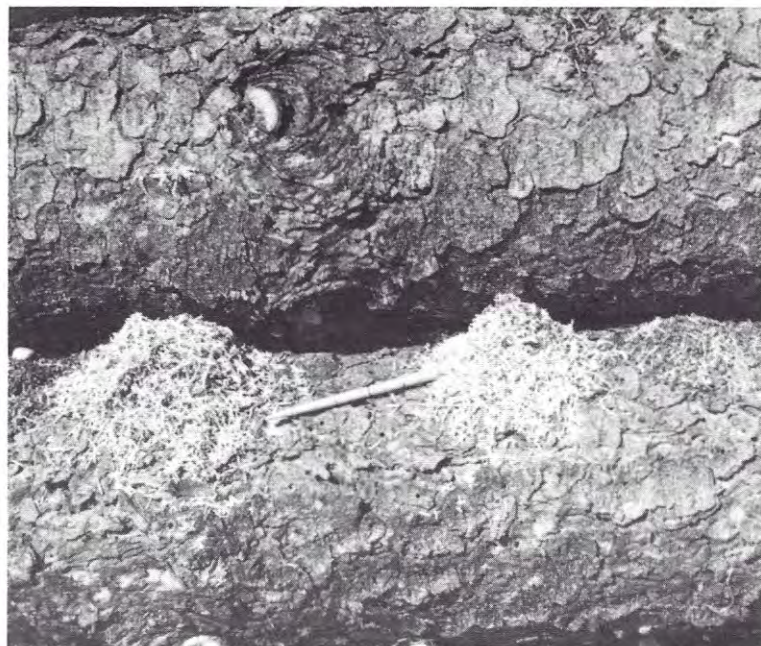
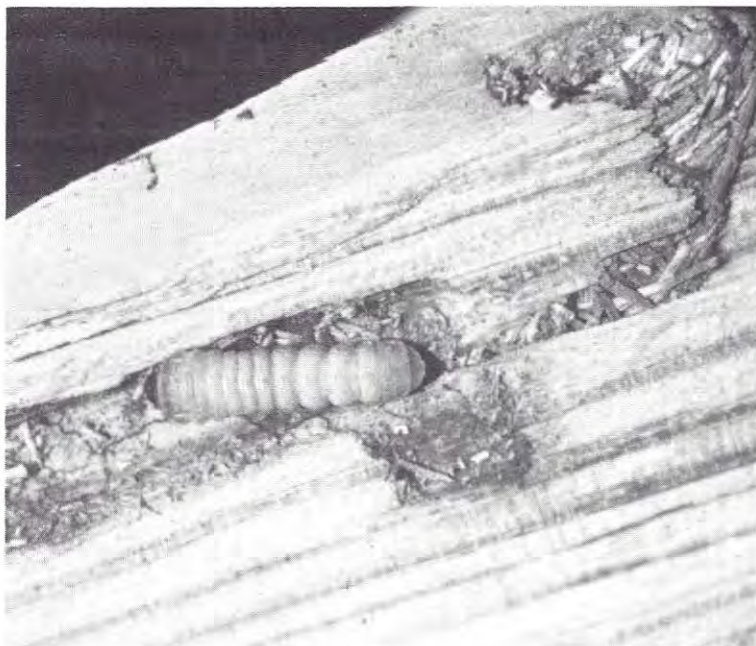


*The New York*  
**FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

May/June 1994





# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 32, NO. 3  
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**COVER:**

White Pine Sawyer Beetle, Sawyer Larva  
and Larva Wood Chips.

(Black marks on stick are 1" apart.)

# FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association  
Editorial Committee: Al Brown, Betty Densmore, Alan Knight, Mary McCarty  
Bill Miner and Dave Taber.

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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.

## Sawyer Beetles



*Spotted pine sawyer. Note the male's long antennae.  
Arrow indicates characteristic white spot.*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The calendar indicates that Spring is here, but you can't prove it by me. This has been an extremely tough winter, and for the first week in April, at least in the Central New York area, there is still significant amounts of snow on the ground. Every Spring I feel like I have hundreds of little tasks to accomplish in a relatively short period of time. I'm sure many of you feel the same way. However, one of the many tasks that I do enjoy is tending my Bluebird houses. Normally I have them cleaned by early March, but this year the snow prevented that so I am rather late. The insert photo of me tending the boxes with the assistance of two of my three dogs was taken, believe it or not, on April 1. A tip to all you Bluebird lovers, disinfect your houses with Clorox each and every year. It is important.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and to thank everyone responsible for making the February meeting of the **Allegheny Foothills Chapter** such a success. A program with 253 people in attendance is an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished with planning, team work, cooperation from other organizations and individuals, and a little unselfish effort by Chapter members.

The **Central New York Chapter** is far along in the planning of the innovative concept for a **Family Forest Fair** scheduled for **June 4**. This outdoor forestry exhibition with displays, equipment demonstrations, outdoor clinics and woodswalks awaits you. The proposed list of events is exciting and should be fun for young and old. More details on this Fair are included elsewhere in the magazine. The effort being put forth by the members of the Central New York Chapter is to be applauded. Just another example of the unselfish efforts of a few dedicated Chap-



*President Don Wagner and companions inspect Blue Bird house, April Fool's Day, 1994.*

ter members to organize an event for all to enjoy. Thank you CNY.

Well, I have been out gallivanting again. On February 16, I attended the **Capital District Chapter** meeting at Columbia-Greene Community College. I met some old friends and was introduced to some members I had never met before. As is the case every time I attend a Chapter/Affiliate event, I meet great folks with similar interests which always makes the experience extremely pleasant. On March 23, I attended a **Thrift** meeting on Biodiversity presented by Dr. Paul Curtis of Cornell Cooperative Extension with two very dear friends and long time members of NYFOA, Ken and Ruth Eberley. On the 24th, I attended the **Northern Forest Lands Council** Open House and Listening Session in Camden, New York. Almost every speaker spoke out in favor of the Council's draft recommendations. To finish off the

month of March, I took a trip on March 25 to Binghamton to give a presentation at the **Southern Tier Chapter's** annual potluck supper. The food was great, and the conversations I had with these friendly folks from the Southern Tier was delightful. I would like to thank Larry Lepak for inviting me.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge correspondence received since the last magazine. For the benefit of new members, I encourage your correspondence. Drop me a line and let me know what is on your mind. I was very pleased to get a letter from Robert S. Jonas, a charter member of NYFOA, recounting the historical beginnings of NYFOA. I also heard from J. Morgan Heussler, a past President attesting to the value of publicity. At last Fall's meeting at the Heiberg Forest, I met for the first time two nice people, James August and Nancy Nigro. Jim recently wrote to advise me that he and Nancy got engaged this past Christmas. Best of luck to both of you.

There are numerous events being scheduled by various Chapters and Affiliates throughout the State in the next few months. Why not take a few minutes from your busy schedule and attend one of these events. I know you will enjoy the educational and entertaining programs. I also know you will meet many wonderful people.

## 1994 NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer Named

The New York State Tree Farm Committee is pleased to announce the selection of the 1994 Outstanding Tree Farmers, John and Carol Krebs, of Honeoye Falls, New York. The Krebs own and manage 300+ acres in the town of Springwater, Livingston Co. John is a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter and is currently serving on NYFOA's Board of Directors. The Krebs were nominated by DEC service forester, Billy Morris. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT FOREST OWNER.



# SAWYER BEETLES

By Douglas Allen

The last issue of *Forest Owner* contained an interesting article about white pine by Norm Richards. His discussion made me think about our pine resources in the northeast - especially the anticipated increase in eastern white pine's value as major western sources of softwood lumber are withdrawn from commercial production. According to DEC forester Tom Martin, the average stumpage value of white pine statewide in January 1994 was \$80.00 per thousand board feet, and in some regions it reached \$150.00 per thousand. The average value of white pine has increased markedly during the past ten years.

In recent decades, intensive management of this species has created an ideal environment for two well known insect problems - white pine weevil and a pest of seedlings known as the pales (pail-ease) weevil. However, another serious deterrent to producing quality pine and spruce lumber nationwide is a small group of insects called sawyer beetles.

If a white pine stand initially escapes heavy regeneration mortality by seedling weevils and later suffers little defect and growth loss due to white pine weevil, the landowner has evaded two important problems. However, there is one more bullet to dodge! The profit margin associated with high quality lumber can evaporate in a few weeks if sawyer beetles are allowed to infest recently cut logs.

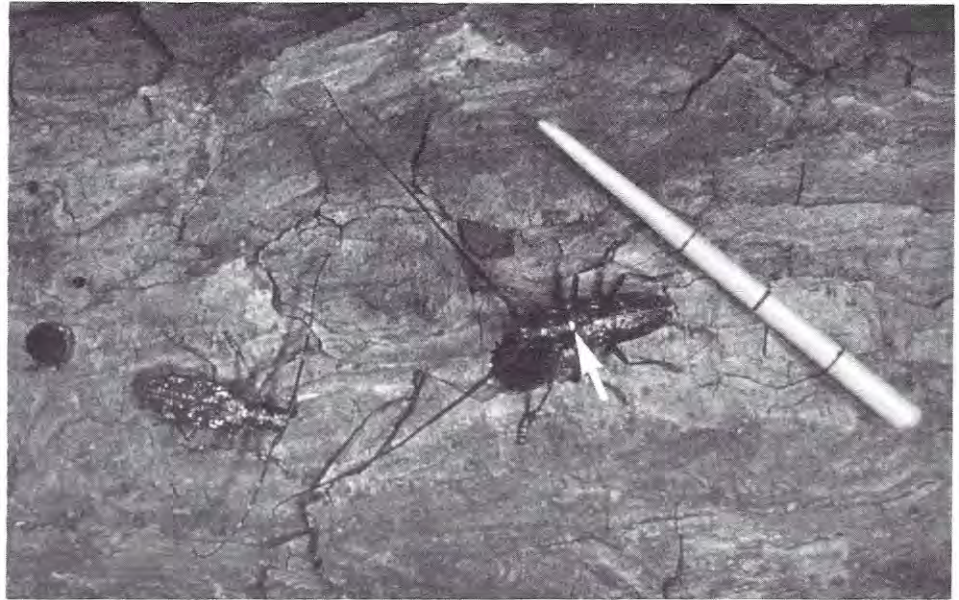


Fig. 2. Spotted pine sawyer. Note the male's long antennae. Arrow indicates characteristic white spot.

## HABITS

Adults (Figs. 1 and 2) deposit eggs in holes chewed in the bark. The grub or larva (Fig. 3) feeds beneath the bark, loosening it and scaring the surface of the sapwood (Fig. 4). Sawyer beetles in the northeast ordinarily require two years to complete development from egg to adult.

The immature or larval stage, often referred to as a "grub", damages pine and spruce logs by excavating overwintering tunnels in the wood. These U-shaped galleries are 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter and penetrate several inches into a log. They

provide infection courts for various wood staining and decay fungi and allow water to penetrate the wood, which accelerates rot.

## ECOLOGICAL ROLE

Sawyer beetles are not very aggressive. Normally their activity is restricted to recently killed or severely weakened standing trees. In this capacity, they are important to the process of wood decomposition and nutrient cycling.

## ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

The tunnels or "worm holes" that appear in dimension lumber cut from infested pine logs can cause a 30% to 40% degrade, depending on the size of the log, level of infestation and desired end product. Large straight red pines that otherwise may have potentially high value for power line poles are unacceptable if they contain even a few sawyer beetle tunnels.

## APPEARANCE

The two most common species in our region are the white pine sawyer and the spotted pine sawyer. Adults of the former are 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long and mottled grey with black and white patches on the back (Fig. 1). This is the largest species of sawyer beetle in our region. Spotted pine sawyers are smaller, 3/4 of an inch to 1 inch long, and shiny black with a white dot



Fig. 1. White pine sawyer beetle (black marks on stick are 1" apart).





Fig. 3. Sawyer beetle larva or grub.

on the back immediately behind the neck (Fig. 2). Like all members of this beetle family, both species have very long antennae. These paired sensory organs or "feelers" are attached to the head. The antennae of male sawyer beetles are often half again as long as the body.

The worm-like larva is white, segmented and fleshy (Fig. 3). It is 2 to 3 inches long when full grown and lacks legs and a distinct head, the latter being reduced to two large mandibles. In the process of feeding and excavating the overwintering tunnel, larvae often make a loud squeaking or scraping noise as the mandibles shear off excelsior-like strips of wood. Many years ago someone with a vivid imagination likened this sound to that of a cross cut saw in action, hence, the common name sawyer beetle.

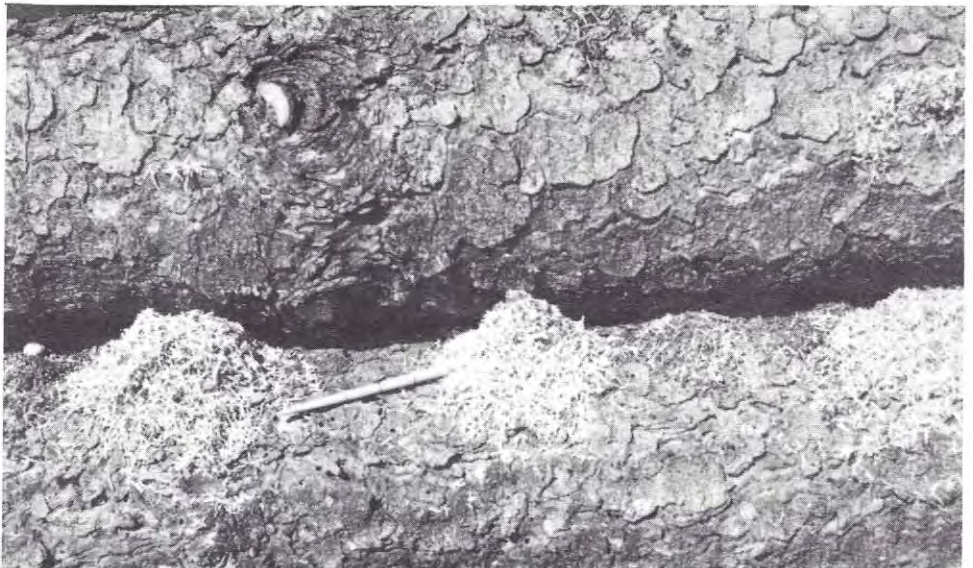


Fig. 5. Telltale chip piles beneath infested log.

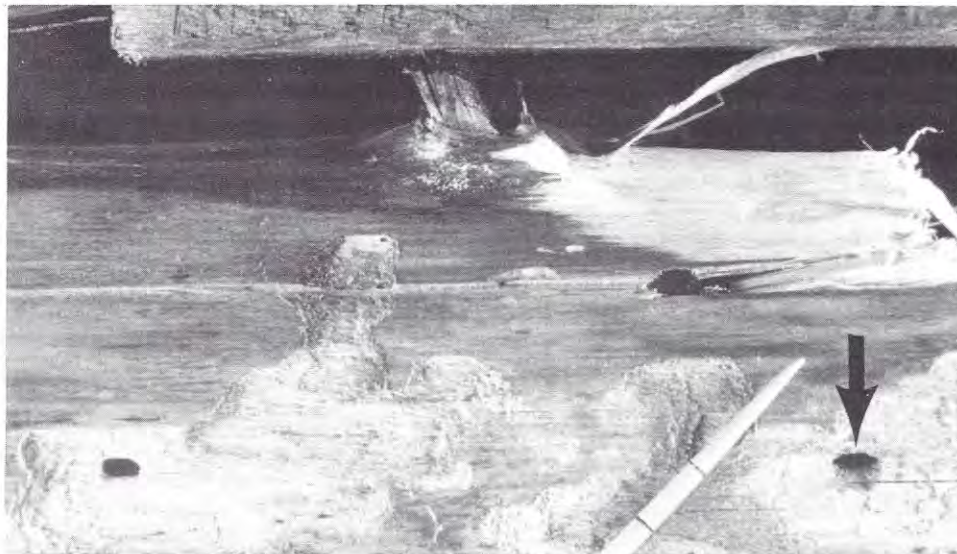


Fig. 4. Larval feeding damage on surface of sapwood. Arrow indicates entrance hole to overwintering tunnel.

## SIGNS OF AN INFESTATION

Adults are often visible on freshly cut logs in early summer, especially where logs are exposed to full sunlight. They scurry over the bark looking for mates and depositing eggs. The most conspicuous evidence of the insect's presence, however, appears after larvae begin to feed beneath the bark and tunnel into the sapwood. Larvae produce wood chips that accumulate beneath loosened bark. Eventually chips are pushed to the outside through cracks in the bark, and they accumulate in obvious piles beneath an infested log (Fig. 5).

## PREVENTION

The most effective way to eliminate sawyer beetle damage is to harvest during September to early June and complete

processing before late June or mid-July. However, harvesting can be done at any time during the summer with little danger of beetle damage if logs are processed within a few weeks.

Large operators who must maintain inventories can make stored logs unsuitable or inaccessible to beetles by storing them in a water pond, by keeping them wet with a continuous water spray, or by debarking prior to storage. Both excessive moisture and bark removal destroy the insect's habitat. If large quantities of logs must be stored and bark removal or water treatment is not feasible, damage can be minimized if log piles are high and compact. Under these conditions only the first two or three log layers will be attacked, because the interior (shaded) logs are not suitable for egg laying.



# SUSTAINED-YIELD FOREST MANAGEMENT

## A Success Story

By René H. Germain

During the past decade the forestry profession has been doing a great deal of soul searching. The self-examination process is being motivated primarily by changing public attitudes and values on how the country's forests should be managed. This quiet revolution has brought with it some new terminology such as holistic forestry, landscape and ecosystem management. Concrete definitions are difficult to attain because these are evolving concepts; however, as natural resource professionals attempt to incorporate these new ideals into the future, a clearer picture will manifest itself. The management of our natural resources is a long-term proposition. The lack of immediate results and answers is simply the "nature of the beast".

Even after 30 years of implementing sustained-yield, multiple-use management on much of this nation's forest lands, there is still disagreement as to what it really means. Perhaps I can shed some light on what sustained-yield forest management means on a small scale — a small woodlot in the Adirondacks.

Upon recently completing a company

forest management plan for a 265-acre parcel along the East Branch of the AuSable River, I was able to document successful sustained-yield management of wood products over the past 20 years. When the lot was purchased in 1943, it consisted of a mixture of open pasture and some young pole-sized pine stands. The open fields were planted with white pine during the 1950's, and the forest stands received their first thinning in 1960. Harvest volumes during those early years are not available; however, it is known a forester was supervising the management activities.

The first documented forest inventory was not completed until 1975; an estimated 1.2 million board feet (MBF) was recorded. During the next 18 years 1.1 MBF of primarily white pine sawlogs were harvested from the property: 422 MBF in 1976; 430 MBF in 1984; 261MBF in 1993. The post-harvest 1993 inventory was estimated at 1.24 MBF. In this case the growth equals the cut over the long-term, which is precisely the goal of sustained-yield management.

Quite simply, we started with one MBF, cut one MBF, and still have a healthy one

MBF resource on the stump. Though the primary management objective from the beginning was the production of pine sawlogs, the accompanying benefits to wildlife, recreational opportunities, soil conservation, water quality and general aesthetics, though less quantifiable, were also forthcoming.

This is all possible because the lot has been under the management of a forester over the long-term. Had the woodlot been commercially higraded or a simple diameter cut in 1976, leaving a residual stand of primarily pulpwood-sized growing stock, it would have required 30-40 years to recover. This short-term mentality to seek immediate cash benefits would have not only been unethical in terms of proper forest stewardship, but also financially irresponsible.

Whatever the future may hold for forestry, be it ecosystem management or holistic forestry, within these broader concepts, there will always be an important role for sustained-yield management.

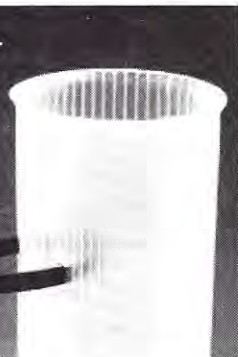
*René is an industrial forester, Vice President of Resource Management for Ward Lumber of Jay, N.Y.*

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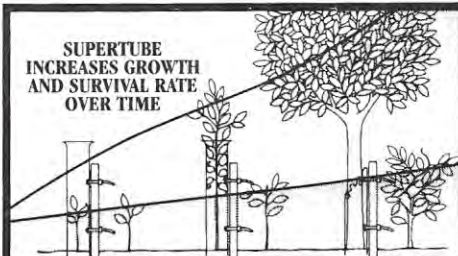
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# ASK A FORESTER—COUNTERPOINT

I am compelled to respond to Mark Kurtis's, "Ask A Forester" Column (March/April issue). I believe this topic deserves further discussion. There are many points I disagree with in this article, some are based on the current knowledge of silviculture, some are gut hunches on my part.

First, it is important to know even-aged forests have trees of all sizes. Many wrongly believe that a forest stand which contains different sized trees, must contain different aged trees. Due to past land management practices (such as clearing for agricultural use, fire, and previous clearcuts) most of N.Y.'s forests are even-aged.

In my opinion, by recommending diameter limit cuts in even-aged forests, Mr Kurtis is prescribing cutting the larger vigorous trees and leaving the slower growing smaller ones. Diameter limit harvesting is a very short sighted management technique. This method sacrifices productivity, in favor of immediate financial return. Mr. Kurtis's statement "the trees have grown well despite their being "weaker" suppressed [or intermediate]\* trees of the original stand" is not correct. These trees do grow but not at a rate anywhere near the codominant tree that was just cut. As the late "Doc" Johnson, silviculture professor at SUNY/ESF said "Once an intermediate [or suppressed], always an intermediate". Research supports this statement. Cutting the big trees

so the little ones will grow, does not work in even-aged stands.

There are three reasons those littler trees are little: genetic inferiority, poor growing conditions immediately surrounding the tree, or a slower growing species. In my opinion, repeated diameter limit harvests promote genetically inferior forests, dominated by slower growing and/or shade tolerant tree species.

Diameter limit harvesting often affects the species composition of forests. For example, in a hypothetical sample plot of 10 trees, there are: 2 red oak 18" and 20" diameter breast height (dbh), 1 white ash 15" dbh, 3 red maple 10", 12" and 16" dbh, 3 beech 6", 10", 12" dbh, 1 hemlock 6" dbh, a diameter limit harvest is done to 16" dbh. What's left after the harvest? 1 ash, 2 red maple, 3 beech, and 1 hemlock. After 15 years, there is another diameter limit harvest to 16" dbh. What species are left? Beech, hemlock, and possibly one red maple. Are these the species you would want to dominate your woodlot, either financially, or from a wildlife perspective? Although you could speculate beech, red maple, and hemlock will increase substantially in value as compared to oak and ash, I would not take that risk.

I realize that over 90% of all harvesting in New York is conducted using some form of diameter limit. That does not mean that it is a good way to manage forests. Our

forest land acreage has increased tremendously since the late 1800's, but according to the latest US Forest Service inventory of New York, this is no longer the trend. Forest land is a finite resource, which we have a responsibility to manage to the best of our ability. We owe this to future generations. I don't believe diameter limit harvests accomplishes this goal.

\*Foresters use a term called crown class to rank the relative health and vigor of a tree as compared to other trees around it. There are four categories: dominant, codominant, intermediate, and suppressed. Dominant trees have very large crowns extending above all other trees and are receiving full sunlight from above and partly from the sides. Codominant trees have large and healthy crowns, receiving full sun from above but little from the sides. Intermediate trees have only a small portion of their crown exposed to direct sunlight from above. The crown is small and usually cylindrical. Suppressed trees have no crown exposed to direct sunlight from above. They are usually struggling just to keep alive.

Reference: The Practice of Silviculture, by David Smith, 1962

Mark Kiester is a NYS DEC senior forester and member of NYFOA's Western Finger Lakes Chapter.



M. DeMunn-DAHADANYAH © 1993

Two even-aged classes created from fire disturbance.

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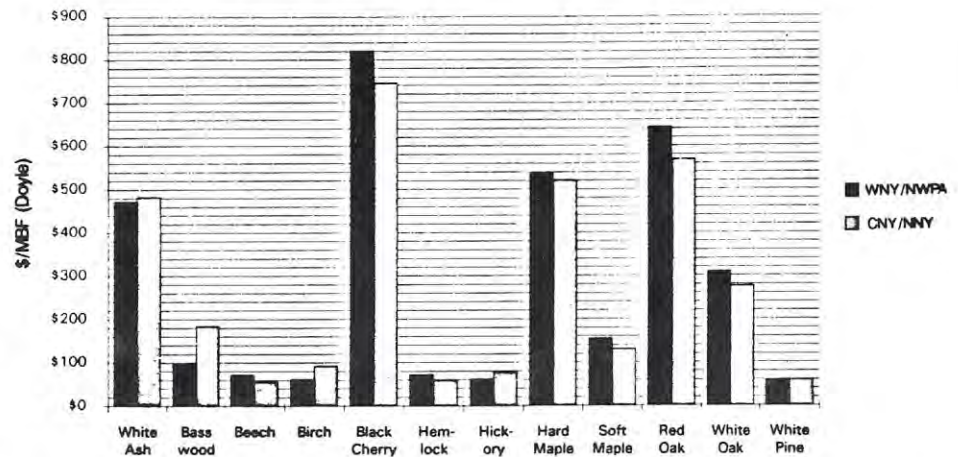


# TIMBER PRICES

To those of you who sold (or bought!) timber this year, it's no secret that timber prices have SKYROCKETED!

Simply put, the reason behind this situation can be related directly to the supply-and-demand theory of economics. In essence, the hardwood sawmilling industry has not been able to increase production fast enough to satisfy the increasing demands of hardwood users. There are several reasons for this, but one happens to be the poor weather conditions we had last year which severely curtailed the opportunities mills and loggers had for harvesting timber. This fact alone put a lot of these companies behind on their orders. Couple this with generally increasing domestic demand for case goods, cabinets, and floor-

AVERAGE HIGH-BID STUMPAGE PRICES MAY 1993 - OCTOBER 1993



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ing, as well as a good export market, and timber stumpage prices really had no other place to go but up!

Although it's hard to believe that timber can sustain its current price level much longer, several major factors currently "at play" indicate that they probably will. Continuing harvesting limitations on the Allegheny National Forest, the enduring domestic demand for wood products, the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the strengthening of overseas exports indicate that prices paid for stumpage will most likely remain at or near their currently high levels.

Our graph above depicts, by species, the weighted averages of the high-bid prices

received by Forecon for timber sales we administered from May through October of 1993. The prices listed represent the average amount paid per thousand board feet (MBF), as measured using the Doyle Rule. Please keep in mind that this representation does not necessarily reflect the value of your particular timber resource; specifics such as average tree size, quality, species mix, ease-of-access, distance to the mill, length of contract term, and general demand at the time of sale all have an influence on actual sale results.

*From WOODLAND NEWS Vol. 15 No. 1, 1994. (A publication of FORECON, Inc., a forestry consulting firm.)*

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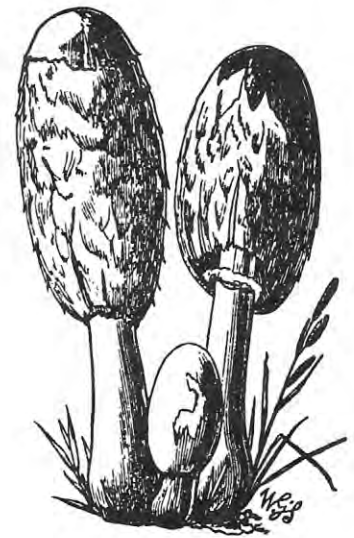
# Woodsmen's Corporation Announces Essay Contest Topic

BOONVILLE, N.Y. — "Trees & Me" is the topic of this year's Woodsmen's Essay contest. The New York State Woodsmen's Corporation, in conjunction with their promotion of the forest industry in New York State, sponsors a contest annually which is open to the public.

Entries must be less than 500 words of prose; literary work must be original and not previously published or submitted for inclusion in any publications. Deadline for

receipt of entries is Friday, **June 17, 1994**. Entries must have name, address and telephone number of author and be typewritten or legibly written. All entries become property of the Woodsmen's Corporation and cannot be returned to sender. Send entries to: NYS Woodsmen's Field Days Inc., PO Box 123, Boonville, N.Y. 13309.

The winner will be presented a \$100.00 check during the 47th New York State Woodsmen's Field Days to be held at the Boonville Fairgrounds on August 19, 20, 21, 1994.



Shaggy Mane

## PRIVATE PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE

The national PRIVATE PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE launched by NWOA (National Woodland Owners Association) in January is receiving favorable press ranging from Alabama to Washington. The purpose of the initiative is to emphasize that responsible woodland owners are already good land stewards and that additional forest regulation is neither necessary nor appropriate in most cases. The

heart of the initiative is the WOODLAND RESPONSIBILITY CODE, which is a *Pledge of Private Property Responsibility*. News features will appear in NATIONAL WOODLANDS MAGAZINE throughout 1994 and NWOA is asking all 26 State Affiliates to endorse the initiative.

Reprinted from WOODLAND REPORT, March 1994. NYFOA is an affiliate.



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Have you participated in FIP or other incentive programs?  yes  no  
Do you have a forest management plan for your property?  yes  no

The NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION is a nationwide organization of non-industrial private woodland owners with offices in the Washington, D.C. area. Membership includes landowners in all 50 states. NWOA is affiliated with state and county woodland owner associations throughout the United States.

Founded by non-industrial private woodland owners in 1983, NWOA is independent of the forest products industry and forestry agencies. We work with all organizations to promote non-industrial forestry and the best interests of woodland owners. Member of: National Council on Private Forests, Natural Resources Council of America, and National Forestry Network.

Members receive 4 issues of NATIONAL WOODLANDS MAGAZINE and 8 issues of WOODLAND REPORT with late-breaking news from Washington, D.C. and state capitals. An introductory visit from a certified professional forester is available in most states (for holdings of 20 acres or larger), plus other member benefits.

— Keith A. Argow, Publisher

"INFORMED WOODLAND OWNERS — OUR BEST PROTECTION"



# CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

## ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

Our roadbuilding seminar held February 26 in Ellicottville had 75 attendees. It was jam packed with information, videos and speakers.

35 people attended the visit to Mary & Gerry Perkins sugarbush on March 26. We have to applaud Mary Perkins for service above and beyond the call of duty—the evening before the scheduled woodswalk, Gerry was hospitalized with a mild heart attack. Valiant Mary held the walk in spite of Gerry's unscheduled absence and made sure we all got to see everything and had a fine time, even remembering to serve us ice cream topped with their delicious maple syrup. We hope to see them both at our next woodswalk, a wildflower walk led by Dr. Steve Eaton.

We have re-elected the Kurtises as Co-chairpeople for another term, and Nick Ratti for another term as treasurer. Marian Mowatt and Grace Mowatt have agreed to share the duties of Chapter Secretary for the next year.

We voted to gift both Cattaraugus County and Chatauga County's Envirothons with \$25.00 each. We are exploring the possibility of having a booth at all of the three County Fairs to advertise the benefits of NYFOA and educate folks about the value of forestry in each of the counties.

## SOUTHERN TIER

The March meeting featured the annual potluck supper, held at the Farm and Home Center in Binghamton. This was a joint meeting with the Broome County Christmas Tree Growers Association. Members and guests brought one or more dishes to pass. NYFOA president Don Wagner was present to meet everyone and sample the cooking. He updated members on the upcoming April state meeting in Syracuse and other Association initiatives. Carl Pangburn Chainsaws of Greene displayed new model saws and conducted a discussion on chainsaw safety and maintenance.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **May 10, 1994** at the Farm and Home Center on Front Street in Binghamton. Doors open at 7:P.M. and the program

starts at 7:30 P.M. Roy Hopke, District director of the NYS Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, will discuss the chestnut restoration efforts being sponsored by the Foundation. Mr. Hopke has also been invited to share forestry related anecdotes gathered from his years of field experience.

## NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

We recently mailed out our last NAC NEWS with a survey on what the owners would like to see for future Chapter activities. From a mailing of over 200 newsletters to our Chapter members and area tree farmers, we received 14 returns. From these returns, all but three respondents picked forest stand management and the production of forest crops as their main woodland interest. Only one respondent picked game and wildlife management as a main interest, but it was primarily the second most important subject to the others. Following these two subjects in order of preference were recreation, wilderness quality, and soil and water protection. The survey results are quite similar to those received two years ago when the Chapter first began.

We have been considering a name change from the Northern Adirondack Chapter to the North Country Chapter and asked for a vote on this issue. It was voted 7 to 5 to change the name of the Chapter to the North Country Chapter. Most of the private forest landowners in our area actually live outside the Adirondack Park. Many of our members feel that having our name tied to this specific geographic region could be a membership deterrent for political reasons.

Our next woodswalk scheduled for July/August will be a combined Tree Farm/NYFOA effort. Hope to see you all there.

## CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

Dinnie Sloman, CFA's Executive Director, traveled to New York City on March 23 to present a workshop on forest management and timber harvesting. The workshop, sponsored by Trees New York and funded through a Forest Stewardship

Grant, was directed at absentee landowners living in the City. Dinnie described the need for forest management and the process of properly managing forest land. Dinnie then set out the steps of proper forest management: (1) determine your goals, (2) inventory the resource, (3) develop a written management plan, and (4) implement the plan. The inventory describes the current situation, the goals describe where you want to go and the management plan is a way to get from one to the other.

Dinnie followed this discussion with a description of the timber harvesting process, since often implementation of the management plan requires cutting trees. A harvest should take place only when it will help a landowner reach one of their goals. The process includes (1) stand analysis, (2) marking the trees, (3) obtaining bids, (4) signing a contract with protective clauses, and (5) overseeing the harvest. For landowners not familiar with these steps, a qualified forester can help. By following the process landowners are more likely to be satisfied with the results.

On another note, we were unable to get outside due to the 130+ inches of snow that fell in the Catskills, but we were busy planning workshops and woodswalks to keep everyone busy this spring and summer. For information, please call CFA at 914-586-3054. (See Woodlot Calendar).

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

Our chapter will have a meeting at 10:00 AM, **May 14, 1994**, as guests of the Dry Creek Wood Pellet Fuel Manufacturing plant, located on the south end of Edward Street, which starts at Rt. 39 between McDonald's and the east end of the viaduct, also across the road from the Yansick sawmill. All this is midway between Arcade and Rt. 16 at Yorkshire.

After touring the pellet plant, McDonald's is a convenient lunch stop, and for those who care to, they can follow Earl Pfamer about five miles north to Chaffee and visit the 72 acre woodlot he has managed for over 40 years.

For more information, call Earl at (716) 496-7365.

*People and Trees, Partners in Time,*



## THRIFT

On March 23, 7:00 P.M. at Verona High School, 55 members and friends attended a most interesting talk by Dr. Paul Curtis, from Cornell University on Biodiversity in woodlands.

On May 14, members and friends are invited to meet at the Applewood Restaurant, 1 mile East of Rodman on Rte. 177, at 10:00 A.M. Robert Chambers, SUNY/ESF biologist will conduct woodswalks at nearby properties owned by Charlie Valentine and Charlie Sprague. Bring a lunch and dress for woodland hiking.

## TIOGA

On February 17, 38 interested people listened as Bob Sand of Odessa spoke on hardwood plantations. An old idea receiving new consideration in the northeast, he drew his information from plantations he observed during the most recent Society of American Foresters national meeting held in Indiana. Peter Levatich of Brooktondale followed with another presentation which

described his experiences in growing red oak from acorns. He will make copies available to all interested forest owners. Refreshments and conversation were enjoyed before all headed for home. The chapter is in the process of forming a steering committee to plan future activities, woodswalks, etc.

For information on starting Red Oak Trees, contact:  
Peter Levatich, 158 Bailor Road, Brocktondale, N.Y. 14817.

# FAMILY FOREST FAIR



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9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

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Throughout the day interpretive exhibits, live equipment demonstrations, outdoor clinics, and hiking trails are waiting for you. Vendors will present and sell their forest-related products and services. You and your family are invited to become more familiar with what is happening in forestry today and to share your ideas and interests with others in a pleasant outdoor atmosphere.

- Horse-drawn Wagon Rides
- Tree Harvesting Demonstration
- Wetlands - Definition & Values
- Chain Saw Safety & Maintenance
- Tree Planting Demonstration
- Property Boundary Location
- Tree Identification
- Forest Critters for Young & Old - a tour in the woods to identify wildlife and habitat
- Wildflower Walk & Identification
- Hiking trails through mixed hardwoods' forests, conifer plantations, & meadows
- Vendors will exhibit and market their products and services
- Exhibits and displays by various organizations
- Raffles throughout the day
- Sawmill Demonstration
- Log Grading
- Tree Marking
- Harvesting with Horses
- Project Learning Tree
- Lumber Grading
- Firewood - Buying & Storing

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# Wetland Wildlife Management

By Dan Carroll

During the month of February, State personnel check and maintain approximately 215 mallard nesting tripods located on the Oak Orchard and Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas. For 1992, approximately 41% or 85 of these structures were utilized by waterfowl. Mallards accounted for 88% of the use; however, wood ducks and Canada geese also used ten of the tripods. The mallard nest success rate in 1992 was approximately 64%.

Erection of nesting boxes for wood ducks has been successfully accomplished for several decades in New York. Only since 1986, however, have artificial nesting structures been utilized to increase mallard nesting success. The structures are not nest boxes, but wire cone-shaped baskets hung from a tripod made of three pieces of half-inch wall conduit pipe, ten feet long.

Tripods are assembled as follows. A hole is drilled near the top of each piece of

conduit approximately one inch down from the end. Another hole is drilled approximately three feet below the first hole. The tripod legs are fastened together at the top by running a heavy gauge wire through all three pieces of conduit and twisting tight. Various types of wire can be used; however, heavy gauge steel is preferred.

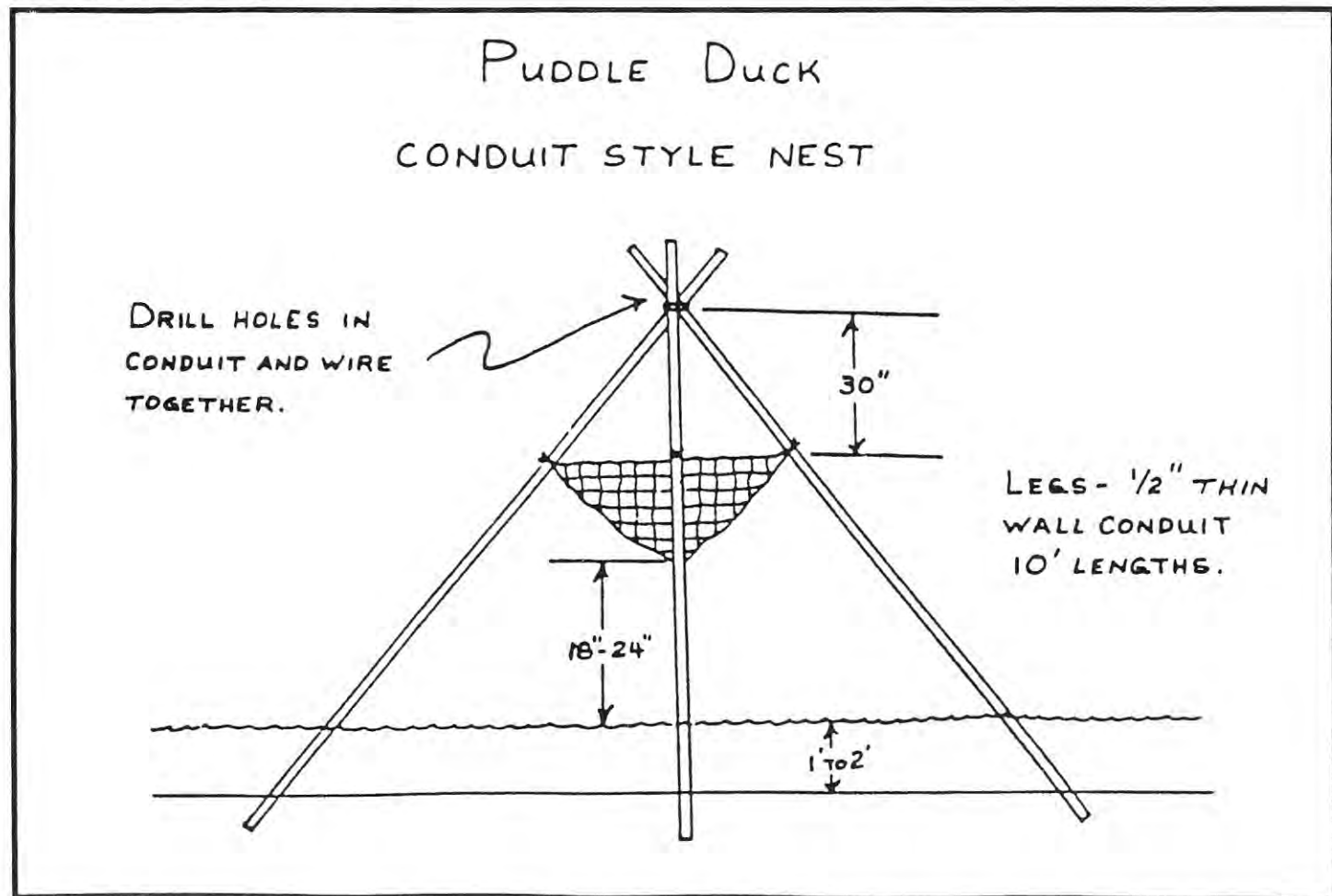
Nest baskets can be constructed from galvanized chicken wire (the larger the gauge the better) or from plastic fencing material (not bright reds or oranges). When completed, baskets should be 19 to 22 inches across with a depth of 20 to 24 inches. Depending on the type of material utilized, a significant overlap may be required to enhance-basket structural rigidity. Also, all sharp edges must be folded down or wrapped carefully, to ensure that nesting hens and ducklings will not be exposed to injury.

After tripod and basket assemblies are constructed, they can be attached by run-

ning a length of wire through each conduit leg and the nest basket and twisting the wire back upon itself.

If possible, the completed tripod should be placed in open pockets of water in an emergent marsh habitat with a water depth of 18 to 36 inches. Maximum use appears to occur when the baskets are placed about 18 to 24 inches above the water. This adjustment is generally quite easy, since the conduit can be readily pushed into the marsh bottom. This will also secure the tripods to prevent toppling during strong winds. Nesting material is added only after the tripod is securely positioned in the marsh. Hay (do not use straw) should be used liberally and packed tightly, because settling will occur.

If tripods are placed within or near flooded trees, caps should be utilized to minimize losses from avian predators (owls, crows, and grackles). Caps can be constructed from a second nest basket; how-



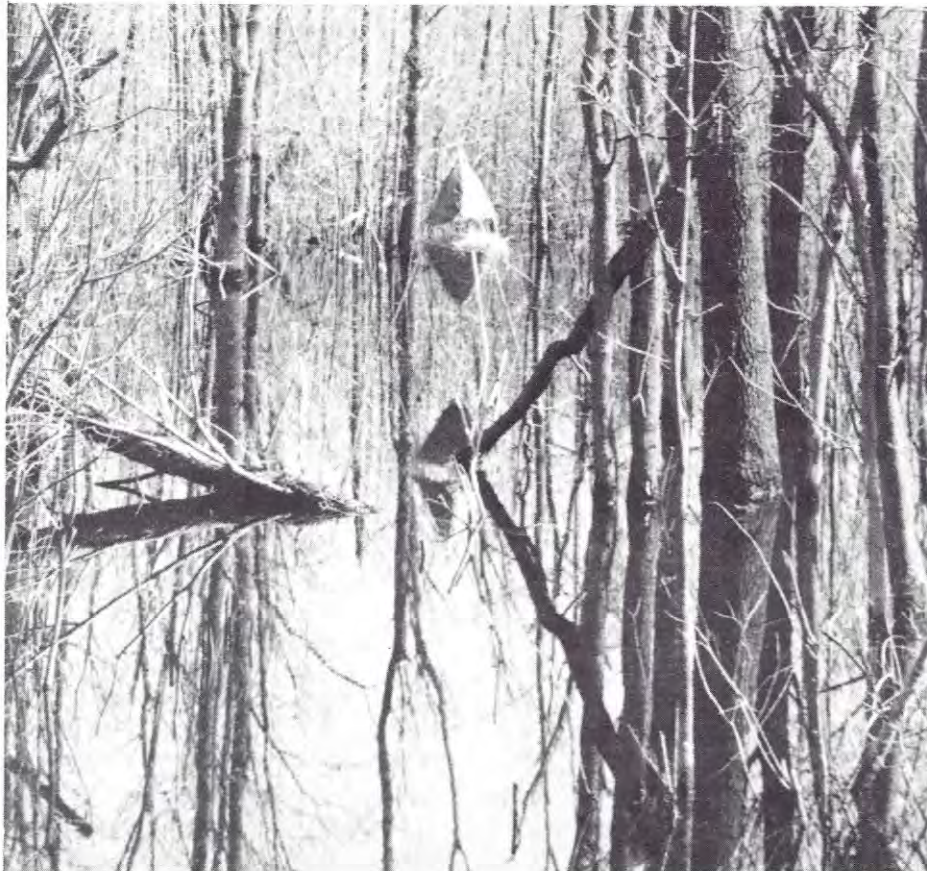


ever, the bottom is cut out of the cone so that it can be slid down over the apex of the tripod much like a lamp shade. When properly installed, the lower rim of the cap will be no closer than eight to ten inches from the top of the nest. Larger separations will increase the hen's susceptibility to avian predators.

DEC Bureau of Wildlife personnel are currently-experimenting with heavy gauge wire "S" hooks, with one end connected to the lower portion of the cap, and the other end connected to the upper portion of the basket. Normally, three S-hooks are used per tripod, with each one positioned roughly midway between adjacent tripod legs. In some situations two S-hooks may be positioned between the legs; however, the opening must be large enough to allow access by a hen mallard.

For more information on mallard tripod construction, contact DEC's Bureau of Wildlife at P.O. Box 422, Alabama, NY 14003 (716/948-5182).

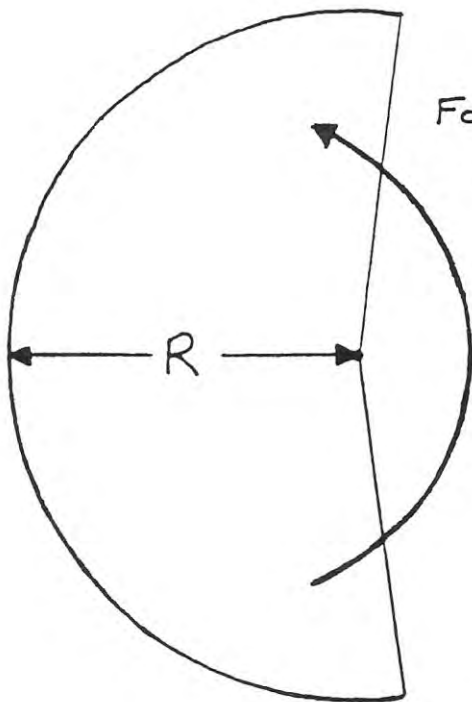
*Dan Carroll is a Sr. Wildlife Biologist with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.*



## TEMPLATE

R = RADIUS = 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> TO 2 FEET

FOLD INTO  
CONE



## BASKET FOR CONDUIT NEST

- USE 1" GRID CHICKEN WIRE OR PLASTIC FENCE
- MAKE TEMPLATE TO TRACE SHAPE; CUT AND FOLD INTO CONE; SECURE SHAPE BY WIRING GRID TOGETHER IN OVERLAP AREA
- FILL WITH HAY IN EARLY APRIL

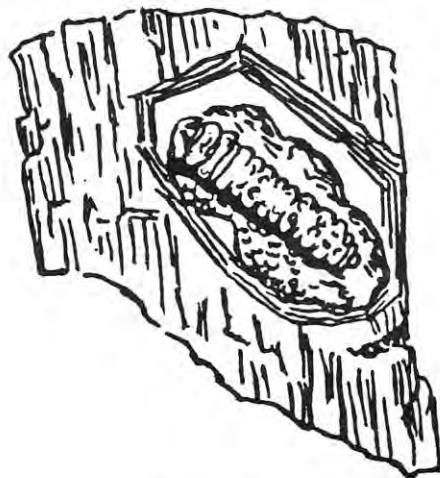


# Insects and Firewood, Some Facts

By Carolyn Klass, Cornell U. Extension

With the interest in the use of wood as a home-heating fuel, many people notice the insects that periodically emerge from firewood.

**DO THE INSECTS CAUSE ANY DAMAGE TO THE FIREWOOD?** We do not feel there is any real damage associated with insects in firewood. If the seasoning (drying) operation is done properly, the wood will dry before the insects complete development, and they will not survive. Although one may observe small piles of sawdust on or near the woodpile which indicate insect activity, most of the wood used for fuel in the northeast are hardwoods, and little real damage occurs.



*wood borer in log (larva)*

**WILL FIREWOOD INSECTS ATTACK WOOD IN THE HOUSE?** For the most part insects are only nuisance pests in the house. However, if the house has the correct conditions for an insect infestation, firewood could be the source of damaging insects. One example might be carpenter ants. If one brings in wood infested with carpenter ants, and stores it in a basement or garage containing some wet structural wood, perhaps already starting to decay, carpenter ants might move into it as the logs dry out and establish a nest. This is the exceptional case, rather than the rule.

**SHOULD I SPRAY LOGS TO AVOID INSECT PESTS?** We do not recommend spraying firewood for any reason. Insect pests can be reduced by proper cutting and storage.

## WHAT INSECTS ATTACK FIREWOOD (OR ANY TYPE OF WOOD)?

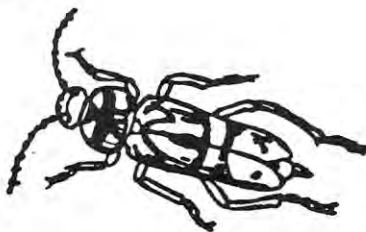
There are three main groups of insects that can damage wood. They are bark beetles, ambrosia beetles and wood borers. The bark beetles burrow between the bark and sapwood, ambrosia beetles bore through the bark and into the sapwood and/or heartwood, while wood borers can be found either between the wood and bark, or in the heartwood or sapwood.

**WHEN ARE INSECTS ACTIVE?** Most insect activity occurs during the growing season—in New York State from April to October. During this time adult beetles are actively looking for favorable woods on which to lay their eggs. From November to March insects hibernate, and few, if any, adults are present.



*Ambrosia beetle (x3)*

Bark beetles and ambrosia beetles are active during the entire growing season and may have five or more generations during this time depending on the climate. With the wood borers, activities are more restricted—often to a certain few weeks of adult activity. In order to determine the periods of activity, you will have to know what types of wood you will be cutting and then learn the activity cycles of the various insect pests.



*sugar maple borer (x1 1/2)*

**WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID LARGE NUMBERS OF INSECTS?** Cutting firewood at the right time of the year (during the dormant season) will help avoid some pests. Pile the logs soon after they are cut, either off the ground or under cover so that the inner bark dries rapidly and thoroughly before the beetles begin to fly in the spring. If logs are cut during the growing season,

remove them from the forest as soon as possible. Even a few days exposure when insects are active may be enough time for an infestation to begin.



*bark beetle (x4)*

## HOW SHOULD I STORE FIREWOOD?

Store wood under cover to keep it dry - storage places might be a woodshed, unheated garage or utility building, or under a sheet of plastic or sheet-metal roofing. Be certain to keep an air space between the wood and any covering.



*a wood borer (x2)*

If wood is dried quickly, few insects are likely to survive. The greater the surface area of wood exposed to air, the more rapid the drying. Stacking wood in loose piles raised off the ground as well as splitting or sawing will accelerate drying. This is especially needed with logs greater than eight inches in diameter or longer than four feet.

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# SELLING LESS FOR MORE

By Arlyn W. Perkey

Growing trees to produce timber income is not often the primary reason people purchase forestland. However, for those forestland owners who do ultimately decide to sell trees, it is advisable to do a good job of marketing. I have worked as a forester for over 20 years, and although I have not been directly involved in marketing forest products for the past 12 years, I thought my concept of how it should be done was valid. However, as a new forestland owner and tree farmer, I had an unexpected occasion to sell a few logs. The experience not only taught me a couple of valuable lessons about marketing, but it also caused me to reevaluate my philosophy on "wise use" of our forest resources.

The first 10 years of my career was in the National Forest System where good utilization of all cut trees was emphasized. It was considered wasteful to leave wood in the forest to decay. This was such an important consideration that the appraised price of a high-value product (sawtimber) was reduced to subsidize the removal of a

low-value product (pulpwood). Without giving it much thought, I accepted the premise that striving to use wood to make a product used by humans was inherently good.

When I was suddenly faced with selling my own logs, I didn't think about what logs I should sell. I instinctively operated under the assumption that I would receive the greatest total dollar benefit if I sold every log I could from the trees that were cut. I assumed that if the minimum specification for marketable sawlogs was 10 inches in diameter inside the bark at the small end, then it would be a wise business decision to sell every log from cut trees that would meet that minimum specification. The first lesson I learned was this is not always the case.

My neighbor and I had a total of 34 logs from trees we decided to cut. We skidded the wood to a roadside landing and found competitive bidders. Ultimately, we decided to arrange to have the logs trucked to a mill at a cost of \$75/MBF. To my surprise, nine of the 34 logs we shipped wouldn't even pay the truck bill from the landing to the mill. Those nine logs were only worth \$60/MBF delivered at the mill. In other words, if we would have sold fewer logs we would have received more money. The logs that would not pay the truck bill to the mill came from the upper portion of the tree. They were low-grade yellow-poplar. Timber prices were depressed at the time, but even with more favorable log prices, there is potential for selling fewer logs for more money.

My second lesson was a reinforcement of something I already knew, but learned to appreciate even more. With hardwood logs, it isn't how much volume you have that counts, it is how valuable it is. Forty-five percent of the value of the load of 34 logs was concentrated in the butt log of one red oak tree.

Marketing forest products is a business I have been out of for a while. The assumptions accepted by me 12 years ago when working on a large public ownership are not valid for me as a private non-industrial landowner. Generally speaking, my new marketing philosophy is: if it isn't worth more than it costs to get it out of the woods, then leave it in the woods. I no longer think of dead wood as wasted wood. It is being

used for other purposes. I will leave trees or portions of trees to serve as coarse woody debris on the forest floor to provide habitat for wildlife. They will also be fertilizer for other trees. Unmarketable trees that need to be eliminated as competitors may either be felled to create woody debris on the forest floor or killed and left to serve as standing dead woody habitat (previously called snags).

I am thankful my lessons were taught on a small scale. The financial consequences of my mistake were not great. For landowners with a significant amount of timber to sell, I recommend the services of a consulting forester who is familiar with the business of selling timber in that market area.

*Arlyn Perkey is the Writer-Publisher of the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area publication, Forest Management Update from which this article was reprinted (Issue 14).*



New York Fern

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# And Don't Forget the Little Ones

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND  
*Squirm.*

"Now sit still. I have to put this in your eye while it's open. It will make you feel better."

*Squirm. Squirm.*

"Aw! Come on, Jessie, sit still. It's just the inside of an aloe leaf. Smooth and slippery. It will feel good."

*Squirm, Squirm, Squirm.*

"If you don't sit still, I'm going to have to hold you down!"

"Yeo-ow!"

I flipped her on her back as gently as I could, put my knee in her belly, pinning her on the bed. I held her eye open and carefully swabbed the aloe across. She blinked a few times and the gel washed across her irritated eye. I could tell we were back on equal footing when she jumped from the bed, turned around, looked me straight in the eye then mewed softly and left the room.

The next day her eye, which had been red and inflamed with a partially functioning internal eye lid, looked and worked normally.

I always wanted to be a vet, but at 14 years old (in 1956) when I wrote Cornell Vet School, my dream was shattered. Veterinary Medicine was not for girls, they wrote. The work was too physically demanding. Girls were not strong enough to work with domestic animals.



*Aloe*

So, now at 51, my love for animals unabated, I care for my 10 cats, tropical fish and an occasional injured animal with my naturopathic skills. As with humans, herbs have their limitation to non-life threatening conditions. But they are great for first aid and do save on vet bills. And herbs definitely enhance beauty and pleasure.

All my cats are neutered, but a couple of the males retain some habits and get in fights with stray toms (one of which I caught and had neutered). Bleeding gashes are stemmed with yarrow oil, and heal without hair loss along the scar. You have to clean the wound first because yarrow will close the skin around dirt or hair.

Ear mites are smothered with oil of mullein. My cats with white ears seem to attract mites and look forward to periodic (when they start to scratch their ears ruthlessly) swabbing. First, I wipe the ear out with a mullein oil saturated tissue wrapped around my index finger, then I drop about 10 drops of oil into the ear and rub it in with my bare finger. The cats purr throughout the procedure.

When Boy, my alpha male cat, had an allergic reaction to a commercial flea and tick collar, I hit the books. I decided to use pennyroyal, which I use raw across my exposed skin to keep off bugs in the woods (even May flies). I made a strong oil and soaked fabric collars in it. I figure I saved \$75 besides having used a chemical free product. I recently read that you can keep fleas at bay by spraying pennyroyal tea on them, but I'm too busy. You can tell when the collars need another soaking when the pleasant smell of pennyroyal fades, about every six to eight weeks.

For beautiful coats, I make a potion from aloe, vegetable glycerin and a few drops of food grade hydrogen peroxide. It forms a gel which I squeeze onto their back and brush or massage in. It is safe for them to lick, in fact it helps prevent hair balls, and makes their coats rich, sheeny, attractive and pettable even to wary house guests who are not used to cats.

But the ultimate cat herb has to be catnip. And the difference between home grown-fresh and commercial-dried is the difference between 3.2 beer and Jack Hamilton's Aquavit. I have to grow catnip in a hanging pot so the cats can't destroy it as they did my garden bed. And when we sit out on the patio at cocktail time, all the cats gather round to savor and delight in their plucked crushed leaves.



*Common Mullein*

Boy eats it, then crouches low growling soft and deep, while pawing at phantom foes. Bitsy eats it then rolls on her back mewing with pleasure. Hobbit walks over and lays down, then rolls over on the allotment, licks it off herself, then flicks some to Patches who smells it and swoons. Wick, attracted to Patches' swoon rushes over, sniffs, rolls over and lies on his back with all four feet in the air....

You get the idea. Cats like herbs. I wonder about dogs?

*Dr. Jane is an occupational therapist and a naturopathic doctor who, with her husband, Gordon, owns a tree farm in Orange County.*

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# Our Children - Their Future

By Don Brown

A colleague recently informed me that one of the main responsibilities of NYFOA was education. I couldn't agree with him more. The idea of forest owners getting together in meetings or woodswalks to share information and ideas is what the organization is all about.

An area of special interest to me is the education of children. Although they are not forest owners themselves, they may be future forest owners and could be the decision makers of tomorrow.

For quite some time I've been involved with a program called Project Learning Tree. I've been instructing teachers and prospective teachers in this excellent program that utilizes "hands on activities" to teach environmental education. I've been very dismayed at the number of these participants who believe unequivocally that the cutting of trees is an ecological disaster. My own children come home with the same notions. It's all too easy to imagine a scenario in which a generation raised on such misconceptions blatantly imposes cutting ordinances and governmental controls on the management of private forest land.

On the other hand, if children were to receive an enlightened education, we could produce a generation capable of making sound decisions. The future will hold great accomplishments if we raise children who know and understand nature on a more intimate level; children who are acquainted with plant and animal species and the biology relating to their environment; children, who through this knowledge, develop love and respect for the wise use and management of resources and share these sentiments with their offspring.

Where better to start than with our own children and grandchildren, and with our



*Little ones at a Northern Adirondack Chapter woodswalk. Photo by J.M. Savage (See NYFOA Mar/Apr '94; 16; THE FOREST AND DEER.)*

own woodlots? We have our own laboratories out there to serve as the classroom. Take the kids for a walk and share experiences, help them start a rock or insect collection, plant trees, help do an improvement thinning, build trails or a blind to observe wildlife - the list is endless - one could write a book to finish this sentence. Oh yes! Bring them along on the next NYFOA woodswalk.

Over Christmas, my family spent a week in New Mexico. We spent Christmas day at the Zia pueblo viewing the Buffalo Dance and were invited to share Christmas dinner with an Indian family. Another day we ventured far into the desert with an archaeologist friend and explored Anasazi Indian ruins. For me, the highlight of the trip was a day spent at the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Reserve, where we saw numerous Bald and Golden Eagles, Sand Hill Cranes and two Whooping Cranes. I can't help but believe that these few days spent in nature would be the equivalent of weeks in the classroom for my two daughters.

One morning I picked up the Albuquerque Journal and read an article that fits right in here. Some scientists now believe that people who are exposed to nature on a regular basis are less prone to violent acts, disease, mental disorders, etc.

They're actually somehow trying to scientifically test this hypothesis - which makes me sort of chuckle. Heck, we forest

land owners know this is true, and we could have saved them a lot of time if they had just asked!

If we can share our love and knowledge of nature with our children, we can ensure the wise management of resources for the future and give them something wonderful at the same time. We can make their lives richer for the future, a gift more valuable than gold, something they cannot take home in a plastic bag!

*Don Brown is a NYS DEC Senior Forester assigned to Region 6. This article appeared in the 94 winter Newsletter of NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter.*

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# LETTERS

## Forests for the Trees

Even though the motion of Norman Richards ("PLAY ON WORDS", JAN/FEB '94) failed to pass, I would like to say that I agree with him about the motto change of "trees" to "forests." Among other reasons, "forest" is consistent with the New York Forest Owners Association. Also, there is an inherent notion of an ecological community in the word forests that is not there for trees. Almost anyone can grow trees in their backyard (and that is commendable); but is that what NYFOA is about?

An Anglo-Norman contraction of the word forest is foster, an English surname that now means to nourish, feed, or promote the growth of. Does this link in meaning parallel the aim of NYFOA? Can the debate remain open? I offer the following poem for Professor Richards' side of the argument:


The forest is a calendar  
with seasons of trees  
to tell the time of labor.

From the word labor we get the word  
labyrinth.

The forest is a labyrinth we navigate  
to find the center of our being.

The forest represents a mix of light and  
dark  
that is the environment  
of our way through life.

—Wayne Oakes, Corrales, N.M.



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PATRICK J. MCGLEW      P.O. Box 104  
(607) 899-3848      Nichols, NY 13812

## Public Assistance

If you give a man a fish, he will have a meal.

If you teach him to fish, he will have a living.

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed.  
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people.

By sowing seed once, you will harvest once.

By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold.

By educating the people, you will harvest one hundredfold.

—Anonymous Chinese Poet, 420 B.C.

## Cuttin' 'em down

I see that you're a logger  
and not a common bum  
For nobody but a logger  
stirs his coffee with his thumb

—From an old song, as printed in Mar '94  
SWOAM NEWS (Small Woodland Owners  
Association of Maine, Inc)

## Sawin' 'em up

A sawmill is a poorly arranged collection of inadequate and obsolete machinery which is held together with baling wire. It operates under a thin guise of respectability known as a "lumber company" and is usually owned by one or more optimistic idiots who live from one crisis to another. If all the sawmills in the Northeast were laid end to end, it would be an awful sight.

—Anonymous, From Newsletter #8 of the  
LAKE ERIE & ONTARIO SAWYERS &  
FILERS ASS'N.



## Red Oak

Sometime in the last couple of years, I read an article in your magazine about raising oak trees. If it is possible, could you send me a reproduction of that article? It would be greatly appreciated.

—Charles Palm, Star Lake

For All readers: NYFO May/June 91, 8; Sept/Oct 91, 10. Forest Management Update #13, Sept. 91, 16; #14, Sept 92, 23. Updates may be obtained: Editor, Forest Mgmt. Updates, USDA-Forest Service, 180 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 285-1536 Also, NYFOA Director Peter Levatich, 158 Bailor Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817 for personal experiences.—Editor



## Fountain Forestry



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## The Marketplace

### **Cattaraugus County Conservation Land Available For Purchase:**

The Nature Conservancy is seeking a conservation minded buyer for 270 acres of forestland located in Cattaraugus County town of Dayton. The property was donated to the Conservancy with the understanding that it would be sold subject to permanent conservation restrictions. The proposed restrictions would allow for forestry, recreational uses, and limited subdivision and construction of dwellings. The property consists of a mix of second growth hardwoods and conifer plantations. Several beaver ponds located on the property provide habitat for nesting waterfowl. The asking price for the property is \$81,000.00. Interested parties should contact Andy Zepp of the Nature Conservancy at (716) 546-8030.

**Travel:** Forest-owner's tour of Switzerland, the Black Forest, and Bavaria, including Oktoberfest. September 4-18, 1994. Find out what it's like to be a forest owner in some of the most beautifully forested places in the world, while traveling with congenial folks who share your interests. Seventeen years of experience and lots of satisfied repeat customers. Send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to The Camelot Agency, 96 Targosh Road, Candor, NY 13743.

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

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## WOODLOT CALENDAR

**May 7:** CFA; Henry Kernan Tree Give-away; So. Worcester; (607) 397-8805

**May 7:** THRIFT; Fling & Field Day; Camden; (315) 788-5920

**May 10:** STC; 7:30 PM; Am. Chestnut Foundation; Roy Hopke; Binghamton; (607) 656-8504

**May 14:** NF; 10:00 AM; Wood Pellet Fuel Mfg. Plant; Arcade; (716) 496-7365

**May 14:** THRIFT; 10:00 AM; Woodswalks; Robert Chambers Rodman; (315) 788-5920

**May 14:** WFL; 9:30 AM; Genesee Co. Park; Don Clark; (716) 226-3944

**Jun 4:** CNY; 9:00 AM; FAMILY FOREST FAIR; Elbridge; (315) 689-3314

**Aug 19:** FORESTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR LIVES; Public Seminar; Boonville

**Sep 30-Oct 1:** NYFOA Fall Meeting