microorganisms have been profoundly impacted by cultural activities, but I won't guess where the losses, gains, and changes stand in balance.

Economics & Social Values

Turning to economics, I have more strongly mixed concerns. I am fairly comfortable with current public ownership of forests in New York. I see no strong arguments for significantly more or less public forest here or elsewhere in the US. I see controversy over the management of public forest lands as a healthy continuing process that can restrain lopsided bureaucratic directions that would be more likely to occur if there were less diverse public opinions.

It is the future social status of our private forest resources, about 90% of our forest, that concerns me most. Historically, forests have been relatively extensive-use resources, providing several values - wood, water, wildlife, vistas, forest experience - that are poorly competitive in space-precious landscapes. It is a mixed blessing that our society now places higher total values on private forestland than ever before, because it is the "highest and best uses" of the

real estate market that strongly control the destiny of these lands.

Fragmentation vs Parcelization

In contrast to some other parts of the US and the world where forest fragmentation is a significant continuing process, our regrown forests are now being impacted more by parcelization than by fragmentation. The major difference between these two processes is that fragmentation is a largely biophysical process of breaking forests into dispersed blocks separated by non-forest, or in some areas, dispersed blocks of mature forest separated by young forest. Ownership parcels may be large or small under forest fragmentation. Parcelization is the subdivision of land into smaller ownership blocks. This intrudes new features and activities into the forest and changes its character, but does not necessarily fragment it in biophysical terms. Our history shows that forest fragmentation is substantially reversible by natural processes over time. Parcelization appears less reversible except through major socio-economic changes so it should proceed cautiously.

A critical question is what is gained and what is lost when regrown forests are parceled into wooded building lots? The corollary question is "how small can a forest be?" The answers are not simple. To me, a forest is an "extensive" area not simply in terms of space-but also in socio-economic terms; it is an area in which natural processes generally outweigh cultural activities. To the extent we must define size, I think the 50-acre minimum set in New York's timber-biased Forest Tax Law is too large, while the 10-acre minimum set by some other states

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may be large enough only if connected to other forestland.

Historically, foresters have dealt mostly with forest properties composed of several stands differing in management practices. It is also conceivable for a forest to be composed of several properties differing in objectives and management. However, in small parcels, residential or recreational forests are more likely to be viewed as static features rather than as dynamic natural processes; partly because we use variation over space to help us picture change over time.

Forest Ownership

There is a complex social trade-off between more people directly experiencing forest values through subdivided ownerships, and the reduction of extensive forest values. In terms of community economics, ten 5-acre houselots in the woods are likely to generate more economic activity community income and costs — than 50 acres of undeveloped woods. But how would they compare with ten village houselots clustered on 5 tree-covered acres, leaving 45 acres of undeveloped woods?

It is easy to say that private forests should emphasize the privilege, responsibilities and rewards of forest ownership in broader social terms than emphasis on financial costs and benefits. While there are individuals demonstrating this admirably in practice, our society has not been very successful in fostering this attitude at a significant scale. The half million New York private forest ownerships, large to small, are splintered in their management attitudes. Environmental groups that include many people not owning forestland tend to be more united in concern for how others manage forests. So, most voiced attitudes are strongly polarized, with more energy going to power-plays than to seeking pluralistic solutions.

The hopeful sign, or perhaps only vision, I look for, is that enough forest owners develop a broader sense of forest stewardship to form a more coherent middle voice between the narrow, simplistic views of forest only as a real estate commodity versus only as preserve. This could be aided by specific steps to improve state legislative attitudes toward our private forest resources. Legislative initiatives would include a thorough revamping of our Forest Tax Law, both to broaden recognition of forest values and to help towns foster their forest resources; and also by



Open space and early forest succession in urbanizing rural areas have different values to different people. Economically, and ecologically the values are important in the short-term and long-term. Someone changed this real estate advertising sign from "will divide" to "will destroy". Photo by Dave Taber, Extension Associate, Cornell University.

other real estate and taxation changes to reduce parcelization pressures on private forest lands. This involves our accepting, as a society, costs for the social benefits of maintaining the extensive-use values of our forest resources.

Norm Richards' views on forest and wild-

land resources in New York come from his work both as a teacher/researcher in applied forest ecology at SUNY-ESF and as a private forest owner for 38 years.

This article originally appeared in the April/May 1993 issue of Central New York Environment Vol. 18, No. 2.

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CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

July 14th NYFOA and Tree Farm members were treated to an evening woodswalk in Wayne County on Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wright's property. The Wrights began the management of their land in 1966 with the help of DEC Forester, Bob Windsor. A timber sale was completed in 1971 and with continuous thinning for TSI, they are now preparing for another commercial sale. There was a large group of people in attendance which delighted the mosquito population. Our thanks to the Wright Family for their hospitality and DEC Forester, Mark Keister for all of his preparation and help.

WFL will host a woodswalk **September 18th** at Dick and Diane Dennison's property. DEC Forester Billy Morris and Dick will provide the narrative to accompany the tour through pines and hardwoods which are in stages of timberstand improvement and wildlife habitat promotion. If the September weather is cool enough, we will view a scheduled delivery of Rainbow Trout for the property's pond. The tour starts at 10AM at 6112 Canadice Hill Road in the Honeoye/Canadice area. Feel free to bring a lunch and relax after the woodswalk, for information call Dale Schaefer evenings at (716)367-2849.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Our annual picnic, held this year at Al Brown's lakeside home in Stow on Chautauqua Lake, was a resounding success with 40+ attendees. It was preceded by a woodswalk in the Brown-Gennarino award winning forest.

The 1993 AFC Outstanding Service Award went to Betty Densmore.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. (Thursday) we will have a Marsh Reconstruction Tour on Mark & Joanne Kurtis' property on West Branch road in the Town of Rushford. A representative from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will explain the purpose and value of marsh reconstruction and give an overview of this program and its implementation on this property.

Oct. 16 an all day excursion to the Lumbermen's Museum in Galeton, Pa.. We are chartering a bus for this event and it is being held jointly with the NFC. Cost of trip including admission to the museum is \$25.00. For more information contact Tom Casey at 716-322-7398.

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

Summer has been exciting around CFA. We have had a SIP meeting/woodswalk at Henry Kernan's forest in South Worcester and a pruning workshop in Halcottsville. Both events were a success, and if anyone who could not make them, wishes to receive a copy of the handouts, give us a call. We will provide more landowner education programs in the future, after employment of a fulltime education director. By concentrating all of CFA's educational efforts in one comprehensive program we will be able to provide the Catskills with a wide range of natural resource educational opportunities.

Our next big event will be the CFA Annual Meeting on **September 11**. We have reserved the Pine Lake Environmental Education Center of Hartwick College. It is located in Davenport, New York, just east of Oneonta. As with past annual meetings, we will provide seminars and woodswalks in addition to the business portion of the meeting. Pine Lake is especially well suited for this format since it has nature trails and acres of woodlands, as well as a comfortable building for meetings and seminars. Lunch will be catered. We hope that all interested forest owners, whether a CFA member or not, will participate in this year's meeting. Call us if you have any questions.

CFA plays several vital roles in the region, including acting as a referral agency. Presently we work with the lists compiled by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, but we add our own experience to the process. From meetings with foresters and loggers we can give more accurate direction to landowners and connect them with foresters and loggers who can provide the most appropriate and timely service. If you are a landowner in the Catskill region CFA may be able to suggest a few names of professionals. Likewise, if you are a forester or a logger and want to work in Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan or Ulster Counties, please contact us so that we may learn of your interests and specialties.

NICE NEWS

The **NEW YORK STATE FOREST PRACTICE BOARD** honored two NYFOA/CDC members recently. Willard and Myrna Ives of Haynersville, Rensselaer County had a tree planted at the Schaghticoke Fair Grounds in recognition of their service to the Board and forestry in the state. The location was selected because the Ives have been associated with the fair there for over forty years and have staffed a forestry booth for the Forest Practice Board for the past six years.

Some of their efforts leading to this recognition have included Willard's serving on the Region 4 Board since 1977, the State Board since 1982, and as Chair of the State Board two three-year terms starting in 1984. They became the New York and Mid-Atlantic Outstanding Tree Farmers in 1984. Their 170 acre property has been the host site for legislative and other tours. And they have expanded upon their role as Master Gardeners to help people with woodland and Christmas tree management. Willard has been the sparkplug behind the Tree Farm/ Forest Practice Board annual Arbor Day event of handing out seedlings to legislative members to encourage their awareness of the values trees offer us.

Congratulations Willard and Myrna. Many of us are pleased to have your help.

From the Capital District Chapter Newsletter.

People and Trees, Partners in Time,

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

On June 12, a small group of NACer's met at Frank and Lillian Bassett's home to tour their pine plantation. Frank retired from DEC a few years ago and is now a consulting forester in the western Adirondack country. After learning the history of the property, from pioneer farming to the present, members walked the pine-littered, cushiony trails while Frank explained planting and managing mostly red and white pine on his sandy soils. He also outlined the change in species of song birds due to converting gray birch/shrub cover to the conifers.

Don Brown, Senior Forester with DEC, added a special touch by identifying various flowers and other ground plants along the trails.

After lunch at the Bassett's, Wes Suhr led the group to his northern hardwood property where they saw results of thinning and logging. Future projects under the SIP (Stewardship Incentive Program) plan were discussed, from establishing scenic timber and recreation trails to improvement cutting, releasing black cherries and spraying fern. At each stop, observed changes in song bird populations, after altering the cover, were summarized.

The weather was beautiful and many different subjects were covered with the five-hour tour. In a "wrap-up" session, all seemed to agree that future woodswalks should couple forestry with other outdoor interests, as this one did with song birds.

An important organizational meeting is planned for early September. NAC Staff and key members will meet in Jay, NY to discuss the future direction of NAC. Main topics will include: building an effective Chapter, inter-relating with other conservation/forestry organizations, increasing membership, selecting staff and chair, and planning a fall woodswalk. ANY members having ideas for improving NAC, especially building a strong membership, please write or call (collect) Wes Suhr: RR1 Box 59 B, Oswegatchie, NY 13670. (315) 848-2136.

SOUTHERN TIER

In late July each chapter member received a survey form developed to gather input on future chapter programs. The survey results will be summarized and reported at the meeting scheduled for the first full week of October.

A picnic/chicken barbeque was held August 14th to celebrate Richard Molyneaux's selection as the number two tree farmer in the northeastern region of the US for 1993. Chapter members, together with the Broome County Christmas Tree Growers, members of Dick's church and family members, all honored Dick. A lengthy woodswalk was needed by all to walk off some of the calories consumed.



John Sherwood wins door prize at March meeting.

Photo by Larry Lepak.

THRIFT

On July 17, ten THRIFT members were given a tour of the wood chip operation of the Lyonsdale Cogeneration Plant at Lyonsdale, by Forester Ken Williams.

The wood chip operation feeds a 19 KW power plant, which produces steam and electric power. The net electric output generated is purchased by Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. at \$.06 per KW under a 30-year power purchase agreement; the steam is sold to Burrows Paper Corp. under a 50-year sales contract.

This operation uses between 600 and 700 tons of wood chips per day or nearly 250,000 tons per year. Most of the wood fuel is supplied by local mills and whole tree chip operators in the forest product industries.

Approximately 23 to 27 tons of wood ash is produced each day. It is stored in a large steel building and is available to local farms and forest land owners, with free delivery up to 10 miles.

A mobile chipper, with an 800 HP CAT engine, costing \$385,000., working 12 hours a day, six days a week, is the backbone of the operation which employs 21 workers. A huge hydraulic hoist tilts an 180,000 pound truck to unload its load in 12 to 15 minutes. This operation uses workers and machinery to its ultimate capacity.

For THRIFT's schedule of coming events see page 20, WOODLOT CALENDAR.

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

On a sunny Saturday, July 17, some 28 people enjoyed a tour of Bill Badgley's Tree Farm in Greenwich. This was arranged by Ron Cadieux from DEC Region 5 and 1993 winner of Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector for the Northeast Region. During introductions, Mike Greason, Associate Forester from the Central Office presented John Hasting, Sr. Forester from DEC Region 5, with a Gold Hat for winning the NY State Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector Award.

The tour provided an excellent example of diversified management planning; the roads which remained after the sawlog and firewood harvest, will allow access for future management and recreation. We observed the thinning and pruning of a Red Pine plantation for future pole sales. The wildlife management practice showed a stream corridor with apple trees, a pond, and bird houses. Bill demonstrated the use of tractor, winch, and tools to move logs to the roads. Also we viewed a recently started Xmas Tree Plantation.

After lunch the group went to Barbara Hood's place in Argyle where we discussed the design and building of a new pond and various landscaping options. We examined fields planted with Larch and Xmas trees and reviewed the challenges of growing seedlings. The tour ended with delicious refreshments served by Barbara and her sister and a look at an 170+ year-old restored barn.

Since mid-June, there has been Chapter participation in three Fairs, a fourth is scheduled in Washington County.

Think Globally, Act Locally, Together

Fall Webworm - a late bloomer

By Douglas Allen

This native defoliator is one of our most conspicuous forest and shade tree pests, in part because of the large silk nest constructed by each colony, and partly because the damage appears late in the growing season after most leaf feeders have disappeared. A widespread insect, it feeds on more than 200 different plants in the United States, including 88 species of broadleaved trees. Favored foods vary with geographic location. In New York, black cherry is the most frequently attacked host, but tents may occur commonly on alder, apple, beech, birch and oak.

Description

The webbing (Fig. 1) frequently is mistaken for nests of eastern tent caterpillar. However, the appearance and habits of these two species are quite different. Fall webworm nests appear in late summer and early fall, they encompass extensive foliated portions of a branch, and the caterpillars rarely leave the nest. Eastern tent caterpillars, on the other hand, initiate feeding early in the growing season during or shortly after budbreak, the webbing occurs in branch crotches devoid of foliage (see article in the Sept./Oct. 1992 issue of *Forest Owner*), and larvae regularly leave the nest to feed.



Fig. 1. Fall webworm nest (black arrow).

Webworm caterpillars vary from yellowish brown to dark grey and possess several tufts of long whitish hairs arising from orange-yellow to black wart-like tubercles. When fully grown, the larva is 1.5-2.0 inches long (Fig. 2).

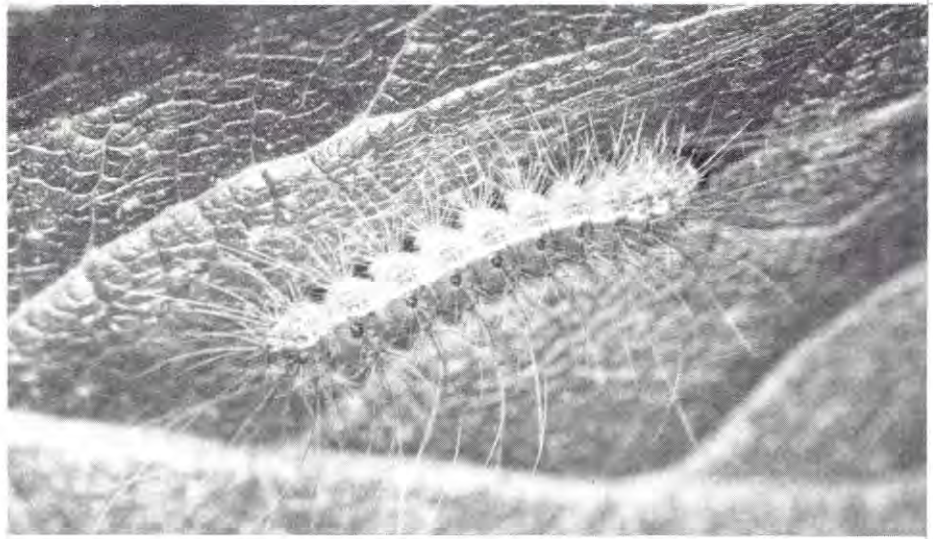


Figure 2. Fall webworm larva.

Land Use And Occurrence of Outbreaks

Fall webworm, known by the scientific name *Hyphantria cunea* (Hi-fan-tria-coonia), is a sun-loving species. Population density is highest in cleared lands where vegetation patterns provide both vertical and lateral exposure of colonies to sunlight. Further evidence indicating that the species thrives in openings is the fact that webs are most likely to occur on roadside trees, and they are rare in the interior of forest stands.

Biology

The female moth deposits eggs in a mass on the underside of a leaf during June and July, usually near the tip of an exposed branch. The egg mass is covered with white scales from the body of the moth. Young larvae feed only on the upper surface of leaves (called "window feeding" because after the insects have fed a brownish, thin, translucent layer of leaf tissue remains), but with age larvae may become "whole leaf feeders" (i.e., all parts of the leaf blade are eaten). As the caterpillars feed, the webbing is continually enlarged to encompass new foliage. During heavy infestations an entire tree may be enshrouded by the webbing activities of several colonies. Even when populations are sparse, however, the insect is noticeable because just one to a few large webs per tree catch the eye. Each web involves a major portion of the infested branch and may attain a length of 4 to 6 feet. The main purpose of the web, which acts as a greenhouse, is to provide an environment of

high humidity. Larvae develop faster and suffer less mortality when the ambient relative humidity is near 100 percent. Larvae complete feeding in October, drop to the ground and overwinter in the soil beneath the host. There is one generation each year in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada.

Damage

Rarely does the webworm kill trees. Even when populations are high, outbreaks usually do not last more than two or three years. Also, defoliation occurs late in the growing season, after the host has stored adequate food reserves. The principle impact in New York is unsightly damage to exposed cherry, such as along highways, edges of fields or on shade trees.

Population Management

Only infrequently are control measures necessary in New York. In areas where black cherry is of prime interest and chronic populations of webworm exist, a woodlot owner may wish to restrict cherry to the interior of stands and eliminate roadside or otherwise exposed individuals. Remember, however, that fall webworm is very unlikely to cause significant defoliation in our region. Also, late summer feeding by a few colonies will have minimal impact on a tree's health. The occurrence of many large nests along roadsides or forest edges usually is not indicative of population abundance within an adjacent stand.

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

BOUNDARY LAW - PART I

N.Y.F.O.A. Past President
Allen F. Horn Has Retired

By David J. Colligan

We as forest owners are often confronted with a basic inquiry: where exactly is my boundary? Usually the reason for the inquiry is the occurrence or possible occurrence of some event which will change the status quo, such as a sale of the property, timber harvest, installation of a pond or erection of a building at or near the property line. Unfortunately for many of us, the expense of a survey provided by the seller as in urban property purchases was a "deal killer" which we were willing to forego if it meant paying for it ourselves. Now, long after the transaction closed, a boundary must be located. Where does one begin?

The first step is to decide what level of reliability is needed. Often we want to assure ourselves that we are being good neighbors prior to planning a project. An open discussion with the neighbor in question will often turn up a survey, understandable deed description, unknown monument or some other indication of where the line is. It is not always the best policy to give your neighbors the opportunity to opine on their view of where the line is as it will create an immediate conflict if

you don't agree. They may claim that some of your best timber that you so carefully nurtured all these decades is on their side of the line. When in doubt, consult a professional.

Which professional you consult will depend upon your need. Most foresters have been trained in boundary location techniques and can be consulted prior to starting woodwork such as TSI or a timber harvest. A survey as such can only be prepared by a licensed professional engineer or a licensed land surveyor according to New York law. Surveys of large acreages are costly and time consuming. However, there is no substitute for a survey if you are planning a permanent improvement such as a building or a pond. Also, a single line sometimes can be staked between two properties on a shared cost basis if an agreeable surveyor can be found. Ask your lawyer for a recommendation of a good, reasonable (time and price) surveyor in your area.

This is the first part of a multi-part series on the boundary laws in New York. Dave is NYFOA's legislative liaison and a Buffalo attorney at law.



Al Horn, a Professor at SUNY-CESF with dual degrees in both Forestry and Law, has left the Syracuse area early last month. He and his wife Lois have moved to Beaufort, South Carolina. Al has been a willing contributor of both time and expertise to benefit NYFOA, serving on many panels and programs sponsored by this association. A willing volunteer, Al chaired several important committees, including Editorial, Annual Meeting Planning, By-laws, and aiding local arrangements frequently.

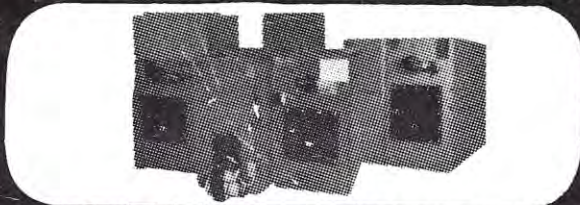
As President, NYFOA added new dimensions under his leadership. Membership especially increased with a new found determination. We wish Al and Lois many years of good health and happiness in retirement. One memory will follow them -- 37 winters in Syracuse. Dr. Horn owned in partnership with Bob Sand, the former Emiel Palmer Tree Farm in the Town of Pompey, Onondaga County.

Honor Roll

Twenty-nine new members were recruited by the following:

Tom Ellison	Dick Fox
Peter Marchese	Polly Fullerton
Bob Davis	John Hastings
Red Gramlich	Wes Suhr
Mark Keister	CFA - 12
Mary McCarty	The Woodland Steward 4
Marge Devine	

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**Board of
Directors Meeting
#191 of October
24, 1992**



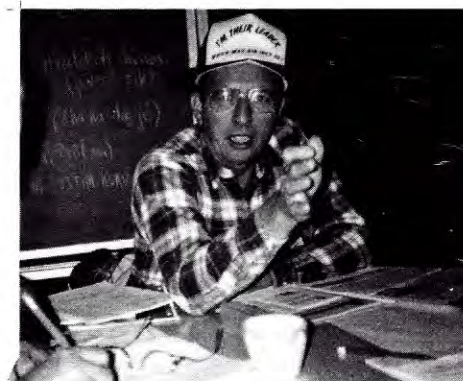
**Room 214, Marshall
Hall State University
of New York
Environmental Science
and Forestry, Syracuse**

Photo by Charlie Mowatt



Photo by Charlie Mowatt

Photo by Charlie Mowatt



The Photographer Charlie Mowatt during Leadership Workshop of 1992, Arnot Forest, Cornell University.

Photo by Bill Miner

#191, ATTENDING: David Colligan, Mary McCarty, Don Wagner, Norm Richards, Betty Densmore, Dick Fox, Alan Knight, Stu McCarty, Charles Sprague, Kathleen Farnum, Tom Ellison, Peter Childs, Tom Casey, Pat McGlew, John Krebs, Sandy Vreeland, Vern Hudson, Charlie & Marion Mowatt, Bill Miner, Debbie Gill, John Marchant and Bob Sand.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #194 of June 26, 1993 (DRAFT)

#194, ATTENDING: Don Wagner, Wes Suhr (NAC), Clara Miner, John Marchant, Debbie Gill, Al Brown, Peter Levatich, Norm Richards, Charlie Mowatt, Betty Densmore, Dick Fox, John Krebs, Tom Ellison, Charles Sprague (THRIFT), Mark & JoAnn Kurtis (AFC), Dennis Colliton (CDC), Bill Miner (CNY), Erwin Fullerton (SAC), Peter Marchese, and R.M. Sand.

OPENING: President Don Wagner called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He expressed his appreciation to those in attendance and announced that Pat McGlew, Eileen VanWie, Kathleen Farnum, Larry Lepak, and Tom Casey could not attend.

ITEM I A motion made by Ellison, seconded by Mowatt, approving the Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 1993 as distributed, passed. A second motion made by Marchant, seconded by Levatich, to approve as distributed the Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 1993, passed.

ITEM II John Marchant mailed to the Board copies of his Executive Director report and reviewed it personally with the Board at the meeting.

ITEM III A motion by Fox, seconded by Richards, approving the proposed N.Y. TREE FARM/E.S.F.P.A. alliance with NYFOA was accepted unanimously by the Board.

A motion by Mowatt, seconded by Suhr, approving a \$295.00 NYFOA database software purchase, carried unanimously.

ITEM IV Al Brown reviewed the William Burgett proposed gift of 437 acres of land on the South Branch of Cattaraugus Creek. Significant effort by the Allegheny Foothills Chapter's officers and key members involving networking with the Nature Conservancy and the Western N.Y. Land Trust has taken place. Both comments and questions from the Board followed. A motion by Richards, seconded by Levatich, directed the continuation of chapter discussion with Mr. Burgett and all organizations able to explore a timely resolution of this unique proposal. The motion passed 20 to 1. Pres. Wagner thanked Al Brown for his involvement to date and requested that he continue his efforts on the Burgett matter.

ITEM V Clara Miner reviewed copies of the Treasurer's report for the period Jan. 1 - June 25, 1993 with the Board.

ITEM VI Debbie Gill presented her

Administrative Secretary's report to the Board. Membership is 1,594. She expects to drop 56 delinquent members on July 1.

ITEM VII Editor Wes Suhr reported that a Notice Requesting Readers Who Desired Mailing Continuation of the WOODLAND STEWARD had only 360 responses. [7000 mailed] He'll repeat this again twice. Mailings will continue uninterrupted to all NYFOA and TREE FARM addresses.

ITEM VIII Reports of the following committees were presented:

EDITORIAL— Densmore: All is well.
FOREST OWNER— Fox: All is O.K.
CHAPTER RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT— Mowatt: Introduced Peter Marchese and announced that he is now organizing a Steuben Chapter of NYFOA.

ITEM IX Bill Miner and Tom Ellison reported on the upcoming FALL MEETING slated for Sat/Sun, Sept. 25-26, 1993 at the HEIBERG FOREST near TULLY, NY. The Board approved this scheduling change from traditional Fri/Sat dates.

ITEM X Bill Miner distributed his Program Evaluation Summary made by 50 attendee returns of the Annual NYFOA Meeting (4/24/93). It is a ready source of many positive comments and useful suggestions for future meetings.

ITEM XI The Board approved April 30, 1994 for the 32nd Annual Meeting.

ITEM XII 1993-1994 NYFOA Committee Assignments were reported to the Board by Pres. Don Wagner. A list of current telephone numbers of Committee Members is to be distributed as soon as practical. [see page 16, this issue]

ITEM XIII The following Affiliates and Chapters reported on activities:

THRIFT—Sprague; **NORTHERN ADIRONDACK**—Suhr; **CENTRAL NEW YORK**—Ellison; **SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK**—Fullerton; **CAPITAL**

DISTRICT—Colliton; **ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS**—Mark & JoAnn Kurtis.

ITEM XIV OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Mark Kurtis reported that Mr. John Adler, a CHAIN SAW SAFETY expert is available to any Chapter or Affiliate willing to hire his services; and AFC is planning a session if insurance allows.

2. The Board discussed a request by the New York State Timber Producers Assoc. to exchange memberships and membership mailing lists. The Board disapproved this request; but indicated that any NYFOA member was able to request a copy of the Directory. Don Wagner would advise NYSTPA.

3. A motion by Marchant, seconded by Sand, authorizing a \$200.00 loan to the Niagara Frontier Chapter as a down payment needed by July 1, 1993 for a bus tour contract, was approved unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, a motion by Ellison, seconded by Levatich to adjourn was duly passed at 12:23 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for 10 a.m. SATURDAY October 24, 1993 in Room 214 of Marshall Hall, SUNY/ESF Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted by:



Robert M. Sand, Recording Sec'y.

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NYFOA - Committee Assignments - 1993/1994

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 C. Minerd
 J. Marchant
 C. Mowatt
 R. Sand
 W. Suhr

CHAPTER RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

C. Mowatt, Chr.
 R. Sloman
 T. Casey

MEMBERSHIP

W. Suhr, Chr.
 J. Krebs
 R. Davis
 R. Fox

BUDGET

C. Minerd, Chr.

NOMINATING

P. Levatich, Chr.
 R. Sand
 E. Fullerton
 E. Van Wie

AUDIT

R. Sand, Chr.

AWARDS

R. Sand, Chr.
 V. Hudson
 N. Richards

EDITORIAL

B. Densmore, Chr.
 R. Fox, Ex Officio
 A. Knight
 M. McCarty (716) 381-6373
 D. Taber (607) 255-2826
 A. Brown
 B. Minerd

BY-LAWS

Executive Committee

REGIONAL AFFILIATES

R. Sloman
 C. Sprague

LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Brown, Chr.
 J. Krebs
 D. Wagner
 P. Levatich
 R. Sand
 N. Richards

LEGISLATIVE

D. Colligan, Chr. (716) 832-3611
 B. Minerd
 V. Hudson

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

T. Ellison, Chr.
 D. Colliton
 M. Kurtis

**See page 2 for additional phone numbers or NYFOA Info Service 1-800-836-3566*

Reference Information Available Through the 800#

1 - Reference Publications covering a wide variety of topics

Examples: Growing Black Walnut
 Attracting Wildlife
 Growing Christmas Trees

2 - Services

Lists professional services - private and state foresters by name and county

3 - Timber Harvestors

Sorted by Name and work area

4 - Primusers

Sawmills, Buyers, Etc.
 Sorted by County

5 - Offices - State-wide

DEC Offices
 Cooperative Extension Offices

NYFOA INFORMATION SERVICE

1-800-836-3566

100 YEARS OF FORESTRY IN TRANSITION

The recent retirement of three foresters from New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, each with over 30 years public service on both public and private lands is a "sign of the times" and a significant clear-cut in the Department's Division of Lands and Forests.

The three foresters are especially prominent because of their leadership roles in the New York Forest Owner's Association.



Robert Demeree, a past Director of NYFOA and a frequent contributor to THE FOREST OWNER (For Example: The End

of An Era, Nov/Dec 1992, 6; Clear-Cut--Myths, Madness and Controversy, Jan/Feb 1991, 3) retired an Associate Forester while serving as the Assistant Regional Forester in the Cortland Office responsible for six counties of DEC Region 7. Bob intends to manage XMAS trees and woodlands of his own, and offer services and experience as a Consulting Forester.



Richard Garrett, a part of the "woodwork" in Oswego County for some 20 years of his hitch, also leaves the state service to enter the private sector as a

Consulting Forester. Dick served NYFOA as a Director and was elected to the Office of President, 1986-1988.



Charles Mowatt, an Associate Forester, served as an Assistant Regional Forester, first in Region 9, and then at the Bath office in Region 8. Friends assert Charlie will be "working for Marion", his wife and tending his woods. Charlie is currently a NYFOA Director, Class of 1994 and Chairman of the Chapter Relations and Development Committee.

Three Networking Initiatives

For the Northeast: the Notheastern Forest Alliance, NEFA, formed in 1986 by the State Foresters of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York to promote the northeastern forest and related products. In order to provide a regional economic profile the Alliance has commissioned state summary reports.

For Northern New York: the Northern Forest Lands Council was formed in 1990 from a federal and 4-state (ME, NH, VT & NY) initiative in response in 1988 to the large scale sales of private forest land and the potential threat to traditional land use patterns. Based upon research of relevant data to define traditional patterns and extensive public input (NYFOA former Directors, Harold Petrie and Ernst Spencer are members of NY's Citizen Advisory Committee); the Council is charged with identifying causes of "forest land fragmentation and conversion, and recommending strategies to guide future changes" which will reinforce "the traditional patterns of land ownership and uses" (Interim Status Report, Feb 1993). A Public Forum of the Northern Forest Lands Council will be held Sept. 16 in Boonville.

And for New York: the Forest Resources Development Council was formed in late 1992 and currently has 32 members including John Marchant, NYFOA's Executive Director. The joint leadership of NYS Department of Economic Development and NYS DEC suggests a fruitful mix, and according to Dave Taber of Cornell University Cooperative Extension, has already provided 5 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

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Coltsfoot: A Soft Soothing Step

By Dr. Jane Sorensen Lord

"You know about herbs, don't you? You're an herbalist?"

Tim Noga of the Cayuga County Federation of Conservation Clubs spoke on the hoof while exiting the County's Environmental Management Council Meeting.

I turned to face him, "I'm supposed to know. I'm a naturopathic doctor. But there are so many. And each book says different things. I try."

"Do you know about Coltsfoot?"

"Yes, it's good for sore throats."

"No, I mean for wound healing." He looked at me earnestly. "we use it in pieces directly on open cuts to speed up healing. I'm Polish and I think it may be an old Polish remedy, because I've always known about it."

"We tried an experiment sometime ago. A friend had abdominal surgery with a two foot long surgical wound stapled up; it was oozing in spots and he was having to change the bandages all the time. I told him about Coltsfoot and he wanted to try it."

We drove around 'til we found a good patch. We went home; washed, dried, cut it in strips; laid it across half the scar and bandaged it. We only did half to see if it made a difference. I saw him the next day and he had covered the whole thing. He said the Coltsfoot made such a difference overnight that he didn't want or need to test anymore!"

Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) is one of the weeds I introduced to my Tree Farm. In fact I collected it on Route 23 in the Catskills on the way to the 1992 Annual Spring New York Forest Owners meeting! In early spring, from waste, clay soils up pops dime size yellow dandelion type flowers on white scaly stems, similar to Indian Pipe. They grow in clusters connected by underground creeping root stock. After a few weeks they puff up and blow away and the leaves come out.

Leaves grow on individual reddish stalks, maybe 10-12" from the ground. In good conditions, the leaves grow saucer-size and look like a hoof print from a Clydesdale rather than a colt. They are dark green on top and downy greenish-white on the bottom. They feel like fine, thin soft leather that you want to smoother over your cheek (and should).

The fresh flowers or the fresh leaves can



"Coltsfoot Bordering Driveway" -

Photo by Tim Noga

be used for coughs and sore throat. Simmer one cup of torn crushed plant in two cups of water. Reduce by half a cup, strain and you should have one cup of extract. Add a cup of sugar, you have cough syrup, two cups, you can make cough drops.

You can dry the leaves and make tea. Or, like Mullein, another preferred plant for respiratory conditions, you can smoke it to clear up mucous.

Tim's use of Coltsfoot was new to me and short of self mutilation I was rearin' to try it.

After wearing a part polyester suit and blouse for three days in Washington, DC heat and humidity, my armpits had a nasty reaction in the form of a raised red, stinging rash (bi-lateral axillary dermatitis). My chance was here! And I could even experiment!

I ran out, picked a large Coltsfoot leaf, washed it, patted it dry, then ran over its center with a meat tenderizer (this pierced it but left the shape -- just like an armshield!) I put hydrocortisone ointment on the right, then put on an old tee shirt. I slid the Coltsfoot leaf under my left arm with the underside next to the skin.

Overnight the Coltsfoot-side improved observably more than the other. I repeated the same procedure and by the second night the Coltsfoot-side cleared completely. The commercial healing ointment took three days!

Thanks Tim! Now I will make a healing oil so I can have Coltsfoot all year 'round.

If any of you have unique family herbal remedies, write to the editor and we will let others know about these vol-

unteer plants that lend a rich, diverse cultural and historical note to our forest lands.

In addition to representing the Federation before the County EMC, Tim Noga represents the Federation of Conservation Clubs of Cayuga County at the NYS Region 7 Conservation League where he serves as the Region's Secretary. The Conservation League and other regional groups send representative to the NYS Conservation Council which advises the NYS DEC Commissioner on matters of particular concern to sportsmen in New York and provides a cadre of volunteers helpful to the mission of DEC's management and regulation of Fish and Wildlife. The Cayuga Chapter of NYFOA is a "member club" of the County's Federation.

Jane attended the County EMC meeting and a steering committee meeting of the Cayuga Chapter for the local flavor thereby provided.

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Global Marketing Gives Tree Farmers New Options

By Ron Cadieux

All Tree Farmers know that trees are a renewable resource, but few realize that their veneer and high grade sawlogs are a desirable worldwide commodity which is in great demand. Locally, we are blessed to have the particular forest types which have drawn global attention. Red oak, white oak, white ash and sugar maple are the primary species that veneer buyers are constantly seeking. The big surprise is that some veneer buyers will also buy red maple, basswood, and hickory. The economic increase in value to the seller is variable but usually ranges up to three to four times the average stumpage value of a given individual species.

So, how do forest owners sell to veneer buyers? If the forest owner has the ability to put the logs roadside and communicate with professional businessmen, there is a good chance of a roadside sale. Roadside is a term given to the sale of logs which are

close enough to the road to be loaded onto a truck for hauling. Scaling and grading of the logs is usually done in the presence of the seller. Loading the logs onto tractor trailers is usually the responsibility of the seller.

What are the advantages of selling roadside? These are many in the long-term investment of owning a forest, with the first being economic gain. Demand for high grade sawlogs have driven up prices dramatically which are not immediately reflected in stumpage prices. Secondly, a forest owner can sell as little as four to five thousand board feet at a time. The quality of the logs, not necessarily the volume harvested, will determine the income received. Forest owners can schedule light harvests and maximize their return in a continued harvesting cycle. They also have the opportunity to communicate with potential veneer buyers and arrange to sell their logs at a certain time of year when

market prices are higher.

In the spring of 1993, the Bureau of Marketing and Utilization (NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation) compiled a statewide list of veneer buyers. Local forest owners who can function as a general contractor and would like to utilize a new opportunity for selling their forest products can obtain a statewide list of veneer buyers by calling or writing their local NYS-DEC office.

Interviewing potential buyers and comparing price and specification sheets will help educate sellers before making final decisions on selling their forest products. DEC foresters are available for advice on procedures or scheduling sales.

From SE Adirondack Chapter Newsletter (Jul. 93). Ron Cadieux is a DEC Forester, Region 5. The NY FOREST OWNER invites comment or anecdotal experience from the reader.



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- Sep 11: CFA Annual Mtg., Pine Lake Envir. Ed. Center of Hartwick College; Davenport; (914)586-3054
- Sep 11: THRIFT; Tour of Niagara Mohawk's Test Wind Energy Facility; Copenhagen; (315)788-5920
- Sep 16: THRIFT; 7PM; Northern Forest Lands Council Public Forum; Boonville; (315) 788-5920
- Sep 18: WFL: 10AM; Woodswalk of TSI & Pond Stocking;; Honeoye/Canadice Area; (716)367-2849 eve.
- Sep 18: CDC; 1PM; Pre-management Plan Woodswalk; Slade Hill Rd.; Albany Co.; (518)895-2706.
- Sep 23: AFC; 10AM; Marsh Reconstruction Tour; M&J Kurtis' property; (716) 322-7398
- Sep 24,25: NYFOA, ANNUAL FALL MEETING,..... SEE INSERT ... (315) 682-9376
- Sep 25: THRIFT; 10AM; Forest Tent Caterpillar Workshop; W. Leyden Fire Hall (31 5)788-5920
- Oct 2: THRIFT; Woodswalk at Don Wagner's; Hamilton County; (315)733-7391
- Oct 16: AFC; Lumbermen's Museum Bus Excursion; Galeton, PA; (716)322-7398
- Oct 30: THRIFT; 10AM; Forest Tent Caterpillar Egg Mass Identification Woodswalk; (31 5)788-5920

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