

The New York **FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 1994



SPECIAL EDITION FOR NY TREE FARMERS



(See Page 11)

*** HOW TO SUCCEED AT SUCCESSION**

*** WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

*** FOREST HEALTH**



THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 32, NO. 1
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COVER:

"The Childses"
Front Row: Chelsea (l), Daniel, Thomas
2nd Row: Dorothy (l), Audrey, Bob,
Nancy, Peter.

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FOREST OWNER

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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.

How to Succeed at Succession



Building tree stands for archery hunting. (See page 4)

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Don Wagner

I would like to take this opportunity to say HELLO to all New York State Tree Farmers and anyone else receiving this magazine for the first time. This edition of our bimonthly publication has been dedicated and enhanced to highlight the special connection between the Tree Farm System and NYFOA. Extra pages, remarks and comments prepared by John Marchant and Frank Rose, as well as a calendar of events designed to interest and welcome Tree Farmers across the State, have been added (see beginning page 11). In addition to the regular distribution of this magazine, approximately 2,000 copies are being sent to certified NYS Tree Farmers that are not current members of NYFOA. Presently 308 NYFOA members have dual membership. The partnership between our two organizations simply makes sense. Let's extend our hand to welcome these prospective members. This special relationship without question is good for both of our associations.

My last message mentioned my outreach commitment to our membership by participating in various Chapter and Affiliate activities. Allow me to update you regarding my involvement over the last two months. I hosted a very enjoyable and well attended woodswalk coordinated by THRIFT on my woodlot in early October. The color was peak; although, the weather could have been a little more cooperative, the rain did not dampen the participants' spirits. After the walk, we all went to my camp on Piseco Lake to dry out, talk, and eat lunch. I believe a good time was had by all.

During the next week my wife, Betty, and I spent a day in our woodlot with two wonderful people we met at the Fall Meeting, Juergen and Jean Schumann. It was a beautiful sunny, fall day, hard not to have



Clara Miner, NYFOA Treasurer (l) and her mother, Marjorie Hudson at Don Wagner's camp after woodswalk.

had a fantastic time. It is times like this when I am genuinely glad that I am involved in a great Association like ours and have the opportunity to meet and socialize with nice people with similar interests like Juergen and Jean.

The following Saturday I attended Northern Adirondack Chapter's Fall Woodswalk. The subject was, "The Forest and Deer"; it was held on the Wanakena property. This meeting was very informative and extremely interesting.

Probably the most pleasant task I have had to date, as President of our Association, was the opportunity to present to Mary and Stuart McCarty, watches as an expression of appreciation for their many years of dedicated service to NYFOA. These watches were presented at the November meeting of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter. [See page 18 for more.] Stuart and Mary, who invited me for din-

ner that evening prior to the meeting, were totally surprised. This well attended meeting drew nearly 75 people by my count and was a delightful slide presentation. The presentation of watches, which had the NYFOA insignia on the faces, was conceived by Wes Suhr. I wish to applaud him for his thoughtfulness.

And there was the woodswalk at Dennis Colliton's Tree Farm on a rainy Sunday. Unfortunately, I didn't make the scheduled 2:00 PM start time. My car, which has been quite reliable over the years, decided on this rainy day to break down. Fortunately, I have a little knowledge in this area and was able to repair it. When I finally got to Dennis' house, it was quite late in the afternoon. The walk was over, but the enthusiastic members were gathered to have some hot coffee and donuts. Everyone whom I talked with expressed their elation over the experience.

If you recall in my last President's Message, I requested input from any member in our Association that had an idea, thought, or comment about improving NYFOA. Either no one reads the President's Message or, we are doing such a great job that no one wants to see anything improved. I received one response; and it, by the way, was glowing. Thank you, Mike Greason.

THE ARCHIVES GROW

A special thanks to:

- * Phyllis White, Executive Coordinator, NYS Woodsmen's Field Days, Inc. for records and early magazines, one copy of which was not on file at SUNY/ESF's Moon Memorial Library.
- * Charter members Ruth and Ken Eberley for early magazines.
- * Charlie Sprague for assistance in the transfers.

How to Succeed at Succession

By Elizabeth Densmore

"I would hate to think my children didn't want to keep this land".

Audrey Childs doesn't need to lose any sleep over that possibility.

Audrey and Bob Childs, NYFOANS, Tree Farmers (in fact, 1991 New York State Tree Farmers of the year and runners up for the Northeast region), Master Forest Owners (class of 1991), Master Gardeners, and Directors of Nannen Arboretum, can feel secure about the succession of their land....and their stewardship efforts and dreams.

Audrey's family lived in Cattaraugus County; and all her happiest childhood memories were grounded in the area. When the Childses, who lived in South Buffalo, began a search for a country place in 1965, they naturally turned to Cattaraugus County. After looking at many properties, a realtor took them to Cooper Hill Road (a seasonal dirt road) to a remote parcel with a spectacular view. Neither Bob nor Audrey could tell you if the view or the remoteness was the key element; but they purchased the property.

The first year they built a 16 x 24 cabin which became the focus of summers, weekends, and holidays...in fact, EVERY Thanksgiving since then, has been celebrated by the entire family on the farm. They built their present home and became



The cabin.

full-time residents in 1985. During the first year when they told friends how much the children loved the place, people often said, "The kids love it now; but they won't come here when they are older." Son, Peter, has purchased 548 adjoining acres; and son, Daniel, and his family live (and are building a new house) on another adjoining 5 acres. Their daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Jim, now own the cabin and spend every possible minute there. She says, "The cabin will always remain in the family, I wish I could be there more; if I have children, I want them to be part of this."

How do you instill such love for the land in your children? The Childses made the children part of all of it; they gave them gifts of "their" trees, "their" blueberries, "their" animals with all the responsibilities and rewards of ownership. An oak that Peter planted as an acorn now towers over them; and it is still HIS tree. In a family of hunters the children learned early that this, too, carries responsibility; they were expected to eat the game they killed. Audrey says, "One year the boys got so many chipmunks, I got awfully good at making chipmunk ala King."

kets near Buffalo's urban areas to sell their products. Now summer is a madhouse of activity with parents, children, and grandchildren — pruning, mowing, picking, and marketing. Their line of jams and jellies and syrups are much sought after, as are their fresh berries.

Working in the forest with careful management plans is a model that has always been there for all the Childses. Peter hopes one day to own over 1000 acres; he loves being among trees. His brother says of him, "If we were back a couple of hundred years it would be Lewis, Clark, and Childs!"

Dan and wife, Dorothy, are working towards a nursery business with hundreds of cuttings from the Childses' blueberries, azaleas, rhododendrons, and other ornamentals. Dan envisions a greenhouse and supplementing his teaching income within ten years.

The grandchildren are as much a part of this as other members of the family with Tom driving a small John Deere through the blueberries, picking up flats of berries, and ferrying them back to the house...pretty impressive for a seven year old. Chelsea, at age four goes to the woods with her grand



Uncle Pete and Tom (l) with Pete's oak.

"I never met another Tree Farmer till I joined NYFOA!"

The family wanted to make the farm earn its keep and planted 3000 blueberry bushes, plus raspberries, asparagus and small fruit trees. When the blueberries began to bear, Audrey placed an ad in the paper and began to fill orders. Bob & Audrey soon began to go to Farmer's Mar-

father to get firewood and can be relied on to gather eggs alone, carrying them into the house as if they were fragile treasure.

Since, in Bob's opinion, "Education is the best tool we can give to children." the discussion was always "where they would go to college" and "what they would study",





Cutting firewood.

not "if" they were to go. The grandchildren's future education is already being grown....management plans, forest surveys, and computer models suggest that an optimum harvest will occur at about the time they are ready for college; and that is the blueprint being followed.

They have all worked together from the beginning; and they have kept it a pleasurable experience. The land is the center of

it all; and the bounty they glean from it, whether it be blueberries or firewood or timber, is part of the reward. They are all tuned in to the beauty and satisfaction that comes from the land. And they, in turn, treasure this center of their world. They keep it fun by constantly experimenting; Shiitake mushrooms, Chinese Chestnut trees, miniature roses, using cherry from their own woods as trim in the house, and

JOIN NYFOA

Erwin and Polly Fullerton, 1993 NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

"The benefits of being a Certified Tree Farmer in the American Tree Farm System include special recognition and an increased enthusiasm to improve our forest land. This adds a feeling of pride to the knowledge that we are good stewards of the land. This recognition has encouraged us to inspire other forest land owners to improve their management plans.

"The benefits of being a member of NYFOA include the knowledge gained from speakers at workshops and meetings, their publications, and meeting other active landowners. This helps us to improve our forest management skills for quality timber production, better wildlife habitat, and greater recreational and aesthetic values. We also become familiar with the problems as well as benefits associated with loggers, government regulations, and the general public.

"In addition to help from our public and private foresters, there is much knowledge and experience available among landowners. Therefore, by working together and exchanging ideas from the owner's point of view, we are a tremendous help to each other. Belonging to NYFOA does this for us."

NY FOREST OWNER

Jack and Harriet Hamilton, winners of New York's 1990 Outstanding Tree Farm award; the Northeast Region Tree Farm of the Year award in 1991; and 1991's National Outstanding Tree Farmer award.

"We are greatly indebted to the New York Forest Owners Association for many reasons. It has given us the opportunity to meet with most of the other Certified American Tree Farmers in our area with whom we had had no previous contact. It also helped us forge links with other forest landowners and professional foresters throughout the state. The programs have covered topics as diverse as forest management to building ponds and access roads, from wildlife habitat to finding tax relief. Our WFL Chapter maintains a video library to be borrowed to assist members with all aspects of their forest management.

"The NYFOA woodswalks are a regular and popular part of the program. How else can we see innovative techniques developed to solve the landowner's problems which can then be applied to our own specific program? We have utilized many of these inspired ideas on our own property; they have been really helpful.

"Thanks, NYFOA, for being a fount of information, a source of new ideas, and a way to form many warm and lasting friendships!"

making maple syrup and rhubarb syrup....an endless array of possibilities. And they always seem to have time for fun. They work well together, yet they respect the many different opinions and perspectives of each other.

NYFOA is important to all of them; Peter is a past-chairperson of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter, Audrey is a past-secretary of the chapter and Bob expresses a desire to do more with NYFOA. They became members of Tree Farm shortly after purchasing the farm; but Bob points out, "I never met another Tree Farmer till I joined NYFOA!"

Audrey and Bob Childs exemplify the best of forest stewardship, not only in the care of their forests, but in the ability to pass to the next generations the land and the ideals and devotion that ensure those forests' future.

Betty Densmore serves on NYFOA's Board of Directors as Chairperson of the Editorial Committee.

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BASIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

A Primer For Landowners

By Beth & Dave Buckley

For sale - wooded acreage with stream.
It's the sort of ad that catches the eye of folks in the market for rural property. They envision a sparkling brook meandering through a serene forest. What the ad is selling though, is probably a few acres of scraggly hardwood, plenty of overgrown pasture, and a ravine. While perhaps short on aesthetics, such land offers much potential for improvement, both as timberland and wildlife habitat.

Thirty odd years ago, our own newly-purchased land in western New York surely fit that bill. Tiny streams bounced along the bottom of deep ravines; and there wasn't much marketable timber in the overstocked woodlot. More than half the 106 acres was overgrown pasture and open goldenrod.

But, tracks and the occasional bobbing tail confirmed that some wild creatures were already in residence...and *that* was our primary interest. And too, some pretty decent young hardwood was fighting for space among the wolf-trees and brush. We figured there was hope. Even if it wasn't much we had the time... and the strong backs, to make it better. We sought expert advice.

A Conservation Department wildlife biologist agreed that our acreage had plenty of potential for more game and better timber. To realize that potential, he helped us develop a formal management plan, designed to "increase the wildlife carrying capacity" of our land. What a mouthful that turned out to be!

The plan focused on the basic needs of all wildlife, Food & Cover...a safe place to live...and enough to eat. The biologist prescribed foodplots and farm ponds, planting trees and shrubs, and a variety of woodlot-improvement practices designed to benefit both wildlife and the timber crop.

Now, after three decades of intensive management, the property has a high resident population of white-tailed deer, rabbits, ruffed grouse, squirrels, and a burgeoning flock of turkeys. Song bird numbers have increased dramatically. Wildlife sightings are a common part of our daily life.

It looks better too. Throughout the property a network of roads invite quiet evening walks. Tree and shrub plantings border bright green meadowland. Plantings of



Doe in snow

pine and spruce offer nesting habitat, wind shelter, and escape cover. Well-spaced cherry, maple and ash sawtimber is thriving in the woodlot. Young hardwoods are growing rapidly too, freed from competing thornapple, poplar and hornbeam. And there's more to do.

Certainly, we're still learning. Some projects have worked very well, while others have been a bust. Let's explore some of the basic practices that have been most effective.

FOOD PLOTS

Three keys to making a food plot attractive to wildlife are location, location, and location. Lime and fertilizer would be wasted on waterlogged soil or shale hardpan, sites that are simply too impractical to cultivate. Look for level, well-drained ground that grows healthy weeds such as goldenrod or pig weed. Don't be overly influenced by proximity to adjacent cover or convenient access. It's easier to develop cover and build roads than it is to correct really poor soil and drainage. Sites can be small, less than an acre. A small foodplot won't cost too much in time, effort, or fertilizer and is therefore more likely to be maintained over a period of years.

Cultivating foodplots is farming...although the real crops are wildlife. Talking with nearby farmers may help. In some areas, soil maps are available that can assist you in locating the best plot sites.

Stake out the perimeter of the plot and begin clearing the area of brush and trees. Cut the tops from trees that are too large to mow with a bush hog. Pull the stumps with a tractor and noose-cable, then drag them aside to form a low barrier along one side of the plot. Brush and tree tops are piled on top as a sort of lid for the brush piles, making long-lasting cover for small game.

If your foodplot is on a side hill or is seasonally soggy, a diversion ditch along the uphill side should improve drainage. The ditch can be shaped with a small 'dozer, then should be raked, fertilized, and seeded with crops such as oats or winter rye. Mulch with old hay to reduce erosion until the seed is established. If the ditch is wide enough, annual mowing will help maintain vegetation and prevent growth of unwanted trees and brush.

Most newly cleared land won't produce demanding field crops such as alfalfa and

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corn. The soil on our property was acid and low in essential plant nutrients. Several years of liming and fertilizing gradually raised the pH and fertility. About a third of each application was top-dressed, then plowed down. The rest was spread on the rough-plowed ground and disced in.

The first crops were buckwheat, selected for its soil conditioning properties, and planted in June to help assure maturity in case of early frost. As soil fertility improved, we experimented with other crops including corn, sorghum, canola, and soybeans. In meadow land, we planted long-term forages like ladino clover, trefoil, and even alfalfa. These are plenty attractive to deer, turkeys, rabbits and woodchucks during the warm months, but use falls off markedly following the first hard freeze.

After much trial, we now plant winter rye or wheat in most of our food plots. Sown in mid August, these frost-hardy crops yield high-protein forage throughout the fall and well into the snow season. Winter rye and wheat stay green and nourishing even under snow. Deer and turkeys will dig through the snow cover to get at it. These grain crops are also among the first to green-up the following spring. The foodplots are mowed in late June, and again before plowing in mid August. This provides tender summer grazing and helps build soil organics. Whatever your crop choice, use good quality seed, that has been germination-tested and isn't contaminated by unwanted weed seeds.

Evaluate existing food sources around your foodplot such as wild apple trees and stag horn sumac. Prune the apple trees in the winter and cut away competing trees and brush. The cuttings can be added to the brush piles, to supply winter browse (branch tips and leaf buds) for deer, at the time it's most needed. In early spring, fertilize the trees and apply dormant oil spray.

SMALL PONDS

A few years ago, we bulldozed a small pond at the edge of a foodplot. It's been a magnet for all sorts of wildlife, and adds plant diversity to the area. Birds gather nesting materials, drink, and feed on insects. Raccoons patrol the shorelines for frogs and toads. Deer use the pond too. Watch out for muskrats, though. They'll dig holes in the dam!

WILDLIFE SHRUBS & TREES

Many County Extension offices, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the NYS Saratoga Nursery in addition to private forest owner

nurseries offer tree and shrub seedlings every spring at nominal cost. These little whips don't look like much, but they'll begin producing high value wildlife food and cover about three or four years after planting. A few years later, the shrubs will bear positively bountiful quantities of fruit. Small game and song bird populations should respond markedly.

Autumn olive, high-bush cranberry, honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose (nasty stuff unless contained by mowing) are our favorites. Hybrid crabapples have done well, and the tiny apples cling to the trees well into winter. Norway spruce, white and blue spruce, and white pine can be set in small plantations and clump plantings on a wide variety of sites. On our acreage, red and scotch pine plantings, though successful have not proven very useful to wildlife.

The County Extension Service has leaflets on the various species and how to set them out to maximize their usefulness to wildlife. In designing a planting of shrubs and trees, you should envision them as they will be, not as they are. If you can't bring yourself to plant the tiny seedlings ten or twelve feet apart, be prepared to thin the developing stand in a few years, to provide room for the trees and shrubs to reach full stature or to maintain a dense understory.

Whatever spacing interval you choose, some maintenance will be required. Early on, annual mowing around young plantings will relieve competition from weeds and brush. Also, some tree species, such as white pine, may be useful for rapid cover development, but may quickly begin to overwhelm nearby fruiting shrubs or the lower branches of slower growing spruce. Our suggestion is to plant such species with an eye to removing them some winter, as crowding may dictate. Then pile the boles and brush close in behind the shrubs as concentrated escape cover for small game and birds.

Many spruce plantings will begin to lose dense under branches unless they are aggressively thinned at about five year intervals. The idea is to continually provide room for live branches, which as the trees grow, will spread, drooping into openings where adjacent trees have been removed. In thinning, we cut up the trees and carefully build brush piles with the larger debris on the bottom. Spruce brush lasts for several years. By piling the brush, we concentrate protective cover without obstructing deer travel lanes. In three or four cuttings over about twenty years, we have



Doe, fawn and cover

removed nearly half of the trees in a plantation of Norway spruce. The trees were originally planted on six foot centers in order to provide useful cover as quickly as possible. The plantation is still dense, with some ground vegetation here and there and lots of live branches close to the ground.

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Competing hardwood and brush have also been removed as necessary, and brush-piled.

SANCTUARY PLOTS

Super-dense cover is a prime prospect for what we call a "Sanctuary", a distinct escape zone for deer...an area that cannot easily be penetrated by predators (notably hunters and marauding dogs). A spruce plantation can serve, as can a thicket of dense deciduous brush such as thornapple, speckled alder, or a tangle of viburnum. Management consists simply of maintaining the densest cover possible within the boundary. The thicker the better. Food production is disregarded.

To be effective, the sanctuary should be off-limits to everyone, even the landowner. Maintenance should be limited to occasional cutting, to maintain density, and perhaps yearly applications of fertilizer. A four foot sheep fence, topped with a strand of barbed wire, vastly increases the security of the area. The fence-line is ideal for a multi-flora hedge. The barrier is dog proof.

Deer soon comprehend the relative safety within the sanctuary and retreat there when threatened. Our sanctuary plot is only about an acre in size.

TIMBER-STAND IMPROVEMENT

Yes, TSI is good for wildlife too. Discuss your priorities with the forester evaluating your woodlot. A primary goal of wildlife-habitat improvement may influence the management prescription. For example, den trees may be spared that conventional forest management might have removed. Likewise, certain tree species may be favored for their value to wildlife.

Thinning a woodlot increases the growth rate of crop trees by providing more crown space. It also increases sunlight on the forest floor, thus encouraging new growth and the existing understory. A thriving understory is cover for wildlife. More important, it's browse, a primary food source for deer.

Much of our woodlot was young, pole-stand timber. A forester marked an area to be thinned, for firewood. Some trees also were removed for sawtimber, to release developing trees with market potential. Since we had the time, tools and inclination, we did the work ourselves, in the winter. That's when wildlife most needs the brushy bi-products of forest management.

We suggest beginning in mid January,



Fawn and freshly cut brush - Photos by B&D Buckley

just about the time the deer are really pressuring available browse. Remove poorly conformed, diseased, or crowded trees. Deer may browse the treetops as fast as you cut them. At first, we piled the treetops, but learned to let the brush lay scattered about. Not only is it easier for the deer to utilize the buds, but the remaining limbs and debris help protect new growth from browsing deer the following summer.

RENOVATING BRUSHY AREAS

We also thin areas of overgrown brush, removing everything that's not useful to wildlife. We sort out and save the best trees for future timber. For example, thornapples are cut and piled into brush piles. Everything that threatens to overstory potentially useful apple trees is removed for firewood. The apples are pruned back to the best limbs and fertilized. Lower limbs are removed where possible from timber tree candidates. Small brush is cut too. When we're finished, the cut over area is changed dramatically. The tops and brush are immediately available for browse. The apples are encouraged to bear more and better fruit. And the remaining hardwoods are well situated to grow straight and strong. But the biggest benefit is the explosive new growth that begins the following summer!

Although many of these practices have succeeded far beyond our original expectations, we realize that habitat improvement can be a fleeting thing. The moment we step away from a completed project, nature resumes her patient march, back

toward the primeval forest. While there's always more to be done, our enthusiasm for wildlife work hasn't faded. We're always interested in new ideas...and in helping others improve wildlife prospects on their own "wooded acreage with stream". (copyright 1993 Beth & Dave Buckley)

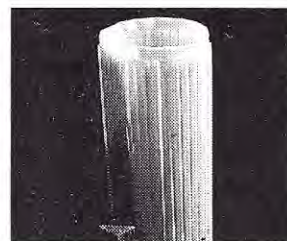
Beth & Dave Buckley write, photograph, and lecture on wilderness travel, canoeing, wildlife, and bowhunting. They offer "Wildlife Land Surveys" that accommodate the individual priorities of the landowner. For more information contact: B. & D. Buckley; 6478 Ashford Hollow Road; West Valley, NY 14171; Phone 716-942-6631.

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TEA TIME.....

By Dr. Jane Sorensen Lord

Imagine ... somewhere in Dutchess County, sometime in January, 1773

"Omigod! Omigod! Maude, did you see the Gazette, yet? Those Bostonians really did it this time! Listen!

BRITISH EAST INDIA TEA SHIPMENT - A TOTAL LOSS

On December 16, 1773 a large band of "Indians" ambushed three British East India ships while anchored in the Boston harbor. The "renegades" boarded the ships and threw the cargo of tea overboard. Reports are circulated that the "Indians" were disguised tax protestors known as the Sons of Liberty. Colonial representatives of the British East India Company seriously doubt any further commerce to be possible under.....

"Oh, Lord! Why didn't some of them dress up like Indians in canoes and catch the bales? No more tea deliveries! Maude how much tea do we have? How am I going to wake up? Do we have any seeds? Can we grow our own?"

"Isaiah, you know British tea comes from the Orient and it won't grow here."

"Those damn Brits and their taxes. We can't afford sugar, they quadrupled the tax, now this. What's next - life? We might as well go live with the Iroquois."

"Don't worry, dear. I have tea for three or four months. In summer we'll find some plants here to use. And remember, you

already like some of the tea from the medicine garden. If I make them quarter strength, we can use them in the kitchen."

Before tea from the Orient became popular in the 1600's, Northern peoples used local plants. An herbal reprinted from 1633 names many plants used as beverage: chamomile, sage, basil, fennel, mint, lemon balm, thyme, and saffras; for examples.

To brew a culinary tea from an herbal plant, use 1 tablespoon of dried herb per cup and let steep 5-10 minutes. To produce a medicinal tea (called an infusion or tisane) use two cups of dried herb per pint and let steep 20 minutes.

"It isn't the same, Maude, and you know it. Chamomile still tastes the same even if it's weak. And lemon balm, all it does is make me sleepy. And I hate thyme and rosemary tea. Their taste goes with meat."

And so Maude and her friends began to experiment, sharing information and recipes. Over time acceptable tea substitutes were found.

The Oswego Indians introduced Crimson *Monarda* to the white settlers, which they called "Oswego Tea".

Crimson *Monarda*, a relative of mint, makes a tasty tea. The dried leaves and flowers are used. The plant is a perennial which grows 3-4 feet tall in full sun to partial shade. The red flowers look like Raggedy Ann or clown hair; and are pollinated by and attract hummingbirds.

Wild bergamot, or horsemint, a first cousin to crimson *Monarda*, is good, too, but not as distinct a flavor. Growing under the same conditions, its flower is a light purple version of *Monarda* and it attracts bees.



"Oswego Tea"

One of the most popular teas that emerged was called "Blue Mountain". I imagine that it may have been introduced from the south where an active tea smuggling trade developed. I wonder how long it took buyers to learn it was goldenrod.

Harvesting the goldenrod leaves just before it blossoms produces the best flavor. Using the leaves when the plant is flowering works, too; but the taste is more bitter and really needs a dollop of honey. You can use the blossoms with the leaves and drink a bright yellow tea. Don't spill it though, goldenrod is a strong stable dye.

Chicory root became a breakfast beverage because it packed a little zip. When the coffee trade began and became popular, chicory root was used to extend the pricey import.

And so the demise of tea popularity began from scarcity. Americans became the first group of the Northern races to adopt coffee as their breakfast and pick-me-up beverage. We import coffee from all over the world to roast and blend into our favorite drink. Maybe we encouraged these far flung countries to grow and deliver our coffee so a single boycott in a single port would not send us back to our woods and fields seeking a fair substitute!

Dr. Jane, a regular contributor to the FOREST OWNER, promotes the use of "wild" plants in our culture and complements her practice as an occupational therapist with the use of herbs and other holistic modalities.

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ONE DAY IN THE SIBERIAN FOREST

By Henry S. Kernan

My son is working for a Russian-American oil company where the drilling rights are in the vast Vasuyugan Marsh, three and a half hours flight time due east of Moscow. He procured for me a letter requesting a business visa to visit that remote and sensitive part of the Tyumen Province.

For me the attraction was not oil; but the boreal Taiga of Northern Russia and Siberia, the world's most extensive and least known forests. Concern over the global environment and land use in the tropics dominates world attention. Information is scarce and travel difficult; Soviet statistics are unreliable; and maps, until recently, have been secret documents. Moreover, the boreal forest region of Siberia is anything, but alluring for travellers: the climate is rigorous the scenery is monotonous: and the remnants of penal colonies hardly qualify as cultural monuments,

Yet, the Siberian forests are, and should be, of great interest and concern. Their pine, spruce, larch, birch, and aspen form the world's largest reserve of industrial timber and of Carbon captured in cellulose.

My first stop was Nizhnevartovsk on the Ob River, headquarters for the drilling and transport of oil. The city dates only from 1912; and the oil industry, that now employs 75,000, dates from the mid-60's. It is the terminal of a branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway and a port for ocean-going vessels from the Arctic. The city has no suburbs as we commonly recognize them: but there are many outlying garden plots where Russian families grow hardy vegetables. Beyond these plots are the oil fields and the interminable Siberian landscape of swamp, lake, and woodland with more of the same for hundreds of miles to all points of the compass without crops, pasture, or rural habitation. Signs of oil spills, fire, and heavy cutting of the forest are painfully evident.

Here, at the center of the world's largest oil field, forestry and logging are rarely subjects of serious consideration and thought. Nevertheless, after some persistence and luck, on a given day we were provided with a sturdy Russian jeep, a driver, and a guide. We set off but with no map to indicate where we were headed.

We drove for five hours, generally southeast, crossed three rivers by ferry, and about noon reached a remote sawmill



Left: the Taiga Forest of Central Siberia.

Below: A Scotch pine of the Taiga Forest.

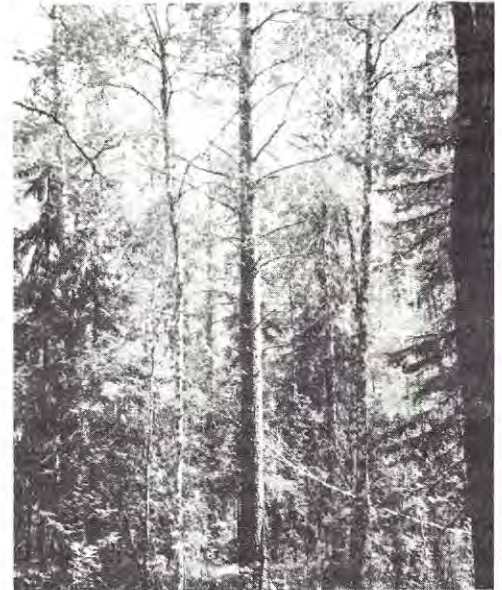
town, once a penal colony. Alesksandrobskoe is Old Russia with wood frame houses, unpaved roads, board sidewalks, and a domed church. We picnicked by the river (still the Ob) and waited impatiently for a sawmill manager to return from lunch and direct us to some logging. He finally did both.

The first sign was a caravan beside which several rough-looking lumberjacks were cooking over an open fire. They pointed to a logging road which led to a work site; but, now, Friday afternoon, the work had stopped. As we drove along, the ruts became deeper and deeper; until the jeep hung up in the center and could move neither forward nor backward. The guide and driver were left with the problem while my son and I walked ahead over logging ground amid swarms of insects. After several hundred yards, we stopped to take measure of our surroundings. At long last I was in the primeval boreal forest of Siberia.

Underfoot was a deep, spongy layer of undecomposed leaves and duff, horsetails, moss, brome-grass, and wild rosemary. There were gooseberries, cranberries, blackberries, and blueberries. Prominent in the understory was a species of *Sorbus*, which we call mountain ash, the English call rowan, and the Russians - *riabina*. There were a few small spruce; but no larch or fir.

The two conifers of timber size were the two-needle Scotch pine and the five-needle Siberian white pine. They both had straight boles of up to 50 feet clear but no girth over 16 inches. Prism plots revealed consistently 120 square feet of basal area.

By now the jeep was free. The hour was late. We had over 100 miles to drive and three rivers to ferry. I had seen the Taiga Forest. I also had learned that I was a *lesvod* (professional forester) and had vis-



ited a *lesozagotovka* (logging chance).

Forests and trees have been among the most powerful and happiest features of Russian culture and history. Moscow is a city of wide avenues, drab buildings, and many, many trees. I had the same impression driving several hundred miles south of Moscow to see the country homes of Tolstoy and Turgeniev. The birches and pines are not large, but they are pervasive. They are part of the sense of overwhelming magnificence and beauty, not in detail, but in sheer vastness of extent.

With 832 million hectares, the forests of the former Soviet Union are the most extensive in the world. Most are now within the present boundaries of Russia. To have entered and seen even a fraction was an unforgettable experience.

Henry, a consulting forester with extensive experience in world forestry, has shared glimpses of foreign forests with readers: Ecuador, JIA'93: 7; France, NI D'93: 16; and now Russia.



ATTENTION NY CERTIFIED TREE FARMERS: OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



By Frank Rose, Chairman of the NY Tree Farm Committee

THE TREE FARM PROGRAM IS IN TROUBLE,.....

10 OF THE 13 FULL-TIME STAFF PERSONS WERE FIRED.....

Three people now run a program which involves 50 separate states, thousands of volunteers, and over 70, 000 Tree Farmers. These changes have a staggering negative impact on our state's program. Washington's ability to respond has been reduced; and national's communication with NY Tree Farmers has faltered.

However, this is an opportunity to strengthen the NY Tree Farm program by joining the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA).

HOW WILL THAT HELP AND WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU?

* An alliance with NYFOA means that there will be a greater presence as spokespersons for the forest community. NYFOA's current high profile and legislative lobbying efforts will be strengthened.

* All Tree Farmers must pay a \$15 subscription fee to receive the bimonthly TREE FARMER magazine. If you join NYFOA (\$15), you will receive this bimonthly, THE NY FOREST OWNER..... with pages in each issue about the NY Tree Farm program. This approach will increase communication among NYS Certified Tree Farmers and forest owners.

* Upon joining NYFOA, you will receive other benefits; chapter membership, with local woodwalks and activities; chapter newsletters; NYFOA Spring and Fall Meetings noted for the speakers and activities that enhance forest stewardship; and much, much more.

* NYFOA will assume most of Tree Farm's costly record keeping and mailing responsibilities thereby reducing Tree Farm's operating costs.

BUT.... to realize these benefits many of you must join NYFOA, . This is the only way we can achieve enough cost reduction to respond to the needs of New York's Tree Farmers. It is the only way NYFOA can afford to carry out all the administrative tasks that the New York Tree Farm program requires. We Tree Farmers must begin to pay our own way. Former sources of support are gone. Tree Farmers becoming NYFOA members provides that opportunity.

While joining NYFOA is not required to remain in the Tree Farm program, it is certainly in everyone's best interests. With this magazine and the chapter activities, landowners in every region of the state will have the chance to get together for social, educational, and business reasons.

The NYFOA membership payment ensures the future health of these two fine organizations without diminishing the autonomy of either. Both organizations will



Frank Rose addressing the Southern Tier Chapter of NYFOA.

maintain their separate identity; will retain their separate yet highly compatible missions and objectives; will retain their separate Boards of Directors; and both will benefit significantly from this partnership.

SO.... here is your first issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER... Take a look, read, and enjoy... And ask yourself: Why not take advantage of this opportunity to access up-to-date information on issues related to your forest..... taxes, management techniques, planting tips, road layouts, wildlife planning.... a host of topics of importance to all forest owners?

All NYFOA members should aspire to be Tree Farmers. All Tree Farmers should be NYFOA members.

Application for Membership in the New York Forest Owners Association.

I/We would like to support good forestry and stewardship of New York's forest lands.

- () I/We own _____ acres of woodland.
() I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
County of residence _____ County of woodlot _____ Referred by _____

Annual Dues (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

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MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES: six issues of FOREST OWNER, woodwalks, chapter meetings and two statewide meetings.

PLEASE make check payable to NYFOA and SEND TO: NYFOA, Inc., P.O. Box 180, Fairport, New York 14450

Or Phone NYFOA INFO SERVICE 800-836-3566 and we will bill you.



NYFOA INTERVIEWS DICK ROMMEL, GOLD HAT TREE FARM FORESTER

Dick Rommel, Senior Forester for NYS DEC Region 3 at New Paltz, has been involved with New York's Tree Farm program since 1976. He has certified 155 Tree Farms in Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess Counties, including the 12,000 acre parcel held by the US Military Academy at West Point. Dick was recognized as the top national Tree Farm Inspector from among 9000 volunteer foresters across the nation.

NYFOA. You have contributed so many years and so much energy; Tree Farm must have a special meaning to you.

ROMMEL. I see Tree Farm as a way of acknowledging and supporting the interested landowner. I have seen many people practicing good forest and environmental management on their property; and Tree Farm is a method of rewarding their efforts.

NYFOA. Can you define DEC's roles and responsibilities (and non-responsibilities) to private landowners?

ROMMEL. People call DEC on many different issues. If the caller uses the word "tree" at the switchboard, the call is forwarded to us. It is our job in Lands & Forests to refer the caller directly to the proper resource, be it an informational source or a business source. We cannot deal with litigation or business aspects that require specialized consultative assistance. People see DEC as a regulatory agency but our job goes beyond this in terms of natural resource assistance. Due to cutbacks in personnel; our outreach has a greater efficiency with landowner workshops on major issues such as the tax abatement programs and forest stewardship.

NYFOA. In your region, [Southeastern NY] many forest owners enter into the 480A program to reduce land taxes, can the DEC advise forest owners how to manage their land as an income producing business?

ROMMEL. We can advise on 480A, in both its positive and negative sense... We



Dick Rommel, Senior Forester for NYS DEC/3 at New Paltz, receives National Certified Tree Farm Inspector Award for 1990, from Lester A. DeCoster, Ed. Director "Tree Farmer". The first year awarded during Seattle, Washington ceremony.

might refer direct forest business questions to a consulting forester or the Small Business Administration... As a resource, we are staffed for some marketing and utilization questions. However, for many land use or agroforestry questions, I think NYFOA's members could lend each other advice and support for questions of multiple use and profit.

NYFOA. Do you think that NYFOA activities such as woodwalks and workshops would assist the forest owners in your area to appreciate, manage, and enjoy their woodlots?

ROMMEL. I think the NYFOA woodwalks and workshops could add great support and information to the concerned landowner to expand and enhance the best and broadest use of the property. THE NY FOREST OWNER and the chapter newsletters offer practical business, political, and management information to the forest owner.... Most important, is the building of a constituency for lobbying and influencing legislative issues that affect forest management and the environment now and into the future. Tree Farm was not

formed for this purpose; but to ensure a strong future, joining with NYFOA will enrich all Tree Farm activities..... I hope that all 155 Tree Farmers I have worked with join NYFOA, if they haven't yet, to assure continued stewardship. I plan to work closely toward this end and have already been encouraging them to do so. Cliff Asdal and I, Tree Farm area chairs for Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, and Rockland Counties, are planning Tree Farm/NYFOA workshops in 1994. We are thinking of stewardship, Christmas Tree maintenance, tree or plant identification, chain saw safety, or trends in marketing forest products. We would like to hear suggestions from forest owners. Write the editor or call us.

Jane Sorensen Lord, Communications liaison for the NY Tree Farm Committee, arranged this interview.



Tree Farmers: Only the Facts Ma'am, PLEASE

By John Marchant, NYFOA's Executive Director

I'm sure you have all heard enough "Welcomes" by now so let me instead list a few facts that may be important as you decide whether trying a membership in NYFOA, in support of a partnership, is in your best interest.

OUTREACH

As Executive Director of NYFOA, I spend a considerable amount of time with a number of federal, state and local agencies as well as public and private organizations and institutions. NYFOA represents private landowners in activities such as: The first National Stewardship Conference which will be held in April of 1994; The New York State Stewardship Committee which decides funding for a variety of Stewardship related programs throughout the state; The Governor's Council on Forest Industry issues; The New York State Tree Farm Committee; The Empire State Forest Products Associations; The NYS Forest Practice Board; The National Woodland Owners Association; NYS Cooperative Extension and many private landowner associations throughout the north-east.

NYFOA MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Tree Farmers joining NYFOA will NOT swell the coffers of the organization. Of the \$15 dollars for a single membership, only \$1 to \$2 is used to cover tasks like

maintaining the Tree Farm record's database, generating labels for newsletters and special mailings and some administrative support for the Tree Farm Committee Chairperson. Most of the cost of a membership goes directly back to the member. It costs approximately \$8 to produce and mail six copies of the Forest Owner magazine. \$3 goes to whatever local chapter a member is associated with to cover the cost of chapter newsletters, mailings and activities. The administrative cost of mailing NYFOA membership renewals and late reminder letters and other services is about \$2.

INDEPENDENCE

One of NYFOA's greatest strengths is that we are financially independent. We answer to no one but our members for our policies and our actions. But the price of that independence is that we struggle to break even each year.

As you consider supporting the proposed partnership of our two fine organizations please remember the value to each of us from our combined strength; and the value for NYS Tree Farm program to be non-dependent in its need for administrative and operational activities. Consider the goals of NYFOA to serve the needs of non-industrial private land owners. But most important of all, consider the opportunity to share ideas and information with many new-found friends with like interests, which I guarantee you will meet throughout the coming year, if you participate in any of NYFOA's many activities.

The Tree Farm Program

A Tree Farm is a privately owned forest dedicated to producing renewable crops of forest products while protecting the soil, water, range, aesthetics, recreation, wood, fish, and wildlife resources.

The mission of the Tree Farm System is to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.

(Both statements are taken from the revised American Tree Farm Systems Standards and Guidelines as approved by the AFC Forest Resources Policy Committee in April, 1992.)



NYFOA

OUR MISSION: The Association is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners.

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE:

- * To assist owners in making decisions for the best use of their forests.
- * To work to increase profitability of woodlot investment.
- * To influence legislators at all levels of government to strengthen forestry as an industry.
- * To unite forest owners in a common cause of improving their forest resources and forest opportunities.
- * To inform the public on the value of a healthy tree growing industry.
- * To network with related organizations in promoting common objectives.



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John Hastings



John Hastings (l) receives award from Erwin Fullerton, Chairperson of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation forester, John Hastings, has been selected by the New York Tree Farm Committee as 1993's Outstanding Inspecting Forester.

This annual award is given in recognition of effort and commitment to the Tree Farm program above and beyond that which is required. And John Hastings certainly has done that!

In addition to conducting seventeen reinspections, certifying 14 new Tree Farms, placing twenty Tree Farm signs and signing up one Pioneer Tree Farmer in 1992, John helped set up and/or participated in a Tree Farm Field Day project, three Project Learning Tree workshops, and a joint NYFOA-TF meeting.

John is one of only two people in the State to recruit more than 150 landowners into the Tree Farm program. He is an active NYFOA and SAF member, and was the driving force behind the creation of the Southeast Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA and currently edits the Chapter Newsletter.

Our hats off to John for his outstanding efforts!

An Open Invitation

Did you ever not go to an event, even one that really piqued your interest, because no one invited you?

Well, you don't have that excuse this time!!

You're invited to the next NYFOA

chapter meeting in your area (or anywhere else) to find out for yourself what a NYFOA membership can mean to you. The benefits of being a member of both Tree Farm and NYFOA will be addressed at each of the meetings indicated below.

Special Tree Farm Calendar

THRIFT; Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida - 1/20; 7:30 PM; 480A Tax Law; Cole Elementary School; Constantia. 2/19; Cross-country ski tour; meet 9:45 AM Redfield Hotel. (315) 623-9476.

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION; Otsego, Schoharie, Greene, Sullivan, Delaware, Ulster - 2/5; 12:30 PM; 480A Tax Law; Shendaken Town Hall; Allaben; (914) 586-3054.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS; Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany - 2/5; Costsharing Programs, SIP & FIP; Great Valley Fire Hall; (716) 699-2375. 2/26; 10 AM; Road Building; American Legion Building; Ellicottville; (714) 945-6012.

CAPITAL DISTRICT; Albany, Greene, Columbia, Rensselaer, Schenectady - 2/16; 7 PM; 480A Hearings Update (Mike Greason) & Lobbying For NY Forest Owners (Kevin King); Columbia/Greene Community College; (518) 895-2706.

CAYUGA; Cayuga, Seneca - 2/12,13; 10 AM; Cabin Fever Festival, Fillmore Glen State Park; Moravia. (315) 497-1078.

CENTRAL NEW YORK; Onondaga, Madison - 1/28; 7 PM; 480A Tax Law; St. Paul's Church; Syracuse. (315) 451-3712.

NIAGARA FRONTIER; Erie, Niagara, Wyoming - 1/15; 12 Noon; Potluck Dinner; Holland Town Hall. 1/30; Noon; X-Country Ski Tour; Camp Allegany; (716) 322-7398.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK; Clinton, Essex, Franklin, St. Lawrence - 2/26; Cost Reductions; Ray Brook/Paul Smith Area. 5/14; Geology, Soils, Management; Ray Brook/Paul Smith Area. (315) 848-2136.

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK; Saratoga, Warren, Washington - 1/16; PM; Wildflowers; Crandall Library; Glens Falls; (518) 747-7230.

SOUTHERN TIER; Broome, Chenango, Cortland - 1/11; 7:30 PM; Sensitive Natural Resources; Extension Center; Binghamton; (607) 656-8504.

TIOGA; Chemung, Schyuler, Tioga, Tompkins - 1/27; 7 PM; Hardwood Plantations; Municipal Bldg.; Spencer; (607) 589-6876.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES; Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Yates - 1/26; 7:30 PM; X-MAS Tree Farming; Co-op Extension Center; Highland Ave.; Rochester; (716) 367-2849 (eve.)



LETTERS

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT: Among many people who have worked to save or re-establish the Chestnut was Robert Scheutzow of Rochester, New York. Some twenty years ago he was busily doctoring trees, publicizing their plight, collecting seeds, and distributing them free to anyone who would plant them. He believed that nature would eventually develop its own blight resistant strain and such planting would help speed up this process. One contemporary article even described him as a latter day Johnny Appleseed hopefully sowing the rebirth of an American legend."

In any event, in a two year period, Mr. Scheutzow provided some two dozen seeds which were planted on our Rensselaer County farm. Today we have eight seed producing trees plus seedlings grown from their seed. The parent trees range in height from ten to over thirty feet and from four to thirty-one inches circumference at breast height. To day only one tree has developed symptoms of blight.

Probably no one will ever know what happened to all the seed Mr. Scheutzow distributed. In 1987 he wrote, "Contrary to our hopes, the feedback reports on planting experiences is very spotty, but with reports in an area from New England to Wisconsin; and Ontario, Canada to Virginia I optimistically assume that there must be some in between."

We feel very fortunate that one of those "planting experiences in between" is happening right here on our farm. As we watch these beautiful trees go through their mysterious annual cycle, it is not difficult to believe that healthy American Chestnuts will once again populate the Northeastern forests. - Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Brown; Averill Park.

*Will the blight end the chestnuts?
The farmers rather guess not.
It keeps smoldering at the roots
And sending up new shoots
Till another parasite
Shall come to end the blight.*

*Robert Frost, "Evil Tendencies
Cancel", 1932*

NY FOREST OWNER

BAMBI: Kudos for Alan Knight's excellent piece on Bambi in the Nov/Dec '92 NY FOREST OWNER.

I'm uncertain as to how much of this sort of thing is specifically designed to mold public opinion; and how much is just an anti-change attitude likewise shown in all the trendy condo-dwelling folks who don't want forests logged while not wanting open fields to grow up into forest; who don't want urban areas expanded while not wanting already urbanized areas levelled; and who profess to despise the tasteless architecture of earlier decades and then demand that it be historically preserved.

I'm told, for example, that The Wizard of Oz is a Populist parable with a carefully set forth message for those tuned in.

In that light, the Bambi message could be just a sort of theme park dream-world, where Bambi stays eternally youthful, predators are there but never predate, and nothing ever changes. - Martin S. Harris, Jr.; Vergennes, Vermont

READING: I want to thank you for Peter Levatic's article "Reading: The Right Thing To Do", NY FOREST OWNER, Jul/Aug'93. At the suggestion of your article, I requested back issues of "Forest Management Update" and I have found them very interesting and helpful. I hope to add to my library more of the publications you listed. Reading always helps fill the gap where my limited forestry experience leaves me floundering.

Another source particularly helpful to forest owners: the 275 page book, Working with Your Woodland: A Landowners Guide by Beattie, Thompson and Levine. - Phillip A. Walton; Guilderland Center

FOREST TAX: There was overwhelming criticism of sections 480 and 480A at a recent hearing. No one pointed out the benefits of those sections.

I suggest that property under 480 & 480A, and this applies similarly to conservation easements, does not need tax supported services, such as school, new highways, garbage collection etc. On the contrary, the open space resulting from these programs tends to raise the value of the adjoining properties. - Dewitt R. Hasbrouch; High Falls

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A Road More Travelled

(WOODLAND ACCESS)

by Charles P. Mowatt

While forest product extraction is a strong justification for the proper layout, construction, and maintenance of "logging roads", it is far from the only reason for their existence; and, perhaps, is not even the most important reason to the private forest owner. It has been my experience, both personally and professionally, that good access results in much more intensive management activity and immeasurably greater satisfaction for the woodland owner. Logging occurs infrequently on most forest ownerships, but management takes place every time you visit your woodlot; be it only in the form of observation.

It stands to reason that forest owners would intensify management activities, if they could just get into their woods more readily. The economy of time provided by better access permits more management to be performed. Even I can do more thinning, pruning, or boundary line maintenance, if I don't have to lug the saw, gas, lunch, water, etc. on foot (always uphill) for a half mile before starting the work. It took several years of trudging around Golden Hill Tree Farm in Cattaraugus County to discover the facts disclosed in the preceding sentence. I'm a slow learner and a long way behind in work that could have been done, if adequate access had been constructed early on.

It is not practical or desirable to be able to drive to every tree on the property. Influences of terrain, soil type, drainages and intended uses of the access also limit road location. Therefore, although I advocate installation of adequate access "early on", you must first define the uses to which you will put your access. Your pickup truck will require a ten foot road surface, but hiking or skiing loops would not need such a wide tread. You must also be sufficiently familiar with your property to identify all opportunities and limitations to access road location. Consultation with your forester is advisable in helping you to factor in your objectives, spot problems, and provide experienced advice.

For some reason, many landowners initially desire to place access roads on the periphery of their ownerships. This instinct may have its roots in our forefathers protective wagon circling, but is seldom the practical means of providing good access location. Since property bound-



Left: A logging road gone awry, upslope.



Right: Same road, downslope.

aries seldom bear any relationship to topography or drainage patterns, road location on the periphery often results in unfavorable road grades and unacceptable stream crossing situations. Also, the locations must deal with catch-as-catch-can soil types. Most significantly, peripheral locations are usually poor choices because adequate access can be provided via a shorter route.

For example, if a 20 x 30 chain ownership were to have a road around the periphery (Fig. A.), the road would be almost 100 chains in length and the furthest point from your road would be about 10 chains (660'). However, a 25 chain road up the middle of the property (Fig. B.), would put the owner within the same 10 chains of every area on the property, but would require only 1/4 the road length of the peripheral design. Topography, soil types, aesthetics, and other limitations may mitigate against the straight line up the middle, but a central location, would still result in substantial construction and maintenance savings over the peripheral placement.

Control of water is the single most important factor that must be considered in access location, construction and maintenance. Running water picks up soil particles and moves them downhill. This soil movement, or erosion, is harmful in many ways.



Fig. A.

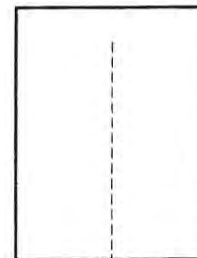


Fig. B.

The process removes the soil that is needed to support trees and other plant growth in your forest. If unchecked, erosion can make a road into an unserviceable ditch in a matter of hours or days. Environ-



mentally degrading stream sedimentation is the result of eroded soil particles traveling downhill far enough to reach a stream. Heavy sediment loads pollute downstream water supplies and are also highly detrimental to fish and other aquatic biota. Control of water on our woods roads is not only critical to the road system; it is critical to our ecological system.

Accompanying are two photographs of what can happen to access roads when water is not controlled. Some of these problems could have been avoided by better road placement; some by construction of better water control devices (e.g. waterbars); and all would have benefitted by oft forgotten maintenance. These photos are not intended to deter you from installing access on your property. They are intended to point out the importance of proper planning, installation and maintenance of your access roads.

The last photograph is of the author on a truck access road constructed on Golden Hill Tree Farm a few years ago. This road has provided easy access to many forest management projects that might have otherwise not been accomplished. It also has provided the access needed to extract fuelwood and sawtimber from the property. It offers a pleasant hike in the summer

and a safe skiing surface in the winter. Deer and turkey use the road more than the deeded owners.



The author on Golden Hill Tree Farm truck access road.

I am convinced that most of the cost-sharing practices currently offered under FIP, SIP and ACP would be completed by private landowners without governmental incentive, if the governmental support were redirected toward helping landowners install vehicular access that is properly engineered, constructed, and maintained. Fa-

cilitating access is the best way to get landowners into their woodlots. Once there, all kinds of management and satisfaction follow.

Copies of the following publications may be borrowed from the NYFOA Information Database by calling 1-800-836-3566 or, if still in print, from the publishing agency:

WOODLANDS OF THE NORTHEAST, Erosion and Sediment Control Guides; 1977, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Northeast Technical Service Center, Broomall, PA and US Forest Service, 25 pages.

PERMANENT LOGGING ROADS FOR BETTER WOODLOT MANAGEMENT, USDA Forest Service, Northeast Forest Experiment Station, 5 Radnor Corporate Center—Suite 200, P.O. Box 6775, 100 Matsonford Road, Radnor, PA 19087-4585

Charlie Mowatt, recently retired Assistant Regional Forester in NYS DEC Region 8, serves on NYFOA's Board of Directors as Chairperson for the Committee on Chapter Relations and Development.



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CHAPTER/AFFILIATES



Don Wagner, NYFOA President (l); Eileen VanWie, Western Finger Lakes Chapter Chairperson; Mary and Stu McCarty, both past Presidents of NYFOA upon receiving commemorative watches.

Photo by Debbie Gill, Executive Sec.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

Our November meeting was well attended by over 60 people to hear Bill Colman speak about his property near Bristol Mountain. We were a very attentive audience while Mr. Colman highlighted the thirty-five years of changes and practices. It is encouraging for the novice to see the outcome of all the work Bill's family has done.

Another bright spot of the evening was a gift presentation honoring Mary and Stuart McCarty. NYFOA President Don Wagner awarded Mary and Stu with NYFOA watches for all the hard work and dedication they have given to NYFOA.

January 26, 1994 at 7:30 PM the chapter will hold a meeting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center on Highland Avenue. A commercial grower will address the group on Christmas Tree farming. For more information, contact Dale Schaefer at (716) 367-2849 (eve).

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

We lucked-out again with a sunny October 9th multiple topics woodwalks on

and near Pack Forest near Warrensburg, arranged by Steve Warne, Senior Forester NYSDEC Region 5.

A high point during the day was the presentation of the top NYS Tree Farm Inspector Award to John Hastings, Senior Forester NYSDEC Region 5 and our newsletter editor, by Chapter Chairperson Erwin Fullerton. [see page 14]

Bruce Breitmeyer, Manager of the Pack Forest in Warren Co. and the Huntington Forest in Essex Co., described the management programs at Pack Forest. Brian Downing, Instructor at Southern Adirondack Education Center, gave a chainsaw and safety talk and a tree felling demonstration. This was a professional, colorful talk and instructive demonstration. Steve Warne discussed a TSI, the thinning of a young stand (25-60 year) of hardwoods to improve the quality of the crop trees.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Lloyd (Bud) Lewis, who came as a guest, then joined the chapter. The "Guess the Age of the Oak" Contest was a tie between Sandy Carpenter (48 yrs.) and Mike Valla (52 yrs.); estimate range: 26-102 yrs.

After lunch we drove to Don Bagwell's property where he demonstrated his WOOD CHOMPER processor. This portable machine employs a guillotine-type blade which cuts the log; and, after the piece is split, it is delivered to an elevator and dump truck.

Steve Warne conducted us to a white pine stand thinning. He described the management, the thinning, and the skidder removal of logs by a careful logger, Leonard Cook of Newcomb.

January 16, 1994, an evening meeting on Wildflowers by Jeannie Triff is scheduled at the Crandall Library, Glens Falls.

CAYUGA

February 12 & 13, 1994 the chapter will support the 6th Annual Cabin Fever Festival held at Fillmore Glen State Park in Moravia. An information booth staffed particularly to assist NYS Certified Tree Farmers is planned. The informational

Cayuga Woodsmen's Demonstrations, the board and batten "cabin" construction (helped by local carpenters), and final raffle will take place amidst the characteristic horse logging, sleigh riding, and family funning.

This year, Tree Farmers and the general public may buy certified American Chestnut tree seedlings (Michigan variety) and tree shelters for pick-up and planting in April.

SOUTHERN TIER

The Master Forest Owner (MFO) Program was the November meeting's main topic. MFOs Gordon Brownlow and Stephen Kutney conducted a slide show and discussion of their recent training at Cornell's Arnot Forest. Stephen Kutney demonstrated boundary line determination by the use of the compass and known foot-pace. A summary of the chapter's member survey was presented by Chairperson Larry Lepak. This survey will be really helpful when choosing future meeting topics.

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 11, 1994** at Cornell's Extension Education Center in Binghamton, starting at 7:30 PM. Ray Nolan, a natural resources specialist with NYSDEC out of the Cortland Office will discuss, "Forest Management and Sensitive Natural Resources". Ray will review both the wetlands and stream protection regulations, including how they may impact timber management; and how to know a particular stream is protected.

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

We will host a **Tree Farm/NYFOA** meeting on Saturday, **February 5, 1994** in the Skandaken Town Hall on Route 28 in the Village of Allaben. Gerry Gotsch, DEC Forester in Region 3, will discuss the New York State Forest Tax Law, 480A. Registration will begin at 12:30 PM and the discussion will go from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided by CFA.

People and Trees, Partners in Time,



THRIFT

On November 18, 1993, 9 members of the THRIFT council met at Schoeller Papers conference room, Pulaski, with President H. Petrie presiding.

R. Marks, program committee chairman, outlined many events planned for 1994. We all would like to get more members involved by attending meetings, events, etc.; to spread the word that THRIFT should combine our efforts with N.Y. Tree Farmers so that we can enjoy mutual activities; to have interesting and knowledgeable speakers; and to share refreshments and interact with one another.

The really big news at THRIFT is that our President, Harold Petrie, has accepted the challenge of hosting the **Fall Meeting of NYFOA on Sept. 30 thru Oct. 1, 1994**; and with the **NY Tree Farmers** in Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties joining THRIFT, we can boost NYFOA prestige even higher.

Scheduled coming events include: **January 20**, Bob Demeree on 480A - Pros & Cons; **February 19**, Cross-Country Ski Tour with Niagara Mohawk planner Frank Scotino along the Salmon River Reservoir. Dick Mark (315) 623-9476.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

We've been busy! Our walnut and acorn collection resulted in a fundraiser that netted over \$1000.00 this year. This large sum of money was raised by a few of our most dedicated members who spent hours picking up walnuts and acorns and they had a good time doing it!

On Nov. 7 we walked through the Pierce Whitney Forest in Machias to see the work completed by our intern, Kevin Hallen. This was a \$500.00 award well-spent. Kevin (under the able supervision of Bruce Robinson and Don Testa) did an amazing amount of trail clearing, boundary marking and thinning work. We are pleased that this money accomplished so much in this demonstration forest...for the AFC, Kevin and the Pierce Whitney. We decided on this walk to send a work party in to clear the Karen Anderson Trail. We voted to spend the \$500.00 Karen Anderson Fund to erect signs that identify native trees and to mark the trail.

On Nov. 21 thirteen NYFOANS met at the forest and built the trail. It is 4" wide and suitable for hiking and cross country skiing.

On **Feb. 5** the AFC will co-host a program on forestry including explaining the SIP and FIP programs, safety in the woodlot, wildlife management, forest management programs, tree diseases and identifying trees in winter; our co-host will be the Ellicottville Cooperative Extension. The program will be held in the Great Valley Fire department hall in Great Valley. Pre-registration is required. For more information call Rod or Marlene at 699-2375 or Bob Childs at 557-2529.

On **Feb 25** at 10 a.m. we will present a program on building, planning and maintaining woodlot roads. There will be a short film and a speaker on building. We will meet at the Ellicottville Fire Hall at 7690 Ellicottville-Maples Road. Lunch will be served and there will be a nominal fee. For more information call Mark or Joann Kurtis at 945-6012 after 6 p.m.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

The NFC has scheduled its annual Potluck Dinner for **January 15th** at Holland Town Hall on Pearl Street for 12 noon. Bring a dish to pass. There will be a speaker and a slide presentation. For further information call Bob White at 537-2803.

On January 30th we will have a cross country ski "woodswalk" in Allegany State Park near Salamanca, New York. We will meet at Camp Allegany at 12 noon to gather for a ski-in (or snowshoe) to an area of interest to Forest Owners. Bring a bag lunch and watch for NYFOA signs.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

We are now coordinating all meetings (woodswalks, workshops) with area **Tree Farmers**. For instance, in mid-November, NACNews (our 4-page newsletter) was mailed to over 200 **Tree Farmers** in the four-county area.

A recent well attended woodswalk at Wanakena, which focused on deer, is the subject of an article written by James Savage of the "Ranger School" and will be a feature in the next issue of THE FOREST OWNER.



Don Schaufler, new Chairperson Tioga Chapter, during MFO workshop (1993) at Arnot Forest.

TIOGA

New chairperson Don Schaufler called a planning meeting November 22 at the Spencer Municipal Building. Schaufler, who is manager of Cornell University's Arnot Forest (site of the Master Forest Owner Workshops), was looking for ideas and commitment to launch a new round of NYFOA activities for Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga, and Tompkins County.

Attending the session were Dick Griffen, Peter Levatich, Tracy Van Vleet, Ray Langstrott, Bob Sand, Alan Knight, and Schaufler. They agreed to have an evening meeting in Spencer: the topic to be "Hardwood Plantations"; and the program was scheduled for 7PM, **January 27, 1994**. Bob Sand, while at a recent national meeting of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), was impressed by the hardwood plantation work toured during the meeting; and he was eager to share his observations with other forest owners. Peter Levatich will also share his experiences growing red oak from acorns.

Other topics considered: the forest tax law, marketing of timber, and diseases and pests. A member survey of interests will be taken. Forest owners and **Tree Farmers** in the southern Finger Lakes area who'd like to participate or offer suggestions can contact Don Schaufler (607) 589-6876 (eve).

Think Globally, Act Locally, Together

Forest Health - An Elusive Concept

by Douglas Allen

The news media and forestry profession currently are focusing on the subject of forest health. Understanding this issue is crucial if we are to provide forest resources for future generations. Intuitively, this should sound like a legitimate concern to both landowners and foresters alike. The message is not quite so clear, however, when one asks the question "what is a healthy forest?"

The use and abuse of this term has made it difficult to define forest health in a clear and meaningful way. Understanding is made even more difficult by the many and diverse definitions that have been offered. For example, from a commodity or products oriented view, forest health is defined by some as a situation where "biotic and abiotic influences do not threaten the attainment of current or future management objectives." At the other extreme, is the conviction that "an ecological system is healthy if it is active and maintains its organization and autonomy over time and is resilient to stress." This perspective is based solely on ecological principles. Neither emphasis by itself, commodity or ecosystem, is adequate to meet societal needs.

Forest health is both a perception based on personal values or organizational agendas and a condition or circumstance. Condition can only be determined by comparing the present structure and biological functions of a forest to what one would expect from its geographic location, existing site conditions and the landscape of which it is a part. This baseline is difficult to establish because of varying cultural and natural influences that have shaped and will continue to shape a forest's character.

Social, economic and ecological needs are interrelated. Each area of concern should be given consideration in any measure of forest health. The final description or defini-

tion of health will be a compromise that reflects a sensible evaluation of these three elements. If our land use philosophy does not reflect this array of needs, forest management decisions will be made by the uninformed and politically motivated, and not based on good science and common sense.

any evaluation of forest "health" must be based on an informed balance and understanding of human needs and ecological requirements

Many federal and state agencies by necessity focus narrowly on forest "health." For example, the mission of the U.S. Forest Service's new National Center of Forest Health Management is aimed at forest pests. The center emphasizes research needed to develop biorational management tools, biological control strategies, and an understanding of non-target effects of pest management options. Clearly, this is a narrow agenda relative to the complex nature of the overall forest health issue, but appropriate for the organization's mandate within the Forest Service.

As a forest entomologist, I also tend to emphasize pest problems when it comes to discussions of forest health. This is my role in forestry. If insects were not viewed as pests, I would be out of a job! In our haste to provide resources for human use, however, we tend to forget that many disturbances such as "pest" outbreaks and fire are natural phenomena that play key roles in processes such as nutrient recycling and plant succession. Their occurrence often signifies a healthy condition from an ecological standpoint, even though they may be of concern for social or economic reasons.

To my way of thinking, there are two circumstances where insect or disease outbreaks clearly represent an unhealthy ecological condition; (i) situations where deliberate forest management has set the stage for a problem by changing stand composition, encouraging tree species not adapted to a specific site, creating exces-

sive damage to residual stems following a silvicultural treatment, etc.; and (ii) outbreaks associated with introduced organisms. The latter have never been a part of the native forest system, did not evolve with the community in which they occur, and obviously comprise an unnatural disturbance.

The point I wish to make is that any evaluation of forest "health" must be based on an informed balance and understanding of human needs and ecological requirements. The former to meet societal demands and landowner objectives, the latter to assure that a particular forest and the landscape within which it is nested will provide goods and services for generations to come (sustainable). Under these conditions, it is more likely also to adjust to or recover from disturbances that are either inherent to the system or imposed by human activities (resilience).

The key to good stewardship from the standpoint of forest health, I think, is to utilize management practices that reflect the economic and ecological limitations for a specific ownership. Whether or not one chooses clearcutting as a regeneration method, applies an insecticide to protect foliage, or excludes fire; for example, depends on landowner objectives, site conditions, the structure and composition of the forest relative to neighboring forests, and the economic and ecological costs associated with each decision.

I thank Dr. Norm Richards for his helpful review of this article.

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The Author



Douglas C. Allen is Professor of Forest Entomology in the Faculty of Forestry at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY/ESF), 146 Illick Hall, One Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210. Professor Allen, recognized by the NY Society of American Foresters as 1993 NY Forester of the Year, spoke to the subject of Biological Diversity at NYFOA's 1993 Annual Spring Meeting. Professor Allen is a dedicated contributor to *THE NY FOREST OWNER* and the following represents a record of the recent series, *[THE NY FOREST OWNER will provide reprints or disks to members. Write the editor.]*

FOREST PROTECTION - An Ingredient For Good Stewardship; (NYFO; Nov/Dec '91; 13)

SUGAR MAPLE BORER; (NYFO; Mar/Apr '92; 12)

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - Is Variety The Spice Of Life? (NYFO; May/June '92; 4)

INTRODUCED INSECTS OFTEN POSE BIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC RISKS; (NYFO; Jul/Aug '92; 4)

COMMON TENT CATERpillARS; (NYFO; Sep/Oct '92; 16)

WHITE PINE WEEVIL; (NYFO; Nov/Dec '92; 18)

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF "MAPLE MALADY" - BLAME THE PEAR THRIPS; (with several authors; NYFO; Mar/Apr '93; 8)

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID; (NYFO; May/June '93; 14)

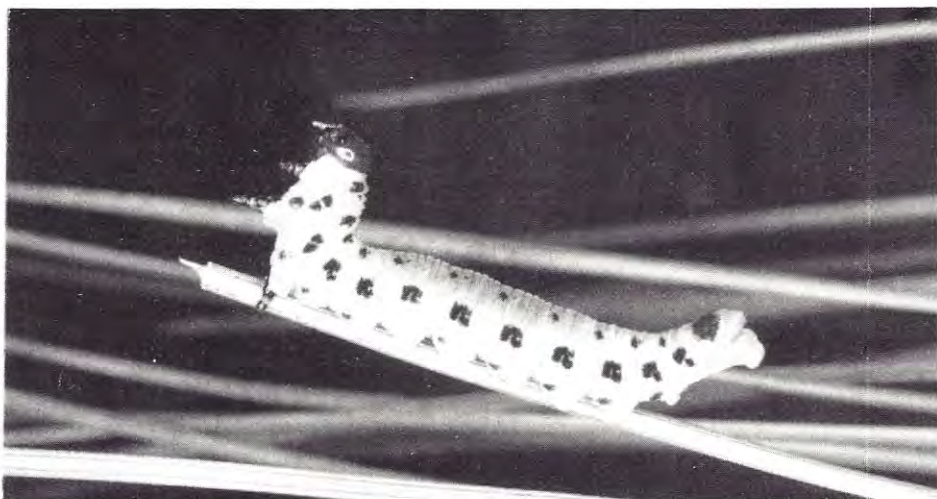
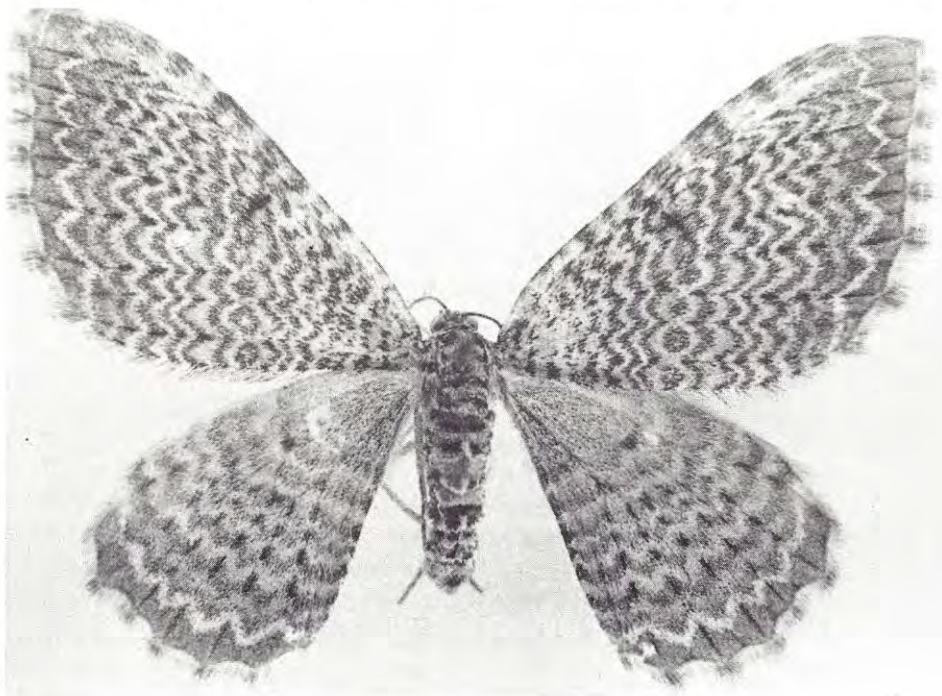
THE PINE FEEDING SAWFLIES; (NYFO; Jul/Aug '93; 16)

FALL WEBWORM - A Late Bloomer; (NYFO; Sep/Oct '93; 12)


CHERRY SCALLOP SHELL MOTH; (NYFO; Nov/Dec '93; 6)

NY FOREST OWNER

Some photos provided by Doug Allen to accompany past articles:



TOP: (NYFO; Nov/Dec '93; 6)
MIDDLE: (NYFO; Jul/Aug '93; 16)
BOTTOM: (NYFO; Mar/Apr '93; 8)



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A PLAY ON WORDS

[Adapted from the NYFOA Board of Directors' Meeting #195; October 16, 1993]

ACT I

NORMAN RICHARDS [SUNY/ESF Professor of Silviculture]. I make a motion to change NYFOA's motto; "Growing Tomorrow's Trees Today," to, "Growing Tomorrow's Forests Today."

ROBERT SAND [Retired Industrial Forester]. OK, but we buy and sell trees not forests; we cut down trees; and I hug trees not forests.

SEVERAL DIRECTORS. We plant trees ... but we manage forests ... and we pay taxes on forestsWith forests we could better think and speak to the natural resource ... we could risk having any friends in the city! ... Most forest owners live in the city with trees; and they don't worry about the trees; it's their forests in the country that they worry about....

RICHARDS. Of all the articles I've done

over the years in THE FOREST OWNER, those on urban forestry registered the least interest.

RICHARD FOX [Editor of THE FOREST OWNER]. I move to table the motion.

RICHARDS. Until?

DON WAGNER [President of NYFOA]. Next Meeting?

EILEEN VAN WIE [Chairperson of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter]. I second the tabling motion.

WAGNER. All in favor?

ALL. Aye.

ACT II

[Next Issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER. "Ya wanna git into the act?"; write the Editor]

JOIN NYFOA Application Page 11.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

The following articles are "in the works":

- * FORGOTTEN GIANT, [white pine], Norman A. Richards
- * THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT & TEST TUBES, Charles Maynard
- * THE FOREST & DEER, James Savage
- * PROPERTY TAXES, Henry S. Kernan
- * FASTENERS, [small engine repair, part II], Richard Fox
- * A GROWING FORCE - EXPORTS, Alan Knight

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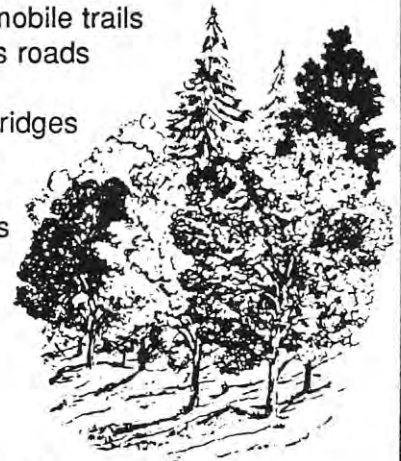
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Out of Place

by Dorothy Darling

How still! How stealthily October gave way
To November, hiding with cold surprise
Its red and gold, and crumpled leaves
Beneath snow showers driven through trees.

The page-turner flipped the page too soon
And November one stands deep in snow,
Art undisciplined. Like drifting boats
The artist at the keyboard lost his notes.

It might prove a very good thing
If seasons chart a proper course
By means of recall and a kind of reversal,
Pausing, as it were, for seasonal rehearsal.

Dorothy Darling, Schuyler County novelist, is a close friend of Bob, NYFOA Director, and Betty Lou Sand. Ms. Darling is particularly active in support of the Methodist Church and their International Peace initiatives. This poem was inspired by 1993's unseasonable Halloween snowstorm which ranged from West Virginia to New York along the Appalachian Mountain areas.



Tree Time

Wayne Oakes

Dendrochronology is the science of dating events and environmental variations by means of the comparative study of growth rings in timber. It was first utilized by a scientist in Arizona who was studying the effect of sun spots or solar storms on tree-ring growth. Since then, it has often been used by archaeologists to date ancient timbers found on Native American building sites in the arid Southwest.

Recently, dendrochronology has brought to light some interesting information on Sherwood Forest in central England. Dr. Robert Laxton, of the University of Nottingham, has studied growth rings in old timbers from more than 100 buildings in the Sherwood area and has discovered a conservation crisis in the forest.

The timbers studied date from before the Norman Conquest to 1180 and also from about 1290. There was an evident gap between these dates that showed no young trees were cut until after 1290. Documents from that time period show that in 1216 King Henry III revoked some of the harsher penalties for stealing wood at the insistence of some rebellious barons. After this the forest was openly exploited by both a growing population and a monarchy short on cash. It then appears that too many mature trees were cut down without allowing a regeneration of young trees.

Sherwood Forest started to recover when King Edward III began selling large areas of the forest in 1300. The evidence seems to show that private ownership encouraged better forest management practices.

Wayne Oakes, an archaeologist currently working in the U.S. Southwest, has a fondness for tree shadows either in the absence of light or trees. He has frequently shared his thoughts with NYFOA.

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NYFOA Annual Spring Meeting April 30, 1994